

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 27, 2012

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

ABSENT: Commissioner Philip L. Forrester

Chairman Mark S. Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, established that a quorum was present, and welcomed everyone. Rev. Harold McKissic, Pastor, Patterson Street Free Will Baptist Church, gave the invocation. Chairman Culver led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Announcements and Public Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver reported on Saturday, February 25th, the Pageant was held for the Houston County Queens. He then announced the new queens as follows: Ms. Houston County – Whitney DeVane, a Senior at Providence Christian School, and the daughter of Stan and Deborah DeVane. Little Ms. Houston County – Claudia Aplin, who attends Ashford Elementary, Future Little Ms. Houston County – Mallory Webb, who attends pre-school at Rehobeth, Young Jr. Ms. Houston County – Jesyka Torres, who also attends Rehobeth, Jr. Ms. Houston County – Avery Griffith, who attends Carver Magnet School, and Teen Ms. Houston County – Laura McKenny, who attends Providence Christian School. Chairman Culver extended congratulations to all of the queens on behalf of the Commission. He stated Mrs. Lisa Peter would be in contact with Ms. McGhee regarding the queens attending a commission meeting. The chairman commended the people who were in charge of the pageant.

Chairman Culver reported several years ago, the county had a litter program that utilized the inmates going out and picking up litter on the roads. He reported because of various things, the program ended and the county has not had any litter pick-up. Chairman Culver reported there have been so many complaints from the citizens that the county started looking into doing something relative to that. He reported the commission worked with Gary Sherrer, County Attorney, and Gary Knight, Director, Community Corrections, and they worked out the details to reinstate the litter program. The chairman pointed out they have been picking up litter for three weeks on Fridays, and it has been successful thus far. He thanked Mr. Knight and his program for working with the commission and everyone else involved in the endeavor. Chairman Culver reported there is a lot of catching up to do, and he hoped the citizens would notice the difference out on the roads. He pointed out the program is a joint effort with the Road and Bridge Department coordinating and operating and the Jail supplying the meals for them. Chairman Culver reported Commissioner Sinquefield had worked hard on this project, and Commissioner Battles had received a lot of calls about litter which prompted it.

Commissioner Siquefield reiterated the Chairman's comments about Gary Knight and the Community Corrections Department, Road and Bridge, and the Jail to make this happen, and he thanked them for their efforts.

Commissioner Battles also thanked everyone involved.

Commissioner Siquefield reported the Wounded Warriors Project of America would be having a Pancake Supper on March 3rd, from 6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M. at Shanda's Restaurant in Cowarts. He pointed out this would be in honor of Jason Barfield, who lost his life back in the fall.

Regular Agenda

1. Request to adopt Resolution amending the Certificate of Incorporation of the Cooperative District of Southeast Alabama.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to adopt the Resolution amending the Certificate of Incorporation of the Cooperative District of Southeast Alabama. Commissioner Siquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported the amendment would be the distance for the development of the Medical College from 1 to 3 miles. He reported Mr. Sherrer was present if anyone had any questions. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

2. Request to set Annual County Levies for Alcohol Licensing.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the request to set the Annual County Levies for Alcohol Licensing at the same rates as last year with no changes. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. The chairman called for the question; and it carried unanimously. (Please see in Minute Book)

3. Request to reject bids on vehicle for the Commission and to purchase it off the State Bid list.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to reject the bids on the vehicle for the Commission and to purchase it off the State Bid list, and to transfer the 2000 Ford Expedition, currently used by the Commission to Community Corrections. Commissioner Siquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported bids were taken but due to specs and other factors, they determined this would be the best route to go. The chairman called for the question; and it carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

4. Request from EMA to authorize Clark Matthews to sign and accept agreement letters pertaining to the Grant Agreement in the amount of \$6,000 for Hurricane Workshop at Troy University – Dothan Campus – Clark Matthews, EMA Director.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request from EMA authorizing Clark Matthews, Director, to sign and accept agreement letters pertaining to the Grant Agreement in the amount of \$6,000 for the Hurricane Workshop at Troy University – Dothan Campus. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. The chairman reported that Mr. Matthews had stated on Thursday that this

workshop had become very popular, and he stated he appreciated Mr. Matthews' efforts to coordinate this event. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Request from EMA to approve the repair of equipment in the Emergency Operations Center in the amount of \$11,214.10 – Clark Matthews – EMA Director. (Funding received from Farley and posted in the Revenue Account)

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve EMA's request to repair the equipment in the Emergency Operations Center in the amount of \$11,214.10. Commissioner Siquefield seconded the motion. The chairman reported this would be a flow through with the funding being received from Farley, and already posted in the Revenue Account. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

6. Request to approve the repair of the siren system and the appropriate budget amendment not to exceed \$2,500.00 – Clark Matthews, EMA Director

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve EMA's request to repair the siren system and the appropriate budget amendment not to exceed \$2,500.00. Commissioner Siquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this request is to repair an antenna that helps the sirens, and they are not sure of the cost. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached budget amendment)

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer

Mr. Dempsey reported the county's website was compromised last week and they have had it down for a few days testing and they have added additional security. He stated they expect it to be back up February 28th.

