

**HEARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
JULY 28, 2009 – 6:30 P.M.**

The Heard County Board of Commissioners held a Commissioners Meeting on July 28, 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. Jimmy Knight gave the invocation.

Agenda Item # 3 – Approval of Minutes – On motion (Allen) and second (Isenhower), the Board unanimously approved the minutes from July 14, 2009 with changes to page 3.

Agenda Item # 4 – Public Comments – None.

Agenda Item # 5 – Amend Agenda – None.

Agenda Item # 6 – Old Business – a. Update on Heard County Sports Complex, EMA Headquarters, and the Roosterville Fire Station – Kevin Hamby – Mr. Kevin Hamby with Clough Harbour & Associates reported that the warranty issues at the Sports Complex were being addressed and he expected them to be complete by the end of this week. Mr. Hamby also gave an update on the EMA Headquarters. He stated that New South Construction would be pouring the slab today and the exterior walls would be next. He stated that the project is on schedule. Mr. Hamby stated that the Roosterville Fire Station is also on schedule and he expected this project to be finished by September or October. He presented an invoice from the contractor Mark and Mickey Cook in the amount of \$55,094.96 for approval. He stated that the contractor is further along with the project than the invoice indicates and recommended

approving this invoice. On motion (Caldwell) and second (Allen), the Board unanimously voted to approve this invoice.

b. Approve Pay Request for Transportation Engineering Services – Commission

Chair Jackson presented a pay request from Clough Harbour for transportation engineering services for local culvert replacement projects at Deer Creek and Denny Creek in the amount of \$14,166.69. On motion (Boone) and second (Allen), the Board unanimously approved this pay request. Mr. Hamby stated that the bridge design was almost complete and Mr. King Evans would be meeting with the Georgia Department of Transportation tomorrow to discuss the status on the federal stimulus money.

c. Discuss Fencing, Goal Posts, & Bleacher Bids for the Heard County Sports

Complex – David Julien – Mr. David Julien presented three bids for various small lawn equipment for the Sports Complex. The bids included one blower, three weed eaters, and one chain saw. The bids were as follows:

Dudley’s Outdoors, LaGrange, Georgia	-	\$1,823.80
Murphy’s Yamaha, LaGrange, Georgia	-	\$2,000.00
Hyatt Lawn & Garden, Bowdon, Georgia	-	\$2,052.05

Mr. Julien recommended accepting the lowest bid from Dudley’s Outdoors at the cost of \$1,823.80. On motion (Allen) and second (Boone), the Board unanimously approved this request.

Mr. Julien also presented two bids on fencing of the retention ponds and the swamp area at the Sports Complex. Each bid included a 6 foot fence around the retention ponds and 1450 feet of 47” hog wire fence around the swampy area of the southwest side of the recreation complex.

The bids were as follows:

West Georgia Custom Fence - \$32,175.00

Stith Co. Fencing - \$33,000.00

Commissioner Isenhower asked Mr. Hamby if this was included in the Sports Turf contract for the Sports Complex. He stated, no, it was not. On motion (Allen) and second (Crook), the Board unanimously approved the bid from West Georgia Custom Fence for \$32,175.00 to be paid with SPLOST monies. Commissioner Isenhower and Commissioner Caldwell stated that they both felt that this fencing should have been included in the Sports Turf contract.

Mr. Julien stated he would like to have additional time to get quotes on the goal posts since he had only received one bid. He stated that football season starts September 12th and we could use the Heard County High School field if necessary. Commissioner Boone stated that he did not want to use the High School field this year if we could get the goal posts and have them installed before September 12th.

Mr. Julien presented three bids on twenty-four units of three row bleachers for the Sports Complex. The bids were as follows:

Stadium Pros - \$34,248.00

Dant Clayton - \$39,000.00

Southern Bleacher - \$47,650.00

Mr. Julien explained that each set of bleachers will be anchored to the concrete pad under the bleacher cover. Commissioner Caldwell and Commissioner Isenhower stated that the bleachers should have been included in the Sports Turf contract. Mr. Hamby explained that sometimes you can get a better price by bidding out these types of items separately instead of paying contractor mark-up prices. On motion (Boone) and second (Allen), the Board unanimously approved the low bid from Stadium Pros for \$34,248.00 to be paid with SPLOST monies.

d. Discuss Transfer of Rock Quarry Property to Water Authority – Commission

Chair Jackson stated that last October the Board talked about leasing or deeding the rock quarry to the Heard County Water Authority but no decision was made. Commissioner Caldwell stated he thought he made a motion in the past to deed this to the Water Authority. County Attorney, Jerry Ann Conner stated that we were waiting on a description from the engineer in order to finalize this transaction. On motion (Caldwell) and second (Allen), the Board unanimously approved deeding the old rock quarry to the Water Authority with a clause stating that if it ever ceased to be used as a reservoir, it would revert back to the County and for County Attorney, Jerry Ann Conner to prepare these documents.

