Hart County Board of Commissioners

May 13, 2014

 5:30 p.m.

1. PRAYER
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. CALL TO ORDER
4. WELCOME
5. APPROVE AGENDA
6. APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)
* 4/22/14 Regular Meeting
1. REMARKS BY INVITED GUESTS, COMMITTEES, AUTHORITIES
* Hart Leadership 2014 Project County Entrance Sign 29 Highway
1. REPORTS BY CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS & DEPARTMENT HEADS
2. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT
3. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT
4. COMMISSIONERS’ REPORTS
5. OLD BUSINESS

a) Rec Dept Bid Award Infield Grooming Machine

b) GSP Sewer Project Bid Award

1. NEW BUSINESS
2. B&W application – Jonathan P. Angell/DBA Catfish Johnny’s LLC
3. DA Parks White Request to Add Position
4. Rec Dept Request to bid Football and Cheerleading (Uniforms and Equipment)
5. EMS Substations
6. PUBLIC COMMENT
7. EXECUTIVE SESSION
8. ADJOURNMENT

Hart County Board of Commissioners

May 13, 2014

5:30 p.m.

The Hart County Board of Commissioners met May 13, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. at the Hart County Administrative & Emergency Services Center.

Chairman Joey Dorsey presided with Commissioners R C Oglesby, Jimmy Carey, Frankie Teasley and William Myers in attendance.

1. Prayer

Prayer was offered by Rev. Brad Goss.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone stood in observance of the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Call to Order

Chairman Dorsey called the meeting to order.

1. Welcome

Chairman Dorsey welcomed those in attendance.

1. Approve Agenda

Commissioner Oglesby moved to approve the meeting agenda. Commissioner Carey provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

1. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)
* 4/22/14 Regular Meeting

Commissioner Myers moved to approve the minutes of the April 22, 2014 meeting. Commissioner Teasley provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

1. Remarks By Invited Guests, Committees, Authorities
* Hart Leadership 2014 Project County Entrance Sign 29 Highway

Michael Adams and Jennifer Burroughs presented Hart Leadership’s project design for a new sign to be erected on Highway 29 coming into Hart County from South Carolina. The sign will be constructed by students from the high school.

The BOC thanked Mr. Adams and Mrs. Burroughs for designing and participating in the project.

1. Reports By Constitutional Officers & Department Heads

County Attorney Walter Gordon reported that the contract was awarded for the Airline connector water project; the Gateway 1 debt refinancing paperwork has been completed with a local lender at 3 ½ % interest; Lake Foods revolving loan has been completed; approximately $300,000 was generated from the previous delinquent tax sell; and invited everyone to support the Lake Hartwell Music festival at Lake Point Park May 24, 2014.

1. County Administrator’s Report

County Administrator Jon Caime did not have anything to report.

1. Chairman’s Report

Chairman Dorsey reported that Long Point Park was vandalized and action will be taken against whoever was involved in the act. He suggested that the county consider multiple detours for the traffic traveling to and from on highway 51 near the GDOT reconstruction sight. He reported that the county is experiencing short falls in revenues; the LOST funds have declined creating an even greater shortfall. He got a consensus from the BOC to meet May 19, 2014 at 5:30 with the Tax Commissioner and a representative from Harris Computers to discuss where the county stands with tax collections.

1. Commissioners’ Reports

Commissioner Teasley reported that he talked with the Warden at the Whitworth Women’s facility and they are providing crews to pick up litter on road right-of-ways.

