

MINUTES OF HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
JUNE 27, 2005

PRESENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Bobby R. Snell grove, Commissioner Frances M. Cook, Commissioner Phillip L. Forrester, Mark Pool, Engineer, and Roy Roberts, Administrator.

ABSENT: Gary Sherrer, Attorney.

Chairman Mark Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order. Rev. Allen Vandenberg, Pastor, Northside Methodist Church, gave the invocation. Commissioner Cook led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Announcements.

Chairman Culver asked Representative Joe Carothers to come forward for a presentation. Representative Carothers stated it was a pleasure to attend and bring money. He commended Mark Pool for the excellent job he does. Representative Carothers reported at a certain time of the year, Mr. Pool finds out there will be some federal aid money that some counties have not used and it will be turned back in according to the law. He pointed out on a first come first serve basis sometimes if your name is at the head of the list you can participate in those funds. Representative Carothers then presented a letter of commitment in the amount of \$200,000 to Houston County on behalf of Governor Riley and Joe McInnes, Director of Transportation. He stated these funds will be used for projects he may already have listed. Mr. Carothers thanked Mr. Pool for staying on top of things. Chairman Culver thanked Representative Carothers and Senator Smith for working on this as well as Mr. Pool and the commission. Chairman Culver reported the money would be used on a bridge.

Chairman Culver reported recently an article appeared on the wire that Governor Riley was going to speed up plans for the I-85 extension through the Black Belt. The chairman stated it concerned him because of the work that has gone into trying to get the interstate connector put through this area. He stated he thought Governor Riley had committed to the connector and trying to do what he can to get it through this area. He pointed out he has not seen anything like the comments that have been made concerning the 85 connector. Chairman Culver requested that Representative Carothers and Senator Smith set up a meeting with the Governor for a delegation to go up and meet with him to make sure the I-10 connector is on top of his list. He stated the local delegation would be glad to let him make a press release stating he planned to speed up our project. Representative Carothers stated he would be glad to do that and he knew

Senator Smith would too. Mr. Carothers stated he saw the article on the I-85 corridor. He pointed out it deals with the entire State of Alabama and we are having to work with the State of Florida on the I-10 connector. Representative Carothers reported the I-10 connector funds are being put in as the project progresses. He stated there is nothing wrong with asking for a meeting with the Governor and Highway Director. Representative Carothers reported there is a lot of interest on the connector, and they would get it arranged soon.

Chairman Culver reported Mr. Sherrer is in Birmingham with his brother who is very ill.

ITEM #1. Announcement regarding Community Outdoor Warning Sirens – Mrs. Cynthia Green, City of Dothan, and Clark Matthews – EMA.

Chairman Culver asked Mrs. Cynthia Green and Mr. Clark Matthews to come forward. He reported the public does not realize that with a lot of things that go on in the EMA office involving disasters and preparedness Mrs. Green serves a dual role in getting information out to the city and the county.

Mr. Matthews then announced 21 sirens were put up and the other one would be put up on June 28th and that would conclude the construction phase. He pointed out the plans were to exercise the sirens after the ribbon cutting on July 1st. It was pointed out the first Friday of each month at 12:00 noon, there will be a test tone for a tornado warning.

Mrs. Green stated that they had been working steadfast to educate the community about the sirens. She pointed out there are two different tones being used—the tornado tone and a public safety incident tone. Mrs. Green reported they are going into the senior adult centers in Dothan and Houston County and they are leaving materials in order for people to be aware of what to do. She pointed out people did not need to panic and asked that people not call 911 when they hear the tone. Mrs. Green encouraged people to seek shelter when they hear the tone and there is inclement weather, and to tune to a local media outlet. She stated our community was very fortunate to have a close working relationship with the media. She stated if anyone had questions they could call the EMA office at 794-9720, or the City of Dothan, 615-3117. Commissioner Forrester asked Mrs. Green if she would be meeting at one of the senior citizens centers to address the sirens? She reported they had met for the first time last week with the Webb and Columbia senior centers. Mrs. Green reported they were very receptive and they take pictures of what the sirens look like and they give an overview of what the system is like. She pointed out they also let them hear the tones so that they will be able to recognize them. Mrs. Green reported they are scheduled to meet with all of the senior centers in Dothan/Houston County this week and next week. She reported Dothan Utilities has been instrumental in installing the sirens in Dothan/Houston County and she stated they were grateful for the men who worked on this project. Commissioner

