

**Houston County Commissioners Meeting**  
**Tuesday, November 19, 2019**  
**Warner Robins Annex**

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 19, 2019, at the Houston County Annex in Warner Robins, Georgia, with Chairman Stalnaker presiding and Commissioners Walker, Thomson, McMichael and Robinson present. Also present were Attorney Tom Hall, Director of Administration Barry Holland, Director of Operations Robbie Dunbar, Director of Personnel Ken Carter, Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews, Director of Purchasing Mark Baker, Community Planner Jake Cox, Assistant Chief David Newman, Ned Sanders, Flint Energies VP of Member Solutions Rogee Roberson, Motorola Account Manager Geoff Thames, Walton and Becky Wood, Ansel Peck

Commissioner Robinson led the audience in the Invocation.

Airman First Class Shakeya Smith, US Air Force led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and briefed the Board on her 2-year military career. She is originally from Conway, Arkansas and Robins AFB is her first duty assignment. Her career field is personnel mainly with contracts dealing with retirement and separation. She joined the military mainly because she had immediate family with prior military service and felt it might be a good steppingstone in her life and career. She remarked that the community here is very welcoming to military members.

Chairman Stalnaker recognized Mr. Ned Sanders who recently travelled to Washington D.C. to receive a prestigious Clean Air Excellence Award, the Thomas W. Zosel Outstanding Individual Achievement Award, from the United States Environmental Protection Agency. The award was presented at EPA headquarters and is given to an individual for their outstanding achievements and strong leadership in improving air quality by demonstrating a lasting commitment to protecting the environment through dedicated service and successful efforts to promote cleaner air.

For nearly two decades, Mr. Sanders has been the foremost champion of clean air within Middle Georgia. His work has reshaped how a regional community can take action to reduce NOx and Ozone while maintaining robust economic growth. In doing so, Mr. Sanders has created a model for public action that can be replicated anywhere across the country. Mr. Sanders formed a coalition of elected officials in Middle Georgia in 2004 to take a regional approach to air quality which became the Middle Georgia Clean Air Coalition (MGCAC). He has led several trips to Washington D.C. to secure grant funding for several Middle Georgia air quality improvement projects and through his leadership efforts and involvement, every county in Middle Georgia is in attainment for the 8-hour ozone NAAQS, with average concentration reduced from 0.075 ppm to 0.065 ppm. Mr. Sanders promised EPA that the Middle Georgia Clean Air Coalition would never go away, even after the region was in attainment, and this promise holds true today. Chairman Stalnaker thanked Mr. Sanders for being an outstanding past Chairman of the Houston County Board of Commissioners and for his continued efforts since leaving office toward achieving our region's clean air goals.

Ms. Celesta Busch, on behalf of NARFE, the National Active and Retired Federal Employees, thanked Mr. Sanders for his accomplishments.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the minutes of the meeting of November 5, 2019.

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Chairman Stalnaker recognized Director of Personnel Ken Carter who briefed the Board on the 2020 health insurance renewal and staff recommended plan changes. Mr. Carter explained that over the past years the healthcare costs have continued to rise. So far in the 2019 plan year, costs are trending at 7% higher than in 2018. This rate of growth is over twice the overall budget increase of 3.3% for FY2020. Since 2010, the County's total healthcare spend has grown from \$7.7 million to a projected \$11.6 million by the end of this year, which represents a 50% increase with minimal staffing additions. This substantially impacts the County's overall budget. To limit this impact, staff recommends shifting more costs to the employees. By recommending to keep the premiums the same, it would require more cost-sharing to those participants who are utilizing the healthcare services. By making these adjustments to copays, deductibles, and out-of-pocket costs, this shifts the costs to those employees utilizing the plan. Based on utilization from 2018, these cost shifts could save at least \$400,000. Even though this is more cost to the employees, these increases are less than the options presented by Anthem as alternatives. In addition, staff recommends increasing the premiums on retirees by 4%. Furthermore, the County has 68 medical and 29 pharmacy exclusions in our plan. As the commission is aware, the County has been challenged over an exclusion in the plan. When the request was initially raised earlier this year, the County had already set the terms and budget for the 2019 plan year. Since the County is now considering other plan changes for the 2020 plan year, staff has obtained some cost data from Anthem on the exclusion and its removal would impact the cost to the County plan. Therefore, with the current cost of our health insurance the removal of any of the 68 medical and 29 pharmacy exclusions would not be recommended.

