

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
MAY 27, 2014

PRESENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Doug Siquefield, Commissioner Jackie Battles, Commissioner Melinda S. McClendon, Gary Sherrer, County Attorney, Barkley Kirkland, Nancy Bristow, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

ABSENT: William J. Dempsey

Chairman Mark S. Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, declared a quorum present, and welcomed everyone. The invocation was given by Rev. Percy Garrett, Pastor, Green Valley Community Church. Commissioner Jackie Battles led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Commissioner McClendon seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously.

Announcements and Public Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver stated he wanted to wish everyone a belated Memorial Day. He reported a lot of Memorial Day Services were held around the area yesterday. He stated Sunset Memorial Park hosted their annual ceremony. The chairman reported that Commissioner Siquefield was in attendance, and he called on him for comments. Commissioner Siquefield reported Commissioner McClendon was also in attendance and they were inspired by the many people who took time to come and pay tribute to those who gave so many sacrifices to give us the freedoms citizens enjoy daily, and to see the families that were there supporting those families who had lost loved ones as well as all of the World War II veterans who were there. He pointed out they honored the veterans of the Korean War. He thanked Robert Byrd and the staff at Sunset Memorial for putting it together.

Chairman Culver reported the Primary Election is Tuesday, June 3rd. He stated depending on which ballot you choose, there are many uncontested races across the State as well as Houston County, and there is concern that it will impact the election. He encouraged and implored everyone to go and exercise their right to vote. Chairman Culver reported if someone is not going to be in town to vote on Tuesday, the last day for absentee ballots to be turned in is May 29th. He pointed out Tuesday is the Primary Election, and in Houston County the voters have to declare whether they want a Democratic or a Republican ballot, and vote in the Primary. The chairman reported the General Election will be held in November, and everyone will be on the ballot.

The chairman reported May 30th is Graduation Day for the Houston County Schools. He stated each commissioner has been invited to attend, and received a schedule showing the different times. He asked the commissioners to check and make plans to attend. He reported Dothan High School and Northview High School's Graduation Ceremonies would be on Saturday, May 31st. Chairman Culver reported children will get out of school the end of the week, and he urged everyone to be cautious with the children out playing, and to be safe.

The chairman recognized Henry County Probate Judge and County Commission Chairman, David Money. He stated it is always a pleasure to have him. Chairman Culver stated he wanted to publicly tell him what an outstanding job he is doing in Henry County. He thanked him for his partnership with Houston County and the City of Dothan in the many things they have going on.

Awards and Presentations

1. Presentation – John F. Courson 2014 ACEA Excellence in County Engineering Award – Chris Champion, Past President, and Awards Chairman, Association of County Engineers of Alabama

Chairman Culver reported the commission wanted to recognize some employees who have gone above and beyond the call of duty, and have been recognized at the state level for doing such. He called on Barkley Kirkland, County Engineer, to come forward. He also asked Mr. Chris Champion, Henry County Engineer, and also Past President, and Awards Chairman, of the Association of County Engineers of Alabama. He asked Mr. Kirkland to ask his staff to come forward. Mr. Champion reported a couple of weeks ago, at the Association of County Engineers of Alabama's Annual meeting, the John F. Courson 2014 ACEA Excellence in County Engineering Award was presented to Houston County Road and Bridge Department for their innovative work for replacing bearing pads on pre-cast bridges. Mr. Champion reported one of the ways they accomplished this work is they came up with a series of flat form air bags to lift bridge decks so that they could make the replacements on deteriorating bearing pads. He stated to accomplish this work, they also designed and built a scaffolding board system that allowed them to anchor the scaffolding to the top of the bridge in order to work over water and traffic and were able to safely perform the work. Mr. Champion reported so far, this work has been completed on 8 of 16 bridges at a cost of \$80,000. He pointed out to have a contractor do the work, the cost would have been \$500,000. Mr. Champion reported for their innovative work and stewardship with the county's funds, he stated it was his pleasure to present the award to the Houston County Engineering Department, Houston County Road and Bridge Department, and County Engineer, Barkley Kirkland. They received a round of applause. Mr. Kirkland reported it was not his award, it was the Road and Bridge Department's award. He then introduced his staff: Rodney Crooms, Foreman, Don McClorkle, Ashley Clements, Operations Manager, and Jim Jordan, who is over county bridges. He reported after the concept of the bearing pads came up and they decided to do it, they handed it off to Mr. Crooms and Mr. McCorkle. He stated Mr. Clements is responsible for getting the manpower and equipment to work on these projects, and Mr. Jordan is over the county bridges. Mr. Kirkland reported Mr. Jordan found the bridge pads in his inspections and brought it to them and they went out and looked at it and it came up about putting a bag under it. He stated some calls were made and he got his staff members to get together and instead of looking for a reason not to do it, they looked for a reason to do it, and they should be commended. They received a round of applause. Chairman Culver thanked the employees, and stated it makes the commission proud when they know the staff they have goes beyond the norm. He reported the commission does not get enough opportunities to tell them. The chairman reported Kelly Crowell is not in attendance, but he wanted her to know how much they appreciate her help in pursuing this and the work she did in allowing the commission to recognize them. Chairman Culver thanked them for their work and asked them to keep it up.

