

MINUTES OF HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
MAY 22, 2006

PRESENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Bobby R. Snellgrove, Commissioner Frances M. Cook, Gary Sherrer, Attorney, Mark Pool, Engineer, and Roy Roberts, Administrator

ABSENT: Commissioner Phillip L. Forrester

Chairman Mark Culver called the meeting to order, declared a quorum present and welcomed everyone. Rev. Buddy Hood, Pastor, Pilgrim Home Baptist Church, gave the invocation. Commissioner Snellgrove led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Announcements and Public Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver reminded everyone May 29th is Memorial Day and he encouraged everyone to take time to remember those who have given their all for the many freedoms we have. He encouraged everyone to participate in the ceremony at the VFW at 11:00 A.M. Chairman Culver reported the county will be closed that day.

He pointed out the following Monday, June 5th, is Jefferson Davis' Birthday, and is a state holiday, and the county will also be closed that day. The chairman reported the last time the county had one of the new holidays that the county is closed at the same time the state is closed there were people showing up to conduct business. He requested the media to help notify the public that the county buildings will be closed on June 5th.

The chairman reported June 6th is the Primary and anyone who has to take care of any election matters through the Probate Office or Board of Registrars Office needs to take care of them the week before because the county will be closed on June 5th. He encouraged everyone to vote on June 6th in the Primary.

Mr. Pool asked the Chairman to advise everyone that the county will not be picking up garbage on May 29th and June 5th.

Consent Agenda

1. Request to award bid on three (3) laptop computers.
2. Request to award bids for prime, concrete drainage pipe, and inert solid waste disposal.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the consent agenda to award bids on three laptop computers for EMA to Howard Computers, low bidder meeting specs, in the amount of \$1,602.00 each for a total bid of \$4,806.00, to award MC70 Prime to Hunt Refining Co., low bidder meeting specs, in the amount of \$1.9782 per gallon, to award concrete roadway drainage pipe to Hanson Pipe and Products SE, only bidder in the amount of \$108,414.40, and award inert solid waste disposal to Rose Hill Landfill, LLC, low bidder meeting specs, in the amount of \$12.50 per ton. Commissioner Harvey seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

Regular Agenda

1. Request to advise Health Department of Rabies Control plans.

Chairman Culver reported there have been ongoing discussions on this topic for several months and the Health Department came to the commission and requested that the county cover their costs on rabies control. He stated the commission has been looking at other alternatives and he thought that analysis continues but the commission cannot commit funds for next year's budget until it is approved. Chairman Culver stated at this time, he thought the proper thing to do for their employees, if deemed so by the commission, is to advise them it is the commission's intent to continue with them for another fiscal year, and fund them in an appropriate manner. He reported one of the things that has been discussed to help the commission with their costs is to make sure that animals that are picked up in towns and municipalities that the incarceration fee is paid by those towns and municipalities. Chairman Culver reported they would be working with the Health Department on a contract regarding the incarceration fees. He stated the main thing is to give the Health Department an indication that the county wants to extend this another year so that the employees can feel good about their work. Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request to advise the Health Department of the county's rabies control plans to extend it for another fiscal year and fund them in an appropriate manner. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. Mr. Tom Steeley, citizen of Columbia, stated that he would like for the animal control people to realize that some people's animals in the small towns do get out and they need to take notice of the tags on these animals and contact their owners before anything happens to them. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Request to approve budget amendment for Courthouse Bell display.

Chairman Culver reported the commission has been working on this project for several months. He stated this is one the commission has not been able to push because most of the work has been on a voluntary basis. The chairman reported the architect, the contractor, and a lot of the laborers are volunteering their time. He reported some of the work would be done by maintenance and/or road and

bridge. Chairman Culver reported this is the bell that hung in the original courthouse in our county. He stated the bell has been sitting out at Emfinger Steel for many years, and the county has tried various times in the past to get it and Mr. Sam Emfinger has graciously agreed to loan it to the county for display at the courthouse. He stated the design has created some cost because of some of the pre-cast stonework that will be around it that will come from a company outside of Dothan and is not being donated. The chairman reported the cost will be approximately \$17,000 - \$20,000, and the appropriate budget amendment should be made not to exceed \$20,291.00. He pointed out there a contingency included in the amount of \$3,000. Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the budget amendment not to exceed \$20,291.00 for the Courthouse bell display. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Mr. Pool asked who would be in charge of the project? Chairman Culver reported the architect and contractor would be in charge and Sean Curtis would be representing the county. He stated he thought the project could be done without too much involvement from Road and Bridge. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

3. Request from SARCOA to adopt Resolution placing shelter in Hazard Mitigation Plan – Robert Crowder, Executive Director, SARCOA, Scott Farmer, SE Alabama Regional Planning & Development Commission.

Chairman Culver reported Mr. Robert Crowder and Mr. Scott Farmer were present on Thursday and talked to the commission about the shelter on the west side of town in the unincorporated area of Houston County. He stated basically the commission is being asked to sponsor the application to be placed in the Hazard Mitigation Plan at no cost to the county. Chairman Culver pointed out the commission is a flow through on a lot of grants that have to go through entities at no cost to the county. Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the request from SARCOA to adopt the Resolution placing the shelter in the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. Commissioner Cook asked if the matching funds would come from SARCOA and not the county? The chairman stated yes; there would be no cost to the county. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

4. Request from Farm Center to sell lawnmower on GovDeals.com.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request from the Farm Center to sell lawnmower on GovDeals.com. Commissioner Cook seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Request to schedule special meeting to implement "Sales Tax Holiday."

