

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 12, 2011

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

ABSENT: None

Chairman Mark S. Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, declared a quorum was present, and welcomed everyone. Chairman Culver called for a moment of silence in remembrance of those who died in the tragic events that occurred on 9/11, and in honor of those who currently provide the first responder services before Rev. Clark Cornelius, Pastor, Grace Anglican Church, gave the invocation. Commissioner Battles led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Announcements and Public Comments

Chairman Culver reported the 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony held on Sunday at the Civic Center was tremendous, and he thought it was quite appropriate. He commended the City of Dothan for putting the program together and allowing the county to partner with them.

Awards and Presentations

Chairman Culver reported he had forgotten to place a check presentation on the agenda, and was going to use personal privilege. He asked State Representative Paul Lee and Mickey Segó, Farm Center Manager, to come forward.

Representative Lee reported he would like to comment on the events at the Civic Center on Sunday. He stated that he felt they were outstanding, and very appropriate. Representative Lee reported the first responders in Houston County were also acknowledged from the volunteers to those who are full-time that do such an excellent job. He stated that the county can be proud of all these personnel.

Mr. Lee reported he had a special gift that they had worked on as far as grant money from the state. He pointed out when an entity applies for grant money it goes throughout the state somewhere and he felt it was his responsibility to get as much of that grant money as he possibly could. Representative Lee reported he had worked hard trying to get those grant monies and they had been able to obtain several checks for the senior citizens and schools in his district. Mr. Lee stated there is one entity in Houston County that gets overlooked many times and he felt it was a special day to be able to present Mr. Segó with a check for \$3,000 for the Farm Center to continue the work they do with so little funding. Mr. Segó thanked Representative Lee. Chairman Culver reported Mr. Segó does a great job for the county and the money would be used to assist with the gate repairs. Chairman Culver thanked Representative Lee for finding the funds to help the county.

1. Presentation – Recognition of Distribution Park – Ms. Tammy Radmart, Economic Development Partnership of Alabama

Chairman Culver asked the following to come forward : Ms. Tammy Radmart, Economic Development Partnership of Alabama, Mr. Matt Parker, President, Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce, Dr. Linda Young, Chairman, Dothan by Design, Mike McWaters, David Davis, all partners in providing services at the Distribution Park, and Dr. Steve Turkoski, Project Manager, Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Parker reported they were honored to have Ms. Tammy Radmart with the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama. He stated they administer the Advantage Site Program and Ms. Radmart had a special announcement to make for the Houston County Distribution Park. He thanked Mr. David Davis, PolyEngineering, Mr. Mike McWaters, Wiregrass Electric Cooperative, Dr. Linda Young, Dr. Steve Turkoski, and representatives from CenturyLink and SE Alabama Gas District, who were unable to attend, all partners on the project.

Ms. Radmart reported she was representing the State Advantage Site Committee and extended congratulations on the designation of the Houston County Distribution Park as an Advantage Site. She reported this designation signifies that the site has gone through a vetting process to demonstrate that documentation critical to the site selection process is available for prospective industry. Ms. Radmart reported this designation was evidence of the Houston County Commission and the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce's understanding that in the fast paced world of site selection, site development and project construction and of the importance of having a prepared industrial product. Ms. Radmart thanked the staff, engineer and others who participated in the process that made this possible. She stated this site is actively being marketed as an Advantage Site on the State Industrial Development website of industrial properties and in direct marketing efforts of the state and Advantage Site team. She then presented the Certificate of Designation and pointed out this is one of 31 designated sites in Alabama.

Chairman Culver thanked her and stated this was a big step for the Houston County Distribution Park because it enables people to come in and know exactly what is available without having to go through time consuming research. He pointed out economic development projects are usually on a very short time frame. The chairman reported this has been a long process and the persons standing with him have helped to make the designation possible. He stated Mr. Pool and his employees at Road and Bridge have done a lot of work down there. Chairman Culver commended the commission for putting this together and receiving the site designation. The chairman thanked everyone for attending and thanked Ms. Radmart for the designation.

