

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
MARCH 8, 2010

PRESENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Bobby R. Snellgrove, Commissioner Frances M. Cook, Commissioner Phillip L. Forrester, Pat Jones, Acting County Attorney, Myer Holloway, Acting County Engineer, and William J. Dempsey, Chief Administrative Officer

ABSENT: Mark Pool, Engineer, and Gary Sherrer, Attorney

Chairman Mark S. Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, declared a quorum was present, and welcomed everyone. Pastor Bobby Marks, Cornerstone Bible Church, gave the invocation. Commissioner Snellgrove led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the minutes of the last two meetings. Commissioner Cook seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

Announcements and Public Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver reported on Thursday, it was announced that the Hockey-Puc Hill Miniature Pony Farm would be giving free pony rides at the Chattahoochee Park from 1:00 P.M. until 5:00 P.M. on the following Sundays: April 4th, May 2nd, June 6th, and July 4th. The chairman reported there was a 75 lb. weight limit. He stated there is an admission charge of \$2.00 for parents to the park, but the children 12 and under get in free, and the pony rides would be free. He stated the commission would be relying on the media to assist the county in getting the information out to the public over the coming months.

The chairman reported last month they were hoping with the sales tax figures up, that was a sign that things were getting better. He stated now with the sales tax figures just received for this month, they hope it is not a sign because they were down for the reporting of February and for the year they are down 3.5% compared to last year. He stated last month's sales taxes were down 7% on the month to month. Chairman Culver reported he hoped that would soon change and then we would see a gradual increase as opposed to the up and downs currently occurring.

Chairman Culver reported all of the commissioners and a lot of other people are out campaigning and he reminded everyone that yard signs are not to be placed on the right-of-way. He reported the county picks them up if they are safety issues. He pointed out they are not disposed of but they are taken out to Road and Bridge, and can be picked up there. He asked all of the candidates and their workers to try to be sure that signs are not placed on right-of-ways. The chairman stated he thought the City of Dothan picked up the signs also.

Awards and Presentations

1. Recognition of Coach Emanuel Brown and the Houston County Lions.

Chairman Culver reported this item would be delayed for two weeks due some of the students taking required tests, and could not attend. He stated they would be at the next meeting in two weeks.

Regular Agenda

1. Appointment to fill unexpired term on Dothan-Houston County Airport Authority – Mr. Jimbo Loftin.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to appoint Mr. Jimbo Loftin to fill an unexpired term on the Dothan-Houston County Airport Authority. Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported Mr. Keith Granger was the appointment and he has taken a permanent job in Birmingham and would be unable to fulfill his term. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Request to authorize entering into lease agreement for EMA vehicle.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to enter into a lease agreement for the EMA vehicle. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported the purchase of the vehicle was approved at the last meeting. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Request to approve EMA budget amendments.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the EMA budget amendments. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this is moving some money in and out and moving it over from last year. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached budget amendments in Minute Book)

4. Request from Sheriff to award bid for three (3) 2010 Chevrolet Tahoes, 4WD, 1500 Special Services Vehicles. (100% grant)

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the Sheriff's request to award the bid for three (3) 2010 Chevrolet Tahoes, 4WD, 1500 Special Services Vehicles to the low bidder meeting specs, Solomon Motor Company, in the amount of \$29,185.50 each. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported these are from a 100% Homeland Security Grant. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached Bid Sheet in Minute Book)

5. Request to renew lease for Chattahoochee Park.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to renew the lease for Chattahoochee Park. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported the lease was being renewed under the same terms with one exception being moving one of the three disabled hunting days to Saturday instead of Sunday. Chairman Culver pointed out this park used to be Chattahoochee State Park but the county is maintaining it now. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

