

## MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION

JULY 9, 2012

PRESENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Doug Siquefield, Commissioner Jackie Battles, Barkley Kirkland, Acting County Engineer, and William J. Dempsey, Chief Administrative Officer

ABSENT: Gary Sherrer, County Attorney, and Mark Pool, County Engineer

Chairman Mark Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, declared a quorum present, and welcomed everyone. Rev. Clark Cornelius, Pastor, Grace Anglican Church, gave the invocation. Commissioner Harvey led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

### Announcements and Public Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver reminded everyone who lived in District 4 to please go and vote on July 10<sup>th</sup> for commissioner. He stated there would be only one name on the ballot. He pointed out someone could either vote for the individual or a straight Republican ticket, but not both.

Chairman Culver reported that the Swearing-In Ceremony for the newly elected commissioner would be July 18<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 A.M., in the Commission Chambers.

The chairman also reported the Road & Bridge Department would be completing the pick-up of old tires this week.

Commissioner Harvey announced that the Alfred Saliba Family Services Center would be holding a fundraiser on August 11<sup>th</sup>, at the Dothan Civic Center. He reported the festivities would begin at 5:00 P.M., and former Alabama Coach, Gene Stallings, would be speaking at 7:00 P.M. Commissioner Harvey urged everyone to come out and support the event which would benefit the Alfred Saliba Family Services Center. He thanked Ms. Mary Hill and her group for all they do. Mr. Harvey reported sponsorships would be available for private citizens and organizations and he asked that people seriously consider those. Commissioner Harvey reported anyone could obtain further information by contacting Ms. Hill. Chairman Culver stated it would be a good event and he encouraged everyone to come out and participate.

### Regular Agenda

1. Request from Probate Judge to use HAVA Grant Funds for the purchase of Microsoft Access 2010 licenses for 30 notebooks used for elections.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the Probate Judge's request to use HAVA Grant Funds for the purchase of Microsoft Access 2010 licenses for 30 notebooks used for elections. Commissioner Siquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported the HAVA funds are used specifically to help with the voting process, handicap accessibility, or other things. He stated he appreciated the Probate Office working with the commission. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Request from Revenue Commissioner to approve the annual List of Errors, Insolvents and Litigations from the 2011 tax year and outstanding prior years.

Commissioner Siquefield made a motion to grant the Revenue Commissioner's request to approve the list of Errors, Insolvents and Litigations from the 2011 tax year and outstanding prior years. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this is done annually and as the Chief Revenue Clerk explained on Thursday, it is not writing off anything but moving into the next phase of collection. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Request from the Town of Cowarts for assistance with traffic signal project at Glen Lawrence Road, Forrester Road and Highway #84 East.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to table this item until the next meeting. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver stated he believed a motion to table was one of the few that were not debatable according to the Rules of Order. The chairman stated he would allow Commissioner Siquefield to make comments at some point. He then called for the question; and the vote was: YEAS: Commissioners Battles and Harvey NAYS: Commissioner Siquefield The chairman declared that the motion passed. Chairman Culver reported this item would be carried over until the next meeting.

Commissioner Siquefield reported as the commission continues to extend the request, there is a possibility of an increase in costs due to labor and equipment. He asked for a statement from Barkley Kirkland, Assistant Engineer, regarding the litigation once the light has been warranted. Mr. Kirkland reported the litigation part of the project would be up to the County Attorney, Gary Sherrer. He reported the light meets two of the warrants, the eight hour flow peak hour and the four hour flow peak hour. Mr. Kirkland reported the road is the county's and it does meet the warrants but as far as the legalities, he could not answer what would happen. Chairman Culver reported Mr. Sherrer was out sick, and could not attend. He stated he did not like having legal discussions without the attorney being present. Chairman Culver stated he want to make it clear that the commission was not denying the request, just moving it forward two weeks. He stated he did not want anyone to get the idea that the commission was creating a liability issue just yet. The chairman reported the state would not be asking the county to do this if it did not meet the warrants. He stated as discussed on Thursday, it is more about the request from the Town of Cowarts for assistance than it is about the intersection itself. The chairman reported in the big scheme of things he wanted the commissioners to feel comfortable with whatever they are voting on. He pointed out if there is some reason to delay it two weeks then that is appropriate, and obviously, it has been passed. Chairman Culver reported without the county attorney, he did not want to get into the liability or legal issues. He reiterated again that the commission was not denying the request; only moving it forward for two weeks. The question was asked if the liability fell back on the county? Chairman Culver stated he would rather not talk about liability. Commissioner Harvey stated they had a lot of questions. Commissioner Siquefield reported it had been discussed for some time and the commission does know it is a possibility between the Town of Cowarts, the state and the county. Chairman Culver stated he was going to have clarification on whether or not a motion to table is debatable by the next meeting . Commissioner Siquefield thanked the chairman for letting him make comments.

