**Houston County Commissioners Meeting**

**April 21, 2015**

**Warner Robins, Georgia**

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 21, 2015 at the Houston County Annex in Warner Robins, Georgia with Chairman Stalnaker presiding and Commissioners McMichael, Walker, Thomson and Robinson present. Also present were Director of Administration Barry Holland, Director of Operations Robbie Dunbar, Personnel Director Ken Carter, Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews, Purchasing Director Mark Baker, Houston County Fire Chief Jimmy Williams, Jimmy Autry-Vice-President of Flint Energies, Ken Pritchard-Chairman of the Phoenix Center Community Service Board, Elaine Pritchard-Robins Regional Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee, Walton and Becky Wood and County Attorney Tom Hall.

Commissioner Thomson led the audience in the Invocation.

Major Jan Ewing, USAF (ret.) led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and then detailed his military career. He began by thanking the Board for recognizing active duty, former and retired military members. Originally from Ohio he entered service in 1979 at the age of nineteen. He received electronics training at a tech school in Colorado and spent some time working on tail gun radar systems for B-52’s. He met his wife during this time and eventually was sent full-time to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base to obtain his electrical engineering degree. Upon graduation, he applied for and was sent to officer’s training school. He spent time working on various aircraft and also in support of satellite systems for the space command. He came to Robins Air Force Base in 2000 working with the F-15 program. Upon retirement he returned to working on the F-15 and C-5 programs at Robins with the civil service. He commented that he would not want to be anywhere else than this delightful community and that he was proud of the support the military received here.

Chairman Stalnaker recognized Ms. Elaine Pritchard who sits on the Government Affairs Committee for the Robins Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of April 7, 2015.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously to concur with a City of Perry annexation request for all that tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in Land Lot 189 of the 13th Land District, Houston County, Georgia, being known and designated as Parcel 10, containing 1.855 acres, as shown on a plat of survey prepared by Thomas A. Smith, Jr., Georgia Registered Land Surveyor No. 2048, dated August 28, 2003 and recorded in Plat Book 61, Page 141, Clerk’s Office Houston Superior Court. Said plat and the recorded copy thereof are hereby made a part of this description by reference thereto for all purposes.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously to approve Chairman Stalnaker to sign a ten year Mutual Aid Agreement for fire, law enforcement and emergency management support between Houston County and the City of Perry.

Director of Administration Barry Holland presented a second reading of a proposed amendment concerning bad check charges. Chairman Stalnaker then opened a public hearing at which there were no comments.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously to approve an amendment, effective immediately, to the Houston County Code of Ordinances by adding a new section to Article IV-Finance titled Sec. 2-282 Dishonored Instrument (check) Charge, which section shall read as follows:

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Sec. 2-282 Dishonored Instrument (check) Charge

The Charge for dishonored instruments (checks) for all Houston County Departments shall be as set out in O.C.G.A § 16-9-20(j), which is thirty dollars ($30.00) or five percent (5%) of the face amount of the instrument, whichever is greater, plus any fee charged to Houston County by its bank.

Director of Administration Barry Holland presented a second reading of a proposed amendment removing the minimum acreage requirement as a condition for qualifying for current use assessment for ad valorem tax purposes for a single tract. Chairman Stalnaker then opened a public hearing at which there were no comments.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously to approve an amendment, effective immediately, to the Houston County Code of Ordinances deleting the following section in its entirety:

Section 58-4 Conservation Use Assessment.

In accordance with O.C.G.A § 48-5-7.4(a)(3), Houston County hereby sets the minimum number of acres as a condition for qualifying for current use assessment for ad valorem tax purposes at 20 acres for a single tract; provided however, that a tract of less than 20 acres may qualify for current use assessment if it is contiguous to and used in conjunction with another tract receiving current use assessment that is owned by the same applicant or applicants. All contiguous property combined shall have a minimum acreage of 20 acres. This minimum shall apply to all new covenants entered into for the tax year 2011, and thereafter, and all renewal covenants entered into for the tax year 2012 and hereafter.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously to approve Chairman Stalnaker to sign a professional services agreement with R.K. Shah & Associates of Smyrna in the amount of $100,150 for engineering consulting services on the Hwy 41 widening project (US41/SR11 from 247-Connector to Osigian Blvd and Type B Median conversion on 247-C/Watson Blvd.) This is a SPLOST 2006 funded project.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously to table the temporary closure and detour of Gunn Road between Willow Way and Eagle Parkway. Chairman Stalnaker explained that the planned closure detour would have to be delayed due to an unforeseen conflict with the location of the sanitary sewer line.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously to approve the declaration of vehicles and miscellaneous equipment surplus to the County’s needs and to set the public auction for 10:00 a.m. on June 4, 2015 to be conducted by the Purchasing Department at the County warehouse facility.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously to approved the award of two (2) new fire trucks from Deep South Fire Trucks of Seminary, MS at a cost of $229,970 each or a total of $459,940. Delivery is 240 days ARO. SPLOST 2012 will fund the purchase.

Chairman Stalnaker recognized Chief Williams who explained that one of the new trucks will replace a 1985 model truck that is currently not serviceable. The other new truck would be placed at the planned new fire station that will be constructed adjacent to the Perdue chicken plant. Chairman Stalnaker commented that the initial meeting with the architect on the new fire station will be held tomorrow. He also thanked the citizens for supporting the 2012 SPLOST that is funding the purchase of the trucks and the construction of the station.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously to approve the payment of bills totaling $924,252.68 contingent upon further review of certain bills.

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Chairman Stalnaker then opened the meeting for public comments.

Purchasing Agent Mark Baker briefed the Board on the Perry Branch Library project. He commented that they are working hard toward completion since the dedication for the building is set for May 21st. Approximately 90 to 95% of the interior is complete with some furniture being delivered today. Shelving and books that have been stored in a facility on Robins AFB and at the temporary library location are scheduled to be moved beginning tomorrow. He related that the biggest concern has been the weather which has been holding up significant progress on exterior work such as irrigation, landscaping and paving of the existing and expanded parking lot.

Mr. Baker commended the Houston County Public Buildings and Roads & Bridges crews that have been working diligently on these exterior aspects of the job. The parking area will be expanded by approximately 30 spaces, as well as improved handicap spaces and a new drive through for dropping off children and other patrons. He acknowledged the City of Perry and the help that they have given the County on the project on items such as new sidewalks and utility work. He mentioned that the walkway between the library and the Perry Historical Society has also been completed. Despite the bad weather, Mr. Baker hopes to finish the project in time for the dedication ceremony.

Ms. Elaine Pritchard, representing the Governmental Affairs Committee of the Robins Regional Chamber of Commerce, thanked the Board for all that they do in the County helping to create and support a healthy climate for businesses in the community.

There being no further public comments, the meeting was continued.

The Chairman then asked for comments from the Commissioners.

Chairman Stalnaker recognized Jimmy Autry, Vice President at Flint Energies, and related that he has received very positive feedback from both Flint Energies and GA Power concerning the Board’s recent recognition of National Lineman Appreciation Day.

Chairman Stalnaker also recognized Mr. Ken Pritchard, Chairman of the Phoenix Center Community Service Board.

Commissioner Walker acknowledged Mr. Pritchard for his leadership on the Phoenix Center Community Service Board and also commended both Director of Operations Robbie Dunbar and County Engineer Brian Jones for their recent presentation to the AARP on road construction projects in the County.

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

the meeting.

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 Barry Holland Chairman

 Director of Administration

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