

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
MARCH 9, 2009

PRESENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver, Commissioner Bobby R. Snellgrove, Commissioner Frances M. Cook, Commissioner Phillip L. Forrester, Pat Jones, Acting County Attorney, Mark Pool, County Engineer, and Bill Dempsey, Chief Administrative Officer

ABSENT: Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Gary Sherrer, Attorney

Chairman Mark S. Culver, called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, established that a quorum was present, and welcomed everyone. Rev. Scott Wyatt, Pastor, Bay Springs Baptist Church, gave the invocation. Commissioner Cook led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Announcements and Public Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver commended Landmark Park for getting a grant approved for a photography exhibit located in the Jury Room of the Courthouse. He pointed out there was an article in the newspaper regarding the reception and exhibit which was held on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Chairman Culver reported they have been working on this project since the courthouse renovation. The chairman reported the exhibit contained a lot of old pictures that represent the history of Houston County that were done by Mr. Doug Snellgrove. He thanked Landmark Park and Mr. Sean Curtis and his staff for working with them to get the project completed.

The chairman reported the Water Lab had a problem with a piece of equipment and the cost to replace it would have been approximately \$3,000 that was not budgeted. He stated Mr. Sammy Flowers, an employee of the Houston County Health Department, repaired it. Chairman Culver thanked Mr. Flowers and the Health Department for his assistance in essence of saving the county money.

Chairman Culver reported Mrs. Kim Snellgrove's daughter, Misty Snellgrove, was crowned the 2009-2010 "Ms. Columbia" Saturday night. The chairman pointed out Mrs. Snellgrove is the county's Purchasing Clerk. Chairman Culver congratulated Ms. Snellgrove on behalf of the commission.

The chairman reported the new "Ms. Houston County" and "Little Ms. Houston County" will be attending a meeting soon. He stated the new "Little Ms. Houston County" also has some ties to the county in that she is the Water Authority's Administrative Assistant's granddaughter, and his son's teacher's daughter.

Consent Agenda

1. Request to award bid on pharmaceutical supplies for the Jail.

2. Request to award bid on food services for the Jail.
3. Request to award bids for fertilizer, hot plant mix 416, bag cement, MC-70 prime & seed.
4. Request to reject all bids on fiber mesh concrete and crushed limestone and re-bid.

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the consent agenda to include awarding the bid on pharmaceutical supplied for the Jail, award bid on food services for the Jail, award bids for fertilizer, hot plant mix 416, bag cement, MC-70 prime and seed, and to reject all bids on fiber mesh concrete and crushed limestone and re-bid. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached Bid Summary Sheets in Minute Book)

#### Regular Agenda

1. Request to assist with paving and curbing parking lot at Kinsey Volunteer Fire Department to be utilized as a polling location for the Town of Kinsey.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the request to assist with paving and curbing the parking lot at the Kinsey Volunteer Fire Department to be utilized as a polling location for the Town of Kinsey. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion.

Chairman Culver reported the Kinsey Fire Chief was present to answer any questions. Mr. Pool stated they talked about some money at the administrative meeting and he asked if they were going to do the whole project? Chairman Culver reported the request was for \$17,000 and not to exceed that amount. He stated the motion was to grant the request. The chairman reported the parking lot involves a road, a driveway, and the parking lot, and the only portion they are asking the county to assist with is the portion related to the parking lot. He stated \$17,000 was the amount submitted. Commissioner Cook stated it was going to be a polling place. Chairman Culver reported when the polling places are moved to the volunteer fire departments most of them have been really good moves and an upgrade, more accessible and easier to get in and out of. The chairman reported he thought it would be a positive move. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Request for Lounge Retail Liquor License – Class I – Larry Dewayne Mims, d/b/a Southern Junction Sports Bar, 5245 South State Highway 109, Slocumb, AL (Houston County)

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the request for a Lounge Retail Liquor License – Class I, Larry Dewayne Mims, d/b/a Southern Junction Sports Bar, 5245 South State Highway 109, Slocumb, AL (Houston County) Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion. Chairman Culver asked if anyone present was in opposition? There being no opposition, the chairman called for the question on the motion; and it carried unanimously.

3. Request to adopt Resolution to resurface, G-treatment, leveling & paint stripe S. Brannon Stand Road from Highway #52 W. to Fortner Street. (approx. 2.60 miles)

Commissioner Cook made a motion to adopt the Resolution to resurface, G-treatment, leveling & paint stripe S. Brannon Stand Road from Highway #52 W. to Fortner Street. (approx. 2.60 miles) Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. Chairman Culver reported they hope to use stimulus money on the project. (Please see in Resolution Book)

4. Request to sell items on GovDeals.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the request to sell items on GovDeals. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. (Please see attached list in Minute Book)

5. Request to accept Homeland Security Grant in the amount of \$200,000, and purchase crime scene vehicle, and the appropriate budget amendment.