2. Proclamation – “National Recovery Month” – Mrs. Susie Kingry, Director, Substance Abuse Services, SpectraCare

Chairman Culver asked Mrs. Susie Kingry, Director, Substance Abuse Services, SpectraCare, to come forward. Commissioner Siquefield made a motion to approve the Proclamation proclaiming September as “National Recovery Month.” Commissioner Battles seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. Chairman Culver then read the proclamation and presented it Mrs. Kingry. He thanked

her for the job she does and the staff at SpectraCare, and the relationship the commission has with them. Mrs. Kingry thanked the commission for the Proclamation. She reported for every one alcoholic or addict, 16 people are affected including family members, employers, and other associates in the community. Mrs. Kingry stated if they can help that one individual, then 16 other people are helped along with many generations to come. She reported SpectraCare and many other partners around the community work everyday to make recovery possible. Mrs. Kingry thanked the county for their recognition and their support.

3. Proclamation – “Hunger Action Month” – Mr. David Hanks, Executive Director, Wiregrass Area United Way Food Bank

Chairman Culver asked Mr. David Hanks, Executive Director, Wiregrass Area United Way Food Bank, to come forward. Commissioner Forrester made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring September as “Hunger Action Month.” Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. Chairman Culver read the Proclamation and presented it to Mr. Hanks. The chairman thanked Mr. Hanks for his partnership with the county, and the good works he does in the community. Chairman Culver stated he thought the proclamation expressed the tremendous growth the organization has seen since 1990. Mr. Hanks thanked the commission for their support over the years. He stated hunger is alive and well in the Wiregrass. Mr. Hanks reported they saw a record distribution last year and they are on a pace for a 25% increase this year. He stated it is critical to let everyone in Houston County know what is happening and give them an opportunity to help them with their mission.

Regular Agenda

1. Appointment and RE-appointments to the Houston County Port Authority – Mayor Sandra Lovett, Dr. Fred Garrett, and Mr. Perry Thomas, Jr.

Chairman Culver reported one of the appointments was to fill an unexpired term, and the other two were re-appointments. Commissioner Harvey made a motion to appoint Mayor Sandra Lovett to fill an unexpired term and to re-appoint Dr. Fred Garrett and Mr. Perry Thomas, Jr. to the Houston County Port Authority. Commissioner Battles seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Appointment and Re-appointment to the Houston County Department of Human Resources - Mr. Sam Crawford and Ms. Suzanne Geiger.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to appoint Mr. Sam Crawford and re-appoint Ms. Suzanne Geiger to the board of the Houston County Department of Human Resources. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously.

3. Request to approve 2011-'12 Budget.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the 2011-'12 budget as submitted with a tax shelter option on retirement contributions. Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported they needed to explain the tax shelter.

The chairman asked Mr. Dempsey to make some comments on the budget and what the motion means to everyone. Mr. Dempsey showed a summary of the revenues and expenses for 2010-'11 fund balance projections. He reported the year began with \$6,126,000 with the revenues being \$34,979,391 and expenses being \$35,952,674 which will leave an ending balance for the year of \$5,253,260. Mr. Dempsey reported the county is spending \$873,000 more than the county is bringing in resulting in a decrease in the fund balance. He stated the projected beginning fund balance for 2011-'12 is \$5,253,260. Mr. Dempsey reported the revenues next year are projected to be \$34,385,000 with expenses of \$36,314,000 with an ending fund balance of \$3,324,000. He stated expenses next year are projected to exceed the revenues by \$1,928,000 or expenses exceeding revenues by 5.6% for the coming year.

Mr. Dempsey showed the budgeted expenditures since 2005 running forward until next year. He stated the budgeted expenditures have grown higher than the actual revenues, which shows a gap in between, and creating the problem. He stated the expenditures have been consistently higher than the actual revenues. Chairman Culver stated he thought it was a very important chart because it shows how the commission has made cuts in its budget every year in an effort to catch the revenue curve. He stated had the revenues stayed the same at \$37,000,000 the commission would be at a level budget this year, but instead they have continued to go down. Mr. Culver pointed out the expenditures had gone down \$5,000,000 in that time frame. He reported they have cut back on positions without eliminating anybody's job, and they have cut back on some of the services the county provides, and on infrastructure they normally provide. The chairman reported this is the problem and it is significant. Mr. Dempsey reported in 2008-'09, the commission agreed to decrease certain positions through attrition. He reported there have been 40 or so positions that have been decreased which is approximately \$1 million or \$1.5 million. Mr. Dempsey stated that move has allowed everyone to remain employed. He pointed out had that move not been made at that time, the county would be in serious trouble.

