

**HEARD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
FEBRUARY 10, 2009 – 6:30 P.M.**

The Heard County Board of Commissioners held a Commissioners Meeting on February 10, 2009 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 Lee Boone, District 3 Commissioner Gwen Caldwell, District 4 Commissioner Frank Crook, District 5 Commissioner Sandi Allen, and County Attorney Jerry Ann Conner. Commission Chair Jackson called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone present. Mr. David Julien gave the invocation.

**Agenda Item # 3 – Approval of Minutes** - On motion (Crook) and second (Allen), the Board unanimously approved the minutes from January 27, 2009 as presented.

**Agenda Item # 4 – Public Comments** – Mr. Paul King, 1206 Ferry Road addressed the Board regarding water and air pollution in Heard County. Mr. Kevin Raines, President of the Heard County Saddle Club addressed the Board regarding the proposed horse trail on Hwy. 100 behind the Heard County Arena.

**Agenda Item # 5 – Amend Agenda** – Commission Chair Jackson asked for an amendment to New Business to include “e” – a discussion regarding a meeting with the Heard County Development Authority. On motion (Crook) and second (Caldwell), the Board unanimously approved this request. Commissioner Isenhower asked for an amendment to Old Business to include “e” – a discussion regarding the County audit. On motion (Isenhower) and second (Caldwell), the Board unanimously approved this request.

**Agenda Item # 6 – Old Business – a. Discuss Final Budget for Sports Complex – Mr. King Evans, Clough Harbour & Associates** – Mr. King Evans of Clough Harbour and

Associates stated that there was \$15,000.00 left on the final budget of the Sports Complex. He asked the Board to consider adding a feature to the PA system for the Complex that will alert the entire park in the event of any emergency. Mr. Evans stated this system would instantly notify each ball field and all areas of the park as well as 911 simultaneously in the event of any emergency or inclement weather. On motion (Isenhower) and second (Boone), the Board unanimously approved this request. Mr. Evans also brought to the Board's attention two more items regarding the Sports Complex. He stated that Clough Harbour had inquired about possibly reinforcing the bars on the covers over the dugouts at each field. He stated that this would cost approximately \$68,000.00 and he would not recommend doing that. All agreed. He also stated that during the paving at the Sports Complex, the paving company, Reid Paving did not include the increase of fuel in the cost of the paving, before it was done. Reid Paving has since indicated to Sports Turf that the increase in the cost was \$40,000.30. This was not discussed with Sports Turf before the paving was done. On motion (Caldwell) and second (Boone), the Board unanimously voted to not pay this increase. Commissioner Allen thanked Mr. Evans and Clough Harbour for doing an excellent job on saving Heard County money on the Sports Complex and staying within the budget. All agreed.

**b. Discuss Proposal for Construction Services for EMA Headquarters – Mr. King Evans, Clough Harbour & Associates** – Mr. Evans made a proposal to the Board for Mr. Kevin Hamby of Clough Harbour to provide project management services for the Heard County Fire Admin and Emergency Services Headquarters. He stated that this fee of \$17,280.00 was not an extra fee but a fee that would be covered in the budget for this

project. He also stated that Clough Harbour would provide the RFQ for the Roosterville Fire Station at no cost to Heard County. On motion (Allen) and second (Boone), the Board unanimously approved this proposal with approval for Commission Chair Jackson to sign the contract. Mr. Evans stated that he anticipated the ground breaking to be on or near March 24, 2009 for this project.

**c. Approve Clough Harbour Pay Request for Transportation Engineering Services -**

Commission Chair Jackson presented an invoice from Clough Harbour on Transportation Engineering Services. The request includes the following:

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|--|---|----|----------|
| Thompson Road Pavement Rehabilitation                          | - | \$ | 760.00   |
| Local Bridge Replacement Program Funding Identification        | - | \$ | 2,997.50 |
| Local Culvert Replacement Projects at Deer Creek & Denny Creek | - | \$ | 3,475.00 |
| Total Invoice  | - | \$ | 7,232.50 |

On motion (Boone) and second (Allen), the Board approved 4 to 1 to pay this request.

Commissioner Boone voted for the motion, Commissioner Caldwell voted for the motion, Commissioner Crook voted for the motion, Commissioner Allen voted for the motion, and Commissioner Isenhower abstained.

**d. Discuss Indigent Burials – County Attorney, Jerry Ann Conner – County Attorney,**

Jerry Ann Conner stated that she had researched the cost of an indigent burial and found that the vault and casket cost is approximately \$750.00. She stated that she found that larger counties, such as Fulton County, bid out the burial to find the lowest rate. Since Heard County only has one funeral home, bidding out the burial would not be an option. She also stated that cremation would be cheaper but the County would run out of time before a judge could issue a court order for a hearing which would allow time for any

family members to come forward before the cremation. She recommended the Board set a fee for indigent burials. After further discussion, on motion (Crook) and second (Boone), the Board voted 4 to 1 to set an indigent burial fee to \$750.00 per burial. Commissioner Boone voted for the motion, Commissioner Caldwell voted for the motion, Commissioner Crook voted for the motion, Commissioner Allen voted for the motion, and Commissioner Isenhower voted against the motion stating that she would like to see the fee set at \$1,000.00 per burial.