e. Discuss Water Authority SPLOST Funds – James Knight, Heard County Water

Authority – Mr. Jimmy Knight, Executive Director of the Heard County Water Authority asked the Board to consider allowing the Water Authority to use their SPLOST III monies to replace and upgrade their SCADA radio system. He explained that this system controls the entire water plant and distribution system. He stated that this replacement and upgrade would cost approximately \$225,000.00. He also stated that the

Water Authority Board of Directors voted to request approval of the SPLOST III funds to fund this SCADA replacement and upgrade. On motion (Caldwell) and second (Crook), the Board unanimously voted to allow the Water Authority to use their SPLOST III monies for the replacement and upgrade of their SCADA system.

Agenda Item # 7 – New Business – a. Discuss Draft Rural SPLOST Transportation Plan – Tom Queen, Department of Transportation – Mr. Tom Queen from the

Georgia Department of Transportation addressed the Board with the State Transportation Improvement Program for Heard County. He presented a draft of the plan that addresses four projects in Heard County. He asked the Board to approve this draft and sign a certification of cooperation.

b. Discuss Certificate of Deposit Renewal – Felicia Adams – Felicia Adams, Finance Director presented three investment options to the Board regarding the renewal certificate of deposit for the money the County allocated as emergency money. The rates she presented were as follows:

- First Georgia Banking Company - .875% - locked in rate
- Regions Bank - .92% - locked in rate
- SunTrust - 1.05% - Today's rate only; changes daily

After discussion, on motion (Crook) and second (Allen), the Board voted 2 to 3 to renew the certificate of deposit with Regions Bank with the motion failing. Commissioner Crook and Commissioner Allen voted for the motion stating that we should renew with the highest interest rate. Commissioner Boone, Commissioner Isenhower, and Commissioner Caldwell voted against the motion. Commissioner Boone stated that he felt that Heard County should renew with First Georgia Banking Company since they

honored a misquote on the interest rate last year. Commissioner Caldwell stated that he felt that Heard County should renew with First Georgia Banking Company also. On motion (Boone) and second (Caldwell), the Board voted 3 to 2 to renew the certificate of deposit with First Georgia. Commissioner Isenhower, Commissioner Boone, and Commissioner Caldwell voted for the motion. Commissioner Crook and Commissioner Allen voted against the motion.

c. Discuss Soil Erosion & Sedimentation Control Permits – Darold Wiggins –

Commissioner Jackson explained that Heard County's soil erosion and sedimentation control permits were turned back over to the State of Georgia in 2008. She explained that Mr. Wiggins, Public Works Director, is experienced in issuing these permits. She stated she would like to recommend that Heard County become the issuing authority for these permits now instead of the State of Georgia. On motion (Caldwell) and second (Boone), the Board unanimously approved this recommendation.

d. Discuss Bids for Construction & Repairs at County Barn – Darold Wiggins – Mr.

Wiggins stated that since he received only one bid on the construction and repairs at the County barn he would like to recommend to the Board to reject this bid and re-bid the project. On motion (Caldwell) and second (Boone), the Board unanimously voted to reject this bid.

e. Discuss Expansion of Heard County Animal Control Center – Commission Chair

Jackson stated that she would like to bid out the expansion to the animal control center since there are SPLOST funds available to pay for this expansion. Commissioner Isenhower asked Mr. Robert Nelms, Codes Enforcement Officer and Animal Control Supervisor why the gas chamber cannot be removed from the current animal control

facility in order for there to be more storage space. Mr. Nelms recommended leaving the gas chamber in the facility because if we remove the chamber we will never be allowed to have another one. He explained that even though we do not use the chamber now, we could if we needed to since the chamber was grand-fathered in with the Department of Natural Resources. The Department of Natural Resources is not allowing any facility to install gas chambers now. Commissioner Boone expressed his concern that this is an expensive piece of equipment to simply destroy. After further discussion, on motion (Crook) and second (Caldwell), the Board voted 4 to 1 to leave the chamber in the facility. Commissioner Boone, Commissioner Crook, Commissioner Caldwell, and Commissioner Allen voted for the motion. Commissioner Isenhower voted against the motion.

Agenda Item # 9 – Executive Session – Commission Chair Jackson asked for an Executive Session to discuss potential land acquisition. On motion (Caldwell) and second (Allen), the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session. On motion (Caldwell) and second (Allen), the Board unanimously agreed to return to Open Session. Commission Chair Jackson stated that the Board discussed potential land acquisition in Executive Session.

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