

Houston County Commissioners Meeting
January 3, 2023
Perry, Georgia

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday January 3, 2023, at the Houston Courthouse in Perry, Georgia, with Chairman Perdue presiding and Commissioners Byrd, Gottwals, Robinson, and Talton present. Also present were County Attorney Tom Hall, Director of Administration Robbie Dunbar, Director of Operations Brian Jones, Director of Purchasing Mark Baker, Community Planner Jake Cox, Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews, Fire/HEMA Chief Chris Stoner, Solid Waste Superintendent Terry Dietsch, Chief Tax Appraiser James Moore, and CEO of Middle Flint Behavioral Health System, Angela Holt.

Chairman Perdue led the audience in the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Military Speaker, Colonel Sergio Rios spoke about his role as Vice-Commander of the 78th ABW at RAFB. He detailed the duties and responsibilities of the 78th ABW and all that the organization does to support the missions at Robins. Col. Rios grew up in a small town outside of El Paso, TX and attended the University of Iowa where he enrolled in the Air Force ROTC program and graduated as a 2nd Lieutenant. While at the University of Iowa, Col. Rios met his wife Darcy, and together they have four children. He has spent 22 years in the USAF and been on 10 assignments. Col. Rios said he and his family have been in Houston County now for 7 months and commented how easily and smoothly his family has transitioned into the community and school system and how much they enjoy Houston County. Colonel Rios said that he and his family have 15 more months left in his position at Robins Air Force Base.

Commissioner Robinson thanked Col. Rios for his service and congratulated him on his career and his family.

Commissioner Byrd thanked Col. Rios for sharing his story and the fact that he and his family acclimated so easily to the Houston County community means a lot to him.

Commissioner Talton thanked Col. Rios for his service and welcomed him and his family to return to Houston County once his service in the Air Force was complete.

Commissioner Gottwals thanked Col. Rios for his service and said it was always a privilege to meet folks such as him and thanked him for his kind words and observations about Houston County.

Chairman Perdue thanked Col. Rios for his service and kind words about Houston County and his family's acclimation into Houston County and the Houston County school system. Chairman Perdue also said that there is no place like home, and he would not fault Col. Rios if he decided to return to his hometown, but that the welcome mat was always out should he and his family decide to return to Houston County to live upon his retirement.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Talton to approve the minutes from the meeting of December 20, 2022. Upon voting Mr. Byrd, Mr. Talton, and Ms. Robinson voted yes. Motion carried. Mr. Gottwals abstained as his term of office started January 1, 2023.

Mr. Talton presented a request for an extension for the Cul-de-sac Bond (One South Bank Letter of Credit 410683) that expires January 11, 2023. This one-year extension, for the cul-de-sac located in Southfield Plantation Subdivision Section 7, will give the developer an opportunity to perform the work in accordance with The Comprehensive Land Development Regulations for Houston County.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve a one-year extension of the Cul-de-sac Bond (One South Bank Letter of Credit 410683) that expires January 11, 2023, for property located in Southfield Plantation Subdivision Section 7. This will give the developer an opportunity to perform the work in accordance with The Comprehensive Land Development Regulations for Houston County.

Mr. Talton presented a request for the release of the Maintenance Bond (One South Bank Letter of Credit 410684), located in Southfield Plantation Subdivision Section 7, that expires January 11, 2023, and to accept the completed roads for maintenance purposes. The developer has completed the work in accordance with The Comprehensive Land Development Regulations for Houston County.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Mr. Byrd and carried unanimously by all to approve the release of a Maintenance Bond (One South Bank Letter of Credit 410684) that expires January 11, 2023. The developer has completed the work in accordance with The Comprehensive Land Development Regulations for Houston County. Also, to accept the following roads for maintenance, road inventory, and speed ordinance purposes:

Colton Drive	1898 ft or 0.36-mile	25mph
Holling Court	292 ft or 0.06-mile	25mph
Easton Court	614 ft or 0.12-mile	25mph
Sage Meadow Lane	293ft or 0.06-mile	25mph

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the following Board Reappointments:

Planning & Zoning Board;

Gary Garrard 09/07/2022 to 09/06/2026

Airport Authority;

Danny Wilson 01/01/2023 to 12/31/2024

Hospital Authority;

Shane Gottwals 01/01/2023 to 12/31/2026

Board of Health;

Randa Parker 01/01/2023 to 12/31/2028

Land Bank Board;

Brian Jones 11/06/2022 to 11/05/2026
Dan Perdue 11/06/2022 to 11/05/2024

Chairman Perdue advised that Agenda Item #4 would need to be tabled in order to determine the correct term of time for Mr. Hamilton Halford to serve on the Airport Authority.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Mr. Gottwals and carried unanimously by all to table agenda item #4 concerning the correction to the term, on the Airport Authority, of Hamilton Halford.

