

MINUTES OF HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
JUNE 9, 2008

PRESENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Bobby R. Snellgrove, Commissioner Frances M. Cook, Commissioner Phillip L. Forrester, Gary Sherrer, Attorney, Mark Pool, Engineer, and William J. Dempsey, Chief Administrative Officer

ABSENT: None

Chairman Mark S. Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, established that a quorum was present, and welcomed everyone. Rev. Roger Ward, Pastor, Shady Grove Baptist Church, gave the invocation. Commissioner Phil Forrester led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Announcements and Public Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver reported he attended BamaJam over the weekend, and he congratulated the organizers and everyone who had a part in its tremendous success. He stated it said a lot about the people the commission is working with on other projects, and the community support for that type of entertainment as well as the type of entertainment the commission envisions coming to Houston County. He reported that Saturday's attendance was over 100,000 and for the three days, there were over 200,000 people who came through the gate. He pointed out some of those were the same for all three days. The chairman reported it was far beyond any expectations, and he extended the commission's congratulations for a tremendous event.

Chairman Culver reported the EMA office, Troy University Dothan, Southeast Alabama Medical Center, and Dothan Fire Department will be hosting a Hurricane Summit June 26th, at Troy University Dothan. He stated if anyone needed information, they could contact the Houston County EMA office, 794-9720. He encouraged everyone to take part in the summit if at all possible. Chairman Culver reported the county had been fortunate the last year or so with hurricanes, but we need to be prepared.

Chairman Culver stated Commissioner Cook was under the weather last week, and he stated he was glad she was back and doing well.

The chairman stated one of the commission's favorite things every year is to recognize the pretty ladies that represent Houston County and let everyone know how proud the commission is to have top caliber young people representing the county. He asked Mrs. Sue Hicks of the Altrusa Club, to come forward and to

bring the queens. Chairman Culver stated the Altrusa Club puts on the Houston County Queens pageant every year, and they do an outstanding job. He reported the commission partners with them on the National Peanut Festival float. The chairman stated the commission appreciated their club doing this every year and giving the commission the opportunity to recognize these very outstanding young ladies in the community. Mrs. Hicks then introduced them as follows: Future Little Miss, Lane Branch, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sid Branch of Cottonwood, Junior Miss Houston County, Abigail England, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Davis of Taylor, Teen Miss Houston County, Madeline Plagenhoef, the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Jeff Plagenhoef of Dothan, and Ms. Houston County, Courtney Johnson, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tony Johnson of Dothan. She stated Little Miss Houston County, Audrey Kent, was on vacation and unable to attend this meeting, but would attend another meeting. Mrs. Hicks stated all of the girls had received their cash prizes and Ms. Johnson had received her \$1,500 scholarship money to attend Troy University. She reported the girls had been all over the county including riding in parades, contests, and some other functions. They received a round of applause.

Ms. Plagenhoef stated she has had a great time representing Houston County and that it had been a lot of fun. She stated she was looking forward to everything else.

Ms. Johnson stated it has been a great experience so far and the girls have been amazing. She stated they have been to every single event and she stated she was looking forward to representing Houston County and attending all other events.

Chairman Culver then presented each of the queens with a Houston County pin.

Regular Agenda

1. Request to appoint James H. Pike to the Dothan-Houston County Substance Abuse Partnership.

Mrs. Susan Trawick, Executive Director, thanked the commission for taking the time to appoint Mr. Pike to their executive board. She stated he had shown a tremendous amount of interest, and has done an amazing job for the city as well as the county. Mrs. Trawick reported he is a member of the reserve sheriff's department and puts in about 40 hours a week of his own time. Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to appoint James H. Pike to the Dothan-Houston County Substance Abuse Partnership. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Commissioner Snellgrove commended Mrs. Trawick for doing an outstanding job. He reported the commission does not hear as much from that department as they used to and congratulated her on the progress she is making. Mrs. Trawick thanked Commissioner Snellgrove and she stated he has

some excellent volunteers. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Request from Revenue Commissioner to approve budget amendment to transfer funds to cover credit card expense in the amount of \$2,000.00.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request from the Revenue Commissioner to approve a budget amendment to transfer funds to cover credit card expenses in the amount of \$2,000.00. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. Mr. Bill Dempsey reported this did not involve any new money and it was swapping of funds. He stated the credit card fees that are being charged are in excess of the budgeted amount, and this will also cover projections through the end of the year. Mr. Dempsey pointed out the Revenue Commissioner is decreasing a capital item in order to make room for this. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached budget amendment in Minute Book)

3. Request to approve budget amendment for additional funds needed to cover fiscal agent's fees in the amount of \$245.00.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the budget amendment for additional funds needed to cover fiscal agent's fees in the amount of \$245.00. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. Mr. Dempsey reported these are service charges for the 2004 bond issue, and it exceeded the budget by \$245.00. He reported this should take care of the charges for the year. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached budget amendment in Minute Book)

4. Request from Probate Judge to approve budget amendment for newspaper ad to recruit Chief Inspector and poll workers for Vaughn Blumberg Precinct in the amount of \$375.00.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the Probate Judge's request to approve a budget amendment for a newspaper ad to recruit Chief Inspector and poll workers for Vaughn Blumberg Precinct in the amount of \$375.00. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion.