Mr. Dempsey showed a chart dividing the revenue in the county into 13 individual sources. He stated in comparing them from 2005-'06 to next year there are only three places in the county where the revenue is actually higher—Revenue Commission, Local Revenues, and Sanitation.

The next chart showed employee salaries and benefits. Mr. Dempsey reported in 2005-'06 the total salaries and benefits were \$14,397,283. He stated there was an increase in salaries of \$1,512,000 from 2005-'06 to 2006-'07, and from 2007-'08 there was another increase of \$1,559,000 and the next year another \$818,000. Mr. Dempsey pointed out in 2008-'09 the brakes were put on, and during that time there were step increases and in most of those years there were COLA's. He stated in addition, the healthcare costs were going up but since 2009 they have leveled off. Mr. Dempsey reported in 2011-'12, salaries are expected to be about \$116,000 higher than this year but that assumes a full employment, with nobody quitting throughout the entire year. He stated during the course of the year there would be some empty slots. He stated the chart clearly shows the salaries and benefits climbing through the earlier years but that was when the revenue was higher also. Mr. Dempsey reported from 2005-'06 through 2011-'12 the workmen's comp and liability insurance had increased. He pointed out in 2005-'06 the county was paying \$693,000 per year and in 2011-'12 the county will pay \$1,192,000,

about a \$500,000 increase. Mr. Dempsey pointed out to offset this, the county has a safety person on board. He stated once there is a workman's comp case or a liability incident, it stays on the county's record 4-5 years. He reported with the improvements the county sees at this time, the financial benefits will be seen in three years or so.

Mr. Battles stated there had been a perception about the county's healthcare going up this year but that was not so. Mr. Dempsey stated that was correct. He pointed out the healthcare cost is not going up. He reported the county is self insured on the dental insurance and he had recommended that a monthly reduction of \$2.00 be given for single coverage, and a \$5.00 deduction for family coverage. It was pointed out the county absorbed the increase in healthcare cost about three years ago instead of giving a step increase. Commissioner Siquefield asked about the difference in the employee numbers from '05 and the current number of employees with the liabilities. He stated more people, more workman's comp. He stated there were approximately 440 employees and today there are just over 400 employees.

Chairman Culver asked Mr. Dempsey to put up the chart showing things they considered in the budget in trying to make whatever change they made have as little impact on the check the employees take home. He stated they started the budget on the premise of giving the employees who are eligible a step increase because they had been two years without giving one. He stated as they did that and in implementing the retirement pass through they tried very hard to have as little impact as possible on the employees. The chairman reported they talked with commissioners, Personnel, the City of Dothan, and other counties. The chart showed examples of the salary breakdown of a deputy, a probate clerk, and someone who was topped out. The first column showed the current status, and the second column showed as the budget was originally discussed and looked at. He stated it includes the step increase plus 7.25% which is a 2.25% increase in cost for employees for retirement. He stated the concern was that most of the employee paychecks would have been lower than what they currently are. He reported one of the issues brought up on Thursday was implementing a COLA as late as June. He reminded everyone that the county is spending \$2 million more than they are bringing in with the \$300,000 savings in retirement. He stated a COLA cost about \$140,000, and adding any COLA would increase an already desperate situation. The chairman stated the commission was trying to weigh taking care of the employees versus the extreme shortage of money. He reported the third column showed a step increase plus 7.25% retirement and a 1% COLA and the take home pay would be more than it currently is by a small amount unless an employee is topped out. He reported on Thursday afternoon, they found that Houston County is one of the few entities in the state according to the group that handles the payroll computer software including the City of Dothan, and many private businesses that tax your contribution to the Retirement System. He stated he remembered doing it several years ago by resolution but does not know why the county is doing it that way. The chairman reported they looked at the option of tax sheltering the retirement contribution which is in the last column. He stated the 7.25% retirement amount would come out before taxes are figured. The chairman reported this is the way the City of Dothan and most public entities as well as many private businesses do it. He stated by doing that even without a COLA it creates a larger paycheck across the board. He stated it still does not get the topped out up to where they are currently. He pointed out the motion on the floor is to

approve the budget as submitted and to include going to the tax sheltered option. He reported the commission would have to approve a resolution in order to do that and it would probably be done at the next meeting. He reported starting with the first payroll in October the amount everyone pays to the retirement system would come out before taxes thus increasing the bottom line. The chairman pointed out the only downside about it is that portion the employee will be taxed on when it is drawn out at retirement. He stated most financial planners believe that when a person retires, they will be in a lower tax bracket and it will cost less money long term.

Mrs. Sheri Thompson, Personnel Director, stated someone in the crowd brought up about a Sheriff's Deputy because they pay a little different. She asked if the second example on the chart was for a Sheriff's Deputy? Chairman Culver stated yes. She stated she wanted to make a clarification.

Chairman Culver reported they were going to allow anyone who wished to make a comment to do so. He stated normally 3 are allowed, but if there are 5 who want to comment they can. He stated he wanted everyone to understand the difficulty of the position the commission is in as they are looking at a budget that is still \$2 million short. The chairman reported they are looking at making at least another \$1.5 million in cuts in next year's budget if the situation does not change. He stated over the last 5 years, they have cut \$5 million without losing any jobs. He reported they did not want anyone to lose their job and they have worked hard not to terminate anyone. The chairman reported they have to balance the budget and they only have a certain amount of money received from the taxpayers and they are faced with that issue. He stated he knew there had been a lot of talk about the \$2.5 million that are shown as agencies that the commission could do away with that funding. Chairman Culver reported the commission really could not do that. He stated the county is legally mandated to pay \$600,000 of the \$2.5 million. He reported there is a law in place and it has to go to these various organizations. The chairman reported \$1.7 million are either through contracts or entities like the \$500,000 to the public school system. He stated he did not think the schools were in a position that the county could cut that either. The chairman pointed out that there are things that they really cannot cut. He stated in looking at the \$2.5 million if the commission really had to cut next year his guess would be they could probably get \$250,000 out of it. The chairman stated every cut possible would be made in the agencies before they started eliminating any jobs for county personnel. He stated the commission was going to look very hard to make the situation better. Chairman Culver reported they talked on Thursday about privatization, and he stated they would not do that if it impacted jobs; they would make sure the jobs were still there. He stated they talked about pursuing other opportunities for funding sources, and it could potentially include revenue. He stated they are working in a dire situation, and they are doing the very best they can to have as little impact on employees and importantly services. He pointed out the employees provide the services to the citizens and the fewer the employees the lower and shorter the services.

The chairman asked for any comments from the commission.

Commissioner Sinquefield asked Mr. Dempsey about sharing potential for the revenue for gas and oil since the population increase and attrition that is coming into play for the next year. Mr. Dempsey reported in the current year the county is receiving less money than in 2005-'06 for major gas revenues.

He stated they put in a 4.25% increase next year for the gasoline. He reported that is a huge jump from year to year. He reported there has been a law passed that will change the collection point but he had been told that it does not go into effect until October 2012. Mr. Dempsey reported the bottom line is that they have added 4.25% to the budget for additional revenue from gas. Chairman Culver reported he did not know the law doesn't go into effect until 2012. The chairman reported every other state that has done that has created some revenue but the county has no idea how much it would be, and it would not be appropriate to budget it until they know more. Mr. Dempsey stated the 4.25% increase would be \$150,000.

Chairman Culver asked if anyone would like to address the commission?

