

Houston County Commissioners Meeting
March 15, 2016
Warner Robins, Georgia

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 15, 2016 at the Houston County Annex building in Warner Robins, Georgia with Chairman Stalnaker presiding and Commissioners Walker, McMichael, Thomson and Robinson present. Also present were Director of Administration Barry Holland, County Attorney Tom Hall, Director of Operations Robbie Dunbar, Personnel Director Ken Carter, Purchasing Director Mark Baker, Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews, Chief Magistrate Bob Turner, Fire/HEMA Chief Jimmy Williams, Assistant Chief Rodney Pickle, Jenna Holland, Walt and Becky Wood, Ansel Peck, James Erdmanczyk, Flint Energies President/CEO Bob Ray, Flint Energies Senior VP Jimmy Autry, GA Power Area Manager Joe Brownlee, GA Power Central Region VP Ron Shipman.

Chairman Stalnaker led the audience in the Invocation.

Former US Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Jimmy Harris, led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and detailed his 22-year career. After graduation from Warner Robins High School in 1984 he served at a reserve center in Charleston, and at the Georgia Tech Campus working with a ship simulator that helps train crewmen, and later on at a site in Marietta. He completed several tours onboard naval ships including one to Cuba. Summing up his experiences in the Navy, he said that he learned a lot and enjoyed every moment.

Chairman Stalnaker recognized Boy Scouts Theodore Braswell and Bryan Thomas from Troop 566 (Trinity United Methodist Church) in attendance as a final requirement to earn their communication merit badge. He spoke to them about the process of government and presented each scout with a pen and pencil set.

Chairman Stalnaker then called on Chief Williams to help recognize the Houston County Fire Department volunteers, full-time staff, part-time staff and Explorers. Over two dozen members were on -hand to be recognized. Chairman Stalnaker reviewed highlights from the 2015 Fire Department stats which included 3,321 calls; nearly 5,300 volunteer call hours; over 2,700 full-time and part-time call hours; over 4,300 volunteer training hours; over 3,100 full-time hours; a total of almost 9,600 volunteer (training and call) hours equating to over \$221,000; and the top three busiest stations were Station #2 (Bonaire) with 942 calls, Station #5 (Lake Joy) with 761 calls, and Station #1(Carl Vinson) with 558 calls. The Chairman thanked all for a fantastic job and commended them for their service to our community. With the help of Chief Williams and Assistant Chief Pickle, Chairman Stalnaker presented each member a framed certificate of appreciation honoring their devotion to public safety. Chief Williams stated that he is proud of the entire department for the exceptional job that they perform. He said that the longest serving member of the department is Chief Investigator Bill Smith with 34 years. Chief Williams himself is only two months' shy of that mark.

Continued on page 1063

Continued from page 1062

Chairman Stalnaker recognized Linemen Johnny Wright, Al Jordan and Greg Hill of Flint Energies as well as Linemen J.R. Albritton and Lee Roebuck of Georgia Power. He presented both groups with a resolution proclaiming April 18, 2016 to be National Lineman Appreciation Day in Houston County. He explained that linemen are often first responders during storms and other catastrophic events and therefore work under dangerous conditions maintaining the energy infrastructure that we all enjoy. He recognized SR VP Jimmy Autry and President/CEO Bob Ray of Flint Energies who thanked the Board for recognizing the linemen for the work that they perform. Georgia Power Area Manager Joe Brownlee thanked the Board for their recognition of the linemen and introduced Georgia Power Central Region Vice President Ron Shipman who likewise thanked the Board.

Chairman Stalnaker recognized Mr. Tyler Bryant who, in an attempt to raise awareness about a condition that affects nearly ten million Americans, explained the neurological movement disorder known as Essential Tremor. The International Essential Tremor Foundation was founded in 1988 and is the leading organization in the world dedicated to helping those affected by the disorder through awareness, education, support and funding research to identify effective treatments and hopefully to find a cure. Suffering from the disorder himself, Mr. Bryant shared his personal story and indicated that he would like to create a local support group in Houston County.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve the minutes of the March 1, 2016 Board of Commissioners meeting.