**e. Discuss County Audit** – Commissioner Isenhower stated that after reviewing the audit she was concerned about approving this audit due to the two findings in the back of the audit. Commissioner Allen stated that the two findings in the audit state that the County does not have segregation of duties and this is very common in small counties. County Attorney, Jerry Ann Conner stated that this finding does show up in most counties and does not mean there is any misappropriation of funds or any money missing, it simply means there is not enough staff for two individuals to handle each financial transaction processed from start to end in every County department that handles financial transactions.

Commissioner Boone stated that this is the same finding that has been in the audit for years and the State has never reprimanded Heard County for these findings and have always approved the Heard County audits.

**Agenda Item # 7 – New Business – a. Discuss Building New Duplexes – Mr. Clint Miller** – Commission Chair Jackson explained that on June 12, 2007, Mr. Clint Miller came to the Board to ask for an application to amend the zoning ordinance map to rezone two acres of property on Old Field Road from rural development to multi-family for the purpose of building a duplex apartment. She stated that the Board unanimously approved

this request with the condition that if Mr. Miller wishes to build another duplex he will return to the Board for approval. She explained that in January of 2008 Mr. Miller applied and received a building permit to build his second duplex. She explained that the building and zoning department as well as Mr. Miller were not aware that Mr. Miller would need to come back to the Board for approval before building this duplex. She stated that Mr. Miller would now like to ask the Board for approval for the second duplex and permission to build a third duplex. County Attorney, Jerry Ann Conner asked Mr. Miller if he meets all setbacks for these duplexes. Mr. Miller stated yes. Commissioner Allen stated that she had several residents near the duplexes contact her with their concerns that Mr. Miller's duplexes may decrease their property values but have since found out these duplexes actually increased their property values due to the excellent condition of the duplexes. Commissioner Boone stated that Mr. Miller made it very clear in 2007 what his intentions were about building more duplexes and he felt that Mr. Miller should not be penalized for a County oversight. On motion (Allen) and second (Crook), the Board voted 4 to 1 to approve Mr. Miller's request for a third duplex and to approve the construction of the second duplex. Commissioner Boone voted for the motion, Commissioner Caldwell voted for the motion, Commissioner Crook voted for the motion, Commissioner Allen voted for the motion and Commissioner Isenhower abstained.

**b. Discuss Purchasing Furniture for Sports Complex – Mr. David Julien, Director, Heard County Recreation Department** – Mr. David Julien presented a bid to the Board for office furniture at the new sports complex. He explained that the bid from Loy's Office Supplies, Inc. for \$5,299.00 includes three desks, two filing cabinets, three desk chairs, four guest chairs, one task stool, one scorekeeper desk, six folding tables, twenty folding

chairs and one chair cart to store the folding chairs. He stated that the price includes delivery and setup. He also presented three bids on a floor buffer that will be used to clean the gym floor and tile floors in the gym. The bids were as follows:

|                  |   |                                       |
|------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| FloorBuffers.com | - | \$846.30 – includes pads and cleaners |
| Kent             | - | \$695.00                              |
| CleanFreak.com   | - | \$735.95                              |

Mr. Julien stated that he also received two other bids on the office furniture. Commissioner Caldwell expressed his concern that the other two bids were not in writing and stated that it has always been County policy to get three bids in writing before a decision is made. After further discussion, Mr. Julien will return to the next meeting with three bids on the office furniture.

**c. Discuss Relocation of EMA Administration Offices** – Commission Chair Jackson asked the Board to consider allowing the EMA administrative offices to relocate into the Health Department building until the new EMA headquarters is complete. She explained that there are four empty offices and bathrooms in the back of the right side of the health department building that are vacant. She stated that this would help the health department with some added income since the State has cut their budget. The cost will be approximately \$500.00 to \$550.00 per month for approximately eight to twelve months. She explained that at the current EMA headquarters anyone who comes in to see Chief Scott Blue or Chief Chris Cumbie must go through the vehicle maintenance shop which is a safety issue. There are also some renovations that need to be done to Chief Blue’s current office that would cost more than the twelve months of rent at the Health Department building. She stated that the costs would be minimal for them to move and they would be

using the same furniture. She stated that the Heard County Hospital Authority Board would need to approve the monthly rental. On motion (Allen) and second (Boone), the Board unanimously voted for the EMA administrative staff to move into the vacant side of the Heard County Health Department at a cost of \$500.00 a month on a month to month basis if the Hospital Authority Board approves.

**d. Discuss Proposal for Waffle House and Farmers Market – Commissioner**

**Isenhower** – Commissioner Isenhower expressed that she would like to see a Waffle House and a commercial farmer’s market constructed in Heard County. Commissioner Boone stated that Commission Chair Jackson had contacted several businesses in the past few months about locating in Heard County, but she was told that Heard County is too small. The Board agreed that it would be nice for these entities to locate in Heard County.

**e. Discuss Meeting with Development Meeting – County Attorney, Jerry Ann Conner** stated that the Heard County Development Authority would like to schedule a meeting with the Board. After some discussion, on motion (Caldwell) and second (Allen), the Board unanimously voted to schedule a meeting with the Development Authority on Thursday, March 12, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. in the Courthouse.

**Agenda Item # 9 – Executive Session – None.**

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