

**HEARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
MARCH 22, 2012 – 6:30 P.M.**

The Heard County Board of Commissioners held a Commissioners Meeting on March 22, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. in the courtroom of the Heard County Courthouse. In attendance at the meeting were Commission Chair June Jackson, District 1 Commissioner Karen Isenhower, District 2 Commissioner Jacob Cammon, District 3 Commissioner Gwen Caldwell, District 4 Commissioner Frank Crook, District 5 Commissioner Sandi Allen, and County Attorney Jeff Todd. Commission Chair Jackson called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone present. Mr. Larry Hooks gave the invocation.

Agenda Item # 3 – Approval of Minutes - On motion (Allen) and second (Cammon), the Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes from February 23, 2012 with changes.

Agenda Item # 4 – Amend Agenda – Commission Chair Jackson asked for an amendment to New Business to include - f – Discuss Non-Conforming Use Application – Mr. Christopher Rogers, 24411 Ga. Hwy. 100. On motion (Caldwell) and second (Cammon), the Board unanimously approved this request. Commission Chair Jackson asked for an amendment to Old Business to include – a – Approval of Pay Applicaton #1 on Station # 6. On motion (Allen) and second (Cammon), the Board unanimously approved this request. Commissioner Isenhower asked for an amendment to New Business to include – g – Discuss Commissioner Meeting Books. On motion (Isenhower) and second (Crook), the Board unanimously approved this request.

Agenda Item # 5 - Public Comments – Commission Chair Jackson opened public comments and reviewed the public meeting rules and regulations, regarding public

comments. Mr. Paul King, a resident of district 1, made public comments regarding agenda item 7; New Business – e. Discuss County Credit Cards.

Agenda Item # 6 – Old Business – a. Approval of Pay Application #1 on Station # 6 –

Mr. Kevin Hamby, Project Manager recommended approving pay application # 1 on fire station # 6 in the amount of \$80,850.82 to Mark Cook and Mickey Cook. He stated that upon his inspection he found that the felt paper is being installed on the roof and the building is dried in and that the station should be done in approximately 2 months. On motion (Allen) and second (Caldwell), the Board unanimously approved this request.

Agenda Item # 7 – New Business – a. Discuss Emergency Communications

(CodeRED) – Chief Scott Blue – Chief Scott Blue presented a quote from Metropolitan Communications to convert the current Whelen sirens to Two Way Diagnostics in the amount of \$15,750.00. He explained that this would just add to the current system not replace it. He also explained that the sirens will then comply with new state guidelines with this change. On motion (Cammon) and second (Crook), the Board unanimously approved this request and for it to be paid from SPLOST monies. Chief Blue also presented quotes on the CodeRED system which is due to renew or expire on April 6, 2012. The quotes were as follows:

Company	Annual Amt.	Available Minutes	Weather Warning Included
Code Red*	\$11,350.00	Unlimited	Yes
Code Red	\$ 7,500.00	10,000	Yes
Hyper Reach	\$ 8,500.00	Unlimited	Yes
DeltaAlert	\$ 6,350.00	Unlimited	Yes
Global Connect	\$ 3,175.00	Unlimited	Yes

He explained that if the Board chooses a different company this year that the public will need to sign up again with the new company for their alerts. Commissioner Allen asked if there would be any equipment changes needed to go with a new company. Chief Blue stated no equipment changes would be necessary. On motion (Cammon) and second (Isenhower) the Board unanimously voted to accept the quote from Global Connect.

c. Discuss Issue of Mold in Courthouse – Commission Chair Jackson stated that on several occasions, the mold in the courthouse has been discussed and she would like for everyone to know exactly what has been done with this situation. She stated that the courthouse is 48 years old and she is only aware of what has been done to the courthouse since she has been in office as Commission Chair. In September of 2009 a mold assessment was done by Prospect Inc. for \$1,135.00. In May of 2010, Bruce Environmental was hired to eradicate the mold found in the courthouse for \$8,496.00. She received a mold clearance letter in July of 2010 from Bruce Environmental. In 2011, (not sure of exact month) 8 desktop air purifiers were purchased throughout the courthouse for \$760.00. In December of 2011, First Degree Heating and Air installed an air purifier system in the HVAC systems within the courthouse for \$3,396.00. She stated this is a total of \$14,088.00. Commission Chair Jackson also stated that the current courthouse custodian stated to her that he has not observed any visible mold in the courthouse. Mr. Keith Knowles, owner of First Degree Heating and Air shared a video on the air purification system that was installed in the courthouse in December of 2011. He explained that mold needs moisture and a food source to grow. The HVAC has a dehumidifier in it to prevent mold growth. He also noted that most of the old boxes and records downstairs have been removed. He stated that the air in the courthouse is 90%

better now than when he first stated working on the HVAC system in 2005.

