

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 23, 2015

PRESENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Doug Siquefield, Commissioner Brandon Shoupe, Gary Sherrer, County Attorney, Barkley Kirkland, County Engineer, and William J. Dempsey, Chief Administrative Officer

ABSENT: Commissioner Jackie Battles

Chairman Mark Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, declared a quorum present, and welcomed everyone. He reported Commissioner Battles was out of town on business. Father Patrick Gallagher, St. Columba Catholic Church, gave the invocation. Commissioner Curtis Harvey led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Announcements and Comments from the Chairman and Commission

Chairman Culver wished everyone a Grand, Glorious, and Happy Thanksgiving week. He reported the county offices would be closed on Thursday and Friday and he urged everyone to spend time with their families and friends on Thanksgiving Day giving thanks for the many blessings in our community.

He urged everyone from all of the surrounding communities to get out and shop on Black Friday. He pointed out Saturday is Small Business Saturday and he encouraged everyone to shop local. Chairman Culver stated small business is the heartbeat of our community.

The chairman reported there are 5 Mondays in November and the commission's next meeting will be December 14th. He pointed out the commission only meets one time in December.

Chairman Culver reported Probate Judge Patrick Davenport's father passed away over the weekend, and he asked everyone to please keep him and his family in their thoughts and prayers.

He reported the Commercial Jet Academy would be starting another 8 week training course, and if anyone wished to apply they could at www.aidt.edu/jobs.

Commissioner Siquefield reported Houston County was taking bids on 50.3 acres of land for farming. He pointed out the last day for bids would be November 27th.

Awards and Presentations

1. Proclamation – "#Giving Tuesday" – Ms. Amy Schutz, Executive Director, Wiregrass Habitat for Humanity

Chairman Culver asked Ms. Amy Schutz, Executive Director, Wiregrass Habitat for Humanity, to come forward. He reported he had worked with Ms. Schutz on many projects and she chaired Spirit of Service this year. He stated she always does an outstanding job. Commissioner Siquefield made a motion to

approve the Proclamation declaring December 1, 2015 as “#Giving Tuesday.” Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Chairman Culver then read the Proclamation and presented it to Ms. Schutz. The chairman pointed out this is the first hash tag Proclamation the county has ever presented. Ms. Schutz thanked the chairman and the commission for the Proclamation. She pointed out in 2010, a decision was made that there was a need for a counterpart to Black Friday and Cyber Monday. She stated #Giving Tuesday lets people know that the various organizations need help before a disaster strikes. She thanked the commission for helping her bring this to the community’s attention.

Regular Agenda

1. Request to adopt Resolution approving the Cable Franchise Agreement.

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to adopt the Resolution to approve the Cable Franchise Agreement between Houston County and Comcast of Alabama, LLC, Time Warner Cable, Inc., LLC, Wideopen West Finance, LLC (a/k/a WOW), and Troy Cable Vision, Inc. for cable service to citizens in the unincorporated areas of Houston County. Commissioner Siquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported they have been working on this for 2 years, and earlier in the morning there was a conference call expressing some concerns, but everyone is on board. Chairman Culver reported the agreement would go into effect January 1, 2016, and it would be for a period of 10 years. He stated this agreement meets the requirements of the 4 companies, protects the county’s right-of-ways from being damaged, and allows the county to receive proper funding. Mr. Sherrer, County Attorney, reported the Resolution authorizes the chairman to execute all necessary documents, contracts, agreements. Commissioner Shoupe asked why he did not see CenturyLink in the agreement? Chairman Culver reported the agreement covers cable tv only and CenturyLink does not provide it. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

2. Request to approve and publish annual financial report.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve and publish the annual financial report. Commissioner Siquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported the county is required by law to do this. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Request to approve 2014-15 actual spending versus budget.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the 2015-15 actual spending versus budget. Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion. Bill Dempsey, Chief Administrative Officer, made a presentation on the actual 2014-15 Ending Fund Balance versus Projection showing a variance of \$838,922. He also covered the 2014-15 Projected Expense versus Actual Expense of \$37,642,168 with a variance of \$2,002,365. Mr. Dempsey reported the revised 2015-16 Ending Fund Balance is \$6,296,848. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Minute Book)

4. Request to approve budget amendments for 2014-15 revenues to be received in 2015-16.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the budget amendments for 2014-15 revenues to be received in 2015-16. Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported these budget amendments were covered in Mr. Dempsey's report. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Minute Book)

5. Request to renew Sanitation Collection Contract with Wiregrass Electric Coop.

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to renew the Sanitation Collection Contract with Wiregrass Electric Coop. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported as discussed on Thursday, this has been a good move for the county, and has worked out well. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

6. Request from the Hodgesville Volunteer Fire Department.

Chairman Culver reported this was discussed on Thursday, and it was felt that approval should be given for \$2,681.00 or half of the amount of the grant total. Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the Hodgesville Fire Department's request in the amount of \$2,681, or half of the total amount of the grant pending the providing of verification that the grant has been awarded. Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Minute Book)

7. Request to adopt Resolution for the resurfacing of County Road 55 from Nobles Road to change in pavement just north of Ashford City Limits. (Approximately 6.096 miles)

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to adopt the Resolution for the resurfacing of County Road 55 from Nobles Road to change in pavement just north of Ashford City Limits. (Approximately 6.096 miles) Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

Staff Reports

Chief Administrative Officer - there was no report

County Engineer

Engineer Kirkland reported they have 3 roads closed Olan Jones Road, Sigma Pit Road, and Hilltop Road.

County Attorney – there was no report

Commissioner Sinquefield reported James Etheredge, Trustee from National Peanut Festival, was in attendance, and he stated the last report he had received from the National Peanut Festival they had collected over 12 tons of canned goods to be given to the Food Bank. Commissioner Sinquefield thanked everyone who attended the festival and donated the canned goods.

Chairman Culver wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and to stop and reflect on the many blessings people living in the wiregrass area have.

Adjourn

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