

August 3, 2021

Page 1 of 10

**STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF HENRY**

The Henry County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Public Meeting *in-person* on Tuesday, August 3, 2021, 9:00 a.m., at the Henry County Administration Building (Community Room), 140 Henry Parkway, McDonough GA. HenryTV also streamed this live online at its website, as well as Charter/Spectrum Channel 180 and Facebook Live.

Carlotta Harrell, Chair
Johnny Wilson, District I Commissioner
Dee Clemmons, District II Commissioner
Greg Cannon, District III Commissioner
Vivian Thomas, District IV Commissioner
Bruce Holmes, District V Commissioner

Also in attendance: Cheri Hobson-Matthews, County Manager; Patrick Jaugstetter, County Attorney; Stephanie Braun, County Clerk; and Nathifa Cunningham, Deputy County Clerk

INVOCATION

Don Ash, E-911/EMA Director led the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge was recited.

CALL TO ORDER

Carlotta Harrell, Chair, called the Regular Meeting of the Henry County Board of Commissioners for Tuesday, August 3, 2021 to order.

ADDITION TO AGENDA FROM THE HENRY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Chair Harrell called for an update from the Henry County Department of Public Health to provide update and protocols to be in place for the protection of the citizens during the trending of the Delta variant to the COVID-19 virus.

Mr. Ash approached and presented some comments before turning the floor over to the Department of Public Health. He shared statistics from Piedmont Henry Hospital as of July 1, 2021. He presented a graph representation of the trending of the COVID-19 numbers; added that yesterday there was a nursing home affected with one (1) patient and one (1) staff member admitted to the hospital for COVID-19 treatment. He then presented an EMI Prediction Modeling schedule to highlight and clarify his comments on COVID-19 predicted cases within the community.

Xavier Crockett, Director, Emergency Preparedness, Henry County Department of Public Health approached with some remarks on the dramatic increase of COVID-19 cases nationwide, noting to the Board that there has been a rise in cases over the last four (4) weeks, from eleven (11) to three hundred and thirty-one (331) cases. While the spread in the community appears to be moderate, there are preventative measures in place to slow and potentially stop the spread, particularly in the high-traffic areas. Since February 2021, aggressive health communications and vaccinations through the Department of Public Health have helped get the numbers under control; however, the numbers have gone up since

the 4th of July events and since the delta variant had arrived. He noted that in July the county was at a moderate level of cases, but did jump since that time and expected to continue to jump over the next seven (7) days. Free testing and free vaccinations are now aggressively offered to slow the spread and control the uptick in cases, including hand washing, mask wearing and other measures to get the virus spread under control.

Mr. Crockett also noted that recently, more school-aged children are going to the hospitals with positive testing, particularly in ages 5-17 years old, which had been below 20 but in 4 weeks it rose to 66 cases and is likely to continue rising due to the delta variant. He then provided vaccine data in Henry County, with about 35% of residents vaccinated, particularly doing well in the 65+ seniors in the county. The focus now shifts to 55 years and under citizens and in low vaccination coverage areas where the delta variant is prominent within Henry County. He presented some information on the delta variant and the trend that is increasing and that it is more contagious than any other variant predecessors.

Mr. Crockett noted that the CDC recommends masking on individuals, vaccinated or not, as this delta variant is the most aggressive variant to date. Aggressive measures such as free testing and free vaccinations are available throughout the state to control this very aggressive and contagious variant. Protocols are in place for the schools and faculties as well, as there are school aged children having to go on ventilators in hospitals from contracting this virus. Masking at events is also highly encouraged during this new wave, to possibly continue through late October because of how aggressive this variant has become. He then stated that 98% of the COVID-19 related deaths were from patients who were unvaccinated. Even though vaccinated people are getting sick, they are still alive. The Department of Public Health is aligning with the CDC to go back to the measures taken through the first wave of the COVID-19 virus. He then turned the floor over to the Chair of the Board of Health.

Anthony S. Ford, Mayor, City of Stockbridge; Chairman, Henry County Board of Health, approached to make some remarks on the protocols for testing and vaccinations, as well as masking mandates which were discussed throughout the county and the Four Cities. He remarked that there are other jurisdictions with ordinances in place for mandates and that if the County enforces CDC guidance and mandate masks within public facilities, the Four Cities will follow suit, including Stockbridge.