The chairman stated he had wanted Ms. Crowell to come and make comments regarding the Sanitation Department's recent milestone. He asked them to recall that the Road and Bridge Department was recognized several months ago for their record on the number of days they went without an accident. He reported in the last couple of weeks, the Sanitation Department has done the same thing, and he recognized them and Mr. Kirkland for his leadership. He stated he wished Ms. Crowell was present and the commission could thank her for the things she has put in place. He asked Mr. Kirkland to please comment. The engineer asked Michael Williams and James Smith to come forward. Mr. Kirkland reported Mr. Williams is the Sanitation Supervisor, and Mr. Smith is his assistant. He stated they had worked hard to try to change the culture with safety meetings in the Sanitation Department stressing the employees to be safe. He reported the number of days is 187 and they beat it the other day with 188 days. He stated they are currently at 201 days and he pointed out this is from a group of men who average 400-500 jumps on and off the truck a day in all kinds of weather. Mr. Kirkland reported in the nine years he has been with the county they have not picked up garbage but twice due to ice. He stated as far as they know, this has been the longest period of time they have been without a medical case. He stated if he was not mistaken, the accidents that occur on the back of the sanitation trucks account for 60-70 percent of the claims for the county. He stated this is really a milestone for the Sanitation Department, and he commended them. They received a round of applause. Chairman Culver reported these men and their staff needed to be recognized, but without Mr. Kirkland's leadership and without Ms. Crowell's innovation and the things she has done in implementing the safety program it would not be possible. He stated the commission appreciates everything they do, and he told them to keep up the good work. The chairman reported the county is getting ready to go to an automated garbage system, and if they can keep their safety record going until the automated system begins, they may go a long time. He thanked them and they received a round of applause.

Chairman Culver reported under Announcements and Public Comments he forgot to thank Commissioner Harvey for chairing the Administrative Meeting on Thursday. He stated he was out of town with a delegation that went to congratulate one of the companies they have made contact with and friends with, and some of them have been in town over the weekend. Chairman Culver reported they continue to strive to bring opportunities to our area for our citizens. He stated that all of the group thought it was important for them to be there, and hopefully it will pay off in the long run.

Regular Agenda

1. Request to approve temporary contract with Waste Away Group for disposal of solid waste.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the temporary contract with Waste Away Group for disposal of solid waste. Commissioner McClendon seconded the motion. Chairman Culver stated he was sure this was discussed on Thursday. He asked if there were any questions or comments? He reported this is being required due to the City of Dothan expanding their landfill. He pointed out the county takes their garbage to the landfill, and they have been working with the City of Dothan. He stated it will be closed for a couple of years and obviously, the county has to have somewhere to take the garbage. The chairman reported bids were taken and Waste Away Group was low bidder. He

