

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION

AUGUST 25, 2014

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 Culver then called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, declared a quorum present, and welcomed everyone. He reported most of the commissioners were attending the ACCA Annual Meeting last Thursday, and there was no Administrative meeting. The chairman reported they would be operating under different procedures because of that fact. Before he began the meeting, the chairman asked if anyone was present who wanted to address the Commission? There was no one. Chairman Culver then called on Dr. Brent Parker, Pastor, Selma Baptist Church, who gave the invocation. Commissioner Melinda McClendon led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Chairman Culver reported it always good when the commission can recognize their own. He reported last week Commissioner Doug Siquefield received an award at the ACCA's Annual Meeting. He then congratulated Commissioner Siquefield on achieving the award for his Graduation of the Alabama Local Government Training Institute. He reported a bill was passed several years ago that requires all newly elected commissioners to complete 50 hours of training within the first two years of being in office, and once that has been completed the commissioners have an opportunity to complete more courses in order to excel and be the best commissioners they can be. The chairman pointed out Commissioner Harvey had also completed these courses and Commissioner Battles was working on his. Commissioner Siquefield received a round of applause.

The chairman asked Sheriff Donald Valenza to come forward and bring his guest. Sheriff Valenza stated it was an honor to congratulate Captain Bill Rafferty on a recent award he received. He reported last week he and Captain Rafferty traveled to the FBI Headquarters in Washington, D.C. for the Captain to accept one of the highest awards issued by the FBI to a non FBI agent. Sheriff Valenza asked Captain to Rafferty tell everyone more about it. Captain Rafferty reported the award is the FBI medal for Meritorious Achievement, and there were approximately 40 who received awards also. He pointed out this award is for the Midland City crisis, and the part he took as a negotiator in the crisis. Chairman Culver congratulated Captain Rafferty and he stated 40 people are not many from around the nation considering how large it is. He reported the commission was honored and proud that the Captain is a member of the Houston County team. He received a round of applause.

Chairman Culver asked Mrs. Sheri Thompson, Personnel Director, to come forward and bring her designee. Mrs. Thompson reported much like the ACCA has their certification process, they have their own organization, the Alabama Association of Public Personnel Administrators. She stated they gain so much from being in that relationship and being associated with them because they are able to discuss things all across the state, and find out what other Personnel Departments and Directors are doing in their counties. The Personnel Directors reported they also have a training certification process for the Payroll Coordinators and Benefit Specialists. She stated Mrs. Leslie Ashworth, Payroll Coordinator, has completed her training. Mrs. Thompson reported her Certificate from Auburn University was mailed to her because they were unable to go to their conference due to moving. The Personnel Director reported she wanted to recognize Mrs. Ashworth's achievements and thank her for everything she does for Houston County. She stated her job is a big responsibility. Chairman Culver congratulated her on behalf of the commission. Mrs. Ashworth received a round of applause.

Chairman Culver asked Ms. Tonye Frith, the county's liaison with the Wiregrass Museum of Art, and her special guest to come forward. He stated Ms. Frith does an outstanding job in keeping the commission informed about what is going on at the museum and answering any questions they may have. Ms. Frith introduced the Museum's new Executive Director, Rob Wysoleski, who she stated came to Dothan by

way of Texas, and she stated she wanted him to feel welcome in the community. Ms. Frith reported they expect great things, and she stated she appreciated everything the commission does to make them who they are. Mr. Wysoleski thanked Ms. Frith, and he stated he would second what Chairman Culver had stated about her. He reported he had been in Dothan about 2 weeks and he had relied on her expertise with the county and the city as well as people in the community. He thanked Chairman Culver, and stated they had just had a large fundraiser, "Yard Party for Art," over the weekend and the chairman was helping them out both nights. Mr. Wysoleski thanked the county for their support of the museum over the last decade with funding each year. He stated he takes that very seriously. The Museum Director stated he understands what the monies are in that they are from the taxpayers and it is incumbent on them as an organization to make sure they are leveraging those dollars. He reported if they are not proper stewards of the monies and not leveraging them to make even more money, then they are not doing their job. He asked that everyone pay special attention to the museum because they would be doing some changes in some interesting ways in making themselves more accessible to all members of the community, including all different age groups and focusing on bringing more people to Houston County. He pointed out one of his passions is to use arts and cultural institutions for economic development. He thanked the commission and stated he was looking forward to working with them. Chairman Culver thanked him and welcomed him to the community. He received a round of applause.

Regular Agenda

1. Request to award joint bid for fuel.

Chairman Culver reported this was exciting, and he called on Bill Dempsey to explain it before a motion was made. Mr. Dempsey reported a year ago the city and county agreed to join together in the bid for gasoline, leaded and unleaded. He pointed out at that time, the county was paying 6.7 cents per gallon above the average price as determined on a daily basis. He reported for diesel fuel the county was paying around 5 cents for unleaded gas. Mr. Dempsey reported after negotiations with the city they joined together and they got it down to 4 cents resulting in a savings of \$6,500 last year for the county. He stated the margin the city saved was more than that. Mr. Dempsey reported a year later both school systems wanted to join in on this bid making it four entities, the city, county, city school system, and county school system. He reported the proposed bid being presented is a 3.7 cents margin above diesel fuel and unleaded gasoline. Mr. Dempsey reported there is an average at the rack price each day as stated in OPUS, a magazine the state sends, and at the end of the day an average price is determined, and that is the markup of the average price. He stated as an example if the price of diesel fuel is \$3.00 per gallon, the county and the other entities would be charged \$3.00 plus 3.7 cents per gallon. Mr. Dempsey reported the price will change each day. Chairman Culver reported he thought this is the first item that all 4 entities have actually gone together and purchased. He stated the commission is really excited about it when 4 groups as diverse as the city and county and the two school systems come together and purchase something. He pointed out the county's savings over time have been \$6,500, but when you think about how much fuel the city and both school systems use, it is going to save some significant tax dollars over a period of time for the citizens. Chairman Culver reported Mr. Dempsey and Charlotte Langford, Purchasing Agent for the City of Dothan, initiated it and they have done an outstanding job. The chairman stated he thought it is something everyone should really be proud of. He reported there would be other things that come out of it. Chairman Culver commended Mr. Dempsey and Ms. Langford, and he stated he was glad the county could be the initiator of the first item. Mr. Dempsey reported the low bidder is to Southeastern Oil, Inc. Commissioner Sinquefield asked with it being diesel fuel, were they talking off road? Mr. Kirkland stated the county does not pay taxes, but it is the same price as off road. Commissioner Battles made a motion to award the joint fuel bid to Southeastern Oil, Inc., low bidder meeting specs, in the amount of \$.037. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached Bid Summary Sheet in Minute Book)

2. Request to award bid on reflectorized thermoplastic pavement marking material to the low bidder meeting specs.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to award the bid on reflectorized thermoplastic pavement marking material to Ozark Materials, low bidder meeting specs, in the amount of \$1,156.51 per ton and

a total bid price of \$101,772.88. Commissioner Battles seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached Bid Summary Sheet in Minute Book)

3. Request to approve Resolution for g-treatment, leveling, milling, resurfacing and temporary stripe on Smithville Road and County Road 33, approximately 5.868 miles.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the request to adopt the Resolution for g-treatment, leveling, milling, resurfacing, and temporary stripe on Smithville Road and County Road 33, approximately 5.868 miles. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion. Mr. Kirkland reported this is the year they have to spend all of the federal money because they have been doing ATRIP projects, and they put all of their eggs in one basket on County Road #81. He stated they were getting the project ready in case they do not get everything worked out on County Road #81, and the county will have a project in there ready to go. Chairman Culver reported he wanted everyone to know down on Smithville Road and County Road #33, that this is not a project that will definitely be done; the county is getting it in line in case they are able to do it. Mr. Kirkland reported they have to have a project ready to go by November 1st. He stated the road is in bad shape. Chairman Culver reported they were trying to get County Road #81 finished. The chairman reiterated he wanted everyone to understand that if the completion of County Road #81 does not take place, the Smithville Road project will be the back-up plan. Commissioner Sinquefield asked if at the fork of the intersection of Smithville Road and County Road #33, if anything would change as far as the stop sign is set up? Mr. Kirkland reported they could look at it, but it was re-routed that way because of accidents prior to it being located there. Mr. Kirkland stated there was never any intention of moving the stop sign. Commissioner Sinquefield stated the Sheriff's Department might could monitor it a little closer, and follow up on the people running the stop sign. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

4. Request to approve items to be sold on GovDeals.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the items to be sold on GovDeals. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer – there was no report

County Engineer

Mr. Kirkland reported they have recently received everything that was left at the Mayer Building, and he stated if any department heads want to come out and look they can before they place them for sale on GovDeals in about a week or so. He reported there is a pile of office furniture, filing cabinets, chairs, tables, etc.

Mr. Kirkland reported they received an e-mail earlier in the day that they are paving Brannon Stand through the intersection where the county had left off. He reported he guessed the state decided to resurface that small section of rough road. He reported Lanier Road and Glen Lawrence Road are closed for laying cross drain pipes for ATRIP projects.

County Attorney – there was no report

Chairman Culver asked if there were any questions for the staff?

The chairman reported the commission is scheduled to approve a budget for the coming year at the September 8th meeting. He asked Mr. Dempsey if the commission was going to be prepared to do that, and if another work session was needed for the commission? Mr. Dempsey reported nothing has significantly changed since the last work session and he felt everything was fine. He stated the bottom line is roughly \$5.1 million. Chairman Culver reported for those who attended the last meeting they started right at \$4.4 or \$4.5 million. He stated some work has been done, and they said they wanted to try to get to \$5 million. Mr. Dempsey reported most of the changes have been in Road and Bridge, but other than that there are no major changes from the proposals that were made. The chairman asked Mr. Dempsey if he should feel a work session was needed to make sure at least a 5 day notice can be

sent out. He stated he wanted to make sure there would be plenty of time to look over it and approve it at the next meeting.

Chairman Culver asked Mr. Kirkland if he was telling him with all of the talk with Brannon Stand Road, that the state is now paving the intersection? Mr. Kirkland reported they are resurfacing their strip through it. Chairman Culver reported the road is horrible, and it needs to be resurfaced. He pointed out there are negotiations ongoing for the state to do some work and now they are out there resurfacing. He stated that tells him they state is not going to do any work. Mr. Kirkland stated he also agreed. The chairman reported there are some phone calls in order. Chairman Culver reported this paving the state is doing would call for the county to pave their portion on Fortner Street if they can go ahead and do that. Mr. Kirkland stated they could. Chairman Culver asked that the media get the word out that the paving would be done this Tuesday and Wednesday between 9:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M.

Adjourn

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