

**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**FEBRUARY 2, 2016**

Chairman Allen Poole called the regular meeting of the Haralson County Board of Commissioners to order. 911 Director Cathy Thompson offered the Invocation and the board led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Poole stated for the record that all commissioners were present.

Chairman Poole stated that the minutes of the January meeting had been sent to the board for review. He asked if there were any changes to be made. There were none. Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2016 meeting as written. Commissioner Dobbs seconded and the motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Smith abstained since he was not at that meeting.

Chairman Poole stated that he would like to amend the agenda and add an executive session as item #2 and stated that there was a personnel issue to deal with. Chairman Poole motioned to approve the amended agenda. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**Chairman's Report**

Chairman Poole reported on the Recreation Project and urged everyone to go see the progress.

**Public Participation on Agenda Items**

David Tarpley asked to be able to wait until after item #1 had been discussed to speak. He said it may not be relevant after the item has been discussed. David Greene chose to wait also.

**Department Head Reports**

**Fire Department** - Lieutenant Dave Wade gave a year-end report on the Fire Department. He stated that from 2014 to 2015, there was an increase of nearly 300 calls. He gave the commissioners a handout detailing the types and number of calls the department had responded to in 2015. These included calls ranging from Hazardous conditions to Rescue and Emergency Medical call to fires, service calls and Good intent calls.

**Animal Control** – Jackie Brown, shelter manager, gave a year-end report on animal control. She stated that she started with the animal control facility when it opened. They started with 7 full-time employees and 1 part-time employee and now they run the facility with 3 full-time and 1 part-time. She stated that there had been 1543 calls answered by going to a home. They handled 1398 animals including dogs, cats and pot-bellied pigs. They work hard to get the animals reclaimed by owners, adopted, or rescued by a group. Ms. Brown addressed the issue of parvovirus that had been brought up to the chairman. She stated that the parvovirus they use is a very good quality and is \$700 a barrel compared to the \$3500 that was paid in the past. She

stated that the people in the department know what they are doing and work with people in many different situations.

**E-911** – Cathy Thompson, director, gave a year-end report of the E911 center. Mrs. Thompson stated that there were 87,762 phone calls answered during 2015. 4275 were hang up calls, mostly by children playing with a phone. This resulted in 63,006 calls being dispatched. She explained that sometimes numerous calls come in about a single incident such as a wreck. She stated that the Sheriff and Bremen Police were highest call volume. Mrs. Thompson also stated that the dispatchers volunteer their time outside of work, such as with Shop with a Cop, Information booths at festivals, and visiting senior centers and schools for public education events. She told of a situation where 3 of the dispatchers got together and gave an elderly couple who were stranded in the county during bad weather a \$100 gift card to help them pay for a room and a meal. Ms. Thompson closed with an interesting fact. She said 911 service is never disconnected, whether it is a landline or cell phone, even if service is disconnected.

#### **Item #1 – IT Employee – Vote**

Chairman Poole stated that this vote had been taken last month, and included a vote by phone of one of the commissioners. The county attorney said they either had to be here or had to be on a conference call where they could hear the entire discussion of the item. So, Chairman Poole asked for a motion to approve the IT employee. Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the IT employee. Chairman Poole seconded and the motion carried 4-1 with Commissioner Bennett opposed.

Someone from the audience asked if there was not going to be any discussion. Chairman Poole responded that they were just taking the vote again. The discussion was at the prior meetings. Commissioner Bennett stated that the difference was at the last meeting the chairman called it a contract and this time it is listed as an employee. She asked if this meant his price tag is going up. As a full time employee, he would have access to benefits and insurance. She stated that she was against this because it had not been done fairly, that nobody else had a chance, and that is why she voted against this. She said her question now is whether he is going to be an employee with insurance and benefits, or is he going to be a contractor. Chairman Poole asked Alison Palmer, County Clerk, to answer that question. She stated that Mr. Brown is listed as a part-time employee, which does not qualify him for insurance or benefits.

#### **Item #2 – Executive Session**

Commissioner Robinson motioned to go into executive session. Commissioner Dobbs seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to go back into the regular meeting. Commissioner Dobbs seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Poole stated that the executive session was involving a personnel issue.

**Public Participation**

David Tarpley – spoke against the IT vote

David Greene – also spoke against the IT vote

After they had finished, Chairman Poole stated that with the amount of personal information that is on the county's computer systems, he feels it is his responsibility to see that this information is kept secure by whoever the county chooses to perform the IT services and he feels like this is the best option for the county at this time. He reiterated that numerous complaints from different departments had come in to this office regarding the problems with the IT, therefore, when Mr. Brown made a proposal the Chairman felt it was his duty to bring it to the board for discussion, which he did at the December work session where all the commissioners were present.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Dobbs seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Submitted by Alison Palmer  
County Clerk