6. Request to approve items to be sold on Govdeals.

Commissioner Forrester made a motion to approve the list of items to be sold on Govdeals. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. Commissioner Snellgrove asked if the county was getting rid of everything that has been placed on Govdeals? Mr. Dempsey stated all of that is turned

over to Mr. Pool for disposal. He reported not everything goes to Govdeals because there are some things that go through auctions. Commissioner Snellgrove asked if Govdeals puts a timeframe to purchase items? Chairman Culver reported it amounted to being similar to a government E-Bay. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached list in Minute Book)

7. Request to extend bid on ready mix 3000w/fiber for an additional six months.

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to extend the bid on ready mix 3000w/fiber with South Alabama Concrete for an additional six months. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

8. Request to award bid on fertilizer.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to award the bid on fertilizer to the low bidder meeting specs, Farmers Co-op of Ashford in the amount of \$13.50 per 50 lb. bag, and Kelly Ag of Headland, LLC in the amount of \$410.00 per ton bulk. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached bid summary sheet in Minute Book)

9. Request to approve agreement with NRCS to use EWP money to repair four (4) sites. (Taylor Road, Johnny Murphy Road, South County Road 33 and Ebenezer Road) Total amount: \$112,292.00. (80/20 match)

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the agreement with NRCS to use EWP money to repair four (4) sites, Taylor Road, Johnny Murphy Road, South County Road 33, and Ebenezer Road for a total amount of \$112,292.00 on an 80/20 match. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. Commissioner Snellgrove asked what portion the county would begin on South County Road #33? Mr. Holloway reported there were several sites on County Road #33 that had received damage. He stated EWP covers sites with erosion problems and not necessarily the whole road that was damaged. Commissioner Snellgrove stated County Road #33 begins in Ashford and goes to D Hodge Road almost to 231 South. Chairman Culver reported this would not be a road surface issue but an erosion problem at one specific point somewhere on that road. Commissioner Snellgrove pointed out it was not a resurfacing project but would consist of shoulder repairs and cross drain repairs. Chairman Culver reported this group used to be Soil Conservation, and he stated the old projects they used to do it is normally a ditch that for whatever reason has eroded and is blocked; primarily erosion issues, and because of that it impacts the road or property. The chairman reported under those conditions NRCS will assist the county with funds to fix the problems that the county might not otherwise be able to do.

Commissioner Forrester reported recently he had received a call from a resident on Jones Road. He reported the county got it ready to resurface and the monsoons set in and some road work was needed. Commissioner Forrester reported he got a call back from the resident stating how pleased he was with

the work the county did, and he thanked the Road & Bridge Department. Commissioner Forrester stated the road would be paved eventually.

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

10. Request to approve agreement with ALDOT to use federal funding to acquire right-of-way for improvements on Fortner at South Brannon Stand Road intersection. Total amount: \$210,912.00 (80/20 match) (MPO Funds)

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the agreement with ALDOT to use federal funding to acquire right-of-way for improvements on Fortner Street at the South Brannon Stand Road intersection in the amount of \$210,912.00 on an 80/20 match with MPO funds. Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this is part of on-going improvements in that general area. He pointed out this year, they would be resurfacing South Brannon Stand Road from this intersection to Highway 52, and also have part of the stimulus money on the Fortner Street resurfacing project. Mr. Holloway reported the South Brannon Stand Road resurfacing project has been let, and it is a stimulus project also. He stated this is another project to make turn lane improvements and install a traffic signal at this intersection. Mr. Holloway reported this portion of the project is to acquire the right-of-way. Chairman Culver reported this is the first step and he felt it would occur after the resurfacing project is completed. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer – there was no report.

County Engineer – Mr. Holloway reported he needed to correct the admission fees for Chattahoochee Park. He stated for children 12 and under, the admission fee is \$1.00. He pointed out it is free for children 12 and under to fish. It was reported the admission charge for adults is \$2.00.

County Attorney – Chairman Culver reported Mr. Sherrer had some eye surgery last week and he is recuperating and unable to attend. He stated it is always good to have Pat Jones, and he asked him if he had anything? Mr. Jones stated he had no report.

Adjourn.

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