

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
MARCH 28, 2010

PRESENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Doug Siquefield, Commissioner Jackie Battles, Commissioner Phillip L. Forrester, Gary Sherrer, County Attorney, Mark Pool, County Engineer, and William J. Dempsey, Chief Administrative Officer

ABSENT: None

Chairman Mark Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, established that a quorum was present, and welcomed everyone. The chairman pointed out that the pastor who was scheduled to give the invocation apparently received a call and was unable to attend, and he had asked Mr. Dennis Poole, Operations Manager, Care Ambulance, to stand in for him and give the invocation. Commissioner Battles led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the Minutes of the last meeting. Commissioner Siquefield seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

Announcements and Public Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver reported this coming week in Downtown Dothan would be City Fest. He stated there would be a lot of activity with exhibitors, and a lot of fun with bike races for all ages going on all weekend. The chairman pointed out at 4:00 P.M. on Saturday there would be a Celebrity Race, and he encouraged everyone to come out and enjoy the weekend. He reported to kick off City Fest, on Thursday, March 31st, "A Night at the Grand", a fundraiser for the Wiregrass Habitat for Humanity, would be held. The chairman reported the tickets are \$35.00 each and can be obtained at the Chamber of Commerce, and the event should be a lot of fun.

Chairman Culver reported on April 9th, the 21st Annual "Spirit of Service Day" would be held, and he encouraged anyone with a project or someone who was interested in working on a project already scheduled to contact Linda Kelley, at the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce, 334-792-5138.

He stated on April 8th and 9th, the Tri-State Bar-B-Que Festival would be held at the Houston County Farm Center. Chairman Culver pointed out an open air concert would kick the event off on April 8th. The chairman reported there was an admission charge of \$5.00 in advance or \$7.00 at the gate for the Bar-B-Que Festival on the 9th. Mr. Culver stated this event has grown each year and is putting Houston County on the map in the Bar-B-Que cooking contest. He thanked Mrs. Kerry Farrell for her hard work.

Chairman Culver congratulated Mr. Brad Burgess of the Road and Bridge Department on his election last week as the Employee representative on the Personnel Board. He reported every six years there is an election of all the classified employees. The chairman reported he looked forward to working with Brad, and was glad to have him on board.

Regular Agenda

1. Request to approve Agreement with Choctawhatchee, Pea and Yellow Rivers Watershed Management Authority for the funding of the Dewberry Road Ditch Stabilization Project.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the Agreement with the Choctawhatchee, Pea and Yellow River Watershed Management Authority for the funding of the Dewberry Road Ditch Stabilization Project. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this is a drainage correction project. Mr. Pool reported this is a 50/50 match and the county would receive approximately \$21,000.00 from the authority. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Request to adopt Resolution to resurface Woodham Road from Harrison Road to Headland Avenue, MPO Funds, 80/20. (Project #HCP35-359-11)

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to adopt the Resolution to resurface Woodham Road from Harrison Road to Headland Avenue with matching 80/20 MPO funds. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported as mentioned Thursday, Woodham Road has been on the list for a while but is part of an agreement the county has with the city. He reported the county did some work for them and they have taken over some of the roads the county formerly maintained in the City of Dothan. The chairman pointed out the agreement on this road was that once the county resurfaced it, the city would take over the maintenance of it. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

3. Request to approve the preliminary plat for "The Legends" Subdivision.

Commissioner Forrester made a motion to approve the preliminary plat for "The Legends" Subdivision. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported representatives from the project were in the audience if anyone had any questions. He stated this is either the first or second subdivision that is being developed with the new agreement with the city. The chairman stated two or three years ago a long discussion was held with the city about subdivisions. He reported the county finally got them to agree that a procedure be established whereby if a subdivision is being developed within the city limits of Dothan, the developer should go to the city, and if a subdivision is being developed outside the city limits of Dothan, the developer should go to the county. Chairman Culver pointed out part of the agreement stated if any subdivisions in their planning area are outside the city limits, the county would go to them and get their comments. He reported the developer would then be asked to adhere to those comments. The chairman stated that is what happened on this subdivision. The city had two pages of comments that everyone agreed to and they also have to meet the county's subdivision regulations. Chairman Culver stated the agreement does work and he felt it makes it easier for the developer. He reported the preliminary plat would be approved, the work would be done, and a final plat would come back before the commission for approval before the property could be sold. It was pointed out the developer would have maintenance for two years. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Request from Historic Chattahoochee Commission for Houston County to install a new post for the Bob Jones Boyhood Home historical marker on U.S. Highway #84 West.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the request from the Historic Chattahoochee Commission for Houston County to install a new post for the Bob Jones Boyhood Home historical marker on U.S. Highway #84 West. Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion. The chairman reported this is a post that commemorates a historical site and the post has been damaged. He stated the Historical Chattahoochee Commission has asked the county to put it back up and they are somewhat providing the post. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Request to approve items to be sold on GovDeals.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the request to approve the items to be sold on GovDeals. Commissioner Siquefield seconded the motion. The chairman called for the question; and it carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

