

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
OCTOBER 8, 2012

PRESENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Doug Sinquefield, 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 Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, declared a quorum present, and welcomed everyone. Commissioner Jackie Battles gave the invocation. Commissioner Doug Sinquefield led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Announcements and Public Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Commissioner McClendon stated October is "Breast Cancer Awareness Month", and as a survivor she encouraged everyone to look at their moms, sisters, daughters and ask them to schedule their appointment for their annual mammogram. She reported it is also "Down Syndrome Awareness Month" and "Alzheimer's Awareness Month." She requested people to pick their charity and to give 110% of themselves to something that means something to them. Chairman Culver reported it is a good month to be aware.

Awards and Presentations

1. Proclamation – Recognition of "Little Ms. National Peanut Festival" – Ms. Julianna Singley.

Chairman Culver stated he felt like in Houston County a dynasty has been started that involves the beautiful young ladies who represent Houston County. He reported last Saturday night, the National Peanut Festival Pageant was held, and Miss Houston County, Whitney Devane, was crowned Miss National Peanut Festival. The chairman stated the Commission is so proud of Ms. Devane for doing that. He reported you will see a trend if you go back to 2008 when Audrey Kent, Little Miss Houston County, was crowned Little Miss National Peanut, and he stated Ms. Julianna Singley, who has been serving this past year as Little Miss National Peanut Festival Queen. He also stated earlier this year, the commission recognized Miss Caroline Crowley, Miss Teen International. Chairman Culver stated Houston County is doing something right in the lovely lady department. He stated the commission is so proud that these young ladies represent the citizens of Houston County. At that time, he recognized Ms. Julianna Singley, who has been serving first as Little Miss Houston County and then this year as Little Miss National Peanut Festival. He asked Ms. Singley to come forward. Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the Proclamation recognizing and declaring October 8, 2012 as "Little Miss National Peanut Festival – Julianna Singley Day" in Houston County. Commissioner McClendon seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. Chairman Culver then read the Proclamation and presented it to Ms. Singley. The chairman thanked Ms. Singley for the outstanding job she has done representing Houston

County and the National Peanut Festival. He stated for the first time in the County's history for the next ten days they have the distinction of having Little Miss National Peanut Festival and Miss National Peanut Festival. Ms. Singley thanked the Commission for their support. She stated she had an amazing year and did not think she could have done it without them. Ms. Singley received a round of applause.

Chairman Culver reported he had mentioned on Thursday that an item might be added to the agenda. He stated the request is for HAVA funds to be expended on handicapped parking and handicapped accessibility. He stated he would like to add the request to the agenda as Item #11 if there were no objections. There being no objections, the chairman stated it would be added as Item #11.

Regular Agenda

1. Request from the Personnel Board to approve the 2013 Holiday Schedule.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to grant the Personnel Board's request to approve the 2013 Holiday Schedule. Commissioner McClendon seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

2. Request to adopt Resolution authorizing general obligation warrant for short term financing if necessary.

Commissioner Siquefield made a motion to adopt the Resolution authorizing a general obligation warrant for short term financing if necessary. Commissioner McClendon seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this would be for monies they want to have available particularly for the potential for ATRIP and for some of the other projects should there be a need for it. He called for the question; and it carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

3. Request from Sheriff to approve Community Traffic Safety Program Grant.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the Sheriff's request for the Community Traffic Safety Program Grant. Commissioner McClendon seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this is for overtime in specific law enforcement spots for traffic control in the county to pay overtime for the officers to try to enforce traffic in those areas. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Request from Sheriff to extend uniform bids with Azar's for an additional year.

Commissioner Siquefield made a motion to approve the Sheriff's request to extend uniform bids with Azar's for an additional year. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported the bid process allows for the option to extend the bid. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached letter in Minute Book)

5. Request from Sheriff to award bid for 2013 Chevrolet Silverado.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to award the bid for a 2013 Chevrolet Silverado Crew Cab truck for the Sheriff's Department to Solomon Motor Company, low bidder meeting specs, in the amount of

\$39,308.51. Commissioner McClendon seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. Chairman Culver reported this is being bought with Homeland Security funds and will be used to haul some of the Homeland trailer types. Commissioner Siquefield asked if the truck will have a diesel engine? The Sheriff stated he thought it would. Sheriff Hughes stated his department will be able to use it every day as long as it is assigned to someone whose main duties are Homeland Security. The Sheriff reported the vehicle will benefit his department in a couple of different ways. (Please see attached bid sheet in Minute Book)

