

March 30, 2006

The Walton County Board of Commissioners held a called meeting on Thursday, March 30, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Walton County Government Building, 303 South Hammond Drive, Suite 330, Monroe, Ga. Those present included Chairman Kevin Little, Commissioners Clinton Ayers, Michael Turner, Vickie Gasaway, Lamar Palmer, Gerald Atha and John Robinson, County Clerk Leta Talbird, County Attorney Kirby Atkinson, Personnel Director Karen Fraser, Finance Officer Christi Pickens and Planning Director Mike Martin. A list of citizens and other employees in attendance at this meeting is on file in the auxiliary file under this meeting date.

Mark Peevy, Director of the Walton Career Academy and Dr. Larry Siefferman of Athens Technical College made a presentation outlining the goals of the Career Academy and the courses that will be offered. They asked the County to continue financial support previously used for rental of the facility that housed the Athens Tech campus in Monroe for improvements to the Career Academy located at the old Monroe High School. The Career Academy will now house Athens Tech.

Melanie Correll, manager of the Monroe-Walton County Library, made a presentation on the services provided by the three libraries located in Walton County. Ms. Correll asked the Board to continue its financial support of the libraries.

Chairman Little called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m., led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance and opened the meeting in prayer.

Commissioner Turner made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented, moving the ratification of actions taken by the Walton County Water & Sewerage Authority up on the agenda. Commissioner Ayers seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Commissioner Turner made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2006 and March 7, 2006 Board meetings. Commissioner Palmer seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

The Board considered a Cooperative Agreement with The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia on behalf of The University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service for funding for the Initiative for Watershed Excellence. County Attorney Kirby Atkinson amended the contract as instructed by the Board at a previous meeting to state that upon receipt of an invoice, the County will reimburse the University of Georgia Cooperative

Extension for services rendered during the term of the agreement on a quarterly basis in an amount not to exceed \$4,000.00 per annum. Other changes to the contract state that the contract term shall be from July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007 and that the contract shall be for one year but shall be automatically renewed, unless the agreement is terminated by either party. Commissioner Robinson made a motion to approve the agreement. Commissioner Gasaway seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

The Board considered ratification of actions taken by the Walton County Water & Sewerage Authority at its meeting on March 28, 2006. Authority General Manager Wendell Geiger stated that two matters were inadvertently omitted from the agenda summary provided to the Board; a proposal from Precision Planning for a capital improvement program and bond report in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00 and the purchase of a hydraulic simulation model from Frank Sherrill in the amount of \$15,000.00. Mr. Geiger stated that the Authority had approved the purchase of the model from Mr. Sherrill contingent upon review of the model by himself and Jimmy Parker of Precision Planning, Inc. to determine if the model is worth the money. Commissioner Turner made a motion to ratify actions taken by the Authority at its March 28, 2006 meeting, including the additions addressed by Mr. Geiger with the exception of approval of the Authority's FY 2006 budget. Commissioner Palmer seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Commissioner Turner made a motion to table a decision on approval of the Authority's FY 2006 budget until the April 4, 2006 meeting. Commissioner Gasaway seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Robinson made a motion to appoint Lynne Grayson to the Monroe-Walton County Library Board of Trustees. Commissioner Palmer seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Ms. Grayson's 6-year term will begin on July 1, 2006 and end on June 30, 2012.

Commissioner Palmer made a motion to appoint Jamie Peterson and Nancy Posner to the Social Circle Library Board. Commissioner Atha seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously. Ms. Peterson and Ms. Posner's 6-year terms will begin on July 1, 2006 and end on June 30, 2012.

Commissioner Robinson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Turner, to appoint Dr. C.C. Moreland, Ms. Mary Britton and Ms. Helen Cohenour to the Walton County Board of Health. All voted in favor.

