

MINUTES OF HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
JANUARY 23, 2006

PRESENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Bobby R. Snellgrove, Commissioner Phillip L. Forrester, Gary Sherrer, Attorney, Mark Pool, Engineer, and Roy Roberts, Administrator.

ABSENT: Commissioner Frances M. Cook

Chairman Mark Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order and established that a quorum was present and welcomed everyone. Chairman Culver reported that Commissioner Cook had some illness in her family and hoped everyone would keep her and her family in their thoughts and prayers. Mr. Tommy Murphy, a Lay Speaker from Eastside Freewill Baptist Church, gave the invocation for Dr. Larry Reynolds who was unable to attend due to a funeral. Commissioner Forrester led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Announcements and Public Comment from Chairman and Commissioners

1. Presentation on Storm Ready Certification.

Chairman Culver asked Mr. Shelby Womack, EMA Director, and Mr. Bob Gorrie, the National Weather Service, to come forward for a presentation on the Storm Ready Program. Mr. Womack introduced Mr. Bob Gorrie of the National Weather Service in Tallahassee, and he stated that he has worked with Houston County to make the county storm ready. He pointed out it is quite a distinction as far as being prepared to sound the warnings and receive the warnings, and keep up to date with the National Weather Service. Mr. Gorrie reported that he was also speaking on behalf of the Alabama Emergency Management Agency because they work closely with the entire Emergency Management community, as well as those in the broadcast and print media. Mr. Gorrie stated that their mission was to save lives and property and they could not do it without the local authorities and cooperation from the entire community, and that is why they created the Storm Ready Program. He reported that storm ready recognizes communities that go the extra mile. He stated if they do not get people to understand their message impending severe weather and respond to it then they are wasting money. He reported with the help of Mr. Womack and his staff and everyone in the community as well as the Alabama Emergency Management Agency, they are able to try to get all of the communications in place. At that point, Mr. Pete McGough, of the Alabama EMA, came in. Mr. McGough congratulated the county and the commission for their support of this program and their certification. Mr. Gorrie then congratulated the entire county for the Storm Ready Certification. Chairman Culver reported the commission

appreciated Mr. Womack and his staff, the Alabama EMA and Mr. Gorrie for all of their hard work and effort to insure that Houston County attained the Storm Ready Certification.

## 2. Houston County Job Line.

Chairman Culver reported the Houston County Job Line is available to the public instead of having to call in and go through Personnel. He stated that someone could call 836-1309 to obtain a listing of available employment with Houston County.

The chairman reported that the one piece of local legislation dealing with the adjustment of the fire fee has completed its advertising and will probably be introduced in the House either on January 24<sup>th</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup>. He stated this is a correction on the firefighter's bill and is non-controversial.

He pointed out the ACCA divides the days of the legislature among the 67 counties and assigns a day for counties to go to Montgomery and represent the ACCA. He reported January 24<sup>th</sup> is the day for Houston, Geneva, Dale and Henry counties to go. The chairman invited and encouraged anyone interested to go and participate. He reported the intent is to be there around 11:00 A.M. Chairman Culver also reported a meeting with Governor Riley has been scheduled at 4:00 P.M. tomorrow.

## Regular Agenda

1. Request to fill two (2) vacancies on Houston County Water Authority – Shon Holton and Charles Kirkland.

Chairman Culver reported the appointments are Commissioners Harvey and Cook and he stated that Commissioner Cook asked him to put forth the name of Charles Kirkland as her nominee. Commissioner Harvey then nominated Shon Holton. Commissioner Harvey made a motion to appoint Shon Holton and Charles Kirkland to the Houston County Water Authority. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Appointment to Revolving Loan Fund Board – Sid Timbie.

Chairman Culver reported the recommendation is Sid Timbie and he stated he had an information sheet on Mr. Timbie if anyone would like to see it. Commissioner Forrester made a motion to appoint Sid Timbie to the Revolving Loan Fund Board. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Request to fill vacancy on Southern Alabama Regional Council on Aging – Mayor Pat Thomas.

