

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 28, 2011

PRESENT: Chairman Mark Culver, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Doug Siquefield, Commissioner Jackie Battles, Commissioner Phillip Forrester, Gary Sherrer, Attorney, Barkley Kirkland, Acting Engineer, and William J. Dempsey, Chief Administrative Officer

ABSENT: Mark Pool Engineer

Chairman Mark Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, declared a quorum was present and welcomed everyone. Commissioner Forrester led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Dr. Brian Magnuson, Minister, Westgate Church of Christ, gave the invocation.

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

Announcements and Public Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver reported the 21st Annual "Spirit of Service Day" was scheduled for April 9th. He encouraged everyone who is able and willing to either come up with a "Spirit of Service" project that will help those in the community or be part of one of the existing projects that need volunteers. He stated this is the one day a year that the citizens come together and try to just instill pride and volunteerism in the community. The chairman reported the contact is Ms. Linda Kelley at the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce, 792-5138.

Chairman Culver congratulated Houston County High School's basketball team for reaching the semi-finals and almost making it to the finals again. He reported last year they went to the finals and almost won, and the commission invited them to come to a commission meeting and they were recognized. The chairman reported Commissioner Harvey has been really involved with them, and they are a great group of young men.

The chairman reported the newly crowned Houston County queens will be coming to one of our meetings to be recognized and introduced at the appropriate time.

Awards and Presentations

1. Presentation – Regional Land and Water Rescue Unit – Mike Cherry, Vice-President.

Chairman Culver reported the Regional Land and Water Rescue Unit is a new group that was established in the county and region to work and save lives in our area. He asked Mr. Mike Cherry to come forward and make some comments. Mr. Cherry thanked the commission for allowing them to come and introduce themselves. He reported the Regional Land and Water Rescue Unit was established approximately eight months ago, and they currently have 54 members composed of a lot of older members and members of other rescue organizations located in Houston County along with volunteer fire organizations. He stated they extend as far as anywhere a call is needed. Mr. Cherry pointed out

they currently do not have any funding, and they have been working it out of pocket and a few fundraisers. He reported they train every month, and if a need should arise, they go into Florida and Georgia but primarily provide trained rescue response in Houston, Dale, and Geneva counties and other surrounding areas. He reported they work with the EMA and the Houston County Sheriff's Department. He reported they have junior members and they had 8 between the ages of 8 and 15 who went through 18 hours of training on Saturdays to get their cert bags from Densie Williams, Houston County EMA. He pointed out two of the junior members were looking at going into the HAM Radio system. Mr. Cherry then gave the commission a list of members with their contact information. He pointed out they have members from Henry County to Dale County to Slocomb, Hartford, Marianna, Florida, and the surrounding Dothan area. He reported they are doing a lot of great things. Mr. Cherry stated their organization is very appreciative of the commission's support. He stated they are low budgeted and they work off personal vehicles, their fuel, and cell phones. He reported Mr. Clark Matthews, EMA, Sheriff Andy Hughes, other area Sheriffs, the City of Dothan Police Department as well as police departments in the area have assisted them and have been great to work with. Chairman Culver thanked Mr. Cherry for the great job they are doing. He reported in some conversations he has had with the Sheriff and others outside of the county that this organization has a very positive perception, and he stated he hoped the commission could work with them more later on.

Regular Agenda

1. Appointment to the Houston County Water Authority – Joel Watkins.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to appoint Mr. Joel Watkins to the Houston County Water Authority. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously.

2. Appointments to the SE Alabama Solid Waste Disposal Authority – Bill Dempsey, Mark Pool, and Commissioner Jackie Battles.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to re-appoint Bill Dempsey and Mark Pool to the SE Alabama Solid Waste Disposal Authority and to appoint Commissioner Jackie Battles to the authority. Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported the next year and a half would be a very important time for the Solid Waste Authority and what direction the county takes. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Request from Sheriff to award bid on two (2) new 2011 Crown Victoria vehicles.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request from the Sheriff to award the bid on two (2) new Crown Victoria vehicles to Ben Atkinson Motors, Inc. of Tallahassee, Alabama, low bidder meeting specs, in the amount of \$22,038.00 each. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion. The chairman reported the Sheriff had planned to attend but he was detained due to an incident he is involved in the Southeastern part of the county. Chairman Culver stated he told him since the vehicles were in budget and would be purchased off the state bid list, he did not think there would be any problems. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached Bid Summary Sheets in Minute Book)

4. Request to award bids for fertilizer, fiber mesh concrete, bag cement, crushed concrete, and hot plant mix.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to award bids for fertilizer, fiber mesh concrete, bag cement, crushed concrete, and hot plant mix to the low bidders meeting specs in each category. Commissioner Battles seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached Bid Summary Sheets in Minute Book)

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer – there was no report

County Engineer – there was no report

County Attorney – there was no report

Commissioner Harvey asked Mr. Dempsey to explain the on-line process for tags? Mr. Dempsey stated he thought the Probate Judge would be the one to explain the process. Commissioner Harvey asked if someone goes online today and purchases their tag, and that person gets stopped would they be ticketed? Mr. Paul Clark, IT Manager, reported if a person buys their tag online on the last day of the month, they would get a receipt from the credit card company. He pointed out it is not a state receipt. Mr. Harvey asked if there would be any way that something could be printed in the program that validates it? Mr. Clark reported that it is not a state receipt and they would not have their decal. Mr. Clark stated he did not believe a person could be issued a ticket if they presented the receipt from the credit card company. It was pointed out it takes 2-3 days to get the decal and the state receipt. Chairman Culver stated he felt a person would be hard pressed not to have a good positive position that the person had renewed their tag. Ms. Nancy Bristow asked if the officer could not look it up in the state system? Mr. Clark reported it was not a state receipt. Commissioner Harvey reported he had been down to the Probate Department and all of those questions came up and the system does not seem to be foolproof. Chairman Culver stated it was unfortunate that the line is as long as it is and he stated he wondered if maybe February has too many names in it. The chairman reported it is a short month and there is more compaction, and it is human nature to wait to the last day to take care of it. He stated people can go on-line and renew it, mail it in, or go to one of the satellite offices in their community. The chairman asked Mr. Clark to follow up on the on-line process for tags?

Commissioner Battles stated something that would shorten the line would be to let the people with the last name beginning with "B" to buy theirs in January. He stated sometimes people put it off to the last minute because they do not have the money. He asked if it is a state law? Chairman Culver stated he wanted to be careful treading in the Probate Judge's territory because she is solely responsible for tags; not the commission. The chairman reported it is a state function that the county provides all the requirements and who renews when is created and put forth by the state. He reported the county provides the service for the state and sometimes the county is compensated and sometimes not. Chairman Culver reported it is by letters every month and he did not know if the letters could be adjusted. The chairman stated the length of the line out there certainly begs that the whole process be

looked at. He also reported he had asked some people to look at the line recently at the Courthouse all the way down the block with jurors trying to get in.

Commissioner Harvey stated he felt more people would use the on-line process for tag purchases if they could get something printed out that would validate the purchase. The chairman reported work is in process to update the county's website, and once completed it will be more user friendly. Chairman Culver asked Mr. Clark to see if he could get the answer as to what happens on the tag renewal on the last day of the month and to try to be sure they are protected if any way possible. He asked Mr. Clark to either let him or Mr. Dempsey know?

Adjourn.

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