

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
FEBRUARY 10, 2014

PRESENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Doug Sinquefield, 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. He stated there was no Admin meeting on Thursday due to moving everyone to this location. He pointed out the commission might cancel other Admin meetings also depending on the items on the agenda and from a logistics perspective. The chairman reported everyone would be notified. Rev. David Temples, Pastor, Westwood Presbyterian Church, gave the invocation. Commissioner Sinquefield 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 the Chamber of Commerce's Annual Spotlight on Business would be held on February 13<sup>th</sup>, from 3:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M., at the Civic Center. He stated it was cancelled on January 30<sup>th</sup>, due to the winter storm. He pointed out it was a great opportunity for local businesses to let people know what they do. The chairman encouraged everyone to try and attend.

He reported the Rehobeth Volunteer Fire Department would hold an informational meeting regarding ISO rates on February 13<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 P.M., and again on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 3:00 P.M., at the Rehobeth Community Center.

The chairman reported that Bruner Road, between South Park and Peterman Road, would be closed for three weeks in order to replace 3 cross drains. He asked people to please be aware and to use an alternative route.

He reported that the State, County, and Federal offices would be closed on Monday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, for President's Day.

Commissioner McClendon reported the Houston County Pageants would be held on Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, at the Dothan Opera House. Chairman Culver stated that the pageants would be held at 2:00 P.M. for the different categories with the exception of the Ms. Houston County and Little Miss and they would be held at 6:00 P.M. He urged everyone to support the event with their attendance.

Chairman Culver reported that Commissioner Harvey would be making a brief announcement immediately after the Commission meeting.

Awards and Presentations

1. Presentation of Veterans of Foreign Wars Awards – John Seay, Commander VFW Post, and Ed Pritchard, VFW Post, - Law Enforcement of the Year – John Edward Williams, Alabama State Trooper – Deputy Officer of the Year – David Asbill, Houston County Deputy

Chairman Culver asked Commander Ed Pritchard, VFW Post, and John Seay, Post Commander, to come forward. He stated Commander Pritchard was a long time friend of the commission, and they would be making some Law Enforcement Awards. Commander Pritchard reported Chairman Culver has been attending the Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies for many years, and the veterans appreciate him taking time out of his busy schedule.

Commander Pritchard reported they have the J. Edgar Hoover Awards, a nationwide program, for the Local Law Enforcement Awards. He pointed out the State winner this year is the Sheriff of Dale County, and he is being considered for the National award.

He then invited Corporal James Edward Williams to come forward and he stated Corporal Williams had been selected at the local level. Commander Pritchard presented Corporal Williams with a Plaque and an Honorarium. Corporal Williams thanked his supervisor for putting him up for the award and stated it was an honor and a privilege to accept the award. He then introduced his family who was in attendance. He received a round of applause.

Commander Pritchard stated he did not know what happened to Deputy David Asbill, the Deputy Officer of the Year. Chairman Culver reported they were on their way. While waiting, Commander Pritchard reported the VFW Post just celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and he stated they have done a lot of good in the community. The Commander briefed the commission on some of their programs in the schools, and some of the funds they have to benefit the veterans.

Commissioner McClendon reported Deputy Asbill had reached out to her several months ago about a fundraiser he was putting together for the Miracle Field. She stated he put together a fantastic soccer tournament at Westgate for young children, and raised several thousand dollars for the Miracle Field.

Deputy David Asbill arrived at the meeting, and Commander Pritchard called him and Sheriff Hughes to come forward. Commander Pritchard then presented Deputy Asbill with a Plaque and an Honorarium recognizing him as the Deputy Officer of the Year.

Sheriff Hughes reported they received the information about the award from the VFW Club and he was glad to nominate Deputy David Asbill. He stated Deputy Asbill is very active in the Sheriff's Office, and when he first came into office Deputy Asbill asked him if he would be interested in establishing a Tracking Dog Program. He stated he was excited to do that because there had not been one in their office since A. B. Clark was Sheriff. The Sheriff reported Deputy Asbill started the program and has made contacts throughout the U.S., and he has gained so much expertise in this field that the FBI in Quantico, VA calls him to come to headquarters and consult with them on certain tracking issues. He pointed out the county's Tracking Dog Program has been very successful. Sheriff Hughes reported that Deputy Asbill has been heavily involved in Special Olympics and the Miracle Field. He pointed out Deputy Asbill has raised a lot of money, and the special needs children in our area love these dogs. He

commended the deputy for not only his work with the Sheriff's Department, but also his charitable work. Sheriff Hughes reported he wished he had 50 more just like him. He received a round of applause.

Commander Pritchard thanked the chairman and commission for their support, and all they do for the county.

#### Regular Agenda

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

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the Revenue Commissioner's request to set the annual millage rate. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this is normal and customary. Starla Moss, Revenue Commissioner, stated there were no changes. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

2. Request from EMA to approve 2 grants from the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency for a 1 ICL Interoperable Communications Grant in the amount of \$6,000.00 and a 3 ICL Interoperable Communications Grant in the amount of \$2,000.00.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the 2 grants from the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency for a 1 ICL Interoperable Communications Grant in the amount of \$6,000.00 and a 3 ICL Interoperable Communications Grant in the amount of \$2,000.00. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called on Mr. Steve Carlisle, EMA Director, for comments. Mr. Carlisle reported the grants were sustainment grants for the communications truck in Houston County. He pointed out they get the grants every year. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Request to approve revised preliminary plat for Country Village Estates.

Chairman Culver reported he had been notified that this item needed to be tabled because the plat is not ready. Mr. Kirkland reported the developer came to his staff last week and they wanted them to revise it, and he stated due to the recent winter storm, the developers are not ready for it. Chairman Culver reported there is not a specific date to place it back on the agenda, but when it gets ready, they will. Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to table this item indefinitely. Commissioner McClendon seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

#### Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer – there was no report

County Engineer – there was no report

County Attorney – there was no report

Chairman Culver asked Mr. Kirkland to give an update on the ATRIP Projects. Mr. Kirkland reported County Roads #33 and Nuclear Plant Road had been paved and dirt work on the shoulders has to be completed. He stated work on County Road #22 was let this past year, but it is being held up due to weather limitations on the G treatment. Mr. Kirkland reported he hoped work would begin in April. He pointed out that the weather had been a hindrance. Mr. Kirkland reported the contracts on the last ATRIP projects would be let in May, and he anticipated the work being done over the summer and fall.

Chairman Culver reported the commission hopes to have the bond that funds the ATRIP projects and the ESCO project on the first meeting in March's agenda.

The chairman reported since the beautiful new library has been completed, he had been asked when the old one would be demolished. Mr. Kirkland reported he had been told they could begin that work at the end of April, and it should not take too long to tear it down and haul it off.

The Engineer reported that the sanitation test with the cans was going well in Madrid. He pointed out there were only 4 or 5 people who had not signed up out of 300. He stated last week was the first week when they actually left the garbage can and a hanger and they still have not heard anything.

Commissioner Battles reported that residents have two weeks to get their limbs and debris from the storm out to the road to be picked up at no charge. Mr. Kirkland reported pick up would begin February 18<sup>th</sup>. Chairman Culver asked citizens to please be patient and the county would get around to everyone.

Commissioner Battles asked about the timeframe to move back into the Admin Building? Mr. Dempsey reported he had met last week with TRANE representatives and the move in date would be May 14<sup>th</sup>.

Adjourn

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