Chairman Culver reported the SARCOA Board By-Laws require a certain percentage of board members from each county to be elected officials. He stated going back at least three mayors, the Mayor of Dothan has served on this board and the recommendation is to appoint Mayor Pat Thomas to the SARCOA Board. Commissioner Forrester made a motion to appoint Mayor Pat Thomas to the Southern Alabama Regional Council on Aging Board. Commissioner Harvey seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Request from Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce to act as a pass through for funds for entry fees for the 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Tri-State Junior Beef and Expo Sale, and for the Rookie Showmanship Sponsorship for the Alabama Junior Expo.

Chairman Culver reported this is the Tri-State Beef Cattle Show that Representative Joe Carothers has sponsored for years and it is the oldest running show east of the Mississippi. The chairman stated that this is the 70<sup>th</sup> year and it will be held out at the Farm Center. He reported the state has paid the entry fee each year for the young people who participate in the show. The chairman pointed out there has to be a governmental entity to flow the funds through, and the county has done it for several years. Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the request from the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce to act as a pass through for funds for entry fees for the 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Tri-State Junior Beef and Expo Sale, and for the Rookie Showmanship Sponsorship for the Alabama Junior Expo. Commissioner Harvey seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Request to increase compensation for state retirees employed by the County.

Chairman Culver reported according to the State's guidelines, when a person retires from the State and goes to work, there is only a certain amount of money you can make before you lose your retirement payment. He reported that amount has been increased by the state and the new level is \$20,000.00 per year. He reported the request is to put this in force effective the next payroll and it would be the equivalent of \$20,000 per year. Commissioner Snellgrove asked if a budget amendment was necessary? Mr. Roberts stated he thought there was sufficient funding in their budgets to cover it, and if not, he would come back at a later date for a budget amendment. Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the request to increase compensation for state retirees employed by the county effective the next payroll. Commissioner Forrester seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

6. Request from Sheriff to cancel contract on pharmaceutical services and select the next lowest bidder, Industrial Health Services.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request from the Sheriff to cancel the contract on pharmaceutical services and select the next lowest bidder, Industrial Health Services. Chairman Culver reported there were some issues with timeliness and accuracy with the current vendor and the county is exercising its right to move to the next lowest bidder. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

7. Request from Wicksburg School for a donation of surplus items.

Chairman Culver reported some representatives from Wicksburg came and looked at some old surplus desks that are stored. He stated at the Administrative meeting, the commission asked him to check with the Superintendent, and he reported that he had talked with him, and Mr. Pitchford had no problem with the school getting these. Commissioner Forrester made a motion to approve the request from Wicksburg School for a donation of surplus items. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

8. Request to award bid on 416 hot plant mix.

Mr. Pool reported the low bidder would be Lewis Materials at \$.62 per mile and pick up 7 tons per trip. He stated this is a new asphalt plant in Headland and they were glad to have them bidding. Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to award the bid on 416 hot plant mix to Lewis Materials, low bidder meeting specs, at \$.62 per mile to pick up 7 tons per trip. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Mr. Pool asked if the bid could be awarded to the top two because the plant might break down and they might need to go to the other one. Chairman Culver stated he was concerned about the bid laws. Mr. Pool reported they do contact the next low bidder when the plant that has the bid breaks down. The chairman asked him if he had it in the specs? Mr. Pool stated no. Chairman Culver asked Mr. Sherrer for his opinion? Mr. Sherrer stated unless it is in the bid specs to go the next low bidder then only one vendor needs to be awarded. Chairman Culver stated he would like to see the bid be awarded to the low bidder meeting specs and between now and the next meeting figure how the county can do what Mr. Pool is talking about. The chairman stated he understood what Mr. Pool was saying and the county does need to have accessibility if they do not have the material. Mr. Roberts stated the specs should include if a supplier could not provide the materials within so many hours, then the county would seek the next available supplier. Chairman Culver asked Mr. Pool the length of the term of the bid? Mr. Pool stated 6 months. He suggested that the bid be awarded to the low bidder meeting specs, and then work it out. Commissioner Snellgrove stated he understood what Mr. Pool is saying if he cannot get the asphalt then he wants to have a second price locked in rather than going out and they pour the asphalt and charge \$75.00 per ton instead of \$42.00 per ton. The chairman stated that for future reference it needs to be in the specs. Chairman Culver suggested in the meantime, some type of agreement for less than bid law requirements with the second vendor. The chairman called for the question on

the motion; and it carried unanimously. (Please see attached bid summary sheet in Minute Book)