Dee Clemmons, District II Commissioner asked if there is still testing going on in the county and, if so, where those sites are located and where the vaccine sites are located; **Mr. Crockett** responded that Mako Laboratories at the Red Hawk field tests Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. but since the increase, there is a request for more days pending to give the free tests for the citizens of Henry County. Once it is approved, the new schedule will be provided. Department of Public Health is vaccinating five (5) days a week with “COVID nurses” on staff to provide those services. Emails were sent to offer health education to businesses throughout the Henry County without a very major response but may do that again. The District II Commissioner is concerned on the strain on the county’s budget and asked if the Department of Public Health is providing testing and vaccinations; **Mr. Crockett** stated that they are no longer doing that because the vaccination numbers were so low, so everything was moved back to the Health Department. Increasing visibility in the county is being discussed and will be implemented throughout the county.

Mr. Ash remarked that there are partnerships with the Commissioners and public events to provide testing and vaccines, as well as in conjunction with Red Hawk as well.

Vivian Thomas, District IV Commissioner expressed concern over accessibility to Red Hawk and asked what incentive could be added to this process. At the last blood drive, there were \$20 gift cards handed out as incentives. The District IV Commissioner also noted that there is opposition from individuals who are against masking and going public with it and steps must be taken to combat that. She

also brought up possibly going to central residential complexes and perhaps partner with the HOAs to get the residents vaccinated and testing done, in an effort to save lives. As far as education, the Commissioner is concerned that a superintendent of schools came out in opposition of the masks in school and wants the students back in school. **Mr. Crockett** stated that the incentives will need approval since federal funds are being spent. **Mr. Ash** added that anyone needing testing or vaccination can be transported free through the Transit Department. The Commissioner encouraged staff to get the word out especially about the transportation; she supports the apartment rotation appearances as well. Mr. Crockett also supports the apartment complex idea and that it has been done in other areas as well. Communications are being ramped up in the communities as much as possible, information about the increasing numbers in the delta variant are constantly brought up and how this is critical. He thanked the Commissioner for suggestions and ideas to discuss further.

Chair Harrell commented that she spoke with someone in Butts County and they have to transport to hospitals as far as Macon with their EMS having a wait time of up to five (5) hours. She directed the County Clerk to read the Declaration into the record:

Stephanie Braun, Clerk, Henry County read the Declaration into the record as follows:

DECLARATION OF STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, Henry County, along with the entire State of Georgia, has been impacted by the effects of novel coronavirus COVID-19, which is a direct threat to our citizens, businesses and visitors in the county; and

WHEREAS, the expectation is that citizens and businesses will be negatively impacted physically, emotionally and financially by this crisis; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 variant has increased throughout the county and resulted in cases being admitted into Piedmont Henry Medical Center, Stockbridge, GA; and

WHEREAS, Piedmont Henry Medical Center currently has sixty-eight (68) COVID-19 patients, forty-eight (48) ACUTE patients and twenty-four (24) ICU patients; and

WHEREAS, Henry County's primary hospital has exceeded its capacity to serve ICU patients; and

WHEREAS, the Chair of the Henry County Board of Commissioners has been vested with certain powers to act under circumstances of a local emergency, pursuant to Ordinance #13-10, duly adopted on July 16, 2013; and

WHEREAS, in the judgment of the Chair of the Henry County Board of Commissioners with advice from the Henry County Emergency Management Agency, there exists emergency circumstances requiring extraordinary and immediate corrective acts for the protection of the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Henry County, including individuals with household pets and service animals; and

WHEREAS, to prevent or minimize injury to people who live in, and/or work and conduct business in Henry County, Henry County Government, serving as a support agency, will assist with emergency operations during any multi-agency response to prevent or minimize impact from this significant threat;

August 3, 2021

Page 4 of 10

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me by local and state law, the Chair of the Henry County Board of Commissioners declares that a local state of emergency exists; and

IT IS ORDERED, that Henry County Emergency Management Agency activate the local county Emergency Operations Plan; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the County Manager, in concert with Henry County Emergency Management Agency, take all necessary and appropriate action to assign and make available for duty essential employees, property and/or equipment or relating to fire-fighting, engineering, rescue, health, medical and related services, including police, transportation, construction and similar items or services for emergency management purposes consistent herewith; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED this Declaration of State of Local Emergency will be in effect for the next sixty (60) days.

