

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
SEPTEMBER 24, 2012

PRESENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Doug Siquefield, Commissioner Jackie Battles, Commissioner Melinda S. McClendon, 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 present, and welcomed everyone. Rev. Jimmy Bolin, Pastor, Cottonwood Baptist 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 McClendon seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously.

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

Chairman Culver reported as everyone who has been reading or watching media outlets was aware that a delegation from China was in town last week and over the weekend. He stated the county has become part of an initiative that the city was first involved in of establishing relationships through the Alabama Chinese Consortium. The chairman reported they think there may be a lot of potential for that, lot of investment coming from China. He pointed out there was a very good program last week and the commission looks forward to continuing establishing relationships. Chairman Culver pointed out they are leaving no corners unturned anywhere around the globe to bring jobs to the community. He commended the city for being involved and allowing the county to become involved. Chairman Culver reported he would be attending the Consortium in Monroeville this week. The chairman stated the community entertained them on Saturday, and the commission was well represented. Chairman Culver stated he appreciated the commissioners attending on Saturday and representing the county in what could be a long term or a big thing for the community.

Chairman Culver reported Thursday afternoon he received a request from ACCA to award the bids on debris removal for our region. He stated he would be asking for the request to be added at the end of the agenda. Chairman Culver pointed out it would take unanimous consent to act on it.

#### Awards and Presentations

1. Proclamation – “Family Day – A Day to Eat Dinner with your Children” – Mrs. Beth Ford, Program Manager, The Prevention Project

Chairman Culver asked Mrs. Beth Ford, Project Manager, The Prevention Project, to come forward. He reported this Proclamation is done every year, and really is one that the commission is glad to help create an awareness on something that may seem small but it so important. Commissioner Harvey made a motion to adopt the Proclamation declaring September 24<sup>th</sup> as “Family Day – A Day to Eat with Dinner with your Children.” Commissioner McClendon seconded the motion; and it carried

unanimously. Chairman Culver then read the Proclamation and presented it to Mrs. Ford. He thanked her for bringing this matter to the commission's attention and the outstanding work that the Dothan-Houston County Substance Abuse Partnership does. Mrs. Ford thanked the chairman and the commission. She reported at The Prevention Project, they deal with statistics everyday and the surveys show that students as young as 9 years old are starting to use drugs. Mrs. Ford stated unfortunately, that is easily obtained in many of the households these children grow up in. She reported something as simple as having a family dinner whether it is breakfast, going to the ball field or going through a drive-thru and the parents taking that time to be with their children, or cooking a meal and being at the table is so important. Mrs. Ford urged parents to take the time and make that effort to be with their children and find out what is going in their life, what they are worried about, what their dreams are, and to just take the time to get to know them. She pointed out the problem with children starting drug use as early as 9 years old will turn the tide. Mrs. Ford reported parents are the #1 anti-drug. She stated if eating together as a family is not already a family tradition, she requested that the tradition be started; and make family dinners part of a parent's regular programming at home. She thanked the commission again for allowing them to attend.

2. Proclamation – “National Disability Employment Awareness Month”- Mr. Ed Dorsey, Vaughn-Blumberg Center, Ms. Jennifer Robinson, Alabama Rehabilitative Services, and Mrs. Cynthia Green, Wiregrass Rehabilitation Center