Those 68 medical exclusions are: Abortion; Acts of War, Disasters, or Nuclear Accidents; Administrative Charges; Alternative/Complementary Medicine; Applied Behavioral Treatment; Before Effective Date or After Termination Date; Certain Providers; Charges Over the Maximum Allowed Amount; Charges Not Supported by Medical Records; Clinically Equivalent Alternatives; Complications of, or Services Related to Non-Covered Services; Compound Drugs; Contraceptives; Cosmetic Services; Court Ordered Testing; Crime; Custodial Care; Delivery Charges; Dental Treatment; Dental Services; Drugs Contrary to Approved Medical and Professional Standards; Drugs Over Quantity or Age Limits; Drugs Prescribed by Providers Lacking Qualifications/Registrations/Certifications; Drugs that do not need a Prescription; Education Services; Experimental or Investigational Services; Eyeglasses and Contact Lenses; Eye Exercises; Eye Surgery; Family Members; Foot Care; Foot Orthotics; Foot Surgery; Free Care; Gene Therapy; Hearing Aids; Health Club Memberships and Fitness Services; Home Care; Infertility Treatment; Lost or Stolen Drugs; Maintenance Therapy; Medical Equipment Devices and Supplies; Medicare; Missed or Cancelled Appointments; Non-approved Drugs; Non-Medically Necessary Services; Nutritional or Dietary Supplements; Office Services; Oral Surgery; Out-of-Network Care; Personal Care and Convenience; Prosthetics; Residential Accommodations; Routine Physicals and Immunizations; Sanctioned or Excluded Providers; Services Received Outside of the United States; Sex Change; Sexual Dysfunction; Stand-By Charges; Sterilization; Surrogate Mother Services; Temporomandibular Joint Treatment; Travel Costs; Vein Treatment; Vision Services; Waived Cost-Shares Out-of-Network; Weight Loss Programs; and Weight Loss Surgery.

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The 29 Pharmacy Exclusions are: Administration Charges; Charges Not Supported by Medical Records; Clinically-Equivalent Alternatives; Compound Drugs; Contrary to Approved Medical and Professional Standards; Delivery Charges; Drugs Given at the Provider's Office / Facility; Drugs Not on the Prescription Drug List (a Formulary); Drugs Over Quantity or Age Limits; Drugs Over the Quantity Prescribed or Refills After One Year; Drugs Prescribed by Providers Lacking Qualifications/Registrations/Certifications; Drugs that do not need a Prescription; Family Members; Gene Therapy; Infertility Drugs; Items Covered as Durable Medical Equipment (DME); Items Covered Under the "Allergy Services" Benefit; Lost or Stolen Drugs; Non-approved Drugs; Non-formulary Drugs; Non-Medically Necessary Services; Nutritional or Dietary Supplements; Onychomycosis Drugs; Over the Counter Items; Sanctioned or Excluded Providers; Sex Change Drugs; Sexual Dysfunction Drugs; Syringes; and Weight Loss Drugs.

Chairman Stalnaker thanked Mr. Carter for his efforts.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the recommended cost-sharing to plan participants and the premium increases to retirees as presented and that the 68 plan exclusions and 29 pharmacy benefit exclusions remain in place. These changes to the plan will be effective January 1, 2020.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to authorize Chairman Stalnaker to sign an agreement for Statewide Mutual Aid and Assistance with Georgia Emergency Management Agency / Homeland Security (GEMA/HS) effective immediately and terminating on March 1, 2024.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. Walker and approved unanimously by all to approve the appointment of Dr. Larry Stewart to the Houston County Board of Health to fill the unexpired term of Dr. James Whitaker. The appointment is effective immediately and the term expires on December 31, 2023.

Chairman Stalnaker commented that Dr. Stewart is assuming the unexpired term of the late Dr. Whitaker whom he characterized as an outstanding board member and a community figure who will truly be missed.

There is \$7.2 million in the 2018 SPLOST program for replacement of all 800 MHz subscriber units (portable radios, mobile radios, mobile data terminals, and tablets) on our system. These are county-wide funds and include the Houston County Sheriff Department, Houston County Fire Department, Public Works and District Attorney devices as well as all three cities fire and police departments, the City of Warner Robins Public Works and Utilities Departments, and finally Houston EMS.

