

**Houston County Commissioners Meeting
September 19, 2017
Warner Robins, Georgia**

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday September 19, 2017 at the Houston County Annex in Warner Robins, Georgia with Chairman Stalnaker presiding and Commissioners Walker, Robinson, Thomson, and McMichael present. Also present were County Attorney Tom Hall, Director of Administration Barry Holland, Director of Operations Robbie Dunbar, Director of Purchasing Mark Baker, Fire / HEMA Chief Jimmy Williams, Director of Personnel Ken Carter, Chief Magistrate Bob Turner, Houston County Health Department Nurse Manager Chris Sikes, Walton and Becky Wood, Ansel Peck, Jim Taylor and James Erdmanczyk.

Commissioner McMichael gave the Invocation.

PO2 Jacinto Segura, US Navy (ret.) led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and detailed his 20-year military career. A native Filipino he was recruited in the Philippines and was trained in the Logistics and Supply field. He served many duty stations including Miramar in California, NAS Patuxent in Maryland, Navy Reserve Center in Texas, NAS Willow Grove in Pennsylvania and two cruises with a battle group in the Persian Gulf during Desert Shield-Desert Storm. Shortly after retiring from the Navy he took a job with Lockheed Martin where he spent time in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Marietta. He found himself in Houston County when he went to work as a contractor in Warner Robins in 2012 and then on Robins AFB in 2014.

Chairman Stalnaker recognized Lt. George Mateyko who was recently selected as the 2017 Georgia State Firefighters Association Company Officer of the Year. The Chairman read a resolution recognizing Lt. Mateyko for his accomplishments and thanked him for his long service to our community.

Chief Williams also thanked Lt. Mateyko for his dedication to the Houston County Fire Department.

Chairman Stalnaker then recognized Teresa Floyd, Parliamentarian and Constitution Week Chairman, and Billie Trussell, Regent of the Sukey Hart Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution and presented a proclamation recognizing September 17th through the 23rd as Constitution Week in Houston County.

Ms. Trussell explained that the DAR began recognizing Constitution week in 1955 and it is recognized each year by the President of the United States as well.

Chairman Stalnaker called on Houston County Health Department Nurse Manager Chris Sikes to brief the Board on their new dental clinic.

Ms. Chris Sikes explained that the program is intended to fill a gap in the community for affordable dental care that will begin with children and then expand to include adults. Services to be rendered include oral exams, preventative care, fillings, extractions and dental health education. The clinic is

scheduled to open Monday, October 25th and is staffed by a full-time dentist, an oral hygienist, and an administrative employee. Ms. Sikes thanked the Commissioners for their support of the Health Department and this new program. She explained that Houston is part of the Georgia Department of Public Health North Central District which serves citizens in thirteen counties including Houston. She also briefed the Board on the Flu vaccinations and encouraged everyone to take advantage of the program offered through the Health Department.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve the minutes from the meeting of September 5, 2017.

Chairman Stalnaker asked for a motion to add one item to the agenda, a bid approval on the Perry Library HVAC replacement project.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to add the Perry Library HVAC replacement bid award as agenda Item #9.

Mr. Walker presented a request to hire Denise McLendon to fill the soon to be vacant Deputy Clerk position at the Magistrate Court. Ms. McLendon does have the necessary experience to qualify for the C-step. Staff recommends approval at a 12-C.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve hiring Denise McLendon at a Grade 12 Step C for the position of Deputy Clerk at the Magistrate Court effective September 20, 2017.

Chief Magistrate Bob Turner commented that Ms. McLendon was well-qualified and had started work at the A-step last week.

Mr. Walker presented a request to hire Brandon West to fill the vacant Senior Utility Service Worker position at the Water Department. Mr. West does have the necessary experience to qualify for the C-step. Staff recommends approval at a 13-C.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to hire Brandon West at a Grade 13 Step C for the position of Senior Utility Service Worker at the Water Department effective September 20, 2017.

Mr. Walker presented a request from the Board of Elections to hire Cindy Gordy to fill the vacant Registration/Election Technician position. Ms. Gordy does have the necessary experience to qualify for the B-step. Staff recommends approval at 10-B.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously by all to hire Cindy Gordy at a Grade 10 Step B for the position of Registration/Election Technician at the Board of Elections effective September 26, 2017.