Mr. Walker presented a request from the City of Warner Robins to concur with the annexation of 11.5 acres of property located on Booth Road. The request was initiated by owner Ernest W. Livingston, Jr. thru Zimmerman Properties SE, LLC., who intends to annex this portion of a larger 30-acre tract for the development of a 192-unit multi-family apartment community. Presently zoned as County C-2 the proposed zoning upon annexation is City R-4.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously by all to concur with the annexation of the 11.5 acres (a portion of the larger 30.04-acre tract known as Tax Parcel #001220 001000) located on Booth Road as described by metes and bounds description contained in the request.

Mr. Walker presented a request for approval on three court reporter employment contracts for all three Superior Court judges. The court reporters function as independent contractors and serve at the pleasure of the court.

Continued on page 1064

Continued from page 1063

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve Chairman Stalnaker signing the Superior Court employment contracts for court reporters; Wendy Nelson, Connie Montgomery, and Angela Busch for terms ending June 30, 2017.

Ms. Robinson presented a request for approval on the renewal of the Georgia Emergency Management Agency/Homeland Security Statewide Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement. The document has been reviewed by Chief Williams and the County attorney.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to approve Chairman Stalnaker signing an agreement for Statewide Mutual Aid and Assistance with the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA). The agreement will expire on March 1, 2020.

Mr. Thomson presented a request to appoint George F. Nunn to fill the position on the Library Board formerly held by Mr. Marc Martin.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve the appointment of George F. Nunn to a term on the Library Board beginning March 15, 2016 and expiring on February 1, 2020.

Mr. Thomson presented a request for approval on a supplemental LMIG funding request to GDOT that would allow Public Works to target the County's needs for safety and operational improvements on various local roads.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve Chairman Stalnaker signing an application for supplemental 2016 LMIG Grant funds in the amount of \$161,985.43 from the Georgia Department of Transportation. These funds are to be used to improve the visibility of pavement marking on various County roads and to add a two-foot widening to the entire length of Saddle Creek Road. If awarded, the County will be required to meet a 30% match in the amount of \$69,422.33 from SPLOST funds.

Chairman Stalnaker remarked that the Public Works staff has been working for some months to secure these additional LMIG grant funds.

Mr. Thomson presented a request for a change order on the Carl Vinson Parkway Phase 3 contract. This change order is for the application of a 1" layer of open graded asphalt on the existing roadway to mitigate reflection cracking and to improve the structural integrity of the road due to varying and degrading conditions in the existing asphalt.

Continued on page 1065

Continued from page 1064

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to approve Chairman Stalnaker signing Change Order #3 on the Carl Vinson Parkway Phase 3 project with Reeves Construction Company. This change order will add \$76,527.75 to the current contract price of \$3,070,162.49 making the amended total \$3,146,690.24. There will be an increase of 30 days to the contract time of 768 for an amended contract time of 798 calendar days.

Chairman Stalnaker commented that the contractor is making good progress on the project and that it will greatly enhance the movement of traffic through that area.

Mr. McMichael presented a request for approval of a bid by low bidder LaKay Enterprises for storm drainage repairs in Statham's Landing (between Fairway #7 and Club Court).

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of the Statham's Landing (between Fairway #7 and Club Court) storm drainage repair project to LaKay Enterprises, Inc. of Fort Valley in the amount of \$38,000.

Chairman Stalnaker remarked that this job would replace a pipe system located in an existing easement that is failing.

Mr. McMichael presented a request for approval of a bid for one new bulldozer for use in the Landfill. The Purchasing Department, along with Public Works and Landfill staff, recommend award to Tractor & Equipment Company for a Komatsu dozer.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of one 2016 Komatsu D85EX-18 bulldozer to Tractor & Equipment Co. of Macon in the amount of \$564,200 (unit cost of \$574,000 less \$47,000 trade-in allowance plus \$37,200 5-year/10,000-hour powertrain-plus warranty). Trade-in machine is a 2002 Caterpillar D7R-DSII bulldozer (Maint. #613). Additionally, Tractor & Equipment Co. will issue a \$30,000 parts and service credit to be available for use on any piece of County-owned equipment.