All portable and mobile radios are purchased exclusively from Motorola through the statewide contract. These radios combine to be nearly \$5.8 million of the \$7.2 million total. Motorola has offered a deal whereby if the County will commit to the purchase of these radios by December 1<sup>st</sup> they will offer an additional savings that total nearly \$800,000. Additionally, Motorola will provide back-end equipment at the E911 Center that will enable enhanced GPS tracking capabilities for each mobile and portable radio which is a capability that we do not currently have available. This GPS server and enhancement is a nearly \$350,000 value to the County. Finally, Motorola has agreed to defer all payment for these radios for a two-year period. We would pay a lump sum on December 1, 2021 with no interest accrued.

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Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to authorize Chairman Stalnaker to sign a Communications System Agreement (CSA) and a Lease Purchase Agreement with Motorola Solutions for new portable and mobile radios for use by County-wide public safety departments, Houston EMS, and certain Public Works and Utilities Departments.

Houston County recently had a water rate study performed and based upon those results our consulting engineers and Public Works staff recommend an increase to the city residential bulk rate from \$0.95 per thousand gallons to \$1.47 per thousand gallons to be effective on January 1, 2020. The city commercial bulk rate would remain at \$1.47 per thousand gallons with commercial and residential bulk rates for customers outside Houston County at \$1.77 per thousand gallons, which is the same rate charged to all retail customers. The last rate increase went into effect January 1, 2006.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to authorize new city residential bulk water rates effective January 1, 2020 as outlined in a memorandum submitted by Director of Operations Robbie Dunbar dated November 8, 2019.

The Purchasing Department has requested approval to declare surplus four scraper pans, one motor grader, one dump truck and a tractor. These items will be listed for auction online with GovDeals.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously by all to approve the declaration of surplus equipment for the items listed in a memorandum from Director of Purchasing Mark Baker dated November 6, 2019. These items will be properly advertised and listed for online auction with GovDeals.

Bids were solicited for two half-ton regular cab pick-up trucks for use in the Water Department with six dealers responding. Staff recommends award to Ginn Commercial for two 2020 RAM 1500 trucks at a unit cost of \$20,882.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of two half-ton regular cab pick-up trucks for use in the Water Department to Ginn Commercial of Covington, GA at a unit cost of \$20,882 or a total amount of \$41,764. Water capital funds will pay for the purchase of these vehicles.

Chairman Stalnaker recognized Gracie Preston Rigby, Business Operations Manager at Rigby's Entertainment Complex, who briefed the Board on the upcoming Rockin' Robins 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Warner Robins Christmas Parade to be held Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. She explained that the Robins Regional Chamber of Commerce has hosted the parade for many years and that Rigby's has taken it on this year hoping to expand the event to make it a family fun day and to add more opportunity for community involvement. The parade route will move from its traditional route down Watson Blvd. and South Davis Drive. This year the parade will travel down Cohen Walker Drive beginning at the Central Georgia Technical College and ending up at the Rigby's Entertainment Complex on Karl Drive. The media will be on hand and there will be bouncy houses, vendors, crafts, and food trucks for all to enjoy. It is a one-mile parade route and is free to the public. This year's parade Grand Marshall will be the POW/MIA Chair of Honor. Ms. Rigby thanked the Board for their support and invited everyone to attend.

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Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried by all to approve Chairman Stalnaker to sign the agreement between the County, the City of Warner Robins, the Convention and Visitors Bureau, and Rigby's Entertainment Complex allowing the use of a portion of the grounds of the Houston County Magistrate Court Building and the Houston County Health Department Building during the Warner Robins Christmas Parade event held on December 7, 2019.

The Peaches to Beaches Annual Yard Sale event is scheduled to be held on Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup> thru Saturday March 14<sup>th</sup>. The County has allowed the event organizers to use the Houston County Government Building grounds and parking lot in years past. This agreement between the County, the Perry Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Golden Isles Parkway Association, the Perry Lions Club and the City of Perry formalizes the agreement. The main parking lot of the building will remain open for building staff members and citizens who need to avail themselves of those departments (Board of Elections, County Extension Office and the NRCS office).

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to approve Chairman Stalnaker to sign the agreement between the County, the Perry Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Golden Isles Parkway Association, the Perry Lions Club and the City of Perry allowing the use of a portion of the grounds of the Houston County Government Building during the Peaches to Beaches Annual Yard Sale event held March 12, 2020 through March 14, 2020.