Mr. Thomson presented a request to amend the distribution ratio of Local Victim Assistance Program funds. HODAC, closing to the public and dissolving as of September 30, 2017, currently receives 5% of these funds. Staff recommends combining that 5% with the 75% going to the District Attorney's office to help defray the cost of the victim assistance programs already in place.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to amend the distribution ratio of the LVAP 5% fine revenues to reflect the following:

80% to the Houston County District Attorney’s Office

20% to the Rainbow House Children’s Resource Center

Ms. Robinson asked whether the District Attorney would now administer the program in the State Court as well as the Superior and Juvenile Courts.

Chairman Stalnaker commented that he would and that he currently does administer part of that program through the Solicitor-General’s office.

Mr. Thomson presented a list, compiled by Public Works, for submission to the Georgia Department of Transportation for consideration on the 2018 LMIG (Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant) funding. If approved by the Board, Public Works will proceed with the application.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to approve the proposed 2018 LMIG priority list to be submitted to Georgia D.O.T. The estimated grant funding would total \$826,595.60 and the 30% match from the County is \$247,978.68. The road names, mileage and priority ranking are as follows:

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|--------------------------|------------|-----------------------|------------|
| 1. Autumn Woods Drive | 0.69 miles | 24. Kevin Drive | 0.39 miles |
| 2. Balmoral Lane | 0.15 miles | 25. Lake Placid Dr. | 1.16 miles |
| 3. Bellwood Avenue | 0.50 miles | 26. Mack Lane | 0.55 miles |
| 4. Bradford Drive | 0.29 miles | 27. McKenzie Rd | 0.52 miles |
| 5. Camden Lane | 0.11 miles | 28. Mossy Lake Rd | 0.54 miles |
| 6. Country Court | 0.21 miles | 29. N. Fairways Dr. | 0.16 miles |
| 7. Country Lane | 0.39 miles | 30. Oasis Avenue | 0.40 miles |
| 8. Covey Point | 0.07 miles | 31. Peggy Lane | 0.13 miles |
| 9. Debbie Drive | 0.13 miles | 32. Plantation Way | 0.22 miles |
| 10. Deborah Drive | 0.51 miles | 33. Pocohonotos Ave. | 0.17 miles |
| 11. Donna Kay Court | 0.10 miles | 34. Quail Hollow Dr. | 0.09 miles |
| 12. Dundee Pass | 0.16 miles | 35. Red Bird Circle | 0.76 miles |
| 13. Falling Leaves | 0.17 miles | 36. Robin Drive | 0.13 miles |
| 14. Field Trail Drive | 0.19 miles | 37. Salem Drive | 0.55 miles |
| 15. Gardenia Way | 0.36 miles | 38. Southwick Dr. | 0.37 miles |
| 16. General Lee Road | 0.28 miles | 39. Spring Time Dr. | 0.36 miles |
| 17. Glacier Trail | 0.38 miles | 40. Sweet Bay Rd | 0.40 miles |
| 18. Greenview Lane | 0.09 miles | 41. Toomer Road | 0.73 miles |
| 19. Harley Drive | 0.18 miles | 42. Vinings Place Dr. | 0.23 miles |
| 20. Horseshoe Bend Blvd. | 0.20 miles | 43. Wellington Dr. | 0.54 miles |
| 21. Huntington Place | 0.40 miles | 44. Wellston Circle | 0.52 miles |
| 22. Jane Drive | 0.26 miles | 45. Wimbish East | 0.15 miles |
| 23. Joy Drive | 0.43 miles | | |

Chairman Stalnaker referenced the map of the roads and commented that it was evident that the proposed projects are spread throughout the County. He further explained that the Public Works uses a set of technical criteria to evaluate and grade roads in the County in need of repaving when compiling the priority list. He mentioned that for the last five years Houston has bid out the LMIG projects jointly

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with the cities of Warner Robins, Centerville, Perry, Byron and Hawkinsville, as well as the counties of Pulaski and Dooly in order to secure the best pricing and stretch the LMIG dollars as far as possible.

Mr. McMichael presented a request from a timber buyer who needs temporary access across the very southern end of the Landfill property so that they can access the timber of an adjoining landowner.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously by all to approve Chairman Stalnaker signing a temporary access permit with Rozier Forest Products LLC of Jeffersonville, GA granting access over Houston County Landfill roads to an adjoining property for timber harvesting purposes.

Mr. Walker asked whether the permit needed to be active for a full 365 days.

Chairman Stalnaker commented that it was a fairly standard timeframe but that the harvester would likely not need that long. The longer permit length is meant to give the harvester some leeway for workload and scheduling purposes as well as for weather.