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the request to schedule a special meeting to implement the "Sales Tax Holiday." Commissioner Harvey

seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported the commission passed a resolution in support of the Sales Tax Holiday during the Legislative session. He reported the commission feels that this is a good thing for the citizens to save money on back to school supplies. The chairman reported the date will be the first weekend in August, and it is the county's intention to get the list of items that qualify and place them on the website. He asked Paul Clark to look into this as soon as possible. Chairman Culver reported this act goes into effect July 1st, and it also says that it has to be approved no less than 30 days ahead of the date of the holiday, which means it has to be adopted between July 1st and 5th. He reported the special meeting will be called on July 5th, at 4:00 P.M., to adopt the Resolution that is in the packet. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

6. Request to approve agreement between Alabama Department of Transportation and Houston County for 80/20 funding of Golf Creek bridge on Omussee Road.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the agreement between the Alabama Department of Transportation and Houston County for 80/20 funding of Golf Creek bridge on Omussee Road. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

7. Request to concur in the award of the contract to APAC-Southeast for STPOA-3508(213), HCP-230-04 resurfacing New Hope Road and STPOA CN06(204), HCP235-333-05 resurfacing Hodgesville Road.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the concurrence in the award of the contract to APAC-Southeast for STPOA-3508(213), HCP-230-04 resurfacing New Hope Road and STPOA CN06(204), HCP235-333-05 resurfacing Hodgesville Road. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously.

8. Request to approve final plat of Chase Ridge Subdivision.

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the final plat of Chase Ridge Subdivision. Commissioner Cook seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

9. Request to approve budget amendment in the amount of \$1,000 for the purchase of 200 grass carp for Chattahoochee State Park.

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the budget amendment in the amount of \$1,000 for the purchase of 200 grass carp for Chattahoochee State Park. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. She reported she had received a call from Mr. Allen Wells stating how appreciative he was that the county chose to do this because he had the same problem in his pond and it

worked great. Chairman Culver reported there is a problem with grass, moss, and algae on top of the water at the Chattahoochee State Park. He stated they have been talking with several experts and have been advised that the large grass carp that are down there are no good as far as eating the stuff and smaller ones are needed. He reported chemicals could be used to treat this but with as many people going down there the county prefers to use the carp. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached budget amendment in Minute Book)

Reports from Staff:

a. County Administrator

Mr. Roberts reported an item had come up that could not be delayed regarding the May 30th deadline for the Annual Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Program testing that had to be done. He stated Mr. Jerry Richards had completed the report and a Resolution has to be adopted and submitted with the report. Mr. Roberts reported the numbers are within the ranges they need to be and it is a good report. Chairman Culver reported this is a standard operating procedure on the wastewater treatment plant. The chairman asked if there were any objections to taking action on this item? Commissioner Snellgrove asked that the Resolution be read? After the Resolution was read, Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to adopt the Resolution. Commissioner Harvey seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Cook stated that Mr. Richards is doing a great job for the county. Chairman Culver stated that is like the Water Lab and a few others that the commission never hears from which means a good job is being done. Mr. Roberts reported some additional funding was passed at budget time for Mr. Richards for the preparation of this report. (Please see in Resolution Book)

b. County Engineer

Mr. Pool reported the crews had completed paving on Evie Road and Outlaw Road. He stated construction crews are currently working on Folmar Road, and on South Park they are replacing a triple line of 72 inch pipe which will probably take around 4 weeks to complete. Mr. Pool reported on June 6th, they will start tearing out the approaches on a bridge at Eddins and Sowell Road and repairing that. He stated it depended on the weather as to the length of the project. The chairman asked if that work would impede anyone going to vote? Mr. Pool stated he could put it off another day, and the work would begin on June 7th.

Mr. Pool reported they had also been doing a bridge inspection which is federally mandated to be done every two years, but due to the condition of some of the bridges they have to do them once a year, every six months, or every three months for some. He reported some work has been done under the bridge on

Hickory Grove Road and the weight limit has been raised on the two bridges. He stated the weight limits have been lowered on the bridges on E. Cook Road, Baxter Road, Pilgrim Church Road, and on S. Brannon Stand Road the weight limit has been lowered to 18 tons. Mr. Pool pointed out after the two bridges that were just let there will only be six that a school bus cannot cross. He reported they have plans for those ready to go; they are waiting on funding. Chairman Culver asked if the bridges were posted with the new weight limits? Mr. Pool stated that had already been done.

c. County Attorney – there was no report.

Commissioner Snellgrove asked Mr. Pool if the Volunteer Fire Departments were notified about Hickory Grove Road? Mr. Pool stated they notified EMA and the EMA office contacted the schools, volunteer fire departments, and everyone else. Chairman Culver reported there was a policy adopted on that.

Adjourn

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