Chairman Culver asked Ms. Paige Bartram, Vaughn-Blumberg Center, Ms. Jennifer Robinson, Alabama Rehabilitative Services, and Mrs. Cynthia Green, Wiregrass Rehabilitation Center, to come forward. Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring October as “National Disability Employment Awareness Month.” Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. Chairman Culver recognized Mr. Steve Turkoski, Project Manager, Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce. He stated Mr. Turkoski helps with this initiative and he thanked him for his hard work. Chairman Culver then read the Proclamation and presented it to Ms. Robinson. Ms. Robinson thanked the chairman and commission for recognizing the month of October as “National Disability Employment Awareness Month.” She reported she worked with the State of Alabama Department of Rehab and they partner with the Wiregrass Rehab Center and the John Conti Work Center, which is through the Vaughn-Blumberg Center. Ms. Robinson stated they work together to insure that those individuals with different abilities have the opportunity to pursue their lifelong goals and their dreams by going to work. She pointed out they have the same longing to be part of society and contribute to what is going on in the community, and these agencies partner together to provide whatever services are needed so that those individuals have the same opportunity as everyone else. Ms. Robinson reported several activities go on during the month of October to make the community aware of the opportunities that are available to those individuals. Mrs. Green echoed the statements made by Ms. Robinson, and stated it was very important to work with her agency in an effort to properly place the individuals. She thanked the county for working with them. Mrs. Green reported they provide jobs for 12-15 individuals in document destruction and they shred the paper that is collected at Houston County. She stated for all of them what a difference a job makes. Mrs. Green thanked the commission for the proclamation. Chairman Culver thanked them for coming.

## Regular Agenda

1. Re-appointments and appointment to the Houston County Industrial Development Authority – James Pouncy, Robert S. Hewes, Hugh Wheelless, David Parsons, Velma Tribue, Harrison Morris, and Lori Wilcoxon

Chairman Culver reported the re-appointments are James Pouncy, Robert S. Hewes, Hugh Wheelless, David Parsons, Velma Tribue, and Harrison Morris. He stated the new appointment is Lori Wilcoxon. Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the re-appointments and appointment to the Houston County Industrial Development Authority as stated. Commissioner Harvey seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Re-appointment to the Houston County Department of Human Resources – Leo Breckenridge

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to re-appoint Leo Breckenridge to the Board of the Houston County Department of Human Resources. Commissioner McClendon seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Request to approve agreement for Psychiatric Services at the Houston County Jail.

Commissioner McClendon made a motion to approve the agreement for Psychiatric Services at the Houston County Jail. Commissioner Battles seconded. The chairman stated everyone had a revised copy from Thursday's meeting, and he asked if anyone had any questions? Commissioner Sinquefield asked if the physicians who will be evaluating the psychiatric patients had signed off agreeing to do this? Mr. Sherrer stated they had not signed the agreement yet but it had been reviewed with and by them. He pointed out a small change was made Friday afternoon to remove one of the physicians from the list who is no longer in the practice. Mr. Sherrer stated he had been told by the office manager that the physicians were in agreement. The attorney reported the idea is to have more than one physician available in an effort to provide the jail better access for evaluations. The chairman reported this is not anything new; just a renewal of the contract. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Request to approve contract for prisoner transport.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the contract for prisoner transport. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported on Thursday it was pointed out this contract will be used as the specs, and at this time, the commission is just agreeing to the contract and not awarding it. Chairman Culver asked for any questions? Mr. Dempsey reported there was one change from Thursday, and Mr. Sherrer had submitted it. Mr. Sherrer stated Mr. Dempsey had asked that the specific lead in toward the terms of what the costs would be not be put in the contract. He stated in Paragraph #6, it was changed to be as set forth in Attachment "A" because not being experts in that particular business there may be different ways that they would present what their services would be and how they would be paid. Mr. Sherrer pointed out after those are received they can be weighed

one against the other. Chairman Culver stated he thought last time there was an issue with the minimum amount. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Request to approve agreement with AL Department of Transportation for the widening and resurfacing of Prevatt Road from Ross Clark Circle to Forrester Road.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the agreement with the Alabama Department of Transportation for the widening and resurfacing of Prevatt Road from Ross Clark Circle to Forrester Road. Commissioner McClendon seconded the motion. Mr. Pool reported the numbers for the Prevatt Road project were estimates. He stated they will use regular federal funds for the project. Mr. Pool reported the county receives between 5 and 8 % monies for E & I--Engineering and Inspection of the project. He pointed out the E & I money was not on the paperwork. Mr. Pool reported his people are properly trained according to the federal government. Commissioner Battles asked if this is the road the county swapped with the MPO? Mr. Pool stated yes. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