Mr. Byrd presented a renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding with Rainbow House Children's Resource Center, the designated Child Advocacy Center for Houston County.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Talton and carried unanimously by all to approve the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with Rainbow House Children's Resource Center, the designated Child Advocacy Center for Houston County, to support the continued development and operation of the Child Advocacy Center.

Mr. Byrd mentioned there were 16 different organizations involved in this MOU with the Rainbow House which he found quite impressive.

Mr. Byrd presented an addendum to the Solid Waste Collection Service Agreement with Advanced Disposal Services Macon LLC.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve an addendum to the Solid Waste Collection Service Agreement with Advanced Disposal Services Macon LLC. This addendum will allow County employees to assist with the collection of yard waste, and the County will invoice the contractor for County employee's weekly collection of yard waste at a rate listed in the attached "Exhibit A".

Chairman Perdue advised this would not be an ongoing action on the part of the County, only temporary to help to the garbage contractor with the backlog of yard debris and to assist the contractor with getting caught up.

Mr. Byrd presented a request for the abandonment of New Road.

Chairman Perdue closed the regular portion of the meeting and opened a Public Hearing.

As there were no comments, Chairman Perdue closed the Public Hearing and reopened the regular portion of the meeting.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Gottwals and carried unanimously by all to approve the abandoning of New Road. New Road is situated between the Houston County public roads known as Flournoy Road and Ellis Road located in the unincorporated area of Elko, Houston County described as follows:

All that tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in Land Lots 162 and 133 of the Thirteenth (13th) Land District of Houston County, Georgia, being known as New Road a Houston County public road, consisting of a 40' unpaved right-of-way that is situated between the Houston County public roads known as Flournoy Road and Ellis Road.

This conveyance is subject to any easements for drainage or utilities presently existing within the above-described property.

Mr. Byrd presented a Proposal For Detainee Healthcare Services at the Houston County Detention Center by CorrectHealth Houston LLC of Alpharetta.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Talton and carried unanimously by all to approve the acceptance of a Proposal For Detainee Healthcare Services at the Houston County Detention Center submitted by CorrectHealth Houston LLC of Alpharetta at a yearly cost of \$1,397,380.69 with an annual renewal clause for any adjustments needed in compensation.

Mr. Byrd mentioned that with the competitive bid, a 4% cost savings for the citizens of Houston County was realized.

Chairman Perdue advised that in his conversations with Sheriff Talton, he found that the cost of healthcare to inmates continues to rise, but that this cost was manageable by the Sheriff's Department.

Mr. Gottwals presented a request for approval of a bid on one SUV PPV in-stock, for use by the Sheriff's Department SRO Department, from Brannen Motor Company of Unadilla.

Motion by Mr. Gottwals, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve a bid on one SUV PPV in-stock, for use by the Sheriff's Department SRO Department, from Brannen Motor Company of Unadilla at a unit price of \$36,500. This purchase will be charged to 100-3320-54.2200 and reimbursed by the Board of Education.

Mr. Gottwals presented a request for approval of a bid on one in-stock SUV, for use by the Sheriff's Department HEAT Division, from Brannen Motor Company of Unadilla.

Motion by Mr. Gottwals, second by Mr. Byrd and carried unanimously by all to approve a bid on one SUV in-stock, for use by the Sheriff's Department HEAT Division, from Brannen Motor Company of Unadilla at a unit price of \$41,500. This purchase will be charged to 2018 SPLOST account 320-3310-54.2200.

Mr. Gottwals presented a request for approval of a bid on the Renovation of Houston County State Courthouse/Sheriff's Department. Staff as well as SP Design Group recommends acceptance of a Guaranteed Maximum Price Proposal per the Standard form of Contract for Construction Management Services including Construction for a Guaranteed Maximum price from International City Builders, Inc. of Warner Robins in the amount of \$6 million.

