

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 22, 2016

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. Lyle Peluso, Pastor, Dothan Vineyard 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 Harvey seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver reported the 1st Annual Wiregrass Works would take place on February 24th-25th, at the National Peanut Festival. He stated approximately 4,000 students from the region would be attending. The chairman pointed out this event will showcase the jobs for those students who do not plan to go to a 4 year college. He pointed out there are a lot of good jobs in this area, and training will be offered. Chairman Culver reported this is an ongoing effort by the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce and other agencies.

The chairman reminded everyone that Saturday, February 27th, the Houston County Pageants would be held at the Dothan Opera House beginning at 10:00 A.M., 2:00 P.M., and 6:00 P.M. He reported the Commission looks forward to the crowning of the new queens, and having them to attend one of the commission meetings. Chairman Culver pointed out that over the last 4-5 years, Houston County Queens have done very well in the Miss National Peanut Festival and Little Miss Peanut Pageants. He commended the directors of the pageant for the outstanding job they do. The chairman encouraged people to attend on Saturday.

Commissioner Shoupe reported he would be hosting a Town Hall Meeting on February 29th, at 6:00 P.M., at the Bay Springs Volunteer Fire Department. He stated Representative Donnie Chesteen, Chairman Mark Culver, and Commissioner Doug Siquefield would be attending. The commissioner reported Representative Chesteen wanted to hear from the citizens regarding the user fee.

He also pointed out for those who could not attend the February 29th meeting, another Town Hall meeting would be held March 10th, at 5:30 P.M., at the Westgate Library. Commissioner Shoupe reported Representative Chesteen, City Commissioner Beth Kenward, Chairman Culver and possibly some others would be attending.

Regular Agenda

1. Request to adopt Resolution to resurface South Bay Springs Road from Geneva County Line to Fortner Street as a Federal Aid Project – Road and Bridge.

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to adopt the Resolution to resurface South Bay Springs Road from Geneva County Line to Fortner Street as a Federal Aid Project. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and it carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

2. Request to resurface South Bay Springs Road from Highway #84 West to Fortner Street utilizing county funds in the amount of \$348,791.42 – Road and Bridge.

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the request to resurface South Bay Springs Road from Highway #84 West to Fortner Street utilizing county funds in the amount of \$348,791.42, and the appropriate budget amendment. Commissioner Sinuefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported these items are basically to resurface South Bay Springs Road from the Geneva County Line to Fortner Street. He pointed out this road was graded as one of the worst roads in Houston County. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer – there was no report

County Engineer

Mr. Kirkland reported there are roads still closed. He pointed out they will begin work on them soon. Engineer Kirkland stated they have had to wait on FEMA, and they should be receiving their PW's this week. Chairman Culver reported there have been some issues over the years in dealing with FEMA, but it is much easier this time. He stated the citizens need to understand in order for the county to get reimbursed, they have to go through the process.

County Attorney – there was no report

Commissioner Shoupe reported the Bay Springs project would not be possible if Mr. Kirkland and his staff as well as Mr. Dempsey had not done such a great job of taking care of the county's resources, and he thanked them. Chairman Culver reported the funds are coming from an allocated reserve, and he thanked all of the department heads for staying within their budgets.

Adjourn

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