

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 27, 2017

PRESENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver, Commissioner Doug Siquefield, Commissioner Jackie Battles, Commissioner Brandon Shoupe, Pres Register, County Attorney, Barkley Kirkland, County Engineer, and W. J. Dempsey, CAO

ABSENT: Commissioner Curtis Harvey

Chairman Mark S. Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, declared a quorum present with the exception of Commissioner Harvey. He reported the commissioner's grandfather passed away this morning. The chairman asked everyone to please keep the Harvey family in their thoughts and prayers. Rev. Chris Jones, Pastor, Westgate Church of Christ, gave the invocation. Commissioner Shoupe led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Announcements and Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver reported he would like to add the following item to the agenda: a request from the Sheriff's Department to approve a budget amendment to replace two (2) 2015 Tahoes in the amount of \$80,369.80 off the State bid list along with the lights. The chairman reported 2 Houston County deputies were injured early Friday morning in a horrific accident involving a semi. Chairman Culver stated when the Sheriff's Department requested the commission approve the purchase of Tahoes instead of cars, some questions arose about the difference in the cost, and whether or not the county should spend the money for the Tahoes. Chairman Culver reported had the deputy that was in his vehicle when the truck hit him been in a car, the county would be minus a deputy today. He stated the deputies have been released from the hospital, and he asked that everyone keep them in their thoughts and prayers. Commissioner Siquefield made a motion to add the following as Item #6 to the agenda: Request from the Sheriff's Department to approve a budget amendment for the replacement of 2 wrecked 2015 Tahoes. Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously.

The chairman congratulated the following young ladies who were crowned on Saturday to represent Houston County: Future Little Miss –August Kate Henderson, Little Miss – Emmie Haywood, Young Jr. Miss – Kayleigh Richards, Jr. Miss – Regan Valenzuela, Teen Miss – Holley Driggers, and Miss Houston County – Katelyn Vinson. He stated these girls will visit the commission at some point and it is always one of their favorite meetings. Chairman Culver thanked Houston County Pageants, Inc., for the outstanding job they do. He stated the county has had great luck with the queens in the National Peanut Festival competition, and he stated he felt Little Miss and Miss would do well this year.

Chairman Culver congratulated everyone who was associated with the Mardi Gras Parade that was held on Saturday. He reported it was a lot of fun and very well attended. The chairman pointed out the parade has grown since the first one 3 years ago. He thanked the City of Dothan Police Department and the Houston County Sheriff's Department for keeping everyone safe, and the media for the excellent coverage.

Chairman Culver congratulated Commissioner Shoupe on being the new 2nd Congressional District Vice-Chair for the Alabama Congressional Republican Party.

Commissioner Shoupe reported Road and Bridge would begin work soon on clearing some foliage on Lee Boy Road getting ready for water lines to be laid. He pointed out the road was not going to be paved.

Consent Agenda

1. Request to re-appoint Chairman Culver, Commissioner Albert Kirkland, Mayor Ken Hamilton, Dr. Donna West and appoint Ms. Ann Holman to the Southern Alabama Regional Council on Aging Board. (SARCOA)

2. Request to re-appoint Mr. Theodore Fagan and to appoint Mrs. Sharon Kelley to fill a vacancy on the Board of the Dothan-Houston County Library System.
3. Request to re-appoint Dr. Henry C. Vaughn and Mr. Bill Dempsey to the Dothan-Houston County Mental Retardation Board

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion. Commissioner Battles asked the length of the term for the SARCOA Board. It was reported 3 years. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

Regular Agenda

1. Request to adopt Resolution authorizing participation in Region 6 for the implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to adopt the Resolution authorizing participation in Region 6 for the implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported a presentation was made on Thursday, and the documents are ready to be signed. He pointed out this will help our region and state in workforce development. The chairman called for the question; and it carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

2. Request to amend County Purchasing Policy – Bill Dempsey, CAO.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to amend the County Purchasing Policy. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Mr. Dempsey reported this amendment will set a \$5,000 threshold for a county owned item to be considered a capital asset. He stated this change will put the county in line with the State. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Request to approve County Levies for Alcohol License.

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the County Levies for Alcohol License. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this request is normal and customary as the commission is required to do this annually. He pointed out there would be no change. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

4. Request from Sheriff's Department to award bid for 20 rifles for the Special Response Team – Captain Bill Rafferty.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the Sheriff Department's request to award the bid for 20 rifles for the Special Response Team to Gulf States Distributors, low bidder meeting specs, in the amount of \$16,780.00. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. It was pointed out this was in budget. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached Bid Summary Sheet in Minute Book)

5. Request from the Sheriff's Department to award bid for Prisoner Transport Services Contract – Captain Bill Rafferty.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the Sheriff Department's request to award the bid for Prisoner Transport Services Contract to Security Transport Services, low bidder meeting specs, in the amount of \$1.16 per mile and \$325.00 minimum cost per trip. Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. (Please see attached Bid Summary Sheet in Minute Book)

6. Request from Sheriff's Department to approve budget amendment for the replacement of two (2) wrecked 2015 Tahoes.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the budget amendment for the replacement of two (2) wrecked Tahoes as requested by the Sheriff's Department. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Commissioner Battles asked Captain Rafferty the timeframe for replacing the vehicles? Captain Rafferty stated they had found two in North Alabama on the State Bid for approximately \$62,000 and

\$27,000 for the police package, and as soon as they get the purchase order, they would go pick them up. He pointed out they have purchased some used vehicles this year to replace some of the oldest ones in service, and they have found out that Commission money could not be used for these purchases. Captain Rafferty stated at this time, the Sheriff's Department does not have funds to apply toward these used car purchases. Chairman Culver reported he has the insurance information on the wrecked vehicles and he would get it to Mr. Dempsey.

Sheriff Valenza thanked the commission for supporting them in the replacement of the two wrecked vehicles. He reported no one could imagine getting a call at 1:43 A. M. saying two deputies had been struck by a semi, and all that had been said was that it was not good. He stated he felt the Tahoe possibly saved the life of the deputy who was inside when it was struck.

Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer – there was no report

County Engineer –

Engineer Kirkland reported the crews will begin replacing 10 cross drains on Eddins Road between Highway #53 and Hodgesville Road. He also stated crews will begin clearing foliage on Lee Boy Road in order for the City of Dothan to put down water lines.

County Attorney – there was no report

Commissioner Sinquefield asked Mr. Kirkland if everything was on the yard to begin the work on the cross drains. Mr. Kirkland stated everything has been ordered, and they would be notifying the media and the public when the project will start.

Commissioner Battles asked Mr. Kirkland when they would start on the MPO paving projects? Mr. Kirkland stated in April or May.

Adjourn

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded; and carried unanimously.