Chairman Perdue mentioned this this renovation would be a total redo of that part of the County Annex building for everything except the exterior structure and would provide additional and needed space for the Tax Commissioner and Sheriff's Office. Chairman Perdue asked Director of Administration Robbie Dunbar if he had any information to share.

Mr. Dunbar said that he covered the details well and was excited about the move for the State Court employees down to their new offices at the Perry Courthouse, which will then allow for the renovation to begin.

Motion by Mr. Gottwals, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the signing a Guaranteed Maximum Price Proposal for the Renovation of Houston County State Courthouse/Sheriff's Department with International City Builders Inc. of Warner Robins for the amount of \$6 million.

Ms. Robinson presented a Memorandum of Agreement with Middle Flint Behavioral HealthCare in order to offer funds to assist with the repairs and modifications for the reopening of the CSU.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Gottwals and carried unanimously by all to approve Chairman Perdue to sign the Memorandum of Agreement for funds to assist Middle Flint Behavioral HealthCare with the repairs and maintenance to the CSU that were requested by DBHDD Inspection Team for the reopening of the CSU.

The signing of this Memorandum of Agreement is subject to the approval and signature of the Memorandum of Agreement by Middle Flint HealthCare.

Chairman Perdue thanked Ms. Angela Holt, CEO of Middle Flint Behavior Health for being in attendance and stressed how important it is to have a mental health crisis unit here locally in Houston County.

Ms. Robinson presented a request for an increase in the amount paid for indigent burials from \$800 to \$1200. The cases will still be on a rotation among all the funeral homes in Houston County that are equipped with a crematory.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Talton and carried unanimously by all to approve the increase for indigent burials from \$800 to \$1200 with the cases still being on the rotation schedule among the funeral homes in Houston County equipped with a crematory.

Chairman Perdue said that even with this increase in price, this was an excellent rate to pay for the services these funeral homes offer and deliver to the County and that no budget adjustments were needed.

Commissioner Robinson mentioned that the last increase for this budget line item was 21 years ago.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Talton and carried unanimously by all to appoint Mark Byrd as the Vice-Chairman for the 2023 calendar year.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Byrd and carried unanimously by all to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$4,918,207.76.

Chairman Perdue thanked the accounting staff for getting the bills out early and acknowledged their hard work in making that happen.

Chairman Perdue closed the regular portion of the meeting and opened Public Comments.

Fire/HEMA Chief Chris Stoner recognized and thanked the employees of the Fire Department and Water Department for their work on call-outs over the Christmas break and during the extreme cold weather Houston County recently experienced. The fire department worked several structural fires and assisted the water department employees.

There being no further Comments Chairman Perdue closed the Public Comments portion of the meeting and opened Commissioner Comments.

Commissioner Byrd welcomed Commissioner Gottwals and Chairman Perdue to their respective positions and mentioned it was great having a commissioner with the business background and experience that Commissioner Gottwals has and brings with him to the Board. Commissioner Byrd also recognized Sonny Watson for his retirement from the Houston Healthcare Board and spoke about Mr. Watson's impact and influence both on Houston County and the State of Georgia. He referenced the fact that the Health Pavilion at 233 N. Houston Road in Warner Robins was renamed the Roy H. "Sonny" Watson Health Pavilion. Commissioner Byrd concluded his comments by commending Chairman Perdue for his work, preparation, and involvement during the time from when he was Chairman-Elect to present day as he has worked the last 9 months on several County related issues and prepared himself for taking over Chairman Stalnaker's place.

Commissioner Talton wished everyone a happy New Year and looked forward to working under the leadership of Chairman Perdue and the continued cooperation among the Board members.

Commissioner Robinson wished all attending a happy new year and expressed her appreciation for such an efficient meeting that Chairman Perdue ran and expressed her confidence that Chairman Perdue will do a great job and thanked him for putting in the effort and work that he has in preparation for being Chairman.

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Commissioner Gottwals expressed that it was an honor to serve the citizens of Houston County as a member of the Board of Commissioners and expressed his appreciation for having such a unified Board to serve on and is thankful for the trust that the residents of Houston County have put in him.

Chairman Perdue expressed that it was an honor to serve the residents of Houston County as Chairman and thanked them and the County employees for having confidence in him.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Talton, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all, meeting adjourned.

Robbie Dunbar
Director of Administration

Chairman

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner