

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
MARCH 22, 2010

PRESENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Bobby R. Snellgrove, Commissioner Frances M. Cook, Commissioner Phillip L. Forrester, Gary Sherrer, Attorney, Mark Pool, Engineer, and William J. Dempsey, Chief Administrative Officer

ABSENT: None

Chairman Mark S. Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, declared a quorum was present, and welcomed everyone. Rev. Henry Small, Pastor, Trinity Baptist Church, gave the invocation. Commissioner Cook led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

Announcements and Public Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver reported the following road closings: E. Cook Road, County Road #81, and Fortner Street at Crestwood Village. He thanked the media for helping get the word out about the Fortner Street closing since Thursday's meeting. The chairman stated they had done an outstanding job as usual in working with the commission. He continued to remind everyone that Fortner Street would be closed for approximately 4 weeks in the Crestwood Village area. Chairman Culver reported a detour was marked, and he encouraged people to use Highway #84 West/ Brannon Stand/Fortner Street.

Commissioner Snellgrove reported work was going on South County Road #81 in Grangerburg, and he hoped it would be open within the next two weeks.

Commissioner Snellgrove reported the Houston County Rescue Unit would be having a Fishing Tournament at Omussee Park this weekend. He stated it would begin on Friday and continue on Saturday with bank fishing and fishing from boats. He pointed out this is a fundraiser for the Houston County Rescue Squad. Chairman Culver reported there would be other activities and he encouraged everyone to go out and participate.

Awards and Presentations

1. Proclamation – "Child Abuse Prevention Month" – Mrs. Sherryl Walker, Executive Director, SE Alabama Child Advocacy Center

Chairman Culver asked Mrs. Sherryl Walker, Executive Director, SE Alabama Child Advocacy Center, and Mr. Brian Brackin to come forward. Chairman Culver reported normally, the Proclamation is presented out at the Child Advocacy Center, but this year the entire commission will be attending "County Day at the Legislature" in Montgomery and would not be able to participate. He stated the commission wanted time to be able to issue the Proclamation, and he stated he was glad Mrs. Walker was able to attend the meeting. Commissioner Forrester made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring April as "Child Abuse Prevention Month." Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. The chairman then read the Proclamation and presented it to Mrs. Walker. He thanked Mrs. Walker for the outstanding work her agency does. He pointed out Mrs. Mary Paulk, Director, Houston County Department of Human Resources, and Sheriff Hughes were present, and he stated Mrs. Walker's agency works closely with them along with the DA and others. Chairman Culver reported he would be remiss if he did not state there was an attempt by the Governor to cut child advocacy groups out of the budget. He stated the county's local delegation and the members of the county commission were fighting adamantly on behalf of the SE Alabama Child Advocacy Center. Chairman Culver stated obviously, some people in Montgomery did not know the good the organization creates, and it needs to be continued.

Mrs. Walker presented blue ribbons for the doors, and she thanked the commission for their funding each year. She stated they do depend on community support to serve the children of Houston County.

Mrs. Walker reported last year, they had 397 new cases of child abuse and neglect to walk through their doors. She pointed out there would be that many again this year, but because of the Houston County Commission and other local government agencies and individuals that give them funding they can see these children at no charge to their families. She reported on April 1st at 11:00 A.M., they will have a Press Conference and Open House and she invited those that would not be in Montgomery to come and tour the center. She introduced Mr. Brian Brackin, board member, and retired police officer. Mrs. Walker thanked the commission for all of their support. Chairman Culver stated the SE Alabama Child Advocacy Center does a tremendous job in our community, and the commission appreciated everything they do for those who cannot necessarily do for themselves.

Regular Agenda

1. Appointment to SpectraCare Health Systems, Inc. Board – Mr. Marc Nelson and Mr. Robert Ferguson.

Chairman Culver reported these were actually re-appointments as requested by the SpectraCare Health Systems, Inc. Commissioner Cook made a motion to re-appoint Mr. Marc Nelson and Mr. Robert Ferguson to the SpectraCare Health Systems, Inc. Board. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Request from Probate Judge to award bid for publication of 2010 Houston County Voters List.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the Probate Judge's request to award the bid for the publication of the 2010 Houston County Voters List. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. The chairman reported Houston Printing was the low bidder meeting specs, in the amount of \$13,400.00. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached Bid Summary Sheet in Minute Book)

3. Request from Probate Judge for an additional \$100.00 for Petty cash in the Driver's License Department.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the Probate Judge's request for an additional \$100.00 for Petty Cash in the Driver's License Department. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this was discussed on Thursday, but in essence because of an increase in the cost of driver's license making change has become more difficult. He stated it is basically taking \$100.00 that would be in the bank and placing it in the drawer in the Driver's License Department. Chairman Culver called for the question; and it carried unanimously.

4. Request to approve concurrence with the bid on resurfacing Fortner Street.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to concur in the award of the bid to Lewis, Inc. in the amount of \$71,444.22 for the county's participation on the Fortner Street resurfacing project. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported Fortner Street is closed for the replacement of crossdrains. He stated he believed the contractor would start around May 15th. He reported during the construction time, the road would not be closed but it could be narrowed down to one lane. He asked when did the county think they would begin the South Brannon Stand Road project? Mr. Pool stated even though it was the same contractor, it was a different contract and could be started at the same time, he did not know. Mr. Pool pointed out both of them have a time restraint because they will put down G-treatment, which can only be done after the first of April. The chairman asked Mr. Pool if he thought they would be working on both of them at the same time? Mr. Pool stated he did not know because he had not talked to the contractor. Chairman Culver reported he did not ask about South Brannon Stand Road, but his assumption was because it was bid earlier than Fortner Street that the 45 day timeframe was earlier and they might start on it before Fortner Street. Mr. Pool reported the temperature has them but the time for both projects will start about the same time. He pointed out the Jordan Avenue project is also included in that letting. The chairman expressed his concern if both Fortner and Brannon Stand Road shut down to one lane. He asked if they could talk to the contractor about this? Mr. Pool stated he did not think the contractor had but one crew that did that work. Mr. Pool reported they would bring in another crew to do the G-treatment, and the contractor could be back and forth. Chairman Culver stated he would hate to have two main thoroughfares shut down. Mr.

Pool stated they would not be shut down; there would only be one lane of traffic and there might be a 30 minute wait. Commissioner Snellgrove suggested they go to Jordan Avenue first and that would alleviate the problem. The chairman stated if the contractor does the projects back to back, it would be good to do Fortner/Jordan Avenue/Brannon Stand. Mr. Pool stated from a contractor's point of view, he would want to have everything in one area for shorter distance between jobs. Commissioner Forrester asked on the South Brannon Stand Road project if it was specifically the intersection or the stretch from Fortner to Highway 52? Mr. Pool stated it was the whole stretch from Fortner to Highway 52. Chairman Culver asked Mr. Pool to be sure he knows and is communicating with the contractor on the plan and get it out to the public? The chairman stated he wanted to make sure the public is aware of what is going on in advance. Mr. Pool reported there would be a pre-construction conference, and they would complete the plan at that time. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer – there was no report

County Engineer

Mr. Pool reported Fortner Street would be closed for approximately one month.

He stated County Road #81 was closed and he hoped to have that section opened in about two weeks. He stated Lanier Road is still under water.

Saunders Road at Ardilla is still closed. He stated the county's portion should be completed within two months. He pointed out the county, city, and state will be working on the Ardilla intersection and the county is the only government agency working on it at this time.

East Cook Bridge, the contractor has started to work and the county anticipates starting back to work on it in a week.

Mr. Pool reported they are not working on any flood work at this time because they are over expanded.

Chairman Culver reported the portion of the work the county is doing in Ardilla can get done and out of the way before the city and state do their part. The chairman asked Mr. Pool is there anything they are doing in conjunction with the county. He asked if the county can get their work done and out of the way regardless of the city and state doing anything or nothing? Mr. Pool stated that was correct.

The chairman reported the commission discussed and voted on Troy University Road. He stated he thought the commission would need to authorize what the county will completely do. Chairman Culver reported it was left that the city, county, and Troy University would all work on the project. He stated he would be meeting with them that afternoon and it was his understanding the City of Dothan had done a lot more than they originally talked about and at this point they are not wanting the county to build the road but they want the county to get it to the point they can get trucks in and out. The chairman reported he was certain that was part of what they agreed to do but it will be brought back on the next meeting's agenda to authorize the dirt road part. He stated the commission appreciated the city doing more clearing than they had initially thought they would do. Mr. Pool asked if the commission wanted them to put it ahead of some of the dirt road paving? The commission stated no. The chairman stated it would be a different crew.

County Attorney – there was no report.

Adjourn.

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