1. Old Business
2. Rec Dept. Bid Award Infield Grooming Machine

Commissioner Carey moved to award the bid to Jerry Pate Turf & Irrigation, Inc. to be purchased from SPLOST funds at $17,983.79. Chairman Dorsey provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

1. GSP Sewer Project Bid Award

Commissioner Oglesby moved to award the bid to Strack Inc. at a total cost of $36,860.25. Commissioner Myers provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

1. New Business
2. B&W application – Jonathan P. Angell/DBA Catfish Johnny’s LLC

Commissioner Teasley moved to approve the beer and wine license for Jonathan P. Angell. Commissioner Myers provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

1. DA Parks White Request to Add Position

District Attorney Parks White requested funds to hire an additional district attorney at the proportional share of $15,603.34 for Hart County. He reported that the District Attorney’s office is overloaded with caseloads and the level of caseloads prevents them from providing the level of attention each case deserves in court.

Chairman Dorsey responded that the county is not in a position to make a commitment until they know where the county stands in regards to tax revenues.

1. Rec Dept. Request to bid Football and Cheerleading (Uniforms & Equipment)

Commissioner Oglesby moved to approve the request to put football and cheerleading uniforms and equipment out for bid. Commissioner Myers provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

1. EMS Substations

EMS/EMA Director Terrell Pertain presented the EMS response times and distance report from which consisted of actual call data from August 1st, 2012 through June 30th, 2013. He concluded the addition of the fourth crew is necessary due to the increases in call volume and length of time necessary to complete calls. If the BOC decides to proceed with adding an substation and moving the existing substation that the Cross Roads and Goldmine areas would have a positive effect in lowering the longest response times without adversely affecting the response times in other areas.

Commissioner Oglesby moved to move forward with an implementation plan pending funding from the Hospital Authority. Chairman Dorsey provided a second to the motion.

Chairman Dorsey stated that the funds remaining under the Hospital Authority’s jurisdiction is to be used for enhancing health in the county.

With no further public comments, Chairman Dorsey called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0.

1. Public Comment

James Faulkner commented on the City of Hartwell water system.

1. Executive Session

None

1. Adjournment

Commissioner Oglesby moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Myers provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

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Joey Dorsey, Chairman Lawana Kahn, County Clerk

**Hart County Board of Commissioners**

**Called Meeting**

**May 19, 2014**

**5:30 p.m.**

1. Discussion on tax collections with Tax Commissioner Burl Pierce
2. Other business as time allows

Called Meeting

May 19, 2014

5:30 p.m.

The Hart County Board of Commissioners met May 19, 2014 at the Hart County Administrative & Emergency Services Center.

Chairman Dorsey presided with Commissioners Commissioner R C Oglesby, Frankie Teasley, Jimmy Carey and William Myers in attendance.

1. Prayer

Prayer was offered by Commissioner Carey.

1. Call to order/Welcome

Chairman Dorsey called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance including the press, County Administrator Caime, County Attorney Walter Gordon, Board of Assessors, Appraisal staff, Tax Commissioner Burl Pierce and a representative from Harris Computers.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone stood in observance of the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Discussion on tax collections with Tax Commissioner Burl Pierce

Chairman Dorsey opened up the discussion and explained that the purpose of the meeting was to gather facts and data to know what’s going on where the county stands with tax collections and try to understand where differences are. This is not a “witch hunt” however; the county is in a serious revenue discrepancy.

Chairman Dorsey explained that the goal is to develop an action register with deliverables and to have an update ready for the May 27, 2014 meeting. He concluded that the BOC is very supportive of this endeavor and turned the meeting over to County Administrator Caime.

County Administrator Jon Caime presented a time line of events for 2009 – 2011 and explained that he received data from Harris Computers in October 2013 when the bills were issued for 9/10/11. That data had final tax bills that would be issued for 2009 – 2011 resulted in 8.5 million dollars and 4 million dollars in refunds. He explained that the difference was the $4.5M “windfall” that everyone is talking about. In reality the County has only received about $500,000 from 9/10/11 and is $7-900,000 short on current 2013 tax revenues. Further of the $4.5M “windfall” the BOC would only receive $1.5M with the BOE receiving $3M.

