

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
JULY 11, 2011

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

ABSENT: Commissioner Jackie Battles and Mark Pool, County Engineer

Chairman Mark S. Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, declared a quorum was present, and welcomed everyone. Rev. Stacy Stafford, Pastor, Southside Baptist Church, 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 the motion; and it carried unanimously.

#### Announcements and Public Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver reported he had received letters from a couple of citizens recognizing the following county employees for the outstanding job they do: Ms. Shametrice Barnett, Probate – License Department, Mrs. Debbie Faison, Probate – Recording, and Mr. Chad Searcy – Revenue Commission Office. Chairman Culver thanked them for the great job they do for the county. He asked Mrs. Matthews to please pass this information along to her employee, and he asked Mrs. Sheri Thompson, Personnel Director, to please make sure Judge Cooley was aware so she could pass the information along to her employees.

The chairman also reported on July 5<sup>th</sup>, he attended an appreciation luncheon with the Vice-Chairman of the Sony Corporation, Mr. Chibachi. He stated Sony officials recognized the city and county for 34 years of support while they were located in Dothan-Houston County. Chairman Culver pointed out even though their business is leaving, they will continue their support in the education community with a scholarship program for the next few years to fund a Dothan High and a Northview student. The chairman then read the appreciation plaque that was presented to the county and the city for 34 years of support through the business and hospitality community.

#### Awards and Presentations

1. Presentation of Appreciation Plaque – Commissioner Doug Siquefield

Chairman Culver asked Commissioner Siquefield to step down to the podium. The chairman stated it seemed as though the theme for the meeting was thanking people for a job well done. He reported Commissioner Siquefield had requested this recognition. Chairman Culver then turned the presentation over to Commissioner Siquefield who asked Bryan Cowley, his wife, and Jessica Cowley Bullard, Chief James Posey, and Roger Nall to come forward. Commissioner Siquefield reported approximately a month ago, there was a fire in the City of Ashford. He pointed out sometimes ordinary people do extraordinary things. He stated the commission was honored to have Jessica Cowley Bullard

along with her parents, Chief James Posey, Ashford Fire Department, and Roger Nall, Chief of the Volunteer Firefighters Association. At that time Ms. Bullard was honored for her bravery. Commissioner Sinquefield reported this act of bravery occurred when she and her family were walking the family pet and they saw the beginning of the fire. He stated without thinking, Ms. Bullard rushed into the house and saved the life of a young boy, Caustin. At that time, Commissioner Sinquefield awarded her a plaque declaring her a "Hometown Hero" for her act of bravery and concern for others. He thanked Ms. Bullard, and she received a round of applause. Ms. Bullard thanked the commission and stated it was a big honor. She stated sometimes there are situations when people do not think, and she just reacted because of her concern that there might have been people in the house. Chairman Culver thanked her on behalf of all of the citizens of the county. He thanked Commissioner Sinquefield for bringing this to the commission.

#### Regular Agenda

1. Request to make nomination to the Board of Equalization

Chairman Culver reported the request was to nominate Jerry Adkinson to the Board of Equalization. Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to nominate Jerry Adkinson to the Board of Equalization. Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported the Board of Equalization members serve four year terms. He pointed out there are three members who serve on the board and the nominations are submitted by the County Commission, Houston County Board of Education, and the City of Dothan. The chairman reported these board members hear requests for possible variances on property tax rates. Chairman Culver stated the commission felt Mr. Adkinson would do a fine job. He pointed out sometimes the Department of Revenue wants three names submitted, but the commission hopes they will take this one. Chairman Culver reported in the event the Revenue Department wants more than one nomination, then the commission may have to come back and make some more nominations. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Request to adopt Resolution approving the Houston County Commission Redistricting Plan and authorizing its submission to the Department of Justice for preclearance.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to adopt the Resolution approving the Houston County Commission Redistricting Plan and authorizing its submission to the Department of Justice for preclearance. Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this process occurs every ten years after the census. He stated the census is taken and they look at the number of individuals in each district and they make sure they are within the parameters given to the commission so that there is a one man or one woman vote in the county. He pointed out this year there were only three changes with three lines moved. Chairman Culver reported two public hearings were held and no one attended either hearing. He stated he was going to take it as acceptance of the plan and not of disinterest. He commended the members of the commission for working together in such a cooperative manner. He recognized Greg Holland in the Mapping Department who drew and moved the lines and told how many people lived in the districts and came up with the simple redistricting plan. Chairman Culver thanked Mrs. Matthews for allowing Mr. Holland to do this for the commission. He stated they

did the same thing through the mapping department ten years ago and it worked out really well. The chairman reported once the commission hears back that they have been approved, then these lines will be the ones the commissioners represent in 2014. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

3. Request to approve Memorandum of Understanding for 2011 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant in the amount of \$10,312.20 and the Interlocal Agreement between the City of Dothan and Houston County.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for the 2011 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant in the amount of \$10,312.20 and the Interlocal Agreement between the City of Dothan and Houston County. Commissioner Siquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Request from EMA to approve AIEE Grant in the amount of \$18,020.86 – Clark Matthews, EMA Director.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request from EMA to approve an AIEE Grant in the amount of \$18,020.86. Commissioner Siquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Request from Revenue Commissioner to approve the Annual List of Errors, Insolvents, and Litigations Report.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request from the Revenue Commissioner to approve the Annual List of Errors, Insolvents, and Litigations Report. Commissioner Siquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported it was his understanding Mrs. Matthews explained that at the Administrative meeting. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

6. Request to approve items to be sold on GovDeals.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the items to be sold on GovDeals. Commissioner Siquefield seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. (Please see attached list in Minute Book)

7. Request to approve the rollover of the waste disposal agreement with Rose Hill Landfill, LLC, for \$12.50 per ton for a period of twelve months.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request to rollover the waste disposal agreement with Rose Hill Landfill, LLC, for \$12.50 per ton for a period of twelve months. Commissioner Siquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this agreement was for inert waste. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

Chairman Culver thanked Commissioner Harvey for chairing the meeting on Thursday.

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer –

Mr. Dempsey reported a meeting would be held on July 12th with the department heads for the operations budget, and those should be submitted back to him by the latter part of July.

County Engineer – there was no report

County Attorney – there was no report

Adjourn

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