Commissioner Crook and Commissioner Caldwell both asked Mr. Knowles if he felt that they were doing everything that can be done to prevent the mold. He stated, yes, that was a correct statement in his opinion.

c. Discuss Resolution of Support for a Multi-County Broadband Feasibility Study –

Commission Chair Jackson stated that recently Meriwether County Commission Chair, Nancy Jones initiated procedures to hopefully bring broadband coverage to our area.

Heard County has been invited to participate along with several other counties. They are asking Heard County to adopt a resolution and contribute towards a feasibility study.

They are also applying for a grant to assist with the cost. The cost is determined by how many counties choose to participate. She explained that the cost could range from \$5,000 to \$10,000. After some discussion, Commission Chair Jackson stated she would invite Mr. Robert Hiatt with Three Rivers Regional Commission to speak to the Board about this project before Heard County can decide to participate or not. All agreed.

d. Discuss Request from Community Action for Improvement (CAFI) – Commission

Chair Jackson stated that she recently received a letter from Community Action for Improvement (CAFI) requesting that Heard County assist CAFI by providing supplemental funds to them to assist Heard County residents with utility and rental assistance. She stated that in 2003 Heard County did assist with providing \$2,500.00 to CAFI for these programs. After some discussion, on motion (Isenhower) and second (Allen), the Board unanimously voted to assist CAFI with \$2,500.00 to be paid from contingency funds.

e. Discuss County Credit Cards – Finance Director, Felicia Adams – Commission

Chair Jackson stated that it has been requested several times by Commissioner Isenhower that the Board discuss credit card statements in an open meeting. Finance Director, Felicia Adams addressed questions by the Board regarding the credit cards. Commission Chair Jackson stated that individual charges on the credit card bills will not be discussed since she has repeatedly asked Commissioner Isenhower, and still offers, that we meet to discuss these. Finance Director, Felicia Adams stated that “If there has been any perceived reluctance or hesitation to discuss the county credit cards it has not been an attempt to withhold or hide any information. On the contrary, it has been an attempt to safeguard the financial data such as account numbers, which if released, would compromise the county’s financial integrity.” She also explained that in May of 2010 the cards were examined by an outside party and in June 2010 fraudulent charges were attempted and as a result the account had to be closed. She also stated that in August, 2011, the cards were examined again by an outside party and at the end of the month fraudulent charges were found and two credit cards had to be closed. Mrs. Adams then stated that there was discussion in the past of the amount of fees and interest charges that were paid on the County credit cards. She stated that the total of fees and finance charges paid on the county credit cards from 2009-2012 amounted to \$1,674.38. She stated that it is common practice for the finance department to not pay a credit card charge until all backup and/or invoices are received for that particular charge. After further discussion, Commission Chair Jackson again offered to set a meeting for Commissioner Isenhower to discuss specific credit card charges. Commissioner Isenhower stated that she would like for the county attorney and county auditor to be present at this meeting. Commission

Chair Jackson stated that it would be extremely expensive for the County to pay the attorney's and auditor's fees. Commission Chair Jackson agreed to set a meeting in the near future.

f. Non-Conforming Use Application - Christopher Rogers - 24411 Ga. Hwy. 100, Franklin, Georgia – Commission Chair Jackson stated that Mr. Christopher Rogers a resident at 24411 Ga. Hwy. 100, Franklin has requested to move a 1967 – 12 x 52 mobile home from 24411 Ga. Hwy. 100 to 470 Yates Lane as a permanent resident for himself and his four children. Mr. Rogers addressed the Board with his plans. There were no objections from adjoining landowners. On motion (Caldwell) and second (Isenhower), the Board unanimously approved this request pending an inspection be done on the home.

g. Discuss Commissioner Meeting Books – Commissioner Isenhower asked if she could receive her commissioner meeting book one week ahead of the meeting. Commission Chair Jackson stated that currently the agenda deadline is the Wednesday prior to the Thursday meeting and the clerk normally has the books ready for pickup on the Friday prior to the Thursday meeting. She also explained that the books are a courtesy from her and the clerk to the Board. In the past the Board did not receive any information regarding the meeting until the night of the meeting. After further discussion, Commissioner Cammon asked Commission Chair Jackson if she would speak with the clerk about the possibility of the books being ready the Friday before the meeting on Thursday.

Agenda Item # 8 – Executive Session – None.

There being no further business, on motion (Caldwell) and second (Cammon), the Board unanimously voted to adjourn.