

MINUTES OF HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 13, 2007

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 Roy Roberts, 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. Captain Mark Gilliam of the Salvation Army gave the invocation. Commissioner Harvey led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Announcements and Public Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver extended congratulations to the Greater Beulah Baptist Church on their 100th Anniversary. He stated he had attended some of the events during their celebration and there was a lot of history in that church.

Commissioner Cook stated she enjoyed the Veterans Day Concert given by Fort Rucker's 98th Army Band and the Silver Wings. Chairman Culver stated the concert was outstanding and they had an overflow crowd. He pointed out they would be having a Holiday Concert he thought at the Opera House, and he encouraged everyone to go out and support them.

Awards and Presentations

1. Proclamation – "National Farm City Week" – Mr. Willie Durr, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, and members of the Farm City Week Committee

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring "National Farm City Week" November 16-22, 2007 in Houston County. Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Chairman Culver asked Mr. Willie Durr, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, and Ms. Linda McGhee, the commission's representative on the Farm City Week Committee, to come forward and presented the Proclamation. Mr. Durr thanked the commission for their support and recognized the following members who were in the audience: Mrs. Gloria Jeffcoat, Alabama Farmers Federation, Mr. Tracy Lawrence, Alabama Forestry Commission, and Mr. Joe Wilson, Natural Resource Conservation Service. Mr. Durr stated the committee had done a

number of things that have shed light on agriculture including the National Peanut Festival that concluded November 11th. He pointed out the farmers are the hardest, smartest working people in our community as well as the most devoted. Chairman Culver thanked Mr. Durr and his committee.

2. Proclamation – “The Salvation Army” Captain Mark Gilliam.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the Proclamation recognizing the Salvation Army for the services they provide to the needy of our community. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. Chairman Culver asked Captain Gilliam and Mr. Morris Bates and Mrs. Linda Bates, coordinators for the Kettle Drive, to come forward and presented them with the Proclamation. Chairman Culver stated every year he challenges the County Commission and the City of Dothan to see who can raise the most money ringing the bell. He reported the City of Dothan always gets the trophy at the awards ceremony. Chairman Culver stated the county is outnumbered because there are 7 on the city commission and 5 on the county commission. He pointed out this year he has asked Starla Matthews, Revenue Commissioner, and Luke Cooley, Probate Judge, to join the five commissioners and he will issue the challenge to see who can raise the most money. He stated the county wanted the trophy to have their name on it. He implored all of the citizens of the county to find out where the county commission is and come donate to the cause. Mr. Morris Bates stated the time will be announced and they plan on having the city and county located at different doors at the Southside WalMart. He stated each commissioner would ring an hour, and after they all have had their turn they will count the money in the kettles to see who raised the most. Chairman Culver thanked them for the wonderful work they do for the community.

Consent Agenda

1. Request to award bids on 7 pairs of night vision goggles, computer system upgrade, 12 in-car cameras, and Farm Center trailer – 8’x16’.
2. Request to award bids for track mounted excavator, oil, grease and fluids.
3. Request to award annual bids for signs, crushed concrete, and solid waste disposal.
4. Request to award bids for six months on grass seed, fertilizer, concrete block, and MC70 prime.
5. Request to extend current bid for metal drainage pipe to Hanson Pipe for six months at same price.
6. Request to award bid for truck mounted pavement marking machine.

Commissioner Forrester made a motion to approve the consent agenda to include awarding bids on 7 pairs of night vision goggles to Gulf States Distributors, the only bidder, in the amount of \$2,995.00 each, the computer system upgrade to The Riley Group, only bidder, in the amount of \$149,700.00, 12 in-car cameras for the Sheriff's Department to Watchguard Video, low bidder meeting specs, in the amount of \$4,897.00 each, an 8' x 16' Farm Center trailer to Trailer World, only bidder, in the amount of \$11,450.00, and a track mounted excavator with hydraulic bucket thumb to Tractor and Equipment Co., low bidder meeting specs, in the amount of \$223,900.00, oil, grease and fluids to Davis Oil Company, low bidder meeting specs, in the amount of \$9,957.26. Award annual bids for signs to the low bidder meeting specs in each category, crushed concrete to Lewis Materials, low bidder meeting specs, in the amount of \$13.50 for delivery price and \$10.00 for pick up price, and solid waste disposal to Springhill Regional Landfill, only bidder, in the amount of \$23.50 per ton. Award bids for six months on grass seed to Kelly Ag and GroSouth, Inc. low bidders meeting specs in each category, bid on fertilizer to Farmers Coop of Ashford, low bidder meeting specs, at \$395.00 per ton bulk, and \$11.00 per 50 lb. bag, bid on concrete block to Couch Ready Mix USA, only bidder, at \$1.37 each for 8"x8"x16" reg. block and \$1.13 each for 8"x8"x8" half block, and bid on MC70 prime to Hunt Refining Co., low bidder meeting specs, in the amount of \$1.9618 per gallon. Extend current bid for metal drainage pipe to Hanson Pipe for six months at same price, and award bid for truck mounted thermoplastic pavement marking machine to Mac Stripers, Inc., low bidder meeting specs, in the amount of \$381,650.00. Commissioner Harvey seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached bid summary sheets in Minute Book)

