

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
MARCH 14, 2011

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

ABSENT: None

Chairman Mark Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, established that a quorum was present, and welcomed everyone. Rev. Bryan Cowley, Pastor, First United Methodist Church of Ashford, 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 Siquefield seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

Announcements and Public Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver reminded everyone that the 21st "Spirit of Service Day" would be held on April 9th. He reported if anyone had a project they should contact Ms. Linda Kelly, Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce, 792-5138.

The chairman reported the Tri-State Bar-B-Que Festival would be held at the Houston County Farm Center on April 8th and 9th. He stated a concert would be held on April 8th, and the Bar-B-Que would be on the 9th. Chairman Culver reported this has become quite a large event representing the entire area, and he encouraged everyone to go out and enjoy it.

Chairman Culver also reminded everyone of CityFest which would begin on March 31st with a Night at the Grand, a fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity. He stated tickets are \$35.00 and may be obtained through the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce. The chairman reported CityFest is the Downtown Festival that will involve bike races and other activities on April 2nd.

The chairman reported he wanted everyone to remember and keep in their thoughts and prayers the people of Japan. He pointed out our community has a special tie with Japan due to Sony having been here and the many people who were employed there. The chairman reported he had talked with Representative Paul Lee and he is very familiar with the area that has been so ravaged. He stated between the earthquake, the tsunami, and nuclear disaster they have their plate very full and they need all the help they can get. He reported he had received a few calls relative to the nuclear activity in Japan with concerns about ours, and he stated he wanted our citizens to feel safe. He stated that they do not allow earthquakes in Houston County. The chairman reported the Farley Nuclear Plant is on very solid ground supported by this community. He stated rather than having concerns about the nuclear plant, our citizens need to be promoting adding additional reactors.

Chairman Culver reported Houston County had a pretty significant weather event last week and if anyone tried to come to the Administrative Building during that warning, they would have found all of

the employees were in the halls taking the proper precautions from the tornado warning. He stated there was some concern about schools letting out during the warning, and the proper time for schools to let out. He asked Mr. Clark Matthews, EMA Director, to come forward and make some comments.

Mr. Matthews reported severe weather is not at a certain time for our area because usually it is year round, but right now is the worst time with the squall lines coming in. Mr. Matthews reported right in the middle of a tornado warning people are coming to the schools to pick up their children and putting them at risk. He stated there is no building in Houston County to protect them against some tornadoes, but our area doesn't normally have the large tornadoes that they have in the other parts of the country. Mr. Matthews pointed out some of our schools are much safer than if the kids are taken and put in their homes. He asked parents to please get their kids before a warning is issued and to use more common sense. Mr. Matthews reported they are going to try to hold the kids in school, and if parents do come to get them, then they will get the parents out of their vehicles and into a safe place in the building. Chairman Culver reported the public school systems do a good job of knowing when to open and to close. He requested that those schools who are not public to communicate with EMA to do the commonsense thing and not put anyone at risk.

Commissioner Battles reported on March 19th, at Memphis Baptist Church there will be a sleep-in, run, and walk to benefit Morgan Hasty. He stated they have had a lot of participants, and they wanted to make everyone aware of the event.

Awards and Presentations

1. Proclamation – “Kick Butts Day 2011” – Susan Trawick, Executive Director, Dothan-Houston County Substance Abuse Partnership, Judy Guiler, Tobacco Prevention Manager, and Jacob Phillips, Youth Council President

Chairman Culver asked Mrs. Susan Trawick, Executive Director, Dothan-Houston County Substance Abuse Partnership, to come forward and bring her guests. Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the Proclamation as presented declaring March 23rd, as “Kick Butts Day 2011” in Houston County. Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. The chairman then read the Proclamation and presented it to Mrs. Trawick.

Mrs. Trawick thanked the commission for having them, and she stated she had four of her Youth Council members who got up early to be here during their Spring Break. She reported the students had just returned from Montgomery where they led the fight against underage tobacco use that is so rampant in our community. Mrs. Trawick stated she wanted the community to know that there are a lot of amazing kids out there doing great things and they deserve to be on the front pages of the paper for all they do and their belief in the community.

Mrs. Trawick introduced Mrs. Judy Guiler, the Tobacco Grant Manager, and she thanked the commission for doing a great job of explaining “Kick Butts Day” to the media. Mrs. Guiler reported it is very important to educate the public about the dangers of smoking and second hand smoke because so many people die. She stated it is a preventable disease and it is a choice an individual makes.

Mrs. Guiler introduced Jacob Phillips, Youth Council President. Mr. Phillips thanked the commission for allowing them to attend the meeting, and for the Proclamation. He reported "Kick Butts Day" started 15 years ago as a national day that would empower youth to speak up and take action against tobacco use. Mr. Phillips reported this year the Youth Council is focusing on the number 820, the number of Alabamians who die each year from second hand smoke. He pointed out every 72 seconds someone in the U.S. dies from a tobacco related illness or over 400,000 people dying from a preventable illness. Mr. Phillips stated the Youth Council would like to ask the Commission and the citizens of Houston County to stand up to the tobacco companies and join them in support for a smoke free Alabama.

Mrs. Trawick asked the other guests to introduce themselves as follows: Ms. Tori Money, Sophomore, Rehobeth and Vice-President of the Youth Council, Ms. Amber Brackin, Senior, Rehobeth, and Ms. Brooke Beavers, Senior, Rehobeth.

Chairman Culver thanked them for all they are doing, and especially during their Spring Break.

Regular Agenda

1. Re-appointments to the Dothan-Houston County Mental Retardation Board, Inc. – Henry C. Vaughn, III and William J. Dempsey.

Commissioner Forrester made a motion to re-appoint Henry C. Vaughn, III and William J. Dempsey to the Dothan-Houston County Mental Retardation Board, Inc. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

2. Request to award bids for Disaster Debris Removal, Disposal, & Reduction, and Cement Mortar Flowable Backfill.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to award the bid for Disaster Debris Removal, Disposal, & Reduction to low bidder meeting specs, Bamaco, Inc., in the amount of \$64,575.00, and to award the bid for Cement Mortar Flowable Backfill to LaFarge Building Materials, low bidder meeting specs, in the amount of \$75.00 per cubic yard. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported they talked about the Disaster Debris Removal bid on Thursday, and it does not cost the county any money unless they use it. Mr. Pool reported the numbers in the bid are estimated based on a projected amount. Chairman Culver called for the question; and it carried unanimously. (Please see attached Bid Summary Sheets in Minute Book)

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer – there was no report

County Engineer

Mr. Pool stated they are working on the Industrial Access Project in Ashford, and re-constructing County Road #81. Chairman Culver asked Mr. Pool if he was going to let everyone know when County Road #81 would be opened and closed? Mr. Pool stated yes.

County Attorney – there was no report

Adjourn

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