ISSUED at 9:00 a.m. this 3rd day of August, 2021

RECOGNITION OF COUNTY EMPLOYEE RETIREMENTS

Harold Cooper, Human Resources Director, announced the retirement of the following Henry County employees:

- *Patricia Delk-Bogue - Henry County GIS Mapping Department - 24 years*
- *Robert Haffly - Henry County Fire Department - 21 years*
- *Cindi Owen - Henry County State Court - 19 years*
- *Luther Phillips - Henry County Fire Department - 18 years*
- *Robin Ferebee - Henry County Animal Control - 15 years*
- *Daniel Jeune - Henry County Sheriff's Office - 6 years*

PRESENTATIONS

Henry County Transit Master Plan Development

Sam Baker, Director of Transportation Planning, approached and stated that three (3) major transportation projects are listed and an update will be provided. The first is the Henry County Transit Master Plan. He yielded the floor to Ms. Hammond for presentation and remarks.

Regan Hammond, AICP, Transportation Systems Director, Vanasse Hangen Brustlin (VHB), presented the update on the Henry County Transit Master Plan. She gave the overview of the plan through Power Point Presentation to the Board. Highlights include the Transit Vision which has been posted to the project website (listed on the presentation). Core need areas were also provided for the Board and public viewing. A map was also provided with color-coded concentrated areas for need of Transit, where most of the concentration is along I-75 in the outer areas of Atlanta.

Ms. Hammond provided a schedule of upcoming events in August and September with a virtual Public meeting to present recommendations and conducts an outreach in a safe manner, with a return to the Board of Commissioners (BOC) in October for formal adoption.

There were no questions. ***No action was taken.***

Henry County Transportation Plan Update

Mr. Baker provided a presentation of the Plan, scheduled to be completed by June 2022. He then yielded the floor to Mr. Craig.

Michael Craig, Pond & Company, noted that this Plan establishes long-term goals for transportation and was started in 2016, when he was the project manager. He presented the Plan Background for the Commissioners and public viewing. The projects will be prioritized for implementation. This is funded in partnership with Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) and collaborative efforts with the County and the Four Cities. The needs are established from the Sample Data Points presented. Recommendations are then formulated through those points, and through community input. Community engagement techniques include stakeholder meetings, online engagements, educational videos, interactive mapping and pop-up events.

Mr. Craig then displayed the Detailed Schedule, which started back in late May, along with a summary of the phases and their projected timelines to be completed.

There were no questions. *No action was taken.*

Henry County Trails Plan Development

Mr. Baker advised that the 2016 Transportation Plan gave way to concepts to a trail/multi-use plan but was never done through 2019. In February 2020, he came before the Board to ask that this be followed through; thus, the approved funding in the budget was provided for the Henry County Trails Plan, to be implemented over time. He then yielded to Mr. Kohr for presentation and remarks.

Andrew Kohr, PLA, ASLA, Associate Principal, Pond & Company, presented the Trails plan for the Board and public viewing. He explained that trails address economic development and the branding of same would be beneficial to the county and its citizens. Bringing up the Sample Data Points would help the County's direction on the trail planning and how to capitalize each aspect, particularly undeveloped land. Just like the Comprehensive Transportation Plan, there will be collaborations with staff, citizens and recommendations made prior to formal presentation for adoption.

Similar to what was previously presented **Mr. Kohr** also presented a Detailed Schedule as well as a summarized timeline of components of that schedule, including naming and branding of the trails plan.

There were no questions. *No action was taken.*

CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Hobson-Matthews presented the Consent Agenda as follows:

Emergency Management Agency

- A. Resolution approving E911 phone system upgrade with AT&T by providing the Next Generation Telephone Technologies for implementation in the E911 system. The total amount for the E911 system upgrade, related services and maintenance is a cost of \$1,755,628 (Presenter: Don Ash, E911/EMA Director) (Exhibit 1)

Fire Department

- A. Resolution of the Board of Commissioners appointing Interim Fire Chief Jonathan Burnette, Deputy Fire Chief Stacey Ponder, Assistant Chief Billy Petite and Lieutenant Sam Polk to the Region 4/West Georgia Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council (Presenter: Interim Fire Chief Jonathon Burnette, HCFD)(Exhibit 2)

Financial Services

- A. Resolution awarding a contract for the rental of uniforms and miscellaneous facility service items to UniFirst Corporation, utilizing pricing contained in Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Contract. This will be a unit/price agreement with no fixed quantities for one (1) year with two (2) mutually agreed upon annual extensions (Presenter: David Smith, Financial Services Director)(Exhibit 3)
- B. Resolution awarding contract pricing for food services and supplies for the Henry County Senior Services Department to US Foods utilizing the Sourcewell's Cooperative Purchasing Program. This will be a unit/price agreement with no fixed quantities for one (1) year with two (2) mutually agreed upon annual renewals (Presenter: David Smith, Financial Services Director)(Exhibit 4)
- C. Resolution to assign \$20 million dollars of unassigned FY 2020-2021 fund balance of the General Fund and transfer cash to capital projects to be used for capital project expenditures (Presenter: David Smith, Financial Services Director)(Exhibit 5)

