

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AUGUST 24, 2015

PRESENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Doug Siquefield, Commissioner Jackie Battles, Commissioner Brandon Shoupe, 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. Kenneth Robinson, Pastor, Alabama Avenue Missionary Baptist Church, gave the invocation. Commissioner Brandon Shoupe led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Announcements and Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver reported there was no Administrative meeting this past Thursday due to the commissioners being out of town for the ACCA's Annual Meeting. He pointed out they would be operating a little different with more open discussion in advance of a motion if necessary.

The chairman congratulated Commissioner Shoupe on receiving his plaque for the completion of the 50 hours of Level 1 training courses mandated by law for newly elected commissioners. He pointed out Commissioners Harvey and Siquefield have completed the graduate courses and Commissioner Battles is working on his.

Chairman Culver called on Bill Dempsey to report on the award for Liability Fund accomplishments, and he stated the commission also received a check for having a low accident ratio. Chairman Culver commended Kelly Crowell, Safety Coordinator, and the department heads for working hard to continue to make the county workplace a safe environment. The chairman pointed out it shows up not in just the safety of the employees but on the balance sheet in lowering Workman's Comp and liability rates.

The chairman reported Commissioner Siquefield was re-elected to serve as the District Representative on the Legislative Committee.

Chairman Culver stated Dale County Commissioner, Steve McKinnon, was elected 2nd Vice-President and will serve as President of the ACCA in two years. He reported it is always good to have Wiregrass people doing well and he applauded him for the accomplishment.

Awards and Presentations

1. Proclamation – "Blackout Cancer Party Day" – Rebecca Marsella, American Cancer Society

Chairman Culver reported Ms. Taylor Logan with the American Cancer Society was present, and he asked her to come forward. Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the Proclamation

proclaiming September 10th, as “Blackout Cancer Party Day.” Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. Chairman Culver reported that Ms. Rebecca Marsella was out of the country. The chairman then read the Proclamation and presented it to Ms. Logan. He thanked her for bringing it to the commission’s attention, and he wished her the very best of luck in an effort that everyone believes in. He reported cancer is a horrible thing that he did not think anyone present had not been touched in one way or the other by, and a cure needs to be found sooner than later. He asked Ms. Logan for comments. She invited everyone to attend the event on October 1st at Mercedes Benz of Dothan. She stated if anyone is interested in buying tickets or would like more information to visit their website, www.blackoutcancerpartyofdothan.org . She stated they are also selling candles in honor or memory of loved ones lost. Ms. Logan stated if a person cannot attend the event, she encouraged them to visit the website and buy a candle to honor their loved one. She thanked the commission for the Proclamation.

2. Proclamation – “Overdose Awareness Day” – Mrs. Susan Trawick, Executive Director, Dothan-Houston County Substance Abuse Partnership, and Mrs. Shawn Weed.

Chairman Culver asked Mrs. Susan Trawick, Executive Director, Dothan-Houston County Substance Abuse Partnership, and Mrs. Shawn Weed to come forward. Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the Proclamation proclaiming August 31, 2015 as “Overdose Awareness Day.” Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. Chairman Culver then read the Proclamation and presented it to Mrs. Trawick. Chairman Culver thanked Mrs. Trawick for always helping the commission remember and recognize the efforts her organization does that are so broad and touch so many people. Mrs. Trawick stated her staff usually comes before the commission talking about fun events they are doing in the schools or with the children. She reported today they are talking about a very serious issue that if the citizens of the community are not very diligent in our jobs is a result of a lack of action and that would be overdose whether it is in our children or adults. Mrs. Trawick stated they would be recognizing National Overdose Awareness Day at 6:00 P.M. on August 30th, at Covenant United Methodist Church with a program called Operation Save Teens. She reported Lt. Mike Reese will be speaking to all parents in Dothan and Houston County and she encouraged them to attend to get an idea of what our children are facing on a daily basis. Mrs. Trawick stated they would also be with him on Monday, August 31st, when he speaks at Northview High School and Girard Middle School. Mrs. Trawick then introduced Mrs. Shawn Weed. Mrs. Weed reported there was a time when she had a picture of a drug addict in her mind, and it was not a picture of anyone she knew or liked or respected, much less someone she loved, adored, and cherished. She stated when she found out her son had been abusing drugs in college her foundation was rocked. Mrs. Weed reported when she lost Cole, after he had been through rehab and a period of abstinence, it almost killed her. She stated until people are ready to come out of the shadows and not be ashamed and hide for stronger prevention campaigns for better medical care, rehabilitation and after care, and more research and substitute medications to fight the brain disease of addiction then more people will lose their loved ones. Mrs. Weed stated the Proclamation was a wonderful thing and she thanked the commission. Chairman Culver thanked Mrs. Trawick and Mrs. Weed. He asked Mrs. Trawick to recognize the following staff members who were present: Mrs. Judy Guiller, Tobacco

