

MINUTES OF HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
MARCH 24, 2008

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

ABSENT: None

Chairman Mark S. Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, established that a quorum was present, and welcomed everyone. Rev. Todd Thorpe, Pastor, First Baptist Church of Ashford, gave the invocation. Commissioner Bobby Snellgrove led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Announcements and Public Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver stated he was glad everyone was back and he hoped everybody had a good Easter and spring break week.

The chairman stated Fortner Street, east of Brannon Stand Road, was closed Monday, March 24<sup>th</sup> until noon on Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>.

Chairman Culver reported on April 6<sup>th</sup>, Mr. David Jamison, the CC Camp Historian, will be at the Chattahoochee State Park for a presentation. He stated information will be coming out, and he encouraged everyone who had an interest to come out and enjoy it. Mr. Pool stated they would be getting some information out.

Commissioner Snellgrove stated he was over at the park on Saturday and the fishing is great.

Mr. Sean Law, Veterans Affairs Service Officer, reported he had spent six weeks in Washington, and he was glad to be back. Mr. Law stated the Houston County VA has had an office here for 62 years and without the commission's support, they could not have provided their services over the years. Mr. Law reported when he took over as Office Manager in 2006, he had to hire two additional employees because they were understaffed. He pointed out both of his employees have been confirmed by the State Board, and they have made a few changes to the office. Mr. Law reported effective March 10<sup>th</sup>, they are now open through lunch, and they have also extended their hours from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. He urged the veterans that need to file claims to come in before 4:30 P.M. in order to take care of their claims. He reported Fort Rucker has opened a new clinic. Mr. Law stated they would serve between 2,000-3,000 veterans initially, and they are hoping to serve up to 16,000 when they get on board. Mr. Law reported the clinic in Dothan is serving around 6,500 veterans, and he hoped it would take some of the burden off Dothan's clinic. He pointed out the VA had promised him that they were not planning on closing the Dothan clinic. He reported their contract is up, and there will be bids in for their contract. Mr. Law reported the fourth state nursing home has come on line in Birmingham and the commissioner is looking at a few locations for a projected fifth nursing home. He pointed out the highest veteran populations without a nursing home are Montgomery, Troy, and Dothan. Mr. Law reported Houston County has the highest percentage per capita of veterans with 17% of the population being veterans.

Chairman Culver stated he appreciated Mr. Law's comments. He stated Mr. Law mentioned the Dothan clinic, and he stated the county commission was glad along with the city commission and several individuals to be part of the effort to

keep it here. Chairman Culver reported they would continue the fight if necessary. Mr. Law stated if it were not for the elected officials they would not have been able to keep the clinic.

#### Consent Agenda

1. Request to award bid for handheld retroflectometer.
2. Request to award bid for G-Treatment.
3. Request to award bid for 429 Hot Mix.
4. Request to award bid for Crushed Limestone #5, #78, Crusher Run, Class I Rip Rap and Class II Rip Rap.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the consent agenda to award the bid for a handheld retroflectometer to Professional Pavement Products, Inc., low bidder meeