Hart County Board of Commissioners

November 11, 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)
* 10/28/14 Called Meeting
* 10/28/14 Regular Meeting
1. REMARKS BY INVITED GUESTS, COMMITTEES, AUTHORITIES
* Wreaths Across America Program
1. REPORTS BY CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS & DEPARTMENT HEADS
2. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT
3. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT
4. COMMISSIONERS’ REPORTS
5. OLD BUSINESS
6. FY15 Budget Approval
7. Designation of New Park as Greenspace for Grant Application
8. LMIG FY15
9. Establishment of Dedicated Tax District- Second Reading
10. 2014 Millage Rate Determination
11. Health Insurance
12. NEW BUSINESS

a) BOR Request for Runoff Funding

b) Communications Improvement Program Funding

c) Pay for Experience Credit SO Office

d) Juvenile Delinquency Prosecution

e) DDA Request for Courthouse Christmas Tree Lighting

f) Pay for Experience Credit Maintenance Shop

g) Coroner Budget Increase Request

h) Deputy Coroner Approval

1. PUBLIC COMMENT
2. EXECUTIVE SESSION-Litigation; Real Estate
3. ADJOURNMENT

Hart County Board of Commissioners

November 11, 2014

5:30 p.m.

Hart County Board of Commissioners met November 11, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. at the Hart County Administrative & Emergency Services Center.

Chairman Joey Dorsey presided with Commissioners Frankie Teasley, Jimmy Carey and William Myers in attendance. Commissioner R C Oglesby was absent due to a family emergency.

1. Prayer

Prayer was offered by Commissioner Carey.

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 Carey moved to amend and approve the agenda to remove potential litigation and add litigation/real estate matters. Commissioner Myers provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

1. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)
* 10/28/14 Called Meeting
* 10/28/14 Regular Meeting

Commissioner Teasley moved to approve the minutes of the October 28, 2014 regular and called meetings. Commissioner Carey provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

1. Remarks by Invited Guests, Committees, Authorities
* Wreaths Across America Program

Commissioner Myers moved to allow a wreath to be placed on the Courthouse Square following the December 13 ceremony @ Nancy Hart Memorial Park. Commissioner Carey provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

1. Reports by Constitutional Officers & Department Heads

County Attorney Walter Gordon reported that the Water & Sewer Authority met November 10, 2014; they are moving forward on the new water line projects and the construction phase of the water tank will soon be completed.

1. County Administrator’s Report

CA Caime thanked volunteer fire fighter Jason Haley and fulltime firefighter Ryan Ray for taking time away from their families to go to California and spend 5 days driving back a ladder truck for the Fire Department.

1. Chairman’s Report

Chairman Dorsey thanked veterans for their dedication of service and announced that the annual appreciation for the volunteer fire fighters is scheduled for December 13, 2014 @ Pleasant Grove.

1. Commissioners’ Reports

Commissioner Myers expressed his appreciation for those involved in the wreaths across America Program and for veterans for their service.

1. Old Business

a) FY15 Budget Approval

Chairman Dorsey reported that outstanding taxes remain to be collected; rising health insurance cost and a decrease in other revenue streams will lead to a deficit in general fund and the special revenue funds.

County Administrator Jon Caime noted that the BOC has spent numerous hours over several months working on balancing the budget; explained that 70% of the General Fund budget consists of Public Safety and Public Works; temporary tax collections were issued for 2009 – 2011 resulting in one time increases in revenues that will not rematerialize in FY15; loss of digest revenue as a result of the temporary tax collections; use of reserves in all funds to cover the short term needs as we worked through the failure of the BOA to produce a final digest for five years as well as the negative impacts of the recent deep recession; the fact that reserves in all funds have been drawn down to minimum levels and cannot be used for funding deficits in FY15; and noted that an additional $600,000 is needed to balance the general fund budget for FY15.

Commissioner Carey moved to approve the 2015 budget. Commissioner Teasley provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

b) Designation of New Park as Greenspace for Grant Application

Commissioner Myers moved to designate the New Recreation park land that is leased by the Botanical Garden as a Green Space Area. Commissioner Carey provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

c) LMIG FY15

Commissioner Carey moved to submit New Prospect Road (pt 2); Lankford Road (pt 1b); Old Elbert Road (pt 2); Country Ridge and Nancy Hart School Road for LMIG funding. Commissioner Teasley provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

d) Establishment of Dedicated Tax District-Second Reading

Commissioner Teasley moved to adopt the second reading of the Establishment of Dedicated Tax District ordinance. Commissioner Myers provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

e) 2014 Millage Rate Determination

CA Caime explained that for several years the BOC has been evaluating one of our most costly and critical services, EMS. He noted that the BOC has conducted several studies on EMS response times and now have a long range plan that involves two EMS substations, one in Goldmine and one at Crossroads, which will result in decreased call response times for those areas but will increase the cost of our EMS services.