Prevention Manager, Mrs. Beth Ford, Program Manager, and Mr. Terry Grimes, who has re-joined the team after 7 years as the Community Outreach Coordinator. Mrs. Trawick stated they could not do half of what they do without this team.

3. Proclamation – “Wiregrass Suicide Prevention Day” – Ms. Melissa Cope, Board Member, Wiregrass Suicide Prevention Services

Chairman Culver asked Ms. Melissa Cope, Board Member, Wiregrass Suicide Prevention Services, to come forward and bring her guests. Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the Proclamation proclaiming September 10th as “World Suicide Prevention Day in Houston County.” Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. Chairman Culver then read the Proclamation and presented it to Ms. Cope. He thanked her for bringing this to the Commission’s attention. The chairman reported this is a difficult subject and he stated he and Commissioner Shoupe have had conversations in the last month or so about the number of suicides this county has had and many of us have no idea of how to prevent and how to address afterwards. The chairman reported it is a very difficult and daunting task for educators and community leaders. He pointed out SpectraCare has provided them with a lot of materials that are located upstairs in the commission office. Chairman Culver stated they really appreciate this organization doing this because it gives the commission an opportunity to put out in the public that there is an effort to care and things you can do. Ms. Cope reported Mrs. Rose Blakey Phillips, the founder of Wiregrass Suicide Prevention Services, usually comes to the meeting, but she was unable to attend. Ms. Cope thanked the Chairman and the commission for the Proclamation, and she stated she was very honored and touched to be at the meeting and accept the Proclamation. Ms. Cope reported she became aware of the Wiregrass Suicide Prevention Services about 3 years ago when she lost her best friend to suicide, and she was devastated and did not know where to go. She pointed out there is such a stigma and shame attached to suicide. Ms. Cope reported luckily she found Mrs. Phillips, and she invited her to come in and join the survivors support group. She stated that was her safe place for a long time and she felt like they knew how she felt because they were dealing with the same anger and guilt of losing a loved one to suicide. Ms. Cope reported she was so grateful that our community has this agency, whose mission is to provide services to those who have been affected by suicide, and provide support services to prevent suicide. She challenged everyone in attendance to educate themselves on the warning signs of suicide. Ms. Cope stated anyone can go to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, and their website is full of information. She reported had she known those warning signs on April 23, 2012, she would not be standing talking about suicide, instead she would be planning a Labor Day vacation with her best friend. Ms. Cope invited everyone to come September 10th, at 6:30 P.M., to the Candle Lighting Ceremony, at Poplar Head Park. She reported it is very touching, and they light a candle and each person in the group briefly speaks about their loved ones in an effort to celebrate their lives. Ms. Cope also invited everyone to attend the Dothan Out of the Darkness Walk on September 27th, at Westgate Park. She introduced Mr. Reggie Rhodes and Mr. Rick Collins, Board Members. Ms. Cope thanked the commission. Chairman Culver thanked them for coming and letting the commission help them recognize things that we don’t always think about but we need to.