Chairman Culver reported the motion on this item needed to state to table it for two weeks in order to take bids. Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to table this item for two weeks in order to take bids. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion.

Mr. Dempsey reported he had spoken with Sheriff Hughes earlier in the day and explained that the State Examiners have recommended that the county go through the official bid process with anyone that they feel might be able to bid on it even if they “No Bid” it or do not submit a bid at all in the qualified time frame it would be legitimate. Mr. Dempsey stated the examiners had also recommended that the county contact both Montgomery and Huntsville who both have had these similar pieces of equipment in order to gain any bidding information they might have. He reported the Sheriff’s Department is doing that. Mr. Dempsey reported those two pieces of information put together would legitimize the single source award. Chairman Culver stated the county is trying to get the information to legitimize the single source award. Mr. Dempsey stated that was correct. Mr. Dempsey stated the county would do that if they had no bids from the other sources. Chairman Culver asked how long the process would take? Mr. Dempsey stated hopefully within a week. The chairman asked if the county was trying to legitimize sole source it there was any way the commission could approve it if it is deemed to be sole source in advance? Mr. Dempsey stated he did not know.

Sheriff Hughes reported the vehicles in Montgomery and Tuscaloosa County did send out bids and his department was in the process of getting their list of bidders. He stated on one else met their bids, and that was where they were coming from originally. The Sheriff reported the information they received from the examiners was that it was okay to sole source. He pointed out since that time, the head examiner said it might be best to take bids on it. Sheriff Hughes reported it was fine with him. The sheriff stated from what they can see, none of the other companies will provide all of the equipment that Sirchie will provide on the vehicle that has been

quoted. Chairman Culver asked if there would be an issue if the commission waits until the next meeting? Sheriff Hughes stated no because they will not start producing the 2010 chassis until sometime in August. He pointed out the price might increase slightly and they may have to cut some of the equipment off the original vehicle. It was pointed out the cutoff date for the 2009 chassis was last week, and they may still be able to get in under that if they wait two weeks. Sheriff Hughes stated he felt they needed to follow the advice of the state examiners and whatever Mr. Dempsey felt should be done in order to do it right. The sheriff pointed out if they have to cut some equipment it will be something small and his department will make up the difference if they have to.

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

#### Staff Reports:

##### Chief Administrative Officer

Mr. Dempsey stated with the time changing, he wanted to report there were a lot of complaints prior to the parking lot being re-done, and since September or October, he had not heard any complaints. He expressed appreciation for the lighting and paving on behalf of the employees.

He reported they were starting the collection phase of the Sanitation project and they would be meeting with Wiregrass Electric, and Prim, Freeman, and Mendheim. He stated everything continues to go positively on it. Mr. Dempsey expressed his appreciation to Paul Clark, IT Manager, and his department. He stated without them, they would not have gotten the project this far, and he appreciated all of the work they had done. Chairman Culver thanked Mr. Clark, Mrs. Sharon Dempsey, and Bill Dempsey for their efforts on this project.

##### County Engineer

Mr. Pool gave a presentation on some of the projects they are working on.

1. Pilgrim Church Road Bridge – project has just begun – old bridge is 10% torn out and they are driving the pilings – completion date - April 30, 2009.
2. Ardilla Road Intersection – estimated completion date – July 31, 2009.
3. Windmill Road – bridge replacement/box culvert – 100% complete – county in the process of backfilling it – completion date - April 30, 2009.

Commissioner Forrester stated most of the dirt for the backfill came from the Brannon Stand Road Bridge project from the detour route. Mr. Pool reported they were actually doing two projects at once. He stated the backfill came from the dirt pit which contained the dirt from the detour. It was pointed out the dirt was being recycled.

4. Wiregrass Rehab Center – doing site prep work and estimated completion date – June 15, 2009.

Chairman Culver reported this is a good project, and will employ hundreds of less fortunate people.

5. Kinsey Volunteer Fire Department – expect the project to be completed April 15, 2009. Reported they are doing all of the road, parking lot, and voting site.
6. Bridge Replacement on Wallace Buie Road - bridge 100% complete, backfill is being done and then the guardrail will be put up - hope to have it totally completed April 30, 2009.
7. Bridge on East Cook Road – project to be let in April and completed sometime this summer.

Chairman Culver reported when this bridge is finished, that will complete all of the 50 plus bridges that the county started in order to make them safe for school buses to travel on them. Chairman Culver asked Mr. Pool to let him know when the bridge is complete so that a ribbon cutting can be held.

County Attorney – Mr. Jones, Acting Attorney stated there was no report.

Chairman Culver reported the county attorney is out of town due to illness in his family.

Adjourn.

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