6. Request for 070 - Retail Table Wine (Off Premises Only) License and a 050 - Retail Beer (Off Premises Only) License for DOLGENCROP, LLC d/b/a Dollar General Store 9069, 1865 S. Brannon Stand Road, Suite #4, Dothan, AL 36305 (Houston County)

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the request for a 070 - Retail Table Wine (Off Premises Only) and a 050 - Retail Beer (Off Premises Only) License for DOLGENCROP, LLC d/b/a Dollar General Store 9069, 1865 S. Brannon Stand Road, Suite #4, Dothan, AL located in Houston County.

Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion. The chairman asked if anyone present was in opposition to the request? There being no opposition, the chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

7. Request for 070 – Retail Table Wine (Off Premises Only) License and a 050 - Retail Beer (Off Premises Only) License for Michael Denton d/b/a MIRIS RACEWAY 2, 15809 South U.S. 231, Slocomb, Alabama 36375 (Houston County)

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the request for a 070 – Retail Table Wine (Off Premises Only) License and a 050 – Retail Beer (Off Premises Only) for Michael Denton d/b/a MIRIS RACEWAY 2, 15809 South U. S. 231, Slocomb, AL located in Houston County. Commissioner Siquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver asked if anyone present was in opposition to the request? There being no opposition, the chairman called for question; and it carried unanimously.

Chairman Culver called on Clark Matthews, EMA Director, to give an update on the damages from the severe weather that had occurred on March 27th. Mr. Matthews reported there had been about 30 structures so far with some type of damage from the bad weather. He stated he felt the numbers would be higher because they have not gotten a report. He reported he felt most of the damages were going to be insured. Mr. Matthews reported as it came through Dale County along the northern part of the county a lot of damage occurred when it reached Kinsey, Blackberry Lane, and on Gilley Mill Road. He stated then it jumped over toward Columbia. He reported there were a lot of cars with hail damage.

Mr. Matthews reported in the middle of the storm, a pontoon boat overturned in the river and they called wanting response. He reported the boat turned completely upside down and people were trapped inside a cabin on it and they got out fairly well. He commended the Sheriff's Department and Communications for the terrific job they did with the overwhelming number of calls they received from the eastern and northern part of the county.

Chairman Culver thanked Mr. Matthews for all he did to keep everyone informed, and he stated he thought the communication equipment worked really well. Chairman Culver suggested if any members of the media did not get the notifications, to contact EMA and get on the list.

Commissioner Battles stated Mr. Matthews had given everyone credit. He asked about the incident that took place over the weekend involving the 3 year old boy who followed his dog off into the woods around a pond. Mr. Matthews reported they went to the scene and offered assistance. He stated it was successful and they found the boy. He stated the Homeland Security money was well spent in helping to locate the boy with the ground crews and a helicopter.

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer – there was no report

County Engineer

Mr. Pool reported on March 27th, the county crews were out cutting trees due to damages from the storm. He stated the rescue squads were out on the state roads cutting trees. Mr. Pool reported he did not know where the state employees were. It was pointed out they have had cutbacks. He stated the crews have had some good weather and a lot of their projects were going well. Mr. Pool reported the weather has changed. He stated they are monitoring the fuel very closely. He reported Chattahoochee Park is having record crowds. Mr. Pool stated everything was going well.

County Attorney – there was no report

Chairman Culver encouraged people to remember that Chattahoochee Park and Omussee Park are good places to get away and they are located in Houston County.

Commissioner Battles reported this time of year there is a lot of debris placed on the roadside. He asked if there is a way to notify the people about the pick-ups. Chairman Culver reported the storm that occurred on March 27th, would qualify for the storm policy if there are damaged limbs and trees that need to be placed by the road. He stated the county would waive the fee for storm damage. He pointed out the debris that has been at the road for three or four weeks would not qualify. Mr. Pool asked when the pick-up would begin and end? The chairman reported it began on March 27th and would be for two weeks. Mr. Pool stated the limbs needed to be cut into four foot sections. It was pointed out that grass clippings and leaves did not qualify for the storm policy. Mr. Pool reported Houston County is one of the only counties he is aware of that has that kind of service, and they had to develop rules. He stated in these times of low budgets people have to understand. Chairman Culver

reported in these times of low budget and cutbacks from the State, these are the services that are looked at that might have to be cut.

Commissioner Siquefield reported the Relay for Life Team was working and they have started their meetings. He stated he would be bringing up some of the dates for their fundraisers.

Adjourn

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Siquefield seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.