6. Request from Houston County Jail to extend contract for one year with Winn Dixie Pharmacy for pharmaceutical and medical supplies.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to extend the contract for one year with Winn Dixie Pharmacy for pharmaceutical and medical supplies for the Jail. Commissioner Siquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver stated this is within the bid specs to be allowed to extend for another year. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

7. Request from Community Corrections to accept a 100% grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation in the amount of \$1,000.00 to update computer and add scanner – Tony Weber, Director, Community Corrections.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve Community Corrections request to accept a 100% grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation in the amount of \$1,000.00 to update computer and add scanner. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. The chairman called for the question; and it carried unanimously.

8. Request to award bids on hot plant mix 424, flowable back fill, fiber mesh concrete, and fertilizer.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to award bids on hot plant mix 424, flowable back fill, fiber mesh concrete, and fertilizer to the low bidders meeting specs. Commissioner Siquefield seconded. Commissioner Siquefield stated on the fertilizer, he had discussed in the Administrative meeting if he was understanding it correctly that if it is over \$15,000 it has to be bid? Mr. Pool stated that was correct. He asked if the county could get a quote bid? He asked if the county was not looking at spending more than that because of the difference in the cost. He stated he did not know who Graco Fertilizer is but their price per ton could be above the \$796.00, and the county would still purchase it. Commissioner Siquefield stated there was a \$200.00 savings if the county got a quote bid to purchase as needed from someone. Mr. Pool stated they need to throw the bid out. Mr. Pool reported they sent bids out to everyone and this is the only bid that was received. Commissioner Siquefield stated he understood, but there is the difference in the price per ton the same analysis fertilizer, and it could be a \$200.00 - \$300.00 difference. Mr. Pool stated it could always be re-bid. Chairman Culver stated if that is what the commission is going to do they will need to take a different action. The chairman reported it was his understanding that the bid specs were sent out, and this is the only bid they got back, and Graco is the low bidder meeting specs. Mr. Pool stated that was correct. Mr. Dempsey stated he had talked with Commissioner Siquefield and the question on the table was if the spending in the year was greater than \$15,000? He stated if the spending in the year is less than \$15,000 the county has to go through

the normal bid process, and they go on a spot basis and get quotes when needed. Chairman Culver asked if the length of the bid was six months? Mr. Pool stated yes. Commissioner Battles asked if they were saying if they spend less than \$15,000 per year it does not have to be bid? Chairman Culver stated they had to get quotes. Chairman Culver stated Commissioner Sinquefield is a farmer and has pretty significant knowledge of fertilizer that some of the commissioners do not have. The chairman stated he thought the reason the question came up on Thursday is because Commissioner Sinquefield was aware it could be bought for less. Chairman Culver reported the commission's options are to go ahead like they are for six months and make the adjustment at the end or there would have to be a substitute motion to include the awarding of the other items minus the fertilizer. Commissioner Battles then made a substitute motion to award the bids on hot plant mix 424, flowable back fill, and fiber mesh concrete to the low bidders meeting specs and reject the fertilizer bid. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion. The following bids were awarded for hot plant mix 424 to APAC, low bidder meeting specs, in the amount of \$68.00 per ton, and the bid for flowable backfill to South Alabama Concrete, low bidder meeting specs, in the amount of \$86.00, and the bid for fiber mesh concrete to South Alabama Concrete, low bidder meeting specs, in the amount of \$99.00 per yard. Mr. Pool reported it is written in every bid that the county has the right to reject any and all bids. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached Bid Summary Sheets in Minute Book)

9. Request to extend current bid for rock with Johnston Trucking, LLC, for an additional six months.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to extend the current bid for rock with Johnston Trucking, LLC for an additional six months. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Chairman Culver stated again this was allowed in the bid specs to extend it. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached In Minute Book)