Chairman Culver asked Judge Cooley to come forward. Commissioner Harvey asked if there were any extra funds in the elections budget? Judge Cooley stated there were no funds. Judge Cooley reported this is an ongoing problem and for the last three years she had been to the Legislature to try to get some help. She stated the Senate is always in lock down, and they cannot get any help. Judge Cooley reported they did get a good response. She pointed out they had already tried blanketing with the news media and doing public service announcements, she had been on television, and had done all she knew to do other than place the ad. She reported they did get some poll workers and

alternate poll workers for not only Vaughn Blumberg but they also got some poll workers for other places. Judge Cooley stated they do not get as much help from the Party Chairs as they are supposed to get. She pointed out the Party Chairs are supposed to submit a list with every election, and they do not do that. Judge Cooley stated it was an emergency situation and she appreciated Mr. Dempsey getting touch with the chairman and them allowing her to do it on an emergency basis.

Chairman Culver stated the problem is that state law requires a poll worker to be a registered voter at the site where you are a poll worker. He reported the legislation Judge Cooley was talking about is trying to get poll workers that vote at a different site to work another site when needed. Chairman Culver stated Vaughn Blumberg is not the only polling place with these type problems. Judge Cooley stated it is an ongoing problem and it is not going to stop. She reported if they do not get any help from the Legislature, they will have to keep trying. Judge Cooley reported the Code of Alabama actually states the Probate Judge could draft the first people that walk up to the polling place and tell them they will work or it is a misdemeanor if they do not. She stated she could imagine how those people would react; and she did not believe any Probate Judge or commission would want to handle it in that way. Commissioner Snellgrove asked if a bill had been introduced to change it? Judge Cooley stated there had been a bill introduced for three years in a row. She reported it passes the House but then the Senate has been in lockdown and they have not been able to get any general bills passed. Chairman Culver stated he did not think it was so much opposition to the bill, but the general state of the Senate. Commissioner Snellgrove asked if there was a problem with any of the local delegation? She stated no. Judge Cooley reported she also had another bill that would allow 18 year olds who were registered voters, and who were seniors in high school to serve as poll workers. She stated it would give them the ability to earn credits. She pointed out Houston County is not the only county with a problem. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached budget amendment in Minute Book)

5. Request from EMA to approve budget amendment for repair of the weather siren at Madrid in the amount of \$1,963.01.

Commissioner Snellgrove asked if the sirens were covered under the insurance plan, and if so, if the county is reimbursed for any of the damage? Chairman Culver stated he did not believe so. He asked Mr. Clark Matthews if there was insurance that could be purchased? Mr. Matthews stated no. Chairman Culver asked Mr. Matthews if it was lightning damage to the siren? Mr. Matthews stated yes. Commissioner Snellgrove asked how many the county had lost since they started the program? Mr. Matthews reported this was the second one the county has had since 2004. Commissioner Snellgrove stated what he was hearing was that the county could not get the sirens insured. Mr. Matthews stated the county was self insured. Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the

request from EMA to approve the budget amendment for repair of the weather siren at Madrid in the amount of \$1,963.01. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported the City of Dothan pays for any damages to the sirens located in Dothan. Mr. Matthews reported the county is responsible for the sirens located at Madrid, Wicksburg, and Lovetown. Commissioner Harvey asked if Homeland Security would help? Mr. Matthews reported Homeland Security will help the county to purchase them but after that it is up to the county. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached budget amendment in Minute Book)

6. Request for a Lounge Retail Liquor License – Class 1 for Paula Denise Mims d/b/a Paulas Sports Bar, 5245 S. State Highway 109, Slocumb, AL

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the Lounge Retail Liquor License – Class 1 for Paula Denise Mims d/b/a Paulas Sports Bar, 5245 S. State Highway 109, Slocumb, AL. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