County Engineer

Mr. Pool reported on February 24th at the Highway Department's Annual Conference in Auburn, the Highway Director and Governor Bentley announced the Hugh Garvee Bond Program, which is between \$600 million and \$1 billion. He stated the last Garvee Bond Program was in 2001, and was for \$270 million over 5 years. Mr. Pool pointed out the program that was announced on Friday would be over 3 years with an 80/20 match. He reported the plans and applications for the first round have to be turned in by March 30, 2012. Mr. Pool reported the deadline for the second round for Phase 2 would be October 5, 2012, and the third round will be March 29, 2013. He reported there is no allocation to any county; it is strictly competitive. Mr. Pool reported he had a list of projects that the commission needed to approve the Resolutions on. He stated these are not necessarily projects that the county is going to do, but projects they do not have in the mill. Mr. Pool reported he needed a few days to work up a plan and he would like to have a work session with the commission. He stated when the commission looks at the projects, some of the commissioners may say that is not their road. He reported their road may already be in the works and they already have a resolution on it and plans for it. Chairman Culver stated

what matters is that they are all Houston County roads. Mr. Pool stated each commissioner had a letter and map describing the project, and it is strictly for the on-system roads. Chairman Culver asked Mr. Pool if he was going to read out each road? Mr. Pool stated yes. The chairman commended the Governor for taking a look at the needs of the state from a road and bridge perspective. He reported the state does not have enough money and counties and cities certainly do not have enough money to maintain the roads we have. Chairman Culver reported this program has some good foresight in it and it is a significant amount of money. He stated from Houston County's perspective, we want to be sure that there are programs, projects, and plans ready to submit in order to meet the deadlines. Chairman Culver reported usually, the commission gets to approve these type projects a couple of different times. The chairman reported when Mr. Pool brought this to his attention, he asked him to bring this up today. He reminded everyone it takes unanimous consent to put this item on the agenda; but this will allow more projects to be placed in the hopper in an effort to get them funded. The chairman reported if 20% is an issue, they will get it figured out. He stated although these projects may or may not get done, the county wants to make sure they have enough projects that could be submitted to insure the county gets as much as it can afford and that they will give the county. The chairman reported in the past, there has been a formula and each county got so much, but this is different. He pointed out it is based on several criteria—economic development impact, safety, etc., and it will be competitive. Chairman Culver reported the commission is taking this somewhat unusual step in order to get ahead of the curve by asking the commission to approve an item that was not on the agenda as long as there is unanimous consent to do it. He then asked the commission if they were okay with going ahead on this request? There were no objections. Commissioner Battles stated the county was going to be pro-active, and when the state gives the okay Houston County will be ready to go. Chairman Culver stated that was correct. Mr. Pool reported that this is a great program that will save people's lives, and it will get the economy going in our state.

Mr. Pool then read the list of the following projects:

Item #1. Guardrail Project – Taylor Road at Limestone Creek, Bethel Road at Long Branch, Bill Yance Road at Thomas Creek, Bill Yance Road at Beaver Creek, Bill Yance Road at Smith Branch, and Bill Yance Road at Yance Branch. Mr. Pool reported this is a countywide project. Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve; seconded by Commissioner Sinquefield. Chairman Culver called for the question; and it carried unanimously.

Item #2. Resurfacing County Road #9, approximately 4.816 miles running from Geneva County to Dale County. Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve; seconded by Commissioner Sinquefield. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

Item #3. Resurfacing Malvern Road, approximately 2.2 miles, from Geneva County to County Road 203. Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve; seconded by Commissioner Harvey. Chairman Culver called for the question; and it carried unanimously.

Item #4. Resurfacing Saunders Road and Forrester Road, east to west, 6.5 miles. Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded; and it carried unanimously.

Item #5. Resurfacing Glen Lawrence Road from Brackin Road to County Road 55 North, approximately 1 mile. Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve; seconded by Commissioner Sinquefield. Chairman Culver called for the question; and it carried unanimously.