4. Request from EMA to approve Mitigation Grant #HMGP DR (1971-314) for six (6) individual Safe Rooms.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to grant EMA's request to approve Mitigation Grant #HMGP DR (1971-314) for six individual Safe Rooms. Commissioner Siquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this involved no new money, and was the continuation of the program already in place. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Request to award bid for 32 cubic yard garbage truck.

Chairman Culver stated he was going to ask that the bid be rejected and rebid due to a technicality. Commissioner Harvey made a motion to reject the bids on the garbage truck and rebid. Commissioner Siquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported there were some questions in the specs, and the county would rather re-bid it and make sure everything is done right. The chairman reported depending on whether or not Road and Bridge includes a garbage truck in next year's budget, the county might want to go ahead and bid one, and if one is approved in next year's budget, see about bidding two in order to get a better price. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

6. Request to award bid for concrete roadway drainage pipe.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to award the bid for concrete roadway drainage pipe to the only bidder, Hanson Pipe & Products Southeast, in the amount of \$29,749.60. Commissioner Siquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached Bid Summary Sheet in Minute Book)

7. Request to enter into an agreement with the City of Dothan to purchase and install fiber optic line between the Admin Building and Courthouse.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to enter into an agreement with the City of Dothan to purchase and install fiber optic line between the Admin Building and Courthouse. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported on Thursday, there was discussion that this would cost around \$5,000.00. He stated they have now discovered it is going to be \$8,000.00. The chairman stated this needs to be done and will assist the EMA, Sheriff, IT Department and everyone at the city. He stated the commission appreciated the city taking the part of the project to install. Commissioner Harvey asked how the project went from \$5,000.00 to \$8,000.00? Chairman Culver asked Mr. Sean Curtis to come forward and explain. Mr. Curtis reported the county currently has a 24 strand fiber and will be going to a 48 strand fiber. He stated the county is maxed out, and in doing the upgrade, they will have more potential to connect to the other buildings, and have more room to grow. Mr. Curtis reported in order to do the upgrade, they have to replace the patch ends where it connects. He pointed out they are expensive, but it would be a one-time cost. Chairman Culver reported the county has been working for quite a while on security and securing switches. He stated the plugs in the wall are called switches and in trying to secure and control those, and making sure they can be turned on and off with the existing line it has been nearly impossible for the new switches to operate properly. Chairman Culver pointed out this will enhance that ability also. He stated he thought the reason for the increase was that they had something called terminate fiber on each end for \$2,300.00. Chairman Culver stated he thought Mr. Curtis was talking about the actual panel that was not included. Mr. Curtis stated that was correct and there was a \$2,200.00 difference. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

Reports from Staff:

Chief Administrative Officer

Mr. Dempsey reported that the department heads would receive their budget packets on July 11<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30 A.M. in the Commission Chambers. He stated it was going to be a difficult budget because there are a lot of unusual situations going on. He reported over the last 2-3 years the department heads have stepped up and done a great job.

Mr. Dempsey reported Accounting has received a couple of requests and his recommendation would be to accept this. He stated the Presiding Judge is now receiving funds for docket fees, and he has requested that the county provide the accounting services. Mr. Dempsey reported the Accounting Department does this on several things for different people, and he stated there is no risk to the county. He reported the money is placed in the bank, and when the person sends a written request for the money Accounting writes the check.

He reported the Sheriff has a similar situation in that he will be receiving additional monies from docket fees and bond fees. He stated they have been advised to accept the money and immediately write a check back to the Sheriff, and this will be a flow through with no risk to the county. He pointed out the Circuit Clerk will be sending the monies for the Sheriff and the Presiding Judge.

Chairman Culver stated he did not think any action should be taken because it could be handled administratively. He reported these have come about due to the increases in court costs and bond fees passed by the Legislature. The chairman stated he had talked with the Sheriff and this money has to be used for the Jail. He reported the Sheriff has agreed to use a portion of his money to offset some of the items requested in budget for the Jail as opposed to going out and buying things for the Jail. He stated he appreciated the Sheriff doing that.

County Engineer – Acting County Engineer, Kirkland stated there was no report.

County Attorney – There was no report due to the Attorney's absence.

Commissioner Sinquefield thanked the Road and Bridge Department for putting out the delineators for the Volunteer Fire Departments. He stated he had heard several of the fire departments have some road information that they have sent back to him, and he encouraged any of the firefighters who see

any roads in the districts that have not gotten those delineators to mark the fire hydrants and send the information to the commissioners. Chairman Culver stated that was not the process. He reported the procedure was set up for the fire departments to notify the Volunteer Firefighters Association and then the Association will notify them. Mr. Culver stated the firefighters could get the information to the commissioners and then the commissioners need to get that information to Roger Nall at the Volunteer Firefighters Association. Mr. Nall will then submit the information to the Road and Bridge Department.

Adjourn

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sinquefield and it carried unanimously.