

**Houston County Commissioners Meeting**  
**January 22, 2013**  
**Warner Robins, Georgia**

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 22, 2013 at the Houston County Annex in Warner Robins, Georgia with Chairman Stalnaker presiding and Commissioners McMichael, Walker, Thomson and Robinson present. Also present were Director of Administration Barry Holland, Director of Operations Robbie Dunbar, Director of Personnel Ken Carter, Purchasing Director Mark Baker, HEMA/Fire Chief Jimmy Williams, District Attorney George Hartwig, John Fowler, Brooks Bailey, Othilla Bailey, Karen Bailey, James Vaughn, Sheriff Bittick, Walton and Becky Wood, Flint Energies Senior Vice-President Jimmy Autry, Adityakumar Patel, Kanu Dodia, Five Star Ford representatives Bobby Cramer and Tommy Christiansen, and County Attorney Mike Long.

Commissioner Robinson led the audience in the Invocation.

Mr. Arnie Harris, retired US Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer, led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and spoke of his military career with the Navy. Mr. Harris joined the service in 1955 and spent most of his career in aviation serving on five different aircraft carriers. He spent much of his career in overseas duty assignments, but also had a stateside tour as a recruiter. Mr. Harris imparted many interesting facts about nuclear aircraft carriers and their capabilities. He retired from the Navy in 1978 and currently runs a small business in Houston County. He enjoyed playing different sports while in the Navy and has continued his love of sports by officiating at many games since.

Chairman Stalnaker presented a Proclamation of Appreciation to former Pulaski County Sole Commissioner Brooks Bailey for his service to community and for his long-standing cooperation and friendship with Houston County. Mr. Bailey was also presented with a couple of small gifts from Houston County. Mr. Bailey's wife Othilla and his daughter Karen attended as well.

Chairman Stalnaker presented a Proclamation of Appreciation to former Monroe County Chairman James Vaughn for his service to community and for his long-standing cooperation and friendship with Houston County. Mr. Vaughn was also presented a couple of small gifts from Houston County. Monroe County Sheriff Bittick accompanied Mr. Vaughn.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of January 8, 2013.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously to approve the low bid by Five Star Ford of Warner Robins for vehicle maintenance (to include tires) for the Sheriff's Department covering a base period from January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously to approve a request from the Houston County District Attorney's Office to hire Mr. John Fowler for the position of Assistant District Attorney at a Grade 27-C, \$52,624.00 annually, effective January 30, 2013.

A second reading and public hearing for an alcohol application for the Mini-Store convenience store was presented by Barry Holland. The applicant was present but did not wish to speak. There was no opposition.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously to approve an Alcohol License Application submitted by Mr. Adityakumar Patel for the Mini-Store for the retail sale of beer and wine located at 409 Hwy. 96, Bonaire, Georgia.

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Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously to appoint Mr. John Rood to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Lynwood Barrett on the Adjustments & Appeals Board, and to reappoint Ms. Judy Ross to a second term. Both terms will expire on November 1, 2015.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously to reappoint Mr. Thomas Philpot to another term on the Department of Family and Children Services Board. Mr. Philpot's term will expire on June 30, 2017.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously to appoint Mr. Eddie Walker to another term on the Zoning & Appeals Board. Mr. Walker's term will expire on June 5, 2016.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously to reappoint Dr. Steve Holcomb to another term on the Planning & Zoning Board. Dr. Holcomb's term will expire on September 6, 2016.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously to reappoint Mr. Danny Wilson to another term on the Perry-Houston County Airport Authority. Mr. Wilson's term will expire on December 31, 2014.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously to authorize Chairman Stalnaker to sign the Georgia Power Utility Relocation Agreement for the Highway 41 (SR11) Widening Project (from SR247 Connector to Thomson Road).

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously to authorize Chairman Stalnaker to sign Contract Change Order #1 for the Pyles Road Water Supply and Treatment Facility project. The increase due to this Change Order is \$10,045.93 making the contract price with Parrish Construction Group \$831,502.39 with no change to the contract time.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously to award the bid for three 2013 Ford F-350 1-ton flatbed trucks to David Ragan Ford of Perry at the unit price of \$33,021.00 each. Although David Ragan Ford is not the low bid, their bid falls within the 3% Local Vendor Preference. Two of the trucks are for use in the Roads Department and will be paid for with SPLOST 2012 funds and the third truck is for use in the Collections Department and will be paid for with capital funds from the Solid Waste Fund.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously to approve payment of the bills totaling \$1,206,735.80.

Chairman Stalnaker presented an overview of the FY2012 annual audit in which the County received an unqualified (clean) opinion. This is the best type of report an entity can receive. No findings were noted.

The Chairman indicated the County's financial position improved during FY 2012. Total net assets increased by \$10.7 million. Governmental activities total net assets increased to \$293,148,238 in 2012; up from \$284,678,607 in 2011. Business-type activities total net assets increased to \$67,112,608 in 2012; up from \$64,825,836 in 2011. The Governmental net assets increased by 3% and business-type increased by 3.5%. The General Fund reported a \$2.7 million increase in fund balance; total revenues and other sources of \$51.8 million exceeded total expenditures and other uses of \$49 million with nearly every department coming in at – or under – budget for the year. Expenditures for most functional areas were \$2.7 million less than budget due to vacancies in positions, staff turnover and savings managed by departments with their operating budgets.

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Water Fund revenues increased slightly with water sales of \$6.8 million maintaining 2011 levels; Landfill operating revenue (disposal fees) increased slightly over 2011 levels. Methane gas sales from the Landfill Gas-to-Energy program helped maintain operating income for the last two years; fully funded Closure/Post Closure to date \$6.6 million. Houston County has no general obligation debt in either the governmental or business-type activities; days in reserve increased from approximately 3 months in FY 2011 to over 4 months in FY 2012.

In addition, a single audit was conducted reviewing Federal Grant Award expenditures that collectively exceeded \$500k. The County received an unqualified, or clean, opinion on this single audit as well with no findings noted.

In conclusion Chairman Stalnaker stated that the Commissioners are pleased with the results of the audit and that the employees, department heads and elected officials are responsible for the exceptional financial state of the County.

Chairman Stalnaker then opened the meeting for public comments. There being no public comments, the meeting was continued.

Commissioner Walker remarked that it is an honor to be a part of the recognition of Mr. Bailey and Mr. Vaughn. He commented how much he valued the friendships between Houston, Pulaski and Monroe.

Commissioner McMichael remarked that the excellent financial condition of the County and the exemplary audit report that was received required effort from everyone in the County.

Chairman Stalnaker reminded everyone that the first Board meeting in February has been moved to Wednesday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. in Perry so that the Commissioners may attend the annual legislative conference in Atlanta on February 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>.

Chairman Stalnaker also asked for an update on the Highway 41 widening project right-of-way acquisitions. Director of Operations Robbie Dunbar explained there were four parcels remaining for right-of-way acquisition, but all of them would require some legal action to resolve. Chairman Stalnaker advised these remaining right-of-way issues need to be resolved so the project will not experience any delay.

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

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Barry Holland  
Director of Administration

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Chairman

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Commissioner

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