

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
REGULAR SESSION  
April 9, 2018

PRESENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Doug Sinuefield, Commissioner Jackie Battles, Commissioner Brandon Shoupe, County Attorney Pres Register, County Engineer Barkley Kirkland, and Chief Administrative Officer William J. Dempsey.

Chairman Culver welcomed everyone to the April 9, 2018 Houston County Commission Meeting and called the 10:00 a.m. meeting to order. He declared a quorum as all commissioners were present.

Chuck Locke, Executive Pastor at Ridgecrest Baptist Church, gave the invocation and Commissioner Sinuefield led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Culver reported that Foster Fest this past weekend was very well attended and continues to be a great event for Downtown Dothan. This event is held the first Friday of every month and he encourages everyone to participate in the family fun. Chairman Culver added that the Azalea Dogwood Trail was held on Sunday and was a huge success as well.

#### AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Recognition – Dr. Fred Garrett for service to the Houston County Port Authority.

Chairman Culver stepped down to the podium and asked Dr. Fred Garrett and Hugh Wheelless, newly elected President of the Port Authority, to join him. Chairman Culver began by stating that Dr. Garrett has served our community for a many years and did it very well as a business man and as a volunteer. He recently resigned from the Port Authority, after serving for over forty years. Chairman Culver stated that at this time the commission wished to publically thank Dr. Garrett for his time of service with the Port Authority and mentioned that he also served on the Airport Authority for many years. On behalf of the commission and the Houston County Port Authority, Chairman Culver presented Dr. Garrett with a Certificate of Appreciation for his

time and dedicated service to the Port Authority and the many contributions he has made to Houston County and the Wiregrass Area.

Chairman Culver then called Mr. Hugh Wheelless to the podium. Mr. Wheelless began by thanking Dr. Garrett for his wisdom, hard work, and leadership he has shown over the last four decades and presented Dr. Garrett with a Certificate of Appreciate on behalf of the Port Authority. Dr. Garrett thanked the County for the opportunity that was given to him over the years and he hoped what he had done was beneficial to both the Port Authority and the Airport Authority during his time of service and he appreciated the opportunity to serve.

## 2. Wicksburg FBLA – Sarah Swafford

Commissioner Shoupe called Ms. Sarah Swafford, FBLA Advisor, to the podium. Ms. Swafford and student Gavin Weber presented Mr. Shoupe with a Certificate of Appreciate for his help and dedication to the Wicksburg FBLA. Ms. Swafford then announced that Wicksburg High School and Rehobeth High School FBLA Multi-Media Students will be putting on a rock concert by utilizing their skills learned from their program. This event will be held on May 15<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m. at the Dothan Civic Center and is open to the public. The students spoke on how they will use skills such as marketing, budget, digital design, social media, and public relations. This is a learning opportunity for these students and a fund raiser for their national competition to be held in Maryland this year.

## 3. Proclamation – “Houston County Gives Day” – Susan Trawick, Executive Director, Dothan-Houston County Substance Abuse Partnership

Commissioner Jackie Battles made a motion to approve the Proclamation for “Houston County Gives Day”. Commissioner Siquefield seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Chairman Culver read the Proclamation and presented it to Susan Trawick. He thanked everyone for being a part of this special day and appreciates all the effort that is put into this event. Chairman Culver also thanked Eagle Eye Outfitters for their contribution to this event as it is held at their facility. Mrs. Trawick began by thanking everyone and especially the media that helps to promote the event. Houston County Gives Day began in 2012 and has continued in our county to promote non-profit organizations on a given day. There will be over thirty agencies represented at Eagle Eye on Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup> and they will showcase what they do for the people in our community. This is a great event each year and this year will be no different. Mrs. Trawick encouraged everyone to come and visit the booths from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. on Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. She thanked Eagle Eye for being such a great supporter and for providing the location to hold this event. She added that they would like to thank Whitaker Marketing for

promoting this event from the beginning at no cost to any of the organizations. Their time and energy is greatly appreciated.

Chairman Culver then called Commissioner Doug Sinuefield to the podium along with Amy Shutz and Ms. Linda Kelly to accept a Proclamation for "Spirit of Service Day". A motion to approve the proclamation for "Spirit of Service Day" was made by Commissioner Shoupe and seconded by Commissioner Sinuefield. It carried unanimously.

