

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 13, 2012

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

ABSENT: Commissioner Phillip L. Forrester

Chairman Mark S. Culver, called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, established a quorum was present, and welcomed everyone. Father Patrick Gallagher gave the invocation. Commissioner Doug Slnquefield led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Announcements and Public Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

The chairman extended sympathy to Commissioner Doug Slnquefield and family on the death of his mother-in-law, Mrs. Marie Weed. He asked everyone to please keep the family in their thoughts and prayers.

Chairman Culver reported on February 20th, the county and state offices would be closed for Presidents' Day. He pointed out the county's garbage would be picked up on the regular schedule on Monday.

Awards and Presentations

1. Proclamation – "Severe Weather Awareness Week" – Clark Matthews, EMA Director

Chairman Culver asked Mr. Clark Matthews, EMA Director, and his guest to come forward. Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring February 19th-24th as "Severe Weather Awareness Week." Commissioner Slnquefield seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. Chairman Culver reported each year the commission and EMA try to remind the citizens of Houston County of the importance of having a plan prepared for severe weather. He stated our community has been extremely blessed over the years by avoiding extreme events. He pointed out it only takes one, and everyone needs to be prepared. The chairman then read the Proclamation regarding "Severe Weather Awareness Week", and presented it to Mr. Matthews. Chairman Culver thanked Mr. Matthews for his ongoing efforts to help the residents of Houston County to be prepared.

Mr. Matthews then introduced his guest, Mr. Jeff Evans, National Weather Service, Tallahassee, Florida. Mr. Evans thanked the commission for allowing him to speak regarding weather preparedness. He reported the weather occurrences over the last 12 months pointed out how vulnerable the people of the State of Alabama are to the ravages of Mother Nature. He stated March 1st will be the 5th anniversary of the Enterprise tornado. Mr. Evans reported the season is approaching for severe weather and people need to be thinking about what they can do. He stated studies have shown those people

who prepare ahead of time are better at coping with the scope or magnitude of a potential disaster. Mr. Evans urged people to think about what they would do in certain weather situations, to make sure they have a NOAA weather radio, and understand the warnings that are issued in an effort to avoid any certain tragedy. Chairman Culver expressed appreciation to Mr. Evans and the National Weather Service for all their efforts to help keep our community on top of the weather.

Regular Agenda

1. Request to approve budget amendment to cover additional cost of temporary labor for the Board of Registrars.

Commissioner Sinuefield made a motion to approve a budget amendment to cover the additional cost of temporary labor for the Board of Registrars. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this would cover a period during the last week to register to vote. He pointed out one of the registrars is taking vacation time during that week, and the Commission needed to approve this request in order to make sure there will be enough people to cover it. Chairman Culver called for the question; and it carried unanimously. (Please see attached Budget Amendment in Minute Book)

2. Request from Probate judge to use HAVA Grant funds for the purchase of miscellaneous election supplies.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the Probate Judge's request to use HAVA Grant funds for the purchase of miscellaneous election supplies. Commissioner Sinuefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported these supplies are to make the voting process more efficient and easier for all citizens. The chairman called for the question; and it carried unanimously.

3. Request from the Revenue Commissioner to set the millage rate.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the Revenue Commissioner's request to set the millage rate. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this is done annually and is required by law. He pointed out the commission cannot increase any mills or change anything, but has to approve it each year. The chairman reported the total millage rate is 23 mills. He pointed out there are additional mills that are paid either from the city or state. Mr. Culver reported approximately six months ago the hospital requested 1.5 mills of the additional 3 mills they have, so it will be an increase from last year. Chairman Culver reported the 1.5 mills were assessed back in September and it has already been done so it will not be an increase from that time. The chairman called for the question; and it carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

4. Request from EMA to approve Mitigation Grant in the amount of \$65,495.00 for 13 individual Safe Rooms, and to grant Clark Matthews, EMA Director, legal authority to apply for assistance on behalf of Houston County, the Subgrantee – Clark Matthews, EMA Director.

Commissioner Sinuefield made a motion to grant the request from EMA to approve Mitigation Grant in the amount of \$64,495.00 for 13 individual Safe Rooms, and to grant Clark Matthews, EMA Director, legal authority to apply for assistance on behalf of Houston County, the Subgrantee. Commissioner

Battles seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this is a way a few families in the community will have some safety. He stated he did receive a couple of calls after Thursday's meeting inquiring about how to obtain one. The chairman reported he explained this was through the state and these were already committed, and he encouraged them to call the State EMA office. Chairman Culver reported there will probably be another round of these in the future. Commissioner Battles asked about the price of one of the Safe Rooms? Mr. Matthews reported it would vary depending on the size, they are for two people up to six people, and would probably cost between \$4,500 and \$4,800. Mr. Matthews reported his office received a lot of calls on Friday. He pointed out this is round one and there will probably be two or three more rounds for people who are interested. Mr. Matthews reported the people who called on Friday were placed on a list, and if it opens up again, they will be notified by a phone call or a letter and given a chance to apply. Mr. Matthews reported on the first round, they had 14 people to apply, and 13 were approved. He pointed out one had a problem because they were in a flood zone. He stated all 13 were approved, and they did not have to select anyone. Mr. Battles stated although this was a grant, there are private contractors that install these, and an individual can contact them for one. Mr. Matthews asked individuals who have one installed to notify the EMA office because if there is a tornado event, and the house has collapsed or one is built near a building, they would check to see that the people get out and are not trapped. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Request from EMA to approve Mass Fatality Response Equipment Grant from Alabama Department of Public Health - \$43,390.00 – Clark Matthews, EMA Director.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to grant the request from EMA to approve a Mass Fatality Response Equipment Grant from the Alabama Department of Public Health in the amount of \$43,390.00. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this grant is to make sure the county is prepared in the event of a mass casualty. The chairman called for the question; and it carried unanimously.

6. Request from EMA for a 10 ICL Regional Communications Vehicle Sustainment Grant from Homeland Security - \$8,000.00 – Clark Matthews, EMA Director.

Commissioner Siquefield made a motion to grant the request from EMA for a 10 ICL Regional Communications Vehicle Sustainment Grant from Homeland Security in the amount of \$8,000.00. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this is to work on the equipment on the communications truck. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

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

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

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer – there was no report

County Engineer

Mr. Pool reported Fortner Street may open this week depending on several factors.

He reported there is a 50/50 chance the Madrid project would be completed by March 13th depending on the weather. Chairman Culver reported it needed to be completed before March 13th. Mr. Pool stated if the weather is good it will be completed. He reported if the weather does not cooperate, they will make sure it is fixed up so people can get in and out to vote.

Mr. Pool pointed out the guardrail and sidewalk projects are going well.

He reported a Pre-Construction Conference was held earlier in the day on County Road #81 and it is scheduled to bid in the middle of March.

County Attorney – there was no report

Chairman Culver asked if there were any questions for the staff?

Chairman Culver reported he had received a couple of calls last week regarding the Fortner Street and Brannon Stand Road intersection. He stated the county is still working on obtaining all of the right-of-way and the project appears to take place in the summer of 2013. Chairman Culver reported they had hoped to try to get it done this summer, but it will not be done until next summer. Mr. Pool reported they planned to have a Pre-Construction Conference with the utility companies. He pointed out they should have all of the right-of-ways obtained in a couple of months, and hopefully all of the utilities would be completed by the first of October. The process of letting the project will then begin. Mr. Pool pointed out this is a big intersection project, and they have designed it for the future.

Adjourn.

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