

PRESS RELEASE

The Board of Commissioners has approved a Settlement Agreement and Purchase Contract which will terminate the litigation surrounding the attempt to site a solid waste landfill in Haralson County. After the County prevailed in the Georgia Supreme Court in its appeal of the Superior Court Order invalidating the County's zoning map, the parties engaged in settlement discussions which led to the agreements.

Haralson County has agreed to purchase approximately 2000 acres of land which had been acquired by Solid Solutions for use as the landfill site as well as an associated industrial park. Additionally, the County will be acquiring several options obtained by Solid Solutions for additional land adjacent to the existing holdings. Along with the acquisition of land, the County will receive the benefit of all testing and reports received by Solid Solutions related to the land. It is believed that these reports will assist the County in making decisions on future development or sale of the land. The total price for the acquisition is 6.5 million dollars which will be paid from various County accounts including SPLOST funds and the General Fund.

As a part of the settlement, Solid Solutions will dismiss with prejudice all litigation still pending in either the Superior Court or the Supreme Court. Further, Solid Solutions, along with their officers and director will agree not to ever pursue the opening of a solid waste landfill in Haralson County. These agreements will bring Solid Solutions' five-year effort to establish a solid waste landfill in Haralson County to a conclusion.

Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, Ronnie Ridley, stated "I am glad that we were able to successfully bring this matter to a conclusion once and for all. While we were confident of our legal position in the litigation, the lawsuit could have stretched out for years while the County would have been in limbo over the status of the landfill. By purchasing the land where the landfill was to be sited, the Commissioners have not only brought an end to the fight, but we have also acquired a valuable asset which can be used for important development within the County or sell to recoup a portion of the acquisition price. We are fully confident that this was an excellent deal for the people of Haralson County."

The Board is very grateful to the thousands of Haralson County citizens who spoke up, attended public meetings and financially supported the efforts to have full and fair hearing on whether the landfill should have been constructed in Haralson County. That public participation played a great role in the ultimate outcome of this matter. That community involvement made all the difference in how this dispute played out.