Forrester requested a copy of the scheduled meetings with the senior citizen centers. She stated Mr. Matthews has the schedule and he will be passing it on to the commission. Commissioner Cook asked if the three sirens that Farley owns will be tested the first Friday of the month along with the others? Mrs. Green stated no. Mr. Matthews reported the Nuclear Regulatory Commission will not allow them. Mr. Matthews stated this has truly been a community project, and they have received a lot of support. Chairman Culver stated that he thought everyone realizes the community service this project will put forth and he commended Mr. Womack and Mr. Matthews on all the work they did on the Homeland Security Grant enabling the county to get the sirens. The chairman also thanked Mrs. Green.

ITEM #2. Request from Natural Resources Conservation Service – approve Project Agreement for Harrison Mill Creek Watershed, Site 31A – Joe Wilson.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the request from Natural Resources Conservation Service to approve the project agreement for Harrison Mill Creek Watershed, Site 31A. Commissioner Harvey seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

ITEM #3. Request to award bid for inmate telephone service.

Mr. Roberts reported the bid specs and review of the bids were handled by Praeses Corporation. He then read a letter from Praeses Corporation stating that they had thoroughly reviewed all six vendor responses to the inmate telephone service that were released on April 18, 2005. He stated based upon overall vendor compliance to the bid specifications and the possibility of the vendor, IC Solutions is the top rated candidate. Mr. Roberts recommended that the commission use the parties that are experts in this field and approve the selection of IC Solutions. Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the request to award the bid for inmate telephone service to IC Solutions as recommended. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported the commission had received a letter earlier that day from Infinity who was present for the administrative meeting and they expressed some concerns. The chairman pointed out the commission did not have expertise in this field and the county had contracted with Praeses Corporation who is in the business to evaluate. He pointed out there was a significant difference in the recommendation and the other companies. He stated he felt if you hire someone and they make a recommendation and you do not go with their recommendation then you might as well as not have hired them. Chairman Culver then called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

ITEM #4. Request to award bid for the sale of surplus property for Sheriff's Department.

Chairman Culver reported Mr. Roberts and his assistants have evaluated the bids and the recommendation is Ludlum Realty. Mr. Roberts stated they would like to add a stipulation to ask that the county be added as a loss payee on Ludlum's liability insurance for the purpose of any taxes directly related to the auctioneer and his people. Chairman Culver asked where the auction would be? Mr. Roberts stated that was up to the Sheriff. Commissioner Harvey made a motion to accept the recommendation to award the bid for the sale of surplus property for the Sheriff's Department to Ludlum Realty with the stipulation that the county be added as a loss payee on Ludlum's liability insurance. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see bid summary sheet in Minute Book)

ITEM #5. Request to approve budget amendment to purchase new radio repeater.

Mr. Pool reported Chairman Culver and Mr. Shelby Womack helped them get a Homeland Security grant on this in the amount of \$4,400 and it covers most of the cost. It was pointed out the total cost is \$7,485. Chairman Culver stated the budget amendment needs to be for the total cost and grant revenue coming in and the transfer to balance it all out. Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the appropriate budget amendment to purchase the new radio repeater. Commissioner Forrester seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached budget amendment in Minute Book)

ITEM #6. Request from Houston County Board of Education – to place Cottonwood High School Baseball Complex on grading list to be graded as needed.

Chairman Culver reported as discussed on Thursday, the request appears as it would be grading a ballfield or something. He stated whoever makes the motion needs to understand it is the road to the ballfield which is owned by the Board of Education, and it needs to be placed on our regular list so it does not have to be approved each time. Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to add the road to the Cottonwood High School Baseball Complex on the Road and Bridge's regular grading list to be graded as needed. Commissioner Harvey seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

ITEM #7. Request to award bids for janitorial supplies and paper and toner.