Ms. Robinson presented a MOU between the County and the Hospital that will ensure that in the event of an emergency situation or natural disaster where normal modes of fuel delivery are disrupted that the County will make every effort to provide fuel to sustain emergency hospital operations and emergency vehicle operations.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to authorize Chairman Stalnaker signing a Memorandum of Understanding between Houston County and Houston Hospitals, Inc. and Houston Healthcare EMS, Inc. to provide fuel to the hospital operations and vehicles if needed in the event of a disaster.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$406,972.55.

Mr. Thomson presented a proposal from ICB for replacing the HVAC system at the Perry branch of the Houston County Library. At the August 1, 2017 meeting the Board approved an MOU with the State of Georgia whereby the County will pay all invoices for the project and the State will reimburse the County for everything over \$42,500 (up to a maximum of \$42,500).

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to authorize the acceptance of a proposal for replacement of the HVAC system at the Perry branch of the Houston County Library from International City Builders of Warner Robins in the amount of \$83,054. The Board of Regents of

the University System of Georgia will reimburse the county for \$40,554. This is a SPLOST 2012 funded project.

Mr. Thomson commended Ms. Paulk for her efforts in securing the State funds for this project.

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Mr. McMichael asked if there was a warranty given by the contractor.

Chairman Stalnaker thought that the standard warranty might be either 12 or 24 months but that Mr. Baker would follow up and confirm.

Chairman Stalnaker opened the meeting for public comments.

Becky Wood, 426 Sandefur Road, Kathleen thanked everyone in the County who helped out during and after the storm.

Ansel Peck, 109 Latham Drive, Warner Robins thanked all public safety officers for the outstanding manner with which they handled the storm and its aftermath.

James Erdmanczyk, 123 S. 3rd Street, Apartment 9, Warner Robins remarked that he appreciates the road construction progress on Highway 96 and inquired if the work would be continued into Peach County.

Chairman Stalnaker remarked that this is a Georgia DOT project but that the widening of Highway 96 should continue into Peach County from I-75 to Fort Valley near or at Highway 49. The project will also extend into Twiggs County to I-16.

Kelly McWilliams, ComSouth Channel 100 reporter, stated that she is a member of the Perry Rotary Club and that they are at the Perry branch of the Houston County Library every Thursday from 4 - 5 p.m. reading to children in an effort to encourage all youth to read.

Chairman Stalnaker recognized Mr. Jim Taylor thanking him for taking an interest in County government for many years before deciding to run for Warner Robins city council.

Mr. Taylor thanked the Chairman for that acknowledgement and encouraged everyone to participate in the upcoming Warner Robins City Council candidate forum on September 26th at the Central Georgia Technical College auditorium beginning at 6:00 p.m. There will also be a Mayoral candidate forum held on October 3rd at the same location and time. Finally, Mr. Taylor gave the Board a brief update on Wellston Park.

There being no further comments the meeting continued.

Chairman Stalnaker opened the meeting for commissioners' comments.

Chairman Stalnaker thanked Sgt. Guy Fussell for providing security for the meeting. He stated that there would be a special ceremony held in conjunction with the October 3rd Commissioners meeting that will acknowledge and thank public safety officers, public works personnel, linemen and all others involved with the storm preparations and clean-up efforts. Since there are expectations of a large crowd on that day, the October 3rd 9 a.m. Board meeting will move from its regular scheduled place in the Commissioner's Board Room on the first floor of the Perry Courthouse to the larger Jury Assembly room on the second floor.

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Chairman Stalnaker also asked the citizens for their patience concerning curbside hauling of storm debris. Advanced Disposal is running six days a week and the Houston County Public Works crews will also assist in those efforts but it will take quite a while to clean-up.

Chairman Stalnaker offered condolences to Commissioner Robinson on the recent loss of her father-in-law and asked everyone to keep her and her family in their thoughts and prayers.

Ms. Robinson thanked everyone for coming and stated that she looks forward to recognizing everyone for their efforts during and after the storm at the next Board meeting on October 3rd.

Mr. Walker thanked the County employees and the citizens for opening up their homes during the storm.

Mr. Thomson thanked Sgt. Fussell for providing security for the meeting and commented that he was also touched by the Houston County citizens who opened their hearts and homes to the storm evacuees.

Mr. McMichael also commented on the hospitality and compassion that the community displayed to evacuees during the storm.

Motion to Adjourn by Mr. Walker, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all.

Barry Holland
Director of Administration

Chairman

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