Chief Stoner has applied to the Walmart Community Grant Program for funds to purchase Nomex hoods personal protective gear for use in the Fire Department. Walmart has approved \$1,000 for this purpose and staff recommends acceptance.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve the acceptance of a Walmart Community Grant in the amount of \$1,000 to be used by the Fire Department to purchase Nomex hoods (personal protective equipment).

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$7,434,507.76

Chairman Stalnaker opened the meeting for Public Comments. There were no public comments.

Chairman Stalnaker opened the meeting for Commissioners Comments.

Chairman Stalnaker offered Mark Baker his condolences on the loss of his father last week. He reminded everyone that County offices would be closed next week on Thursday, November 28<sup>th</sup> and Friday, November 29<sup>th</sup> during the Thanksgiving holiday. During the holiday week, Advanced Disposal Services, the County's waste collection contractor, will have a one-day delay for trash pick-up. He thanked Airman Smith and the two other service members accompanying her for coming to the meeting. Finally, he congratulated Mr. Sanders one more time for his accomplishments and EPA award.

Ms. Robinson thanked everyone for coming and participating in the meeting.

Mr. Walker thanked Mr. Sanders for his efforts and offered his thoughts and prayers to Mr. Baker concerning the recent loss of his father.

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Mr. Thomson also offered his thoughts and prayers to Mr. Baker and thanked Mr. Sanders. He said that he was three-quarters of the way healed from his recent neck surgery and glad to be back.

Mr. McMichael likewise thanked Mr. Sanders, offered condolences to Mr. Baker, and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously by all to approve entering into Executive Session for Attorney/Client matters per O.C.G.A. §50-14-2(1) and for Real Estate matters per O.C.G.A § 50-14-3(b)(1)(B).

Upon reconvening the regular scheduled meeting Chairman Stalnaker announced that there would be no action taken as a result of the Executive Session.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all, meeting adjourned.

  
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Barry Holland  
Director of Administration

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Chairman

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Commissioner

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Commissioner

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Commissioner

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**EXECUTIVE SESSION AFFIDAVIT  
STATE OF GEORGIA  
COUNTY OF HOUSTON**

**AFFIDAVIT OF PRESIDING OFFICER**

Tommy Stalnaker, Chairman of the Houston County Board of Commissioners, being duly sworn, states under oath that the following is true and accurate to the best of his knowledge and belief:

1.

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in a duly advertised meeting on November 19, 2019.

2.

During such meeting, the Board voted to go into executive session.

3.

The executive session was called to order at 7:23 p.m.

4.

The subject matter of the closed portion of the meeting was devoted to the following matter(s) within the exceptions provided in the open meeting law:

Consultation with the county attorney or other legal counsel to discuss pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the county or any officers or employee or in which the county or any officer or employee may be directly involved as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2(1);

Discussion of tax matters made confidential by state law as provided by O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2(2) and (insert the citation to the legal authority making the tax matter confidential) \_\_\_\_\_;

Discussion or voting on:  
 Authorizing a settlement as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(1)(A);  
 Authorizing negotiations to purchase, dispose of, or lease property as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(1)(B);  
 Authorizing an appraisal as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(1)(C);  
 Entering a contract for the purchase, disposal of, or lease of property as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(1)(D);  
 Entering into an option to purchase, dispose of, or lease property as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(1)(E);

Discussion or deliberation on the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a county officer or employee as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(2);

Interviewing candidates for executive positions as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(2);

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\_\_\_\_\_ Other (describe the exemption to the open meetings law):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ as provided in (insert the citation to the legal authority exempting the topic) \_\_\_\_\_.

5.

\_\_\_\_\_ During the course of the closed session devoted to exempt topics, an incidental remark regarding a non-exempt topic or an attempt to discuss a non-exempt topic was made.

\_\_\_\_\_ The attempt was immediately ruled out of order and attempts to discuss same ceased immediately.

\_\_\_\_\_ The attempt was immediately ruled out of order. However, the comments did not cease, so the closed/executive session was immediately adjourned without discussion or action being taken regarding any non-exempt topic.

6.

Minutes were taken of this meeting and will be filed and held for in camera inspection only.

This \_\_\_\_\_ day of November, 2019.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tommy Stalnaker, Chairman  
Houston County Board of

Commissioners

Sworn to and subscribed  
before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of  
November, 2019.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public  
My commission expires:

\_\_\_\_\_