Regular Agenda

1. Appointments to the Houston County HealthCare Authority.

Chairman Culver reported the commission appoints the members of the Houston County HealthCare Authority and it is the board that oversees the operation of the Southeast Alabama Medical Center, and its ancillary operation. He pointed out the appointments are made every 2 years for 6 year terms so they rotate and each commissioner has on the board at all times 3 appointments who are representatives of their district. The chairman reported the following appointments: District 1 – appointment of Dr. James Kelley, District 2 – re-appointment of Mr. Tony Strickland, District 3 – re-appointment of Mr. Lance Shepard, and District 4 – re-appointment of Mr. Don Owens. Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the appointment and re-appointments to the Houston County HealthCare Authority as previously stated. Commissioner Siquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Appointment to the Dothan-Houston County E-911 Communications District Board.

Chairman Culver reported they have finally gotten the board changed so that he and Commissioner Battles will not be serving on a board they know nothing about any more. He stated people will now be serving who have some knowledge of E-911 operations. The chairman pointed out there are 4 members on there by position, the city commission will appoint 4 members at their next meeting, and the county has 1 appointment. He reported the new board takes effect September 3rd, and their first meeting will be September 8th. Commissioner Battles made a motion to appoint Mr. Rickey Stokes to serve on the Dothan-Houston County E-911 Communications District Board. Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Request to award Joint ACCA Bid for Debris Removal and Monitoring Services for Region 2.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to award the Joint ACCA Bid for Debris Removal and Monitoring Services for Region 2 to the low bidders meeting specs. Commissioner Siquefield seconded the motion. The chairman reported Houston County is the awarding authority for the big county bid program and also the awarding authority for Region 2. The chairman called for the question; and it carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

4. Request to award bid to replace roof on old building supply facility on Highway #52 East.

Commissioner Siquefield made a motion to award the bid to replace the roof on the old building supply facility on Highway #52 East to Acme Roofing, low bidder meeting specs, in the amount of \$74,870.00. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this building was donated to the county and located at the overpass as you come off Highway#52, the old Tri-States Plant Food facility. He stated Engineer Kirkland and his crew have really cleaned it up. The chairman reported it has been very useful for the county, but also from a community perspective it looks much better as it is a gateway to the city. He stated it was not bad to have the building to serve the county for the cost of the roof. Commissioner Siquefield asked if it was just the existing building coverage of the roof or are there any add ons? Mr. Kirkland stated it is only the existing roof on that building, and they currently keep between \$1.5 million to \$2 million worth of equipment in there. He reported they had money for a

building to be built but they are putting that money into this building. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached Bid Summary Sheet in Minute Book)

5. Request to approve final plat for Park Ridge Subdivision, Phase II.

Chairman Culver reported before the motion is made it needs to be stated that pending the submittal of the proper bond. He stated a bond was submitted but it was not exactly the correct type and they are bringing the correct type rather than having to wait 3 weeks before the next meeting. He stated they would like to have a motion to approve the final plat for Park Ridge Subdivision, Phase II pending the submittal of the correct bond. Chairman Culver reported he and Mr. Kirkland will not sign the plat until the correct bond is submitted. Commissioner Battles then motioned to approve the final plat for Park Ridge Subdivision, Phase II pending the submittal of the correct bond. Commissioner Harvey 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 –

Mr. Kirkland reported they had a couple of projects they were working on and would be ongoing. He stated they were laying pipe on Jordan Avenue between Miller Street and Broad Street in Cowarts, and will be for the next 2-3 weeks. He pointed out the road is closed in sections on a daily basis. He reported on County Road 33 and Smithville Road from 231 South to Cottonwood Highway, the contractor would begin paving this week. Mr. Kirkland stated work would be going on there for the next month. Mr. Kirkland pointed out this is an MPO project. Chairman Culver reported the notices to EMA and the media have already been sent or will be.

County Attorney – there was no report

Adjourn

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.