10. Request to approve road swap agreement with Alabama Department of Transportation.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the road swap agreement with the Alabama Department of Transportation. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported on Thursday it was pointed out they hoped to have the documents for this item by this meeting. He stated due to the county offices being closed on Fridays, the documents were delivered on Friday to Mr. Sherrer's office and Road and Bridge picked them up this morning. Chairman Culver reported the commission had the documents before them but they have not been signed by the Highway Department yet. He stated the commission would need to approve the Resolution, and he would sign them and they would be sent back to the Highway Department for their signatures. Sheriff Hughes asked since Highway #95 is changing to County Road #95 if the speed limit would change from 55 mph to 45 mph? Mr. Pool stated they would leave the speed limit the same. Chairman Culver reported they have talked with E-911 and they have a letter prepared to send out to all of the emergency folks, EMA, the Postal Service, Fed-Ex, UPS, etc. He reported the road name signs will be changed as soon as the executed agreement is received. Chairman Culver reported the Postal Service will honor either address for some period of time, but he was not sure for how long that period would be. He asked everyone to please bear with the county as they go through this change. Mr. Pool stated there were six different people

including the Governor that have to sign the paperwork. Chairman Culver reported there has been discussion about this project and it includes Brannon Stand Road, County Road #59, Highway #203 on the western side of the county. He reported it will be Highway #203 from Rehobeth south. He stated he had someone that lives just south of Dobbs asked if they were going to be involved in the change? Chairman Culver stated he told them they were not. He pointed out State Road #95 will be converted to County Road #95 on the eastern side. Commissioner Battles reported both the Mayor of Taylor and the Mayor of Rehobeth have been advised. He stated anyone in that area can call their Mayor about the road change. Chairman Culver reported once everything is approved, the letter will go out from E-911. He asked Mr. Clark Matthews to please call Mr. Collins and notify him that this will not go into effect until it has been signed by the people at the state. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

11. Request to approve HAVA funds for handicap accessibility at certain voting places.

Chairman Culver reported the commission had the information that Judge Cooley's office gathered. He stated they were putting up some handicapped parking locations and van accessibility signs, improving some restrooms and doors, and various things to make it as easy as possible for disabled and handicapped people to vote. Judge Cooley stated they were trying to meet ADEM's standards. Chairman Culver reported the sheet stated \$3,145.32 but by the time they add the van accessibility signs that were left off, the total comes to \$3,517.42. Judge Cooley stated the signs would be purchased through Road and Bridge in an effort to save some money. Chairman Culver stated after discussion with Road and Bridge earlier in the day, it was felt that it would be easier if they take responsibility for installing the signs and coordinate with the Election Specialist about where and when unless there is objection from the commission to do that. Judge Cooley stated she appreciated it. Chairman Culver asked if there were any objections to Road and Bridge installing the signs? There were none. Chairman Culver reported the intent of this item being added to the agenda is in an effort to have some of the signs installed by the election. Chairman Sinquefield asked if they were going to send prior notice to the precincts? Judge Cooley stated they had the letters ready to go out, and were waiting on it to come before the commission. Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the request for HAVA funds to be expended for handicap accessibility at certain voting places. Commissioner McClendon seconded the motion. He called for the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Judge Cooley requested that Probate and Voter Registration be notified regarding the road swap agreement. She stated they may have to send out new cards with the correct addresses. Chairman Culver stated he thought Voter Registration was on the list. Chairman Culver asked Mr. Matthews to let Mr. Collins, E-911 Coordinator, to know about notifying Probate and Voter Registration.

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer

Mr. Dempsey reported the county was in the process of bidding a telephone system, and at the same time broaden the internet system. He stated in doing so, they have received bids and they are clearly not apples to apples between the vendors. Mr. Dempsey reported there is equipment warranty,

service, internet issues, etc. and he requested that the two bids that had been received be rejected. Chairman Culver reported it would take unanimous consent by the commission to address the issue. The chairman asked if anyone had any objections to considering Mr. Dempsey's request? There being none, Commissioner Harvey made a motion to reject the telephone bids and re-bid. Commissioner Sinuefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

County Engineer

Mr. Pool reported the weather is pretty and work is going on everywhere. He reminded the commission that in a month there would be another ATRIP announcement. He reported they have \$23 million in projects ready to go. Chairman Culver reported the commission would love to have every penny of the money awarded to Houston County. Mr. Pool stated if they could get it in a lump sum, they could let a big project.

County Attorney – there was no report

Adjourn

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