Commissioner Forrester made a motion to award the bids for janitorial supplies and paper and toner to the low bidders meeting specs in each category. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached bid summary sheets in Minute Book)

ITEM #8. Request to reject bid and negotiate on metal siding for shop at Road

and Bridge.

Chairman Culver stated bids were taken and there was only one bidder and state law allows for negotiations under those conditions. Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the request to reject the bid and negotiate on metal siding for the shop at Road and Bridge Department. Commissioner Harvey seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached Bid Summary in Minute Book)

ITEM #9. Request to extend contract for resurfacing.

Mr. Pool reported the contract ran out and it is being extended through last Friday. Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the request to extend the contract for resurfacing through last Friday. Commissioner Cook seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

ITEM #10. Administrator's Report.

Mr. Roberts reported the county had received the audit for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004 from the Examiners of Public Accounts. He stated it was a good audit with no findings and the finances continue to be in good shape.

ITEM #11. Engineer's Report.

Mr. Pool reported there are 8 bridges left to finish that school buses cannot cross after finishing the bond issue. He stated one of the next bridges they planned to spend the \$200,000 on would be Paul Lamp Road. He pointed out it was a \$362,000 project. Mr. Pool stated some of the county's federal funds would be put with the \$200,000. He reported the plans on the Prevatt Road bridge were in Montgomery and it would cost \$219,000 to complete the project. He stated \$100,000 in Garvey funds and other federal funds will be used. Mr. Pool reported a bridge on Omussee Road would be approved by the MPO in September. He stated there would be 5 more to work in the next few years. Mr. Pool reported since 1995, Houston County has received \$7.7 million from the state through the TEAM Program. He reported our senator and representative have helped tremendously in getting the funding, and the commission funding the department in order to have enough people to do all of the plans. Chairman Culver reported only two counties in the state got extra money this year and Houston County is one of those counties.

Mr. Pool reported they had received their traffic accident data and he presented a chart on the traffic death count on roads statewide from 1996-2004. He stated last year there were 1,145 fatalities and in 1996 there were 1,142 fatalities. Mr. Pool pointed out in Houston County, the fatality count on rural county roads from 1996 through 1999 there were 22 deaths. He reported from 2004 to 2001 there were 10 deaths. He stated deaths are dropping due to improvements on the

roads. Chairman Culver stated safety rates very high on those grades the county gets. He thanked Mr. Pool for the information.

Commissioner Forrester asked if the resurfacing is complete on South Brannon Stand Road? Mr. Pool stated the striping is not completed. He asked about the schedule on the bridge at Highland Elementary School? Commissioner Forrester stated he understood that there would not be a temporary bridge. Mr. Pool stated that was correct. Mr. Forrester stated he is concerned about the traffic pattern because the nearest road to go around on the west is Cumbie Road and the nearest road to go around on the east is Flowers Chapel Road. He stated he is concerned about the economic impact on the restaurants and shops at the intersection of Brannon Stand and Fortner Street. Mr. Pool stated there will be no through traffic because the bridge will have to be closed. He reported the state has raised the elevation of the bridge so high and the construction work goes past the intersection of Flowers Chapel Road. Mr. Pool reported they do not have a schedule because the state is not through with the plans and the money is not lined up. Chairman Culver stated he wanted the public to be sure to understand several things have to happen before the work can begin. He stated the county has to get the plans, and they are working with Washington representatives on getting some funding for it because \$1.5 million is more than the county has ever spent on a bridge. Chairman Culver reported when the funding transpires then they will have a schedule. He reported they are going to try to get the state to work 24 hours a day to complete the project. The chairman stated the bridge did not need to be closed 8-10 months like some have been done in the past.

Chairman Culver recognized Mr. Patrick McDougle, Barbour County Engineer.

ITEM #12. Adjourn.

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