9. Request to sell surplus items on E-Bay.

Mr. Pool stated he wanted to try to sell an item or two on E-Bay. He stated he had some cutting equipment that was exactly the same and they were going to try to sell it on E-Bay and sell the exact item on Gov.Deals. He reported he did not know of any counties in the state that were selling anything on E-Bay but he wanted to try it. Mr. Pool reported E-Bay's cost is half of what GovDeals is. Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request to sell surplus items on E-Bay. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously.

10. Request to sell Elmore County one tailgate conveyor for \$4,000.00.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request to sell Elmore County one tailgate conveyor for \$4,000.00. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

11. Request to sell Butler County one 5 ft. ditching bucket for \$1,800.00.

Commissioner Forrester made a motion to sell Butler County one 5 ft. ditching bucket for \$1,800.00. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. Mr. Pool stated they had 3 of the ditching buckets and he did some research on it and the county paid \$110,000 for those machines in 1990. He reported they sell for \$217,000 today. He reported they checked into what the cost of the attachment would if it were new and it would \$5,400.00, but if you assume it has doubled in price because in 1990, it was \$2,700.00. Mr. Pool reported they are selling a 16 year old piece of equipment for \$1,800.00. He pointed out usually, these type pieces of equipment are sold in the sales and normally sell for around \$150.00 - \$200.00. Chairman Culver pointed out it will be helping Butler County out at the same time. The chairman called for the question on the motion and it carried unanimously.

12. Request to adopt Resolution to initiate resurfacing on Headland Avenue.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to adopt the resolution to initiate resurfacing on Headland Avenue. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported it will be several months before this project is started. Mr. Pool reported it is set up in the MPO for January, 2007. He pointed out they are going ahead and starting the paperwork and getting the plans ready so it can be let next January. The chairman called for the question on the motion and it carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

13. Request to offer to purchase concession stand from Civitan Club for \$12,000.00.

Chairman Culver reported he did not get the letter he was anticipating but it involves the trailer, awning and the storage building, and all of the equipment in the trailer with the exception of the coffee pot. Chairman Culver asked Mickey Sego, Farm Center Manager, if the freezer in the storage room is included? Mr. Sego stated he did not know. Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the request to offer to purchase the concession stand from the Civitan Club for \$12,000.00. Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported Commissioners Cook and Snellgrove were designated as a committee to look into the concession issue at the Farm Center. He pointed out the commission had looked at building and various things and this trailer came back available. He stated the commission will end up having \$12,000-\$15,000 in it instead of \$70,000-\$80,000. Chairman Culver reported this is a good opportunity for the commission. The chairman called for the question on the motion; and it carried unanimously.

#### Reports from Staff:

##### County Administrator –

Mr. Roberts reported the annual report will be given at the next meeting assuming all of the hookups in the chambers are ready.

##### County Engineer –

Mr. Pool called on Barkley Kirkland to give an update on Hodgesville Road. Mr. Kirkland reported over the next 4-5 days they would be trying to replace 2 of the 3 crossdrains left to install, and they would also be placing concrete over the ones they have already laid. He pointed out there would be a week's delay and they would go back and lay a double line of eighty fours which will take about 2 weeks and the road will be closed for that 2 week period. Chairman Culver asked Mr. Kirkland to be sure a press release gets out on that when he has a definitive time and location. Mr. Pool reported that all of this work is in preparation to resurface that road this summer.

##### County Attorney –

Mr. Sherrer stated he had no report. Chairman Culver reported that all the documents that the attorney authorized the chairman to execute on the courthouse at the last meeting have been executed, have been completed, and done, and the commission is out of the courthouse building business.

Adjourn.

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