Commissioner Turner made a motion to appoint Steve Worley as Walton County's representative on the Solid Waste Trust Authority. Commissioner Gasaway seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

Finance Officer Christi Pickens presented contracts and budgeted purchases of \$2,500.00 or greater for the Board's consideration. Commissioner Ayers made a motion to approve the contracts and budgeted purchases as presented. Commissioner Gasaway seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Ms. Pickens presented an FY 2006 budget amendment for the Probate Court transferring \$8,000.00 from overtime to indigent defense. Commissioner Gasaway made a motion to approve the amendment. Commissioner Palmer seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

The Board considered bids received for an alignment machine for the Public Works Department. Commissioner Ayers made a motion to accept the low bid from American Tire Distributors and to give the Chairman the authority to execute the necessary documents. Commissioner Turner seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

The Board considered proposals received for collection services for EMS. Commissioner Turner made a motion to accept the proposal from Revenue Discovery Systems as recommended by the EMS Director. Commissioner Ayers seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

The Board considered proposals received for a light duty rescue truck for the Fire Department. Commissioner Robinson made a motion to approve the bid from Custom Works in the amount of \$107,661.00. Commissioner Turner seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The Board considered bids received for the purchase and installation of lights at Felker Park. After discussion on the matter, Commissioner Turner made a motion to table a decision on the matter until the April 4, 2006 meeting. Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Turner made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Robinson, to approve the final retainage payment to The Potts Company for the construction of the Government Building. All voted in favor.

Personnel Director Karen Fraser presented employee new hires, a promotion and a re-hire for the record. Commissioner Ayers made a motion to approve the aforementioned personnel matters. Commissioner Gasaway seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The Board considered a Tax Commissioner recommendation to approve a refund for Michael Hudson for penalties incurred due to his tax bill being sent to an old address. Commissioner Turner made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gasaway, to approve the refund. All voted in favor.

The Board considered a petition from Jay & Gina York to abandon a portion of Willie Watkins Road from Ike Stone Road to the old bridge on Little Shoal Creek. The Board discussed the need for the road in the future for emergency services response and the possibility that the old bridge may be reopened. Commissioner Palmer made a motion to deny the request due to future safety issues. Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

The Board considered a request from Fire Chief Steve Couch to surplus old firefighting equipment for donation to the non-profit organization Gear for the Brave. Commissioner Turner made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gasaway, to approve the request and declare the equipment surplus. All voted in favor.

The Board considered a request from the Fire Department to apply for a 2006 Assistance to Firefighters Grant. The grant requires a 10 percent match, not to exceed \$25,000.00 for a Fire/EMS station alerting system. Commissioner Turner made a motion to approve the application. Commissioner Ayers seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

The Board considered a request from the Walton County Board of Education to apply for a Department of Community Affairs Land Development Fund grant in the amount of \$50,000.00 for improvements to the old Monroe High School Gymnasium. Commissioner Turner made a motion to approve the application and to ask the County Clerk and Chairman to work on completion of the application. Commissioner Gasaway seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Facilities Manager Joyce Chambers presented a proposal from Schweitzer Group, Inc. for Indoor Air Quality Testing for the Public Works Building. Commissioner Robinson made a motion to accept the proposal. Commissioner Turner seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

Chairman Little updated the Board on the status of the Harris Homestead grant request.

At 8:05 p.m., Commissioner Robinson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Turner, to enter into executive session to discuss litigation. Commissioners Ayers, Turner, Gasaway, Palmer, Atha and Robinson voted in favor.

At 8:50 p.m., Commissioner Gasaway made a motion to return to regular session. Commissioner Turner seconded the motion. Commissioners Ayers, Turner, Gasaway, Palmer, Atha and Robinson voted in favor. No votes were

taken while in executive session.

Commissioner Turner made a motion to authorize the County Attorney to enter discussion to attempt to reach resolution of the Price lawsuit, subject to Georgia zoning laws. Commissioner Gasaway seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Atha made a motion to authorize the County Attorney to enter discussion to attempt to reach resolution of the Sockwell lawsuit, subject to Georgia zoning laws. Commissioner Palmer seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

At 8:51 p.m., Commissioner Gasaway made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Palmer, to adjourn the meeting. All voted in favor.

All documents of record for this meeting are on file in either the addendum book or auxiliary file under this meeting date.

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KEVIN W. LITTLE, CHAIRMAN

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LETA P. TALBIRD, CLERK

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CLINTON AYERS, DISTRICT 1

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MICHAEL TURNER, DISTRICT 2

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VICKIE M. GASAWAY, DIST. 3

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LAMAR PALMER, DISTRICT 4

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GERALD ATHA, DISTRICT 5

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JOHN ROBINSON, DISTRICT 6