Mr. Mark Evans, who has been employed at Road and Bridge as an automotive and heavy equipment technician for 7 years, came forward and addressed the commission. Mr. Evans reported a lot of his questions had been partially answered. He stated in his short tenure with the county he had seen some trends. Mr. Evans reported when he was hired it was close to matching the cost of living and when it did not the county came in with a cost of living adjustment or step raise. He stated that he was told the step raise and/or cost of living would be coming to every employee for working with the county one more year. He stated a friend of his told him the only way to get a raise with the county was to live for a year which was true for the first 3 years. He reported during the last 3 years the employees have not gotten a step increase or a cost of living adjustment regarding the same pattern he saw to start with. He reported he also saw a commission that embraced the challenge of where to find monies and he stated he knew it was very difficult. Mr. Evans stated he saw a lot of appreciation from not only a commission standpoint but from a supervisor standpoint, and from other employees. He reported he saw a high level of morale that he does not see any more. Mr. Evans reported those employees who are living close to the cost of living or whose salaries equal or may become lower than the cost of living that exist in society today are greatly affected by what might appear to be a small thing financially in regards to the big numbers discussed in the meeting. He stated the employees are barely scraping through and are now beginning to lose ground because over the last 3-4 years they have worked at a salary below the cost of living which continues to increase. He stated he saw the county meeting the cost of living 7 years ago with the step raise. Mr. Evans reported the perception that the revenues and spending of the commission were more public 7 years ago. He stated he knew a lot of people present were concerned and would like to see a complete list of expenditures versus revenues for the last 3 years. He stated they might be able to understand why the employees are not getting raises and cost of living adjustments, and why the workers are having the financial burden placed on them. He stated the employees needed to know how much money is coming in and where it is going. Mr. Evans reported the employees can now see the RSA has put the extra 2.25% on the employees. He stated this was no surprise to him after reading the RSA newsletters. Mr. Evans reported the county employees do not have a choice in that they must contribute to the RSA. Mr. Evans reported the employees are seeing a downhill slope that does not seem to be getting any better. He stated the employees are being forced to give the extra money out of their pockets to the RSA when the RSA's track record is decreasing. He stated he wanted to make sure that the 1% COLA is also included in the last column with the tax deferral. Chairman Culver reported there was not a COLA in the last column. Mr. Evans stated he did

not mean COLA but the step increase. The chairman stated it was. Mr. Evans requested that the commission understand the feelings of the employees. He stated a lot of county employees are being forced to work a second job, and some are even working a third job which causes problems at home. He asked the commission to continue to give the step raise, and split the cost of the increase in retirement in half with the employees. Mr. Evans reported the employees understand that it is the employees' money in the RSA but they do not have the confidence that it will be there at retirement. He asked the commission to please consider the employees and do what is right. He thanked the commission for allowing him to speak.

Sheriff Andy Hughes stated he did not know why the state retirement money has not been pre-taxed before. He stated when he worked with the City that is the way it was always done, and he did not know who dropped the ball. The Sheriff stated he thought there were options to take money out pre-taxed for healthcare and dental insurance, and childcare. Chairman Culver reported that is an option of the employee to take it out pre-taxed. He stated a lot of employees do not take advantage of it. The chairman stated the department heads probably need to do a better job of advising all of our employees that it is out there. He reported when these are taken it raises the bottom line on the paycheck. The Sheriff reported that each county employee needed to be compensated in every way possible.

Mrs. Thompson reported in November employees could take advantage of a tax deferred plan for their healthcare, dental insurance and childcare.

Chairman Culver reported as a public entity, everyone should know where the funds come and go. He stated they try to do the presentation each year, and the media does a great job getting the word out but they do not put the whole thing out to the public. He stated the commission was very public with the situation and he felt with the chart everyone could see where the county's monies and expenditures are. The chairman reported although it may not seem like it, the commission has always tried to put the employees first in the budget process in conjunction with the Personnel Board and the last two years, the commission could not fund the step increases. He pointed out last year there was a 1% COLA. He stated this year if the plan is adopted, everyone except the topped out employees will see an increase in the pay because of the change that they are making on the tax deferral. He stated they did not want to see the employees losing money because they did not think that it was fair. Chairman Culver reported the change is not based on RSA performance. The change is the State of Alabama being broke and passing a law that moves the 2.25% from the state to the state employees. He reported while it does seem as though the employees bare a big brunt of this, personnel costs are about 50% of the county's budget. The chairman reported there are numerous infrastructures that need to be replaced, the Sheriff needs patrol cars, Road and Bridge needs a lot of equipment, and there is no funding for any of this. Chairman Culver reported the employees are taking the brunt of this because it is everywhere. The chairman reported the commission is working diligently to meet a budget that they can live with. He assured the employees they are going to work and hopefully figure out a solution in the short term. Chairman Culver stated when that happens he did not think they would get any opposition on the commission for making sure the employees are taken care of. He reported significant cuts would have to be made next year but his position would be that the step increase stays in place next year because the cost of living does go up. He pointed out that would be \$300,000 added to the budget that the

commission will have to cut somewhere else. Chairman Culver reported it is a significant problem and he hoped everyone understood .