reported it will cost the county a little money. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Request to purchase four (4) new copy machines from the Alabama State Bid List.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the purchase of four (4) new copy machines from the Alabama State Bid List. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported these were budgeted to be leased, but they feel it will be better to purchase them. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Request to reject and rebid the floor covering for Houston County Administrative Building and the Personnel Building.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to reject and rebid the floor covering for Houston County Administrative Building and the Personnel Building. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported they were determining the time frame on this. He pointed out they hope to award the bid at the next meeting, but if there is a day or two outside, they might ask that the next regular meeting be recessed and reconvened a couple of days later because they do not want to push it off for six weeks. He reported time is of the essence, and they need to get it going and get back in the building. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Request to enter into an Agreement with ALDOT to resurface (CR-15) South Park Avenue from Malvern Road to National Road, approximately 3.98 miles.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the request to enter into an Agreement with ALDOT to resurface (CR-15) South Park Avenue from Malvern Road to National Road, approximately 3.98 miles. Commissioner McClendon seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this and the next two items are ATRIP projects. He stated these are the last of the ATRIP projects. The chairman reported the county was looking forward to getting some more at some point in the future, but right now this is the last of them. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

5. Request to enter into an Agreement with ALDOT to resurface (CR-44) Glen Lawrence Road from Jordan Avenue to Brackin Road, approximately 4.65 miles.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the request to enter into an Agreement with ALDOT to resurface (CR-44) Glen Lawrence Road from Jordan Avenue to Brackin Road, approximately 4.65 miles. Commissioner McClendon seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

6. Request to enter into an Agreement with ALDOT to resurface Webb Road from Ross Clark Circle to the Webb Town Limits, approximately 2.78 miles.

Commissioner McClendon made a motion to approve the request to enter into an Agreement with ALDOT to resurface Webb Road from Ross Clark Circle to the Webb Town Limits, approximately 2.78

miles. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

7. Request to approve overtime budget by \$50,000 due to the recent flood damage in order to work on Fridays and Saturdays.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the overtime budget by \$50,000 due to the recent flood damage in order to work on Fridays and Saturdays. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported the county will be receiving some funds because of the damage, and because of all the rain they have gotten behind on a road resurfacing, a project in Webb and a project in Kinsey, and they want to try to get to those. He stated this is not all the money the county will be getting but it is money they did not have budgeted. Commissioner Sinquefield asked Engineer Kirkland if the county had reached the threshold on getting the FEMA funds? Mr. Kirkland reported they met with FEMA on Friday and they went out and looked at projects, and he stated if they approve all of the sites, then the county should hit that threshold. He stated they have not heard back from them. Mr. Kirkland reported the FHWA funds are for two sites, and they have signed off on those. Chairman Culver reported the money from FHWA is a little over \$100,000 and the county knows it will receive that amount, and that is where the \$50,000 is coming from. Mr. Kirkland reported there are 9 roads closed, and there is plenty to do with the FEMA declaration if it comes through. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer – Acting Chief Administrative Officer, Nancy Bristow, had no report. Chairman Culver reported Mr. Dempsey is out of town on vacation, and getting ready to start the budget.

County Engineer –

Mr. Kirkland reported 9 roads are closed, and they hope to hear something from FEMA on the threshold as previously discussed. He reported on the ATRIP projects, they are paving on County Road #22, and trying to get some of the pipes laid. He stated if it will stay dry, they will be able to go to work. Commissioner Battles asked if the 9 roads that are closed are due to flood damage? Mr. Kirkland reported 3 roads, Lanier, Indigo Pond Road, and Long Road stay under water. He stated 5 of the others are FEMA and 1 is FWHA. He stated even though they have some more pipes to lay for ATRIP, they are not doing any right now. He stated they are trying to get on the damaged ones immediately. Commissioner Sinquefield reported they are getting some calls about these roads and some have to be closed for an extended amount of time. He asked Engineer Kirkland to share why they are that way? Mr. Kirkland reported on the flood damaged roads there could be extensive damage that a truck could fall in if it traveled on it. He stated when they find them and they are a safety hazard they go dig them out, and cave them in where they cannot be crossed, and place the barricades. He said as soon as the pipes come in they will start replacing them. Mr. Kirkland reported it takes time to get the pipes ordered and for them to come in. He pointed out some of the pipes were in stock and those are the roads they

went to first, and he stated essentially, it will come down to which pipes come in first will determine which roads will be fixed.

County Attorney – there was no report

Adjourn

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