7. Request to adopt Resolution for annual MWPP report for the treatment plant at McLane's per ADEM regulations.

Chairman Culver asked Mr. Justin Barfield to come forward and explain. Commissioner Harvey made a motion to adopt the Resolution for the annual MWPP report for the treatment plant at McLane's per ADEM regulations. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. Mr. Barfield reported this is the standard form ADEM requires each year. He stated Mr. Jerry Richards looks after the plant and he had forwarded it to him for the commission's approval. Mr. Barfield reported Mr. Richards had informed him that the plant is in excellent shape. Chairman Culver stated he thought Mr. Richards was doing a good job taking care of it. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

Staff Reports:

- a. Chief Administrative Officer

Mr. Dempsey reported he had received the Sales Tax report for May which would actually be the April collections. He pointed out the May report comparing May a year ago is up 9.1%. He reported the month of April was off quite a bit. Mr. Dempsey reported the year to date figures were 2.09% greater than last year. He stated it was a good trend. Chairman Culver reported last month's figure certainly were concerning but he thought there were some errors in reporting because there is a big adjustment in this month's figures. He stated to be up 2.09% for the entire year and to be up 9.1% for that month compared to last year with the economy like it is speaks well for this region.

Mr. Dempsey reported he and Revenue Commissioner, Starla Matthews, had been working on a project for the last several weeks that would allow on line payment for various things that are provided in the county. He stated last week Mrs. Matthews, Judge Cooley, and key people from their staff and his staff met and everything looked good. He reported Mr. Paul Clark is doing a technical review of everything. Mr. Dempsey stated sometime within the next two meetings a proposal will be brought to the commission. Chairman Culver stated this would put purchasing of various items on line. Chairman Culver thanked Mr. Dempsey and everyone else for working on it.

b. County Engineer

Mr. Pool reported the Brannon Stand Bridge project is moving really fast. He stated they would start driving the pilings on June 10th, and he reported most of the bridge is out. He reported the speed limit has been changed to 25 miles per hour. Chairman Culver stated he had received several calls that the 15 miles per hour was too low, and several tickets had been written. He thanked Mr. Pool and the City for responding to the citizens' concerns about it. Mr. Pool reported the city had written them a letter and asked them to change it. He stated the crews would be working from daylight until dark six days a week. Mr. Pool reported they had moved lights on the site, and that concerned him regarding overtime in his budget. Mr. Pool reported the switch went well.

Mr. Pool stated some people have been baffled about what they are doing regarding resurfacing. He reported to begin with they analyze the roads and if the road has a lot of cracking in it, they put the liquid asphalt and tar on top. He pointed out it costs about \$15,000 per mile but it will increase the life of the road 10-15 years. Mr. Pool reported the resurfacing is broken into two phases. He stated they are currently in the first phase, and the second phase will begin in August. Mr. Pool reported there are approximately 25 miles in each phase. He stated the contractor that puts the G treatment down can out run the people coming behind him doing resurfacing so it goes down in 3 or 4 days. He reported the contractor comes down putting the next layer on. Mr. Pool pointed out some roads have large dips in them and they do spot leveling on the dips. He reported there are some roads that are out of shape and they put a general leveling on. Mr. Pool stated they come back with a wearing surface. He reported there are as many as 4 layers on some of the roads. Mr. Pool reported their price to put down a mile of pavement under the annual contract is \$65,485.00 per mile for 20 foot pavement. He stated when they lumped everything together and put in the bid it dropped the price to \$55,000. Mr. Pool pointed out there is an asphalt index, and as fuel goes up it allows the asphalt index to go up. He stated the first set of road will run \$57,000. He reported the county is saving over \$8,000 per mile on the first 25 miles. Chairman Culver stated it seemed fuel keeps going up and he was concerned about the second phase being more costly.

Mr. Pool stated they were waiting for the striper because when a contractor is hired to go out and stripe a road the average cost for the center line will run \$1,424.00 per mile. He reported if the county does it with their striper the cost will be \$449.00 per mile for a savings of \$1,000.00 per mile. Mr. Pool reported he had been to Montgomery to look at the striper and it is approximately 3-4 weeks from completion. Mr. Pool stated from a liability point, no stripe is required on roads less than 3,000. He reported the road is posted lower than that, and they are going to try to save the \$25,000.00. Chairman Culver stated the stripe is coming. Mr. Pool reported on the striper, which includes the pavement marking machine, the truck that goes behind it, and the striper, each county will pay approximately \$143,000.00. He stated they plan to stripe a total of 250 miles of road and that will be a savings of \$250,000 the first year. Mr. Pool stated they plan to stripe a lot more roads than they normally do and the savings will be having more stripes on the road.

c. County Attorney – There was no report

Adjourn.

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