CA Caime further explained that the 2012 tax digest was presented in late 2012 as a fairly accurate digest. Based on this information the BOC and BOE decided to not have a 4th temporary tax collection that would be rebilled with a final tax collection. However this 2012 digest has lost about $125,000,000 in value resulting in approximately $250,000 lost revenue for FY13 and another $250,000 for FY15.

CA Caime also explained that the whole revaluation, billing, defense of lawsuits etc… will cost the taxpayers about $2,000,000 which the BOC has funded 100% out of the county’s reserves including a current lawsuit by one taxpayer that may cost the Hart County taxpayers $100,000 to defend. Overall the BOC has used $4M in reserves since 2008 due to the downturn in the economy plus the failure of prior BOAs to deliver final digests.

Chairman Dorsey requested the following information from Harris Computers, Tax Commissioner Pierce, County Administrator Caime and Chief Appraiser Patrick for the May 27, 2014 meeting:

* 2009-2011 Actual Revenues from temporary bills & final bills by year (Harris Computers)
* 2009-2011 Actual Revenues from temporary bills & final bills by year (Tax Commissioner)
* Status of refunds by year (2009-2011) (Tax Commissioner)
* Status of current funds being held by Tax Commissioner
* Develop resource needs for plan to audit refund checks by group, already paid out, awaiting to be paid out, awaiting payment and transfers (Tax Commissioner)
* Auditing resource needs & plan to be placed on the 5/27/2014 BOC Meeting (Chairman Dorsey)
* Rerun reports for latest collection values for 2009 – 2011 using latest data (Harris Computers)
* 2009 – 2013 ERA report out (Tax Commissioner)
* Provide copies of all reports generated for Hart County (Harris Computers)
* Run revenue & refund reports for each change in data sent Hart County (Harris Computers)
* Summary of BOC revenue budgeted vs actual for 2009 – 2011 (County Administrator)
* Plan to address Mobile Home for compliance with current year decals (Chief Appraiser)

Tax Commissioner Pierce explained that the software system is not designed to do temporary billings, final billings, refunds etc. He stated that everything that has transpired with data, map number changes, transfers, who receives a refund, who owes taxes, is stretching the limits of the software. He also reported that 5,600 refund checks were mailed out of which 5,200 with a value of approximately $2,000,000; of the remaining 400 outstanding checks from that 5,600, the value is approximately $220,000; the office is also holding 1,000 checks. Property transfers have not been addressed and the value of the refunds for these is not known.

Chairman Dorsey questioned where the Tax Commissioners’ office stands with auditing refund checks. Tax Commissioner Pierce responded that they are starting to go back and review the refund checks. However, he considers the refunds that were mailed out as “water under the bridge” and stated that his priority is to get the remaining refund checks issued.

Chairman Dorsey disagreed and remarked that the office has been given the resources to complete the auditing. He offered the task be assigned to the BOC Administrative Assistant to begin reviewing the data. He also stated that the BOC will support additional resources with a plan of action.

Commissioner Teasley asked if all the refunds have been mailed. Administrator Caime responded that they have not and that is one of the purposes of the meeting.

Chairman Dorsey remarked that multiple numbers have been thrown out, wants Harris Computers to confirm the numbers as per the detail above. He requested that Tax Commissioner Pierce present a plan to the BOC for resources needed to perform the audit at the May 27, 2014 meeting.

Commissioner Carey stated that the taxpayers are paying the software vendor to produce the products and questioned what Harris Computers is doing to provide the products they have been paid to produce. TC Pierce explained that they examine data in the billing software, have converted refunds checks into Quick Books, assisting with putting the remaining refund checks in Quick Books.

Commissioner Teasley questioned when the next tax sell is scheduled. TC Pierce responded that he is not certain when another tax sell will not be conducted.

Chairman Dorsey requested a budget work session following the May 27, 2014 meeting to discuss the current FY14 revenue shortfall and possible spending cuts.

1. Adjournment

Commissioner Oglesby moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Myers provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

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Joey Dorsey, Chairman Lawana Kahn, County Clerk