

March 29, 2007

The Walton County Board of Commissioners held a called meeting on Thursday, March 29, 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.

Sharon Watts of Keller Williams Realty and builder Steve Dubois requested the Board allow placement of weekend directional signs on County right of ways from 6:00 p.m. on Friday until 6:00 p.m. on Sunday for the next several months. Planning Director Mike Martin introduced Scott Tripp of National Sign Plazas, who proposed a discount program on approved kiosk signs. Commissioner Robinson requested the matter be placed on the Tuesday, April 3, 2007 agenda.

Chairman Little called the meeting to order at 6:23 p.m. and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Robinson opened the meeting in prayer.

Commissioner Gasaway made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Commissioner Turner seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

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

Probate Judge Greg Adams and Probate Court Solicitor Brett Mizarek came before the Board to request health insurance coverage for Mr. Mizarek and his family. Personnel Director Karen Fraser presented the cost of the insurance premiums for eligible employees as well as the monthly employee deduction for family coverage. She stated that the request is in direct conflict with the eligibility requirements as established for the plan and recommended the board deny the request. After further discussion, Commissioner Turner made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Robinson, not to move forward with approval of the request. All voted in favor.

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

unanimously.

Ms. Pickens presented a budget amendment in the amount of \$315,675.00 for the Public Works Department for the purchase of trucks and equipment. Assistant Road Superintendent John Allman reviewed a list of trucks and equipment the Department is requesting to purchase out of the FY 2007 Public Works Department budget. Commissioner Robinson made a motion to approve the budget amendment. Commissioner Turner seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Ms. Pickens presented a budget amendment utilizing fund balance to increase the legal fees budget in the amount of \$160,000.00. Commissioner Turner made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Palmer, to approve the budget amendment. All voted in favor.

Commissioner Ayers made a motion to approve a Sheriff's Department request to apply for the 2007 Bulletproof Vest Grant. Commissioner Palmer seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

Personnel Director Karen Fraser presented new hires, promotions and transfers for the Board's consideration. Commissioner Robinson made a motion to approve new hires, promotions and transfers as presented, for the record. Commissioner Atha seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Fire Chief Mike Moore presented a request to promote two employees who are currently Captains to the two open Battalion Chief positions. Commissioner Palmer made a motion to approve the request. 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 March 27, 2007 meeting. Water Authority General Manager Wendell Geiger reviewed the proposed purchase of a new telephone system for the Authority Office. Commissioner Turner made a motion to ratify the actions taken by the Authority at its March 27, 2007 meeting. Commissioner Robinson stated that the telephone system to be purchased must be compatible with the County's system. Commissioner Turner amended his motion to include that the telephone system to be purchased must be compatible with the County's system. Commissioner Gasaway seconded the amended motion. All voted in favor.

Fire Chief Mike Moore presented a proposed program for cost recovery for fire rescue services rendered at motor vehicle accidents, extrications, landing zones and Haz-Mats. He stated that the County could contract with a company that would bill the insurance company of the liable party for reimbursement of certain costs. Chief Moore requested the Board allow the County Attorney to review the proposal. Commissioner Atha stated that he would like to hear from the company offering these services. Chief Moore

stated that he would contact the company to make a presentation at the April 26, 2007 meeting.

Chief Moore requested the Board approve use of Impact Fee funds to go toward the purchase of an aerial truck. After discussion regarding whether or not Impact Fees can be used to purchase fire trucks, Commissioner Atha made a motion to table a decision on the matter until the April 3, 2007 meeting in order for the County Attorney to research the issue. Commissioner Gasaway seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Commissioner Ayers made a motion to move a request for approval of an Alcoholic Beverage License for Big Hopes, LLC up on the agenda to be heard at this time. Commissioner Turner seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Attorney Tiffany Ellenburg, representing Big Hopes, LLC, came before the Board to request approval of an Alcoholic Beverage License for Kuljit Singh Sandhli – Big Hopes, LLC – d/b/a Unity – 1808 Hwy. 278, Social Circle, Georgia. She stated that Mr. Sandhli is opening the store formerly known as Cathy's Corner at The Oasis. County Clerk Leta Talbird stated that all requirements for the license have been met. Commissioner Palmer made a motion to approve the Alcoholic Beverage License. Commissioner Atha seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Commissioner Gasaway made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Palmer, to approve a Cooperative Agreement with the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service for the Initiative for Watershed Excellence. All voted in favor.

Commissioner Turner made a motion to approve GDOT Contract TSAP-S010-00 (537) – Grade, Drain, Base & Paving on S.R. 20 @ Sharon Church Road. Commissioner Ayers seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Ayers made a motion to approve a Software Support Agreement in the amount of \$220.00 with Governmental Systems, Inc. for the Tax Commissioner's Office. Commissioner Gasaway seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The Board considered a refund request from Linda Elliott for 2007 Ad Valorem taxes inadvertently paid on a vehicle she had traded in. Commissioner Ayers made a motion to approve the refund in the amount of \$114.42. Commissioner Gasaway seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

The Board discussed the SPLOST project development process. Commissioner Atha made a motion to go forward with adoption of an

Owner/Architect Engineer Agreement for County use and adoption of a Uniform Fee Schedule for design professional services based on construction costs. Commissioner Palmer seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Gary Potter spoke during the public comment segment of the meeting.

At 8:14 p.m., Commissioner Atha made a motion to enter into executive session for personnel matters. Commissioner Gasaway seconded the motion. Commissioners Ayers, Turner, Gasaway, Palmer, Atha and Robinson voted in favor.

At 8:52 p.m., Commissioner Palmer made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Atha, to return to regular session. Commissioners Ayers, Turner, Gasaway, Palmer, Atha and Robinson voted in favor.

Commissioner Ayers made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gasaway, to approve a proposal from Clifton, Lipford, Hardison & Parker, LLC for Financial Accounting Consultation and Support Services. All voted in favor.

Commissioner Atha made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Robinson, to terminate Finance Director Christi Pickens. All voted in favor.

At 8:54 p.m., Commissioner Ayers made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gasaway, 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