Leisure Services

- A. Resolution of the Henry County Board of Commissioners to authorize the Aging Subgrant Contract in the amount of \$770,366.75 and \$50,392.15 match with the Atlanta Regional Commission for Fiscal Year 2022 to provide services for the senior adults of Henry County (Presenter: Jonathon Penn, Cluster Lead/Leisure Services)(Exhibit 6)

SPLOST

- A. Resolution of the Henry County Board of Commissioners awarding the bid for engineering design services for Mill Road Widening to Kennedy Engineering & Associates in the amount of \$170,130 (Presenter: Roque Romero, SPLOST Transportation Director)(Exhibit 7)
- B. Resolution of the Henry County Board of Commissioners approving construction contract with Georgia Department of Transportation for Jonesboro Road Resurfacing. The contract is for is \$2,436,000. This is an 80/20 Federal/County matching project. Federal matching funds is \$1,948,800. Henry County matching funds is \$487,200.00 which is currently available in the DOT budget. (Presenter: Roque Romero, SPLOST Transportation Director)(Exhibit 8)
- C. Resolution of the Henry County Board of Commissioners approving the bid award for Jonesboro Road Resurfacing (from Clayton County Line to Mount Olive Road) to C.W. Matthews Contracting Co., Inc. in the amount of \$2,426,000.00 (Presenter: Roque Romero, SPLOST Transportation Director)(Exhibit 9)

Recycling Center

- A. Resolution awarding Bid #21-94 for waste wood grinding services (a unit price agreement with no fixed quantities) to M.W. Collins, Inc. for the Henry County Recycling Center (Presenter: Alex Mohajer, Director)(Exhibit 10)

Transportation Planning

- A. Resolution of Henry County expressing support for the I-75 Central Corridor Coalition, Inc. along with the Coalition's mission, purpose, and its multi-regional smart growth planning along the I-75 corridor in the middle-Georgia region (Presenter: Sam Baker, Transportation Planning Director) (Exhibit 11)

Board of Commissioners

- A. Resolution approving Amended MOU for the Boys & Girls Club (Presenter: Patrick Jaugstetter, County Attorney)(Exhibit 12)
- B. Resolution approving naming of conference room in Cochran Library "Dr. Marilyn L. Flynn, Ed.D. Conference Room" (Exhibit 13)

Police Department

- A. Resolution for the emergency purchase of eight (8) 2021 Ford Interceptor 3.36 L V6 vehicles from Brannan Motor Company in the amount of \$266,400.00 for the Henry County Police Department (Presenter: Major Casey McGlamery, HCPD)(Exhibit 14)

Bruce Holmes, District V Commissioner remarked that the former Fire Chief Phillips was forced to resign and asked why he was forced to resign. **Ms. Hobson-Matthews** asked that this be addressed in Executive Session and not in Public Session; Chair so ordered.

Commissioner Holmes then had another question pertaining to the emergency purchase of vehicles and why this was not bid out; he then asked where Brannan Motor Company is located. **Ms. Hobson-Matthews** stated that there is a special chip that was not available when the new officers were hired. This was therefore treated as an emergency and checking surrounding counties and states, Brannan Motor Company is located in Unadilla, GA where they had everything required for the pursuit vehicles.

Johnny Wilson, District I Commissioner made a motion to move the MoU Resolution for the Boys and Girls Club to regular agenda; **Chair Harrell** declined any movement of Consent Agenda items to Regular Agenda.

Commissioner Clemmons asked about the timeframe of getting the pursuit vehicles to the officers; **Ms. Hobson-Matthews** responded that the vehicles were picked up by the county staff and are ready to be outfitted. The District II Commissioner then asked what the details are on the older vehicles to be retired from Fleet Maintenance and to purge and update the list. Ms. Hobson-Matthews explained that some of the older vehicles are needed until the newer vehicles can be completely outfitted and distributed and hopefully the older vehicles will be declared surplus. This is happening with pursuit vehicles and with all vehicles - car lots are practically empty.

Chair Harrell referred to the County Attorney about questions regarding the MoU. **Commissioner Wilson** asked that the updated Resolution be read into the record and he had a couple of questions to ask afterward.