Chairman Culver reported the commission is voting on the budget that includes from the employee portion, a step increase for everyone that is due one and includes passing the 2.25% on to the employees, and includes tax sheltering the RSA payment.

The chairman called for the question; and the vote was: YEAS: Commissioners Battles and Forrester
NAYS: Commissioners Harvey and Sinquefield Chairman Culver reported he wished things were different, but he did not know of another way, and he broke the tie by voting YEA. He declared the motion passed. He reported the Resolution on the tax deferral would be on the agenda for the next meeting. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

4. Request to adopt Resolution to come under the provisions of Act 2011-676 regarding the Employees' Retirement System of Alabama.

He stated this resolution was included in the budget that was just passed. Commissioner Forrester made a motion to adopt the Resolution to come under the provisions of Act 2011-676 regarding the Employees' Retirement System of Alabama. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. The chairman called for the question; and the vote was: YEAS: Commissioners Forrester and Battles NAYS: Commissioners Harvey and Sinquefield Chairman Culver broke the tie by voting YEA. He declared the motion passed. (Please see in Resolution Book)

5. Request to enter into contract for property insurance with Flowers Insurance.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve entering into a contract for property insurance with Flowers Insurance, low bidder meeting specs. Commissioner Battles seconded. Chairman Culver reported this is the tri-year bid and it is lower than the previous contract and includes more coverage. The chairman called for the question; and the vote was: YEAS: Commissioners Harvey, Battles, and Forrester. Commissioner Sinquefield abstained. The chairman declared the motion passed. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

6. Request from Probate Judge to improve the parking lot at the Madrid polling precinct through HAVA Grant Funds – Probate Judge Luke Cooley.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the request from the Probate Judge to improve the parking lot at the Madrid polling precinct through HAVA Grant Funds. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

7. Request from Probate Judge to approve Rolland Family Cemetery – Probate Judge Cooley.

Chairman Culver reported this was discussed on Thursday, and he felt the commission needed to table this item indefinitely. He stated according to the Association of County Commissions of Alabama's attorney, family burial plots are exempt from any regulation or approval by the county commission, health department, or any other entities. The chairman does not have the authority to regulate or

approve the request. Commissioner Harvey made a motion to table this item indefinitely. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously.

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

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

9. Request from Sheriff to sell retired and confiscated vehicle at auction.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the Sheriff's request to sell retired and confiscated vehicles at auction. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion. The chairman reported as discussed on Thursday, the proceeds will allow the Sheriff to purchase vehicles since the commission could not give him enough money in the budget. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer – there was no report

County Engineer

Mr. Pool reported all of the delineators have been put down out in the county on the roads that are supposed to have them.

County Attorney – there was no report

Chairman Culver asked Mr. Pool to report on Woodham Road and the other projects?

Mr. Pool reported Woodham Road and Cherry Rock Road are complete, and they are working on Roland Road. He stated unless something else comes up, they will begin the Madrid project after the completion of Roland Road. Mr. Pool reported this is a different project and they have to make sure how the funding is going to work. He stated they have never done a project like this one and he did not want to complete the project and then someone say it was not done correctly and then the county does not get the money.

Chairman Culver reported because of the difficulty the county is having getting refunded money from the state or the federal government and all of the new charges the county is getting, the lack of attention, and the slowness on the refunded projects, he felt the county needed to be particularly careful on projects involving money paid back. He pointed out the county had just entered into the agreement on the state doing the rest area, and until there is a signed contract back, he has told the engineers not to do anything. He reported the state is out there doing their work. Chairman Culver pointed out the county had \$10,000 committed to the county on a project that the state reneged on. He reported FEMA is dragging their feet on paying the county \$900,000 from the 2009 floods, and it will make a significant impact in the budget. The chairman reported he had been informed on the Ashford project the state has put some charge in there that the county has never seen before. He stated it is

obvious that all governments are broke and the federal and state are doing their best to shove everything down they can to the city and county governments, and there is nowhere for them to shove. Chairman Culver stated the county has to be very careful with anything they enter into involving the state or federal government; everything must be documented with all of the "i's" dotted and "t's" crossed, and be prepared to fight over it.

Commissioner Battles invited everyone to a Ribbon Cutting at Nexair on Friday, September 16th, at 10:00 A.M. He stated they are located at 1750 Kinsey Road.

Adjourn

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