

March 1, 2007

The Walton County Board of Commissioners held a called meeting on Thursday, March 1, 2007 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.

Cathy Ivie, Chairman of the 2007 Crepe Myrtle Festival, gave an overview of events scheduled for this year's festival.

Sheriff Joe Chapman requested the Board's support for a Reserve Deputy Program. Sheriff Chapman provided a written plan and outlined the program objectives. Risk Management Coordinator Joyce Chambers gave a cost estimate for insurance coverage for the program members.

Chairman Little called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Ayers opened the meeting in prayer.

Commissioner Gasaway made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented, with the addition of approval of the Reserve Deputy Program. Commissioner Palmer seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Commissioner Turner made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Atha, to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2007 and February 6, 2007 meetings. All voted in favor.

Purchasing Agent Rhonda Hawk presented a policy for the management and use of cellular telephones for County employees. Ms. Hawk stated that the policy states that the County will discontinue providing cellular telephones to employees and instead will provide monthly allowances in designated amounts for county employees who require use of their personal cellular telephones for work related calls. Commissioner Robinson stated that the Chairman should have final approval on all telephone allowance authorizations. After further discussion, Commissioner Turner made a motion to approve the Cellular Telephone Policy effective July 1, 2007 and to give the Chairman final approval to authorize cellular telephone allowances. He further moved that effective immediately no current County

cellular telephone contracts will be renewed. Commissioner Atha seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

The Board took no action on a contract with Verizon Wireless for cellular telephone service for the Chief Magistrate Judge.

Commissioner Turner made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gasaway, to table a decision on an Employee Benefits Committee recommendation to amend the Donated Leave Policy. All voted in favor.

Commissioner Ayers made a motion to move Item 9.02 – Request for health insurance coverage for the Probate Court Solicitor up on the agenda for consideration. Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Probate Judge Greg Adams and Probate Court Solicitor Brett Mizerak requested the Board approve family health insurance coverage for Mr. Mizerak. The Board instructed Personnel Director Karen Fraser to calculate the cost of the requested medical coverage and bring the information back to the Board for consideration. Commissioner Ayers made a motion to table a decision on the request until cost information is available for consideration. Commissioner Gasaway seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Facilities Manager Joyce Chambers requested approval to install a security fence around a portion of the Government Building employee parking lot. Commissioner Ayers made a motion to approve the request. Commissioner Gasaway seconded the motion. Commissioners Ayers and Gasaway voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Palmer, Atha, Robinson and Turner opposed the motion. The motion failed 4-2.

Road Superintendent Steve Chandler presented a proposed list of roads to be paved with SPLOST funds. Commissioner Ayers made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Palmer, to approve the list. All voted in favor.

Finance Officer Christi Pickens presented contracts and budgeted purchases of \$2,500.00 or greater for the Board's consideration. Ms. Pickens clarified that any new resurfacing projects on the list to will be paid out of SPLOST funds. Commissioner Turner made a motion to approve contracts and budgeted purchases with the changes presented by Ms. Pickens. Commissioner Gasaway seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

Interim Fire Chief Mike Moore presented a donation in the amount of \$1,000.00 from The Wal-Mart Foundation for the Walton County Fire Rescue Department. Commissioner Robinson made a motion to accept the

donation. Commissioner Atha seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

Chief Moore presented options for replacement of the Fire Rescue Department Air Truck. After discussion, Commissioner Turner made a motion to table a decision on the matter until the March 6, 2007 meeting. Commissioner Ayers seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Purchasing Agent Rhonda Hawk presented proposals received for placement of an ATM in Government Building. Commissioner Ayers made a motion to accept the proposal from Athens First Bank. Commissioner Palmer seconded the motion. Commissioner Ayers amended his motion to authorize the Chairman to execute the contract after the County Attorney has reviewed it. Commissioner Palmer seconded the amended motion. All voted in favor.

