

**HEARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
NOVEMBER 24, 2009 – 6:30 P.M.**

The Heard County Board of Commissioners held a Commissioners Meeting on November 24, 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. Terry Harper gave the invocation.

Agenda Item # 3 – Presentation to Mr. Phillip Spradlin – Commission Chair Jackson on behalf of the Board, presented a plaque to Mr. Phillip Spradlin, Battalion Chief with the Heard County EMA, for 25 years of service to Heard County. The entire board thanked Mr. Spradlin for his loyal and dedicated service to Heard County.

Agenda Item # 4 - Approval of Minutes – On motion (Allen) and second (Caldwell), the Board unanimously approved the minutes from October 27, 2009 and November 10, 2009.

Agenda Item # 5 – Public Comments – None.

Agenda Item # 6 – Amend Agenda – Commission Chair Jackson asked for an amendment to New Business to include “e” – Discuss Revolving Loan Fund. On motion (Boone) and second (Allen), the Board unanimously approved this request.

Agenda Item # 7 – Old Business – a. Approve Pay Requests for Fire Administration Facility (2) – Commission Chair Jackson presented pay request # 4 from New South Construction for the Fire Administration Facility in the amount of \$424,131.83. On motion (Allen) and second (Boone), the Board unanimously approved this request.

Commission Chair Jackson presented pay request # 17905-13 from Clough Harbour &

Associates in the amount of \$6,692.00 for engineering services related to the fire administration facility. On motion (Allen) and second (Boone), the Board unanimously approved this request.

b. Discuss Abandonment Procedures on Barr Farm Road - Commission Chair

Jackson stated that County Attorney, Jerry Ann Conner recently had a request from the McCormick family on Barr Farm Road regarding abandoning a small portion of the old Barr Farm Road between the landowner's property and the new road. Commissioner Caldwell stated he did speak with the adjoining landowners regarding this and would like to recommend proceeding with the abandonment procedures. On motion (Caldwell) and second (Allen), the Board unanimously voted to approve this recommendation.

c. Discuss Paving of PeaRidge Road - Commission Chair Jackson stated that the Heard County School Board is requesting that Heard County pave the entire length of PeaRidge Road. At the last meeting, Commissioner Crook suggested that Commission Chair Jackson contact the property owners on this road about obtaining the needed right of way before any decision is made about paving. Commission Chair Jackson stated that she had received a letter from Mr. Holland Ware, a landowner on PeaRidge Road, stating that he would not be in agreement to donating any right of way to Heard County for the paving of this road. After some discussion, on motion (Crook) and second (Boone), the Board unanimously voted not to pave the dirt part of PeaRidge Road.

d. Discuss Posting Warning Signs on Chattahoochee River – Commission Chair

Jackson reported that she contacted Mr. Stephen Logan with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to express to him Commissioner Isenhower's concerns with the toxicity of the Chattahoochee River and the possibility of posting warning signs on the river. She

presented his email response to the Board. Commissioner Isenhower expressed her concerns about this issue. She stated she would continue to express her concerns about the pollution in Heard County.

e. Discuss Deed for Old Roosterville Fire Station – Commission Chair Jackson stated that Ms. Patsy Dowdy has contacted her about the old Roosterville fire station reverting back to her when the County ceases to use this location as a fire station. Ms. Dowdy would like for the Board to deed this property back to her as soon as possible. Chief Scott Blue stated that there are still some items, including the weather siren that needs to be moved from this station before the County relinquishes the property. County Attorney, Jerry Ann Conner stated that she did review the deed which states the property will revert back to Ms. Patsy Dowdy after everything belonging to the County is removed. She stated at that time the Board can quit claim this property back to Ms. Dowdy. Chief Blue will have the weather siren removed as soon as possible. The Board will discuss this further at that time.

Agenda Item # 8 – New Business – a. Discuss SAVE Program Memorandum of Agreement – County Attorney, Jerry Ann Conner presented the SAVE Program Memorandum of Agreement to the Board and explained that this is an agreement between Heard County and the Department of Homeland Security. She explained that this is a federally mandated program that requires Heard County to verify the citizenship and immigration status of a non-citizen for employment purposes and business license purposes in Heard County. On motion (Boone) and second (Caldwell), the Board voted 4 to 1 to approve this agreement and for Commission Chair Jackson to sign this agreement.

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

b. Discuss Christmas Hams – Commission Chair Jackson asked the Board if they would like to give the County employees a ham for Christmas this year. She stated that for 194 hams the cost would be \$7,876.00, from Walker Meats or if the Board would like to give each employee a \$40.00 gift card, the cost would be \$7,760.00 or a \$50.00 gift card that would cost \$9,700.00. Commissioner Isenhower stated that she would like for the employees to receive the gift card. After further discussion, on motion (Crook) and second (Caldwell), the Board unanimously voted to give the County employees a ham for Christmas.

c. Discuss Christmas Holidays –Commission Chair Jackson recommended to the Board an extra holiday at Christmas. She stated that Christmas is on a Friday this year and she would like to suggest taking Thursday, Christmas Eve, off also. On motion (Crook) and second (Allen), the Board approved this request.

d. Discuss Rescheduling December 22, 2009 Commissioners Meeting – Commission Chair Jackson recommended rescheduling the December 22, 2009 meeting to December 15, 2009 in order to discuss the Fire and Emergency Services Headquarters furniture request for proposal at this meeting. On motion (Allen) and second (Boone), the Board unanimously approved this request.

e. Discuss Revolving Loan Fund – Mr. Terry Harper, Chairman of the Heard County Development Authority addressed the Board concerning the revolving loan fund money that the Development Authority can loan out to prospective businesses wishing to come into Heard County. He asked the Board to approve amending a change in the interest

rates from “not lower than 5% or higher than 10%” to “not lower than 2.5% or higher than 5%. He also asked the Board to approve amending a change in the payback interest rate from 10% interest to 5% interest. On motion (Boone) and second (Allen), the Board unanimously approved this recommendation.

Agenda Item # 9 – Executive Session – None.

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