

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION

JUNE 10, 2013

PRESENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Doug Siquefield, Commissioner Jackie Battles, Commissioner Melinda S. McClendon, Gary Sherrer, County Attorney, Barkley Kirkland, 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. Lyle Peluso, Pastor, The Vineyard Church, gave the invocation. Commissioner Siquefield stated Thursday, June 6, 1944, was D-Day, and everyone is privileged by the sacrifices those men and women made when the beaches of Normandy were stormed, and so many were killed to give us the freedom we have today. He thanked the men and women who have served and currently serve in the military to insure the many freedoms we have. He then led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Culver thanked Commissioner Siquefield.

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 there had been two tragic events in the community over the weekend. He stated the Columbia Senior Citizens Center Director's daughter and grandson were killed in an automobile wreck, and Mr. Walsh was killed in an accident while trying to help and protect others during the bad weather. The chairman asked that everyone please keep the White and Walsh families in their thoughts and prayers.

The chairman asked Mr. Steve Carlisle, EMA Director, to come forward and give an update on the storm damage received in the community on Friday. He also asked him to bring the new Deputy Director and introduce her. Mr. Carlisle reported they had talked with the Tallahassee Weather Service on Friday and they had advised them that Houston County was not even in a slight storm risk; however there would be some rainfall. He pointed out the events Friday were unexpected because the storm came across Houston County, and there was another storm that popped up that started in Southern Junction and moved over into Cottonwood and all the way across. Chairman Culver asked Mr. Barkley Kirkland to show the commission and the public the extent of the storm damage on a map he had prepared. Mr. Carlisle stated the storm left a lot of damage from debris and the Road and Bridge crews were called out to clear it. He reported there were a lot of power lines down and structural damage to houses due to trees falling on them. The EMA Director pointed out there was a lot of damage in the New Hope, Providence, and Atwell area off Highway #109, in the Lovetown area, and in the Cottonwood area. Mr. Carlisle reported a brand new pole barn was blown down on County Road 605. He reported when he spoke with Jeff Evans, Tallahassee Weather, on Friday night, they sent quite a few pictures of the damage and they thought it was a tornado. He pointed out he has been advised by Tallahassee Weather it was not a tornado but a cloud tail. Mr. Carlisle reported it looked just like a tornado but it did not

touch the ground, and unless it touches the ground it is not a tornado. He stated the weather service used satellite images on Houston County and it has been determined that all of the damage was caused by straight line winds. Mr. Carlisle pointed out there were hurricane force winds between 75-80 miles per hour and it happened in a very short period of time. He reported the Tallahassee Weather Service stated it was just a fluke storm that came up.

Mr. Carlisle introduced Ms. Leigh Adams, the new Operations Manager/Deputy Director for Houston County EMA. He reported Ms. Adams has been serving as the Senior Dispatcher with the Sheriff's Department. Ms. Adams reported she has been employed with the Houston County Sheriff's Department since 2000, and in 2009 she became a Shift Supervisor. She stated she looked forward to continue serving the citizens of Houston County as the EMA Deputy Director/Community Coordinator. Chairman Culver congratulated her, and stated the commission was glad to have her on board.

Commissioner Battles reported it was amazing to watch people respond in the manner they did. He stated as soon as it started happening the volunteer fire departments went to the areas and took charge, the Sheriff's Department and the Road and Bridge Department were quickly activated along with Wiregrass Electric Coop. Mr. Carlisle stated everyone worked well together and the response was great. Commissioner Battles stated he is proud to be a part of this county. Chairman Culver stated it is the norm, not the exception for the people of Houston County to do a great job in these type situations.

Chairman Culver reported the first Administrative meeting in July is scheduled for July 4th, and he stated it would be held on Wednesday, July 3rd. He stated it would be announced again at the next meeting in June.

Regular Agenda

1. Request to fill unexpired term on the Houston County Health Care Authority representing District 3.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to appoint Mr. Lance Shepard to fill the unexpired term on the Houston County Health Care Authority representing District 3. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. It was pointed out the term would expire in 2015. Chairman Culver reported there would be 4 regular appointments coming up in August, and the process would be starting soon if it has not already begun.

2. Request from Dothan-Houston County E-911 District Board to concur in the plan and direction for the E-911 Joint Communications Center.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the request from the Dothan-Houston County E-911 Board to concur in the plan and direction for the E-911 Joint Communications Center.

Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. The chairman reported Mr. Steve Collins, E-911 Coordinator, was present to answer any questions. He stated it was not a commitment of funds at this time but to just continue to move forward on the process that does include co-locating the EMA office with the communication centers. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Request to adopt Resolution approving Municipal Water Pollution Prevention (MWPP) Annual Report.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to adopt the Resolution approving the Municipal Water Pollution Prevention (MWPP) Annual Report. Commissioner Sinuefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver asked Mrs. Brittney Clayton, Engineer, to come forward. Mrs. Clayton reported this is an annual report that includes water reports and any other actions taken. She stated the Commission has to sign because it is an ADEM permit and the commission technically holds the permit. Chairman Culver reported this is an annual report required by ADEM. He asked Mrs. Clayton if there was anything unusual about this year's report? She stated no. The chairman reported the commission has a contract with Jerry Richards who does the work on the Wastewater Treatment Facility down at the Distribution Park. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