Patrick Jaugstetter, County Attorney outlined the pertinent provisions that outline the business terms of the Resolution regarding the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the Boys and Girls Club. In part, he stated that paragraph 4 (a) provides that the County will pay the sum of \$300,000 to the Boys and Girls Club of Metro Atlanta on or before the 30th day after receipt of a refund of the funds previously paid to the Boys and Girls Club of Central Georgia. The next payment of \$150,000 will be due on or before August 1, 2022, for a total payment of \$450,000 to the Boys and Girls Club of Metro Atlanta. In exchange for that payment, outlined under paragraph 2 of this agreement, the Boys and Girls Club of Metro Atlanta is required to commence operations of their programming on or before August 31, 2021 and they are to provide services for a period of two (2) years which would end on August 31, 2023. The agreement would provide that should the Boys and Girls Club fail to open their facility and commence to providing services within ninety (90) days of the date of this agreement, they are required to refund all monies to the county, due within thirty (30) days of the County's demand for refund. A request as added that allows amendments to be presented and approved by the County Manager.

Commissioner Wilson asked if they were to originally pay \$150,000 and then \$300,000 when they opened their doors; **Mr. Jaugstetter** explained that was an annual payment of \$150,000. The 2019 payment was paid and then they were required to open their doors to get the other \$300,000. **Chair Harrell** clarified that the original agreement is with Central Georgia and that this is a new agreement with Metro Atlanta with different terms. Mr. Jaugstetter further explained that this would have to be signed by Boys and Girls Club as well; the 90-day period will start when both parties have executed the agreement.

Commissioner Holmes asked if it is common for nearly \$300,000 worth of vehicles to be picked up before a resolution passes; **Ms. Hobson-Matthews** explained that it is because this was an emergency it was easier for the county to pick them up as the dealer knew there was a commitment to purchase those vehicle for Public Safety needs and that right now, these cars are very hard to get.

Commissioner Clemmons asked if the vehicles are for one, or both, the Police Department and Sheriff's Department; **Ms. Hobson-Matthews** responded that there are 8 vehicles all for the Police Department.

Commissioner Clemmons made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda; **Commissioner Thomas** seconded the motion. The motion carried (6-0-0).

REGULAR AGENDA

PLANNING & ZONING

Public Hearing

Resolution to transmit the State required Capital Improvement Element annual update and impact fee report to the Atlanta Regional Commission for evaluation by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (Exhibit 15)

Stacey Jordan-Rudeseal, Chief Planner presented the Resolution to the Board along with some remarks. The state requires two (2) months to review this and this would need to be adopted in October. He added that it covers the previous fiscal year and goes in with the Water Authority. The Water Authority provides its Impact Fee Report and Short-Term Work Program.

Chair Harrell called for anyone wishing to come forward to make comments, state their name and three (3) minutes was given to speak. No one came forward.

Commissioner Thomas made a motion to approve; **Commissioner Clemmons** seconded the motion. The motion carried (6-0-0)

(Resolution 21-253)

Public Hearing

Resolution transmitting an update of the Capital Improvement Element, Community Work Program to the Atlanta Regional Commission for review by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (Exhibit 16)

Bill Ross, Ross Associates, presented the Resolution for the Board, explaining that the Capital Improvements element is the major step to revise the impact fee program. He noted that there is a 60-day review period and should be ready for adoption in early October, as well as the annual report. The amendments to the impact fee ordinance should be completed as well as what impact fees will be adopted and made part of the ordinance.

Chair Harrell called for anyone wishing to make comments to come forward, state their name and three (3) minutes are given to speak. No one came forward.

Commissioner Thomas made a motion to approve; **Commissioner Clemmons** seconded the motion. The motion carried (6-0-0).

(Resolution 21-254)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Greg Cannon, District III Commissioner made a motion to approve the Minutes from *May 18, 2021*; **Commissioner Thomas** seconded the motion. The motion carried (6-0-0).

Commissioner Thomas made a motion to approve the Minutes from *June 2, 2021*; **Commissioner Cannon** seconded the motion.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

- A. Tuesday, August 17, 2021 at 6:30 p.m., Regular BOC Meeting
- B. Wednesday, September 8, 2021 at 9:00 a.m., Regular BOC Meeting

August 3, 2021

Page 10 of 10

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business at this time, **Chair Harrell** adjourned the meeting. ***Meeting adjourned at 10:29 a.m.***

Carlotta Harrell, Chair

Stephanie Braun, County Clerk