Chairman Culver reported Commissioner Harvey had another appointment out of town. He stated he would like to move Items #3 and #6 to the first of the agenda if there were no objections in order for Mr. Harvey to excuse himself. There were no objections.

Regular Agenda

3. Request to offer position and compensation package to fill the Chief Administrative Officer position.

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to offer the position and compensation package to Mr. Bill Dempsey to serve as the Chief Administrative Officer beginning December 3, 2007. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. The chairman reported the compensation package as noted would be an annual salary of \$85,000.00 along with all of the other normal and customary benefits that are afforded every other county employee. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dempsey stated he accepted the county's offer and that he appreciated the trust the commission had shown in him. He gave his commitment to do his very best to carry on what Mr. Roberts and his staff have already set a very firm foundation for. Chairman Culver thanked Mr. Dempsey. The chairman stated after some chagrin about the number of applicants, it turned out to be a very smooth and good process. He stated the commission should be applauded for laying out the process early on. He reported the commission ended up interviewing 4 very capable people and the commission would be in a very good position with any of them. He thanked all of them and particularly Ms. Nancy Bristow for her involvement and willingness to work with Mr. Dempsey as the commission moves forward.

6. Request to add Sketo Road to the District 1 paving list.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to add Sketo Road to the District 1 paving list. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Harvey was then excused.

1. Request to approve Memo of Understanding between Houston County and the Town of Taylor regarding a water project.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the Memo of Understanding between Houston County and the Town of Taylor regarding the water project. Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion. Chairman Culver stated this is the third step the county has taken to move water lines into the parts of the county that do not have water lines. He stated a grant has been applied for that they should have heard from that will fund a project in the \$500,000 range south of Ashford. Chairman Culver reported the commission has committed to the City of Dothan on a \$4,000,000 project that the county will be paying for half assuming the prices of materials do not go up too much with the increase in oil prices. He pointed out the project is approximately \$2,000,000 that the Town of Taylor has asked the county to participate in, and he reported the county will be putting up to \$1,000,000 in. The chairman stated he thought it important to note that a year ago the commission's top priority was a county wide water system. He reported if the commission votes to approve this request, there will be approximately \$7,000,000 over the last year that has been invested in water lines for the citizens of the community. He stated this commission should be very proud of this because of the cooperative spirit in which these projects have been done. Chairman Culver pointed out the water projects will not only bring potable water to the citizens but also extend fire protection, help volunteer firefighters to do their job, and help the citizens in lowering their rates. He stated overall, he felt it was a good move toward the completion of the estimated \$30,000,000 project.

The chairman recognized Mayor Joel Napier of the Town of Taylor. Mayor Napier thanked the commission for their participation in the project and stated it

was a great step in completing all of the water lines. He pointed out there will be 20 miles of water lines laid in Houston County.

Chairman Culver reported this project along with the Dothan project are to be funded through a bond issue the commission will be doing possibly in February. The chairman called for the question on the motion; and it carried unanimously.

2. Request to transfer Houston County vehicle to the Houston County Rescue Squad to include appropriation for light bar and sirens.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the request to transfer a Houston County vehicle to the Houston County Rescue Squad to include the appropriation for a light bar and sirens not to exceed \$2,000.00. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. Chairman Culver asked Mr. Sean Curtis when the vehicle would be available? Mr. Curtis stated it would be mid-January. The chairman asked Mr. Curtis to try to get the new vehicle in quicker. Chairman Culver reported as soon as the new vehicle comes in then the county would transfer the title on the vehicle to be given to the rescue squad. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Request to adopt Resolution authorizing real estate purchase.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to adopt the Resolution authorizing the real estate purchase. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported the resolution that the commission was adopting was a partner to the purchase agreement. He reported the details are roughly 70 acres at \$3,250.00 per acre. Chairman Culver reported the county will retain some of the young timber rights, and the current owner will have the ability to cut some of the timber. He pointed out the resolution will authorize the county to have a survey done, authorize the county attorney to do all the title work, and authorize the chairman to implement the agreement based on the need for soil for use by the county. Commissioner Snellgrove asked about the time frame on the owner cutting out the timber? Chairman Culver stated the owner was given until July 14, 2008 to get their timber out. The chairman reported they have a hunting contract through January and the county is allowing them to continue. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