4. Request to assist in the repair of Courthouse Security Scanner.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the request to assist in the repair of the Courthouse Security Scanner. Commissioner Sinuefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this is the scanner that citizens go through when they enter the Courthouse. He stated they have been able to determine that total repair cost is \$2,000.00, and the commission is responsible. The chairman reported the Presiding Judge has offered through the Law Library to pay for one-half of the total repair cost, and he stated the commission appreciates the offer. He pointed out it will result in the repair being made quicker. Commissioner Sinuefield asked what they are currently using for security? Captain Jeff Carlisle reported the x-ray machine is actually broken. He stated when they have an overflow, they pull the old one to the other side. He reported currently they have pulled the old one to the front door and are using it. He pointed out the security at the courthouse is still in good shape. Commissioner Harvey asked the cost of a new one? Captain Carlisle reported it would be around \$18,000. Captain Carlisle reported the machine was purchased 3 years ago with a matching funds grant through AOC. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Request to award bid for prisoner transport.

Commissioner Sinuefield made a motion to award the bid for prisoner transport to Inmate Service Corporation, low bidder meeting specs. Commissioner McClendon seconded the motion. Captain Carlisle reported this is the company they have been using that has done an excellent job saving the county money and transporting the prisoners. Chairman Culver stated he thought one of the companies that they were using had issues and had gone out of business. Captain Carlisle reported they were using two different companies and one of them did have issues, but Inmate Service Corporation is the major one they have used in the past. He reported one of the biggest problems they had with the bid was making sure the liability insurance was up to date. Chairman Culver asked County Attorney Sherrer if that was good? Mr. Sherrer stated yes. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached bid summary sheets in Minute Book)

6. Request to award bid for 2013 Shoulder Spreader/Road Widener.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to award the bid for a 2013 Shoulder Spreader/Road Widener to Thompson Tractor, low bidder meeting specs, in the amount of \$208,031.00. Commissioner Siquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this was discussed in detail on Thursday about how much money this piece of equipment would save the county. He stated overall, County Engineer Kirkland felt very strongly about this purchase. The chairman called for the question; and it carried unanimously. (Please see bid summary sheet in Minute Book)

7. Request to approve salary adjustment of \$13,000 annually, for newly certified Engineer, Brittney Clayton, to be effective the first day of the next pay period. (Salary adjustment from \$47,074.82 to \$60,074.82 annually)

Commissioner McClendon made a motion to approve the salary adjustment of \$13,000 annually, for newly certified Engineer, Brittney Clayton, to be effective the first day of the next pay period. (Salary adjustment from \$47,074.82 to \$60,074.82 annually) Commissioner Siquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver congratulated Mrs. Clayton and stated the commission was glad to have her as a certified Engineer. Commissioner McClendon stated it was a good day for women in Houston County. Chairman Culver called for the question; and it carried unanimously.

8. Request to adopt Resolution for the g-treatment, milling, leveling, resurfacing, striping, and pavement markers for Webb Road, approximately 2.78 miles from Ross Clark Circle to Webb Town limits.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to adopt the Resolution for the g-treatment, milling, leveling, resurfacing, striping, and pavement markers for Webb Road, approximately 2.78 miles from Ross Clark Circle to Webb Town limits. Commissioner McClendon seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this is being submitted as an ATRIP project, and he stated the county may or may not do the project, but they are trying to get the funding for it. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer - there was no report

County Engineer

Mr. Kirkland reported they have paved the parking lot at the Columbia Senior Citizens Center, and they still have some dressing up left to do. He stated they have paved and curbed the Courthouse parking lot and they still lack some dressing up around the edges and the green space. Mr. Kirkland pointed out it is functional, and during the next jury break, they will finish it. He reported that Road and Bridge broke a record for 220 days without a medical case breaking the longest previous record of 216 days. Mr. Kirkland reported there is more safety awareness. He stated they are investigating accidents and trying to find ways to prevent them instead of reacting to them. The engineer reported they are having safety meetings, weekly meetings, quarterly meetings, and the county has a safety coordinator that is very involved and assisting them. He pointed out during the same 8 month period in 2010 and now there has

been a 91% decrease in accidents. Mr. Kirkland reported the safety program and initiatives are working if they can keep it up. Chairman Culver thanked Mr. Kirkland for bringing it to the Commission's attention, and he stated those type things are what the commission has been striving for. Chairman Culver complimented Mrs. Kelly Crowell on the job she is doing, and stated the results are easy to look at and verify.

Mr. Kirkland reported there were 4 roads that had to remain closed overnight due to power lines, and they were opened the first thing the next morning. He pointed out during the height of the storm there were 24 different roads temporarily closed due to the debris. Mr. Kirkland stated the road and bridge crews worked until about 1:00 A.M. on Saturday. Chairman Culver stated they did a great job getting together and getting out to the sites. He reported he had a couple of calls about power lines and he wanted to be sure everyone understands that the Road and Bridge crews are not going to be placed in harm's way. He reported if there is a power line down, the county's crews will not touch the tree until the power company arrives. He stated once the power company arrives and they make sure the line is dead or they move it out of the way, then the county's crews will handle it. The chairman reported typically, when there are storms, the county will allow pick up of limbs in the areas where the storms occurred for a couple of weeks without charge. He then stated if there were no objections from the commission that the county would pick up the limbs in this case for two weeks. There were no objections, and the chairman reported for the next two weeks citizens can bring their storm damaged limbs out to the road and there will not be any charge for pick up. He pointed out that the county might not get them picked up in the next two weeks but they will get them.

County Attorney – there was no report

Adjourn

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