6. Request to approve invoice for APAC Mid-South as the low bidder for project on South Rocky Creek Road.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to award the bid for the project on South Rocky Creek Road to APAC Mid-South, low bidder meeting specs. Commissioner McClendon seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this is an ATRIP project, and these are the actual numbers. He stated the county has no cost because it includes some of the match replacement money. Mr. Pool pointed out the county will be receiving E& I monies back also. Chairman Culver asked Mr. Pool to comment on the road being closed. Mr. Pool stated they were going to replace approximately 11 cross drains and the road would be closed in these areas while the cross drains are being replaced. He stated it would take 3-4 weeks to complete the cross drain work. He reported the work should start after the contract is let. Chairman Culver stated the county would try to keep everyone informed through the media when the road is closed. He asked everyone to be aware of possible road closings on Rocky Creek over the next 4-5 months. Mr. Pool stated the project will have a lot of shoulder work to be done. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached Invoice in Minute Book)

Chairman Culver asked to add the following to the agenda:

Request from ACCA to award the bid on Debris Removal for Region 2 to the low bidder meeting specs, Gulf Equipment Corporation d/b/a Crowder Gulf, and to reject the monitoring services bid as requested.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to award the ACCA bid on Debris Removal for Region 2 to the low bidder meeting specs, Gulf Equipment Corporation d/b/a Crowder Gulf, and to reject the Monitoring Services bid as requested. Commissioner McClendon seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. Chairman Culver stated after he received this on Thursday afternoon, he sent them an e-mail explaining the agenda procedure and in the future if they wanted us to award any bids, it had to be in the commission office by Wednesday. (Please see attached Bid Sheets in Minute Book)

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer – there was no report

County Engineer –

Mr. Pool reported he had a lot going on in his department. He stated they would begin the clearing on the road into the medical college that same day. Mr. Pool reported the library work is going quick, and hopefully next month the road swap would go through. He stated on October 15<sup>th</sup>, they would start cutting grass. Chairman Culver asked Mr. Pool to try to coordinate the litter pick up program with the grass cutting. Mr. Pool stated each crew would get 20 miles a day, and the litter crew would pickup once a weekend. Mr. Pool stated they would do the best they could.

Chairman Culver reported on the road swap, State Road 605 is what Brannon Stand and Highway 203 will be called. He stated they would be working with everyone on the name change as far as changing addresses. He pointed out some are impacted differently. He reported on State Road 95, there would not be a name change, but a number change. The chairman stated he met Thursday with Steve Collins, the E-911 Coordinator, and the process to make everyone aware is ready to go. He stated they were waiting on the letter from the Highway Department. Chairman Culver asked other than changing the signs if there was anything else the county would have to do? Mr. Pool reported they were going to cut some limbs out on 95.

Commissioner Battles asked if from Highway #231 North to Highway #231 South would be State Road 605? Mr. Pool stated that was correct in that it would go into Dale County. Chairman Culver reported that the portion currently called Brannon Stand Road will continue to be called Brannon Stand Road and their addresses will be the same; they will not change. He pointed out the state said they did not care what the road was called just as long as it had a state route on it. The chairman reported County Road #59 and County Road #203 will change, and some of that will change numbers and some of it will just change names. He stated E-911 will notify everyone including the Post Office, emergency personnel, UPS and Fed-Ex, etc. Chairman Culver reported the process is in place and they just need to get the final go ahead. Mr. Pool reported he had spoken with the Highway Department earlier that day and he hoped to have the agreement by the next meeting in order to do the swap. Commissioner Battles asked if there would be an address change from Highway 52 West to Highway #231? Chairman Culver reported from Highway #231 North in Midland City to the County line (Dale County portion) it will be State Route #605. He reported from the County line road to Highway #52 will be Brannon Stand Road and there will be no address change. The chairman reported from Highway #52 to Rehobeth Baptist Church, the name will change but the numbers will not. He stated from Rehobeth Baptist Church to the State line the name and the numbers will change. The chairman reported on County Road #95 the numbers will remain the same but the name will change. Chairman Culver stated a lot of people would have to change their address, but he asked that they remember it is for everyone's common good.

County Attorney – there was no report

Adjourn

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