

MNUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
OCTOBER 13, 2015

Present: Chairman Mark S. Culver, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Doug Siquefield, Commissioner Jackie Battles, Preston Register, Acting County Attorney, Barkley Kirkland, County Engineer, and William J. Dempsey, Chief Administrative Officer

ABSENT: Gary Sherrer, County Attorney

Chairman Mark S. Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, declared a quorum present, and welcomed everyone. Rev. Clark Cornelius, Pastor, Grace Church, gave the invocation. Commissioner Doug Siquefield led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

#### Announcements and Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Commissioner Siquefield reported the Fall Farm Day would be held out at Landmark Park on October 17<sup>th</sup>, and he encouraged everyone interested to attend. Commissioner Siquefield also reported Harvest Day would be held on October 24<sup>th</sup>, in downtown Ashford, and urged everyone to come out and enjoy it.

Chairman Culver reported the groundbreaking for The City of Dothan/Houston County Communications District E-911 Emergency Service Facility would be Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00 A.M. He stated this event has been a long time coming and a lot of people have worked to make this happen. The chairman pointed out the groundbreaking would be at 405 East Adams Street, behind the Civic Center toward Cherry Street A.M.E. Church in the pecan orchard.

The chairman also stated Houston County is the awarding authority on behalf of the Association of County Commissions of Alabama for statewide bids, and they have requested that the receipt of the bids for herbicides and adjuvants, road signs, and heavy equipment , be read into the minutes. He also reported the ACCA-established Joint Bid Committee would review the bids on October 21<sup>st</sup>, and the bids would be awarded on November 9<sup>th</sup>.

#### Awards and Presentations

1. Proclamation – “Red Ribbon Week” – Mr. Terry Grimes, Community Relations Manager, Dothan-Houston County Substance Abuse Partnership

Chairman Culver asked Mr. Terry Grimes, Community Relations Manager, Dothan-Houston County Substance Abuse Partnership, to come forward. Commissioner Siquefield made a motion to approve the Proclamation proclaiming October 23-31 as “Red Ribbon Week.” Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Chairman Culver then read the Proclamation and presented it to Mr. Grimes. He stated Mrs. Susan Trawick and her staff do a wonderful job in the community, and he thanked them for

bringing this to the Commission's attention for the past 26 years. The chairman stated he would like to know the positive impact the young people who have been an integral part of the partnership have had on their families and friends over the years. Mr. Grimes gave a brief history of Red Ribbon Week, and he stated this year's theme is "Respect Yourself – Be Drug Free." He thanked the commission for their support and helping to bring this to the community's attention. Mr. Grimes then called on his three guests who introduced themselves as follows: Ms. Kimberley Guiller, student at Northview High School, Ms. Emery Gaunt, and Ms. Zeba Qureshi, also students at Northview. Chairman Culver thanked them for coming and the job they do to help promote drug awareness in our community.

2. Proclamation – "Disability Employment Awareness Month" – Ms. Jennifer Robinson and Ms. Sara Williams, Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services

Chairman Culver asked Ms. Jennifer Robinson and Ms. Sara Williams, Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services, to come forward, and to bring their guests. Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the Proclamation proclaiming October as "Disability Employment Awareness Month." Chairman Culver then read the Proclamation. He stated Mr. Steve Turkoski, who was sitting in the audience, plays a vital role and he thanked him for all he does regarding disability employment in the community. He presented the Proclamation to Mrs. Pam Solomon, who was filling in due to the absence of Ms. Robinson. She thanked the commission for their support and helping to bring awareness regarding disability employment, and she urged the public to help promote people with disabilities. Mrs. Solomon then introduced, Ms. Sara Williams, Ms. Kristie Grammer, Counselor, and Mrs. Jennifer Boykins, Counselor. Chairman Culver thanked them for their work with disability employment.

3. Presentation – Overview of Road and Bridge projects for fiscal year 2015-2015 – Barkley Kirkland, County Engineer

Mr. Kirkland, County Engineer, gave his annual report. He reported that the Road and Bridge had resurfaced 5 roads: Memphis Church Road, Trawick Road, Webb to Kinsey Road, Broad Street and Smithville Road, and County Road 33. He pointed out the total cost of the resurfacing was approximately \$3 million, and 4 of these roads were MPO projects and 1 of the roads was a Federal Aid project, which help fund about \$2.5 million of the total cost.

The County Engineer reported they had completed various work on the following special projects: Cottonwood Park, Landmark Park, Houston County Board of Education, Downtown Library, Phase II, Gordon Senior Center, Kinsey Senior Center, Hodgesville Volunteer Fire Department and the Lucy Volunteer Fire Department.

Mr. Kirkland included statistics regarding striping, shoulder work, spraying, number of work orders completed, and repair of 2 bridges. He also stated they had completed paving Billy Snell Road.

The Engineer reported they worked over 4 months on the storm that occurred in April, and logged over 12,000 man hours on clean-up for a cost of \$816,142.00 to the county.

Mr. Kirkland reported the biggest impact has been on starting automated garbage pick-up in the Sanitation Department. He pointed out it has been a huge success and they have reduced the workforce by 9 people and have cut down on accidents.

Chairman Culver thanked Mr. Kirkland for his report and he stated the county is doing what it can with what they have, and as reported, the road and bridge department does things to help the community.

The chairman stated there are approximately \$30 million in county roads that need resurfacing. He pointed out that the county could do no re-surfacing on county roads because it was all on-system roads. Chairman Culver reported this issue is going to have be addressed. Mr. Kirkland reported it costs approximately \$130,000 per mile to pave a road, and he felt it was closer to \$40 million in county roads to be resurfaced.

Mr. Battles reported with the automated garbage there was no garbage flying out of the back of the trucks and he felt the streets were cleaner.

Chairman Culver thanked Mr. Kirkland for a good report.

#### Regular Agenda

1. Request to award bid for the replacement of the brick walls at DHR to the lowest bidder meeting specs.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to award the bid for the replacement of the brick walls at DHR to Hewes Construction, low bidder meeting specs, in the amount of \$78,940.00. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

2. Request to approve emergency replacement/repairs of the fire alarm system at the Houston County Health Department from the capital replacement budget not to exceed \$8,500.00.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the emergency/repairs of the fire alarm system at the Houston County Health Department from the capital replacement budget not to exceed \$8,500.00. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

3. Request to approve budget amendment for Homeland Security grant.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the budget amendment for a Homeland Security grant. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this is a net zero budget amendment as it is a washout. Commissioner Shoupe stated he was not in attendance at Thursday's meeting and he asked for an explanation. Chairman Culver reported this is considered a pass thru grant for something in Dale County, and he explained Houston County serves as the regional designee for Homeland Security. The chairman 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 Antioch Church Road is closed on both ends, but there is a road that intersects in the middle that allows the residents to get in and out.

County Attorney

Acting County Attorney, Preston Register, had no report.

Adjourn

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