Chief Deputy Bruce Wright requested approval to purchase a used vehicle for the Sheriff's Department with the cost of the vehicle to be reimbursed from the Forfeited Drug Fund. Mr. Wright presented bids received on various vehicles. He stated that the low bid was received from Landmark Dodge for a 2006 Durango in the amount of \$14,840.00. Commissioner Turner made a motion to approve the purchase and to accept the low bid from Landmark Dodge. Commissioner Gasaway seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

Ms. Pickens presented an FY 2006 4<sup>th</sup> quarter payment to Advantage Behavioral Health for the Board's consideration. She stated that the payment would require a budget amendment with the funds for the payment to be taken from fund balance. Commissioner Turner made a motion to approve the payment and to amend the budget taking the payment out of fund balance. Commissioner Gasaway seconded the motion. Commissioners Ayers, Turner, Gasaway, Palmer and Atha voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Robinson opposed the motion. The motion carried 5-1. Commissioner Robinson stated that all future bills should be stamped with the date on which they are received in the Finance Office.

Joyce Chambers requested authorization to use SPLOST funds for a water main and fire hydrants for Felker Park. Ms. Chambers presented bids received for materials. She stated that Walton County Water & Sewerage Authority personnel have agreed to do the installation. After discussion, Commissioner Robinson made a motion to table the matter in order for the Finance Department to provide the Board with a total budget for Felker Park and a change order to reflect the cost of the water main and fire hydrants. Commissioner Ayers seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Personnel Director Karen Fraser presented employee new hires, promotions

and status changes for the record. Commissioner Palmer made a motion to approve new hires, promotions and status changes as presented. Commissioner Gasaway seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Ms. Fraser presented a proposed job description for the position of Assistant Finance Officer along with salary range comparisons for similar positions in other counties. The Board discussed the possibility of considering two accounting positions rather than an Assistant Finance Officer. Commissioner Robinson made a motion to table a decision on the matter until the March 6, 2007 meeting. Commissioner Turner 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 February 27, 2007. Commissioner Turner made a motion to ratify the actions as presented. Commissioner Gasaway seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

The Board considered a resolution to proceed with plans for the Hard Labor Creek Reservoir and authorizing approval and execution of an Intergovernmental Contract between Walton County and the Walton County Water & Sewerage Authority relating to the reservoir project. David Gray of Citigroup presented the Authority's updated capital improvement program and reviewed the proposed bond issuance process. County Attorney Kirby Atkinson read aloud the proposed resolution. Commissioner Turner made a motion to adopt the resolution. Commissioner Palmer seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Melinda Quinn, Coordinator for the Partnership for Families Children and Youth, requested approval to apply for a Health Care Foundation grant for funding for a Youth Development and Health Educator position. Ms. Quinn requested the Board provide a letter stating that the County would consider providing funding for a percentage of the salary for years two through five. After further discussion, Commissioner Robinson made a motion to approve application for the grant. Commissioner Turner seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Turner made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gasaway, to approve, for the record, a GDOT Off System Striping Agreement. All voted in favor.

Commissioner Gasaway made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Atha, to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service providing for office space and providing a portion of the salaries and associated benefits for County Extension

personnel. All voted in favor.

Commissioner Turner made a motion to table a decision on appointments to the Comprehensive Plan Review Committee until the March 6, 2007 meeting. All voted in favor.

At 8:17 p.m., Commissioner Ayers made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gasaway, to enter into executive session to discuss real estate matters. Commissioners Ayers, Turner, Gasaway, Palmer, Atha and Robinson voted in favor.

At 8:24 p.m., Commissioner Robinson made a motion to return to regular session. Commissioner Atha 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 close on the purchase of the Booth property in an amount not to exceed \$114,000.00. Commissioner Gasaway seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

At 8:25 p.m., Commissioner Gasaway made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Turner, 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      LETA P. TALBIRD, CLERK

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CLINTON AYERS, DISTRICT 1      MICHAEL TURNER, DISTRICT 2

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VICKIE M. GASAWAY, DIST. 3      LAMAR PALMER, DISTRICT 4

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GERALD ATHA, DISTRICT 5      JOHN ROBINSON, DISTRICT 6