Chairman Stalnaker pointed out that this purchase would be made with enterprise funds from the Landfill's reserve fund.

Continued on page 1066

Continued from page 1065

Mr. McMichael presented a request to approve a bid on a one half ton crew cab pick-up truck for use by the Investigations Division of the Sheriff's Department. Purchasing recommends award to the low bidder Speedway Ford of Griffin. The cost of the vehicle will be reimbursed to the County by the Sheriff thru drug funds.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of one 2016 F-150 half-ton crew cab pick-up truck for use in the Investigations Division of the Sheriff's Department to Speedway Ford of Griffin in the amount of \$25,830.36. The Sheriff will reimburse the County 100% of the cost from Drug Funds.

Mr. McMichael presented a request to approve a bid on the joint LMIG road projects. Houston County, Dooly County, Pulaski County, Warner Robins, Centerville, Perry, Byron, and Hawkinsville have consolidated the Local Maintenance and Improvements Grand road projects for each entity in order to secure the best pricing. The roads listed for repair / resurfacing are Bear Branch Road, Boutwell Road, Elko Road, Heron Drive, East Point Circle, Klondike Road, Thompson Mill Road, and Southfield Court.

Houston County is obligated to spend a minimum of \$765,182.03, which is a combination of the GDOT 2016 LMIG funds of \$588,601.56 plus the mandatory 30% County match of \$176,580.47, and we will be responsible for \$193,062.67 after expending all available GDOT grant funds.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously by all to approve a bid award for the joint 2016 LMIG road resurfacing and repair projects to Georgia Asphalt of Juliette, Ga in the total amount of \$2,807,228.99 of which Houston County's portion is \$781,664.23; \$558,601.56 is to come from LMIG grant funds and the balance of \$193,062.67 from SPLOST funds. The cities of Warner Robins, Centerville, Perry, Byron, Hawkinsville, and Dooly and Pulaski Counties will be responsible for the balance of \$2,025,564.76.

Mr. McMichael commended County Engineer Brian Jones for his hard work bringing this project together.

Mr. Thomson remarked that there was a good spread between the five bidders.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to approve the payment of the bills in the amount of \$1,091,212.01.

Continued on page 1067

Continued from page 1066

Public Comments:

Ansel Peck, 109 Latham Drive, Warner Robins thanked the citizens who voted for the E-SPLOST in support of the school system. He also commented that we need to support each of the Commissioners running for re-election.

Walton Wood, 426 Sandefur Road, Kathleen shared a recent personal experience that he had with several Flint Energies linemen after a severe storm took down a sizable tree limb which fell across his service line. He was very appreciative of the fast and courteous response and thanked the Flint Energies linemen and management for what they do in the community.

Commissioners Comments:

Mr. McMichael remarked that he was glad that the Board had a chance tonight to acknowledge those who serve the community in various capacities but normally are not recognized for their efforts.

Mr. Thomson echoed Mr. McMichael's remarks and also thanked the County employees for their dedication.

Ms. Robinson, and Mr. Walker also thanked everyone and were glad to have recognized so many deserving people.

Chairman Stalnaker gave each Commissioner a draft copy of a new service recognition policy for County employees and asked that they review it and comment over the next week. He thanked Ken Carter, Barry Holland and Tom Hall for their efforts putting the policy together.

Mr. Walker remarked that he has advocated for such a policy for a long time and commended the Chairman for bringing it to the Board for their consideration.

Chairman Stalnaker once again recognized the two Boy Scouts in attendance and invited them back for another meeting sometime in the future.

Chairman Stalnaker then called for a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously to enter into Executive Session to discuss Personnel matters as allowed by O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(2).

Continued on page 1068

Continued from page 1067

Upon returning, Chairman Stalnaker re-opened the Commissioners meeting and announced that there would be no action taken as a result of the Executive Session.

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

Barry Holland
Director of Administration

Chairman

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner