

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
OCTOBER 14, 2014

PRESENT: Commissioner Doug Siquefield, Acting Chairman, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Jackie Battles, Commissioner Melinda S. McClendon, Gary Sherrer, County Attorney, Barkley Kirkland, County Engineer, and William J. Dempsey, Chief Administrative Officer

ABSENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver

Commissioner Doug Siquefield, Acting Chairman, called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, declared a quorum present, and welcomed everyone. He reported Chairman Mark Culver was on a trip to Seoul, South Korea, and scheduled to be back sometime late this afternoon. Acting Chair Siquefield stated he was hopeful he and Mayor Schmitz had a successful meeting with the group they met with. Rev. Clark Cornelius, Pastor, Grace Anglican Church, gave the invocation. Acting Chair Siquefield led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Announcements and Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Acting Chairman Siquefield reminded everyone that October is "Breast Cancer Awareness" Month.

He reported on Thursday, the county's United Way Campaign was kicked off with the department heads, and Mrs. Loretta Shapiro and Mr. Phillip Gilley spoke promoting United Way. The Acting Chair reported many of the department heads have already given out their forms, and he pointed out the county would love to have 100% participation. He reported November 10<sup>th</sup> the deadline to have the forms back in.

The Acting Chair asked Ms. Sheri Thompson to come forward regarding the information on the changes for life insurance. Ms. Thompson went over the important dates in the payroll notices that went out Thursday. She stated NPF tickets would be on sale through October 23<sup>rd</sup> in the Personnel Office. She reported they have the gate tickets, ride strips, and mega passes, and she stated they preferred checks made payable to the NPF, or the correct change because they do not keep cash in their office. Ms. Thompson stated November is Open Enrollment Month and employees have until Monday, November 24<sup>th</sup> to get any benefit changes in to their office. She pointed out that is the week of Thanksgiving, and they have chosen that date because so many of the offices will be closed for the holidays. She stated if her office does not have the changes in by Wednesday before Thanksgiving, they cannot get it to them in time. Ms. Thompson reported during the Benefits and Wellness Fair, November 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, representatives from CIGNA will be present to offer the guaranteed issue of life insurance. She stated if any employees or dependents have had issues with trying to get life insurance due to medical problems, they can take advantage of the guaranteed issue amount at a reasonable cost. Ms. Thompson reported the Employee Appreciation Dinner is scheduled December 9<sup>th</sup> at the Farm Center. She pointed out more details would be forthcoming on the event.

Acting Chairman Siquefield reported as everyone is aware, Houston County is the awarding authority on the Annual Joint County ACCA Bids. He stated the bids have been opened and tallied and they will be awarded at the next meeting. He stated this needed to be reflected in the minutes.

#### Regular Agenda

1. Request to appoint Commissioner John Ferguson to fill an unexpired term and to re-appoint Matt Parker and Lori Wilcoxon to the Board of the SE Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to appoint Commissioner John Ferguson to fill an unexpired term and to re-appoint Matt Parker and Lori Wilcoxon to the Board of the SE Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission. Commissioner McClendon seconded the motion. Acting Chair Siquefield called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Request to approve expenditures in the amount of \$29,856.00 for HVAC repairs as per policy from the Capital Replacement budget – Sean Curtis, County Buildings.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the expenditures in the amount of \$29,586.00 for HVAC repairs as per policy from the Capital Replacement budget. Commissioner McClendon seconded the motion. The Acting Chairman reported this is going into the second year of the Capital Replacement budget. Mr. Dempsey reported this money was actually spent in September, and it will replace a unit at the Farm Extension Office. Acting Chairman Siquefield called for the question; and it carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

3. Request from the Probate Judge regarding HAVA Grant funds to be used at St. John's Park to make it a handicap accessible polling location – Judge Patrick Davenport.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the Probate Judge's request regarding HAVA Grant funds to be used at St. John's Park to make it a handicap accessible polling location. Commissioner McClendon seconded the motion. Acting Chairman Siquefield reported the Lucy Volunteer Fire Department was the voting precinct for many years but it has moved and been changed, and it has been relocated to St. John's Park. He pointed out the HAVA Grant monies will be available to build handicapped access walkways to go out on each side in order to enter the restrooms. Acting Chairman Siquefield pointed out the Road and Bridge Department would be doing the work. He stated they are still checking with Sean Curtis to see about getting a heating and cooling unit available at this time. The Acting Chairman pointed out that the state would not fund it. Acting Chairman Siquefield called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Request from the Revenue Commissioner to approve bid on a vehicle from the Reappraisal Budget – Starla Moss, Revenue Commissioner.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the only bid for the purchase of a 2015 Ford Escape from Bondy's Ford in the amount of \$19,877.00 from the Reappraisal budget. Commissioner Harvey

seconded the motion. Acting Chairman Sinquefield called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

5. Request from EMA to approve a 4FIL Grant in the amount of \$76,585 (pass thru ALEA) (Homeland Security) – Steve Carlisle, EMA Director.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve EMA's request for a pass thru ALEA Homeland Security 4FIL Grant in the amount of \$76,585.00. Commissioner McClendon seconded the motion. Acting Chairman Sinquefield pointed out the funding will be split among Dothan Heavy Rescue, Medical, Dothan Fire and Dale County. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

6. Request from EMA to approve 4LEL Grant in the amount of \$45,000 (pass thru ALEA) (Homeland Security) – Steve Carlisle, EMA Director.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve EMA's request for a pass thru ALEA Homeland Security 4LEL Grant in the amount of \$45,000. Commissioner McClendon seconded the motion. The Acting Chairman reported this is for the Sheriff's Department. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

7. Request to approve budget amendment to roll over \$145,000 in Dirt Road Paving from the FY 2013-2014 Budget to the FY 2014-2015 Budget.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the budget amendment to roll over \$145,000 in Dirt Road Paving from the FY 2013-2014 Budget to the FY 2014-2015 Budget. Commissioner McClendon seconded the motion. Acting Chairman Sinquefield reported this money was in last year's budget and was to be budgeted but could not be due to weather and other delays that hindered in the completion of the project. He reported Billy Snell Road was completed on Friday, and all the driveways have been paved and finished on Monday. Mr. Sinquefield stated they were pleased to have it finalized. Mr. Kirkland reported he was glad to have the road paved. He pointed out it was last year's money, but they did not get to it, and it needed to be rolled over into this year. Acting Chairman Sinquefield thanked the Road and Bridge Department for all the work they did. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached budget amendment in Minute Book)

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer – there was no report

County Engineer –

Mr. Kirkland reported he thought the county weathered the storm last night really well. He stated they had only received one call about one tree. Mr. Kirkland reported it rained about 5 inches. Mr. Kirkland reported the new garbage cans will be put out the first week in November. He stated they met with the Town of Cowarts last night and it went well. He pointed out the trucks should be in by the end of this week. He reported they will begin training for the next 2 weeks, and be ready to begin pick up the second week in November. Commissioner Battles asked if all the cans had been received? Mr. Kirkland

stated no, they would bring a load with them, and they have a truck set up to bring the remainder of the cans in on the day before. He stated they would put out 12,000 cans in two weeks.

County Attorney – there was no report

Adjourn

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