In addition, he noted that the EMS call volume has increased to where a fourth full time EMS crew is needed which will add approximately $400,000 per year to the cost of our EMS services. Compounding the financial problems with providing EMS services is the closure of the Hart County hospital which has resulted in less efficiency with our EMS operations. He noted that approximately 33% of our EMS transports were to/from the Hart County hospital in Hartwell however with the closure of the Hart County hospital we now have much longer transport times for our calls which results in less efficiency with our existing resources.

He also noted that EMS revenues have decreased partially due to the decreased revenues as a result of poor economic conditions and less revenues from insurance companies (citizens not having insurance where they may have had insurance in the past), and less revenues from serving citizens who cannot pay. At the same time the Federal Government has reduced the reimbursement rates so our reimbursement from Federal Programs has decreased. Current estimates are that the gap (revenues minus expenses) for EMS services is about 1.5 mills taxes.

Commissioner Carey moved to adopt the 2014 rollback millage rate for the General Tax Levy and add a 0.5 mill EMS Special Tax District levy. Chairman Dorsey provided a second to the motion.

Chairman Dorsey suggested delay in non SPLOST capital purchases until March 2015. The motion carried 4-0.

f) Health Insurance

CA Caime reported that preliminary health insurance increases are 19% which will require about $100,000 in additional health insurance costs for FY15 above what is currently in the FY15 budget. He also noted that the ACA (aka “Obamacare”) fees have increased and that the ACA will require that we offer health insurance to about 12 part time employees which could add another $100,000 to the FY15 budget above what is currently in the FY15 budget. No action was taken.

1. New Business

a) BOR Request for Runoff Funding

Commissioner Carey moved to provide additional funding of $2,466.72 for the runoff election. Commissioner Teasley provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

b) Communication Improvement Program Funding

CA Caime explained that the emergency service communications for the Sheriff’s Office and Fire department have problems that must be corrected. Terrell Partain has put together a plan that will fix these communications problems which will save about $40,000. Commissioner Teasley moved to purchase radio equipment from Jackson County ($2,300 from General Fund and additional equipment purchases of $20,000 from Fire SPLOST IV). Commissioner Myers provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

c) Pay for Experience Credit SO Office

Commissioner Carey moved to approve six years of credit to Chief Jailer David Cleveland. Commissioner Teasley provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

d) Juvenile Delinquency Prosecution

Commissioner Carey moved to fund $3,600 for juvenile prosecution. Commissioner Teasley provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

e) DDA Request for Courthouse Christmas Tree Lighting

Executive Director Henley Cleary requested $2,250 + $2 each for connect plugs for lighting for the live cedar tree on the courthouse grounds.

Chairman Dorsey suggested utilizing the county artificial Christmas tree for the upcoming tree lighting. No further action was taken.

f) Pay for Experience Credit Maintenance Shop

Commissioner Myers moved to approve two steps additional pay for specialized mechanic Joseph King. Chairman Dorsey provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

g) Coroner Budget Increase Request

Coroner Mike Adams reported that the deputy coroner has tendered his resignation as of the end of December, which will result in a need for additional funds for training/lodging for a replacement. He requested $296 for training/lodging and $400 cooler fee.

Commissioner Carey moved to increase the coroner’s budget by $896 to cover training and cooler fees. Commissioner Teasley provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

h) Deputy Coroner Approval

Commissioner Teasley moved to approve Ken Smith to serve as a deputy coroner in the absence of the Chief Coroner. Commissioner Carey provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

1. Public Comment

None

1. Executive Session-Litigation/Real Estate

Commissioner Myers moved to exit into Executive Session to discuss litigation and real estate matters. Commissioner Carey provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Teasley moved to exit Executive Session. Commissioner Carey provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

1. Adjournment

Commissioner Carey moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Myers provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

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Joey Dorsey, Chairman Lawana Kahn, County Clerk

Hart County Board of Commissioners

November 11, 2014

3:30 p.m.

Hart County Board of Commissioners met November 11, 2014 at 3:30 p.m. at the Hart County Administrative & Emergency Services Center to tour the County in a van looking at County roads.

Chairman Joey Dorsey, Commissioners Frankie Teasley, Jimmy Carey were in attendance. Lauren Peeples from the Hartwell Sun, Commissioner elect Ricky Carter, and Public Works Director Jon Caime were also present.

The group toured the county looking at the proposed list of roads to be submitted under the GDOT LMIG program. No action was taken.