5. Request from Probate Judge to approve budget amendment for computers.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to grant the request from the Probate Judge to approve a budget amendment for computers. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. Mr. Roberts reported originally the Probate office had three computers in their budget. He stated at that time, the county was working on the upgrade to the county's mainframe, and in that upgrade they included 10 Thin Client computers. Mr. Roberts pointed out three of them were designated at

that point for Probate which made the county reduce their request from three to zero. He stated the county planned to furnish them out of the Thin Clients that were in the upgrade. Mr. Roberts reported the county had sufficient Thin Clients to give Probate five of the fourteen they are currently saying they need and that will bring them down to nine. He pointed out the budget amendment is for nine Thin Clients for a total of \$7,200.00. Chairman Culver reported they also determined that the software was already in the budget. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached budget amendment in Minute Book)

7. Request from EMA to approve \$200,000 Home Land Security grant.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the request from EMA for a \$200,000 Home Land Security grant. Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion. Chairman Culver stated this grant and the next two are 100% grants that the EMA office acts as the flow through. The chairman reported these are designated grants for designated entities and because EMA is the designated organization for the funds to flow through, they have to come through that office. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

8. Request from EMA to approve \$116,500 Home Land Security grant.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the request from EMA for a \$116,500 Home Land Security grant. Commissioner Forrester seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

9. Request from EMA to approve \$45,400 Home Land Security grant.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the request from EMA for a \$45,400 Home Land Security grant. Commissioner Forrester seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

10. Request to exempt Guy Branch Road paving project from Utility Relocation Policy.

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to postpone this request for two weeks until the next meeting. Commissioner Forrester seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

11. Request to increase price for dirt that Houston County purchase from \$.58 to \$.70 per cubic yard.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the request to increase the price for dirt that Houston County purchases from \$.58 to \$.70 per cubic yard. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

12. Request to approve budget amendment for the purchase of a new truck for striping crew. (no funds needed)

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the budget amendment for the purchase of a new truck for the striping crew. Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this truck will go with the striping machine that is part of the joint striping with Coffee and Dale counties. He stated three counties have come together to be more efficient by sharing their equipment. The chairman pointed out two-thirds of it will be paid for by other entities. Chairman Culver reported the revenue is already in the budget. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached budget amendment in Minute Book)

13. Request to approve budget amendment for the purchase of a new tiller. (no funds needed)

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the budget amendment for the purchase of a new tiller. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. The chairman stated the money is in the budget for the purchase. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached budget amendment in Minute Book)

Staff Reports:

- a. Chief Administrative Officer – there was no report.
- b. County Engineer

Mr. Pool reported the resurfacing project on Headland Avenue was going well. He pointed out all of the asphalt was down, and the crews are working on the shoulders and turnouts. He reported the striping will come. Mr. Pool reported the road is open. Mr. Roberts stated he lives on Headland Avenue and he commended Mr. Pool and his crew as well as the contractor that was hired for the project for doing a great job very efficiently.

Mr. Pool reported they would begin the Brannon Stand Road detour November 15th. Chairman Culver reported the crews would begin cutting and knocking down trees to begin the detour around Brannon Stand bridge. He stated the process for the bridge still looks like it will begin the first week in June, and hopefully will be completed by the end of September. He asked the media to help notify the public.

- c. County Attorney – there was no report.

Commissioner Forrester stated he felt it appropriate for the Commission to extend condolences to the family of Mayor Henry Ellis Johnston, who passed

away on Friday. He stated Mayor Johnston did a great job in Cowarts. Commissioner Forrester stated he lived the first 40 years of his life in Cowarts and he was aware of what the Johnston family has meant to the area. Chairman Culver thanked Commissioner Forrester for his comments and he apologized for the oversight. He stated the commission does extend sympathy to the Johnston family and the Town of Cowarts because the town will miss him. He stated he was a fine, progressive mayor.

Adjourn.

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