Item #6. Resurfacing County Road #81 from Alabama Highway #53 to County Road #75, approximately 3.4 miles. Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve; seconded by Commissioner Battles. The chairman called for the question and the motion carried unanimously.

Item #7. Resurfacing Smithville Road and County Road #33 running from Highway #231 South to U. S. Highway #84 East, approximately 12.25 miles. Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously.

Item #8. Resurfacing Omussee Road from Webb Road to Kinsey Road, approximately 1.75 miles. Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve; seconded by Commissioner Sinquefield. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

Item #9. Resurfacing Jordon Avenue from pavement change at McEachin Road to Ruth Circle, approximately 1.1 mile. Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve; seconded by Commissioner Sinquefield. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

Item #10. Resurfacing Stateline Road from U. S. Highway #231 South to Sealy Wells Road, approximately 7.4 miles. Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve; seconded by Commissioner Sinquefield. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

Item #11. Resurfacing Fortner Street from pavement change at the east bridge approach at Bear Creek to Cumbie Road, approximately 2.1 miles. Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve; seconded by Commissioner Sinquefield. Chairman Culver called for the question; and it carried unanimously.

Item #12. – Resurfacing County Road #22 from Gilley Mill Road to Alabama Highway #52, approximately 7.89 miles. Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve; seconded by Commissioner Harvey. The chairman called for the question; the motion carried unanimously.

Item #13. Resurfacing Nuclear Plant Road from County Road #33 to Alabama Highway #95, approximately 3.6 miles. Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve; seconded by Commissioner Battles. The chairman called for the question; and it carried unanimously.

Item #14. Resurfacing N. Broad Street in Cowarts from Alabama Highway #84 E to Omussee Road, approximately 1.1 miles. Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve; seconded by Commissioner Harvey. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Culver reported these 14 projects will be added to what the county currently has and try to figure out which ones that they need to do. Mr. Pool reported the commission needed to have a couple of work sessions. The chairman stated these work sessions needed to be held soon.

Mr. Pool reported the county started a Permitting Program on September 24, 2009. He pointed out it has become apparent that a lot of people are not coming and obtaining their permits. He reported the fine is \$500 plus the person has to purchase a permit. Mr. Pool stated he would like to propose an Amnesty period for the next 15 days to allow someone who has not obtained their permit since the Permitting Program began to get their permit. Mr. Pool reported the county knows who they are because they either have a septic tank, E-911 address, appraisal on their house, and utility connections. Chairman Culver suggested the people be sent a letter stating that the county will give them 15 days to be in compliance on their permit. Mr. Pool stated they are dodging phone calls, but they would send them a certified letter. Commissioner Battles stated clarification was needed in order for the citizens to know if a permit was needed. Mr. Pool reported it was on the county's webpage. Mr. Pool reported before building a structure that is greater than 500 square feet, a remodel or addition that is greater than 50% of the value of your home, a person must obtain a permit. It applies in the unincorporated areas of Houston County. Mr. Pool reported there is no charge for house trailers or travel trailers. He stated it applies to homes or some sort of building. It was also pointed out a permit is not needed for a barn.

County Attorney – there was no report

Commissioner Sinquefield asked on the resurfacing projects that were just approved to apply for state funding, if any of the money would be available for dirt roads? Mr. Pool reported it was only for the on-system roads.

Chairman Culver reported he would like to take a moment to let the citizens of the county know that the commission takes a lot of pride in the way the meetings are run. He personally apologized for the way the Administrative meeting on Thursday was run. The chairman stated the commission would do all they could to make sure those kind of things do not happen. He had a copy of the County's Rules of Procedure, and he stated he had spoken with the county attorney and to validate what was said on Thursday he asked the commission to re-authorize the Rules of Procedure if the commission was comfortable doing that. He reported it would take a unanimous vote to act on it. He stated if the commission felt comfortable, he would like a motion made that the commission continue to operate by the Rules of Procedure that he had submitted to them. Commissioner Harvey made a motion that the commission continue to operate by the Rules of Procedure as submitted. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously.

Chairman Culver recognized Mrs. Molly Meadows, Chair of the Board of Registrars, who introduced Judge Roy Moore. Judge Moore thanked the commission for the work they do. He stated Mrs. Meadows had been with the Board of Registrars for 25 years, and he appreciated her service. Chairman Culver stated Houston County was very honored and blessed to have Mrs. Meadows to serve in the capacity she does. Chairman Culver reported it was a pleasure to have former Chief Justice Moore in attendance.

Adjourn.

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