Chairman Culver read the proclamation and thanked Commissioner Sinuefield for chairing the "Spirit of Service Day" for Houston County this year. Mr. Sinuefield began by stating that it is an honor to serve as chairman for the event and reported that "Spirit of Service Day" began twenty-nine years ago by Commission Chairman Robert Crowder and it has been a very successful event each year. It has helped many people in need and has helped the community by beautification projects. He stated that this is a community involvement event which includes area schools, churches, organizations, towns, companies, and many more that participate and make a difference in the lives of so many people. The focus for this year's event is PALS (People Against a Littered State) in hopes to clean up the community.

Commissioner Sinuefield then called Amy Shutz to the podium. Ms. Shutz stated that she had been involved with "Spirit of Service" for several years and emphasized that it is a great day for the Houston County Community in that the people come together and make these projects happen with the spirit of giving. The Ribbon Cutting for "Spirit of Service Day" will be at 5:00 p.m. at the Houston County Gives Day event at Eagle Eye Outfitters and they encourage everyone to attend and get involved. She thanked everyone for what they do for Spirit of Service and appreciated all the volunteers. At this time, Ms. Linda Kelly, on behalf of the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce, then approached the podium. Ms. Kelly reported that the chamber has sponsored this event for the last fifteen years and she wished to thank all the volunteers for their hard work. She also stated that there are projects that still need volunteers and she encouraged anyone that is interested to call her at the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce for registration to volunteer their time.

## REGULAR AGENDA

1. Request to approve budget amendment of \$14,322 to partner with Judicial System to purchase new security camera system at the Houston County Courthouse – Larry K. Anderson, Presiding Circuit Judge

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the budget amendment and Commissioner Sinuefield seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Request to approve purchase and budget amendment to assist with funding for electronic poll books from Election Systems & Software, LLC – Patrick H. Davenport, Judge of Probate

Commissioner Harvey made the motion to approve the purchase and budget amendment to assist with funding for the electronic poll books. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion.

Commissioner Sinuefield asked Judge Patrick Davenport for clarification of the definition and purpose of the poll books. Judge Davenport stated that the poll books would not replace the paper ballots that are in use today. The poll books would be used to register the voters at each polling facility before they are given a paper ballot therefore making the registration process more efficient. Commissioner Harvey inquired if the voters will still need to sign in and Judge Davenport reassured the commission that the poll books will be replacing the manual signing in procedures as the poll books will scan the voters' driver's license and then the voter will electronically sign their name. This procedure takes about fifteen seconds as signing in manually is about a two or three minute process. Commissioner Shoupe asked that since the registration procedure will be expedited, will this reduce the need for poll workers and Judge Davenport does not think this will be the case as he will be able to utilize the poll workers in different ways. Judge Davenport also stated that making this process easier and faster for the voters will initiate more participation in the elections. Commissioner Shoupe stated that he does not have any problem with the poll books, but just wished that it was not up to the county to fund them as he feels that the state should. Commissioner Sinuefield stated that the money that would be used from the HAVA fund and what would come from the State that could vary from thirty-five to fifty percent to help recover the cost of the poll books.

Chairman Culver reiterated that what is being approved is an \$110,000 budget amendment and expenditure and approving an influx of revenue from HAVA and the State Comptroller Office. Chief Administrator Officer William Dempsey asked if the service agreement on the poll books was included in the first year and Judge Davenport reported that there is no cost for a service agreement as it is included in the \$110,000 purchase cost.

After a call for the question, the motion passed unanimously.

3. Request to approve renewal of Houston County Industrial Park Wastewater Treatment Plant Operation and Maintenance Agreement at \$1,100 per month with a \$75 per month increase annually and authorize Chairman to execute agreement

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the renewal of the contract and Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Request to sell EMA vehicle pending approval of new vehicle purchase – Chris M. Judah, EMA Director

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the request. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

5. Request to approve budget amendment and expenditure of revenue from sale of vehicles to purchase new EMA vehicle – Chris M. Judah, EMA Director

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the budget amendment and expenditure. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

6. Request to approve joint bid with City of Dothan for recap tires – Road and Bridge

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the joint bid and Commissioner Harvey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

#### STAFF REPORTS:

Chief Administrative Officer – No Report

County Engineer – Road Closures: Eubanks & McDaniel Paving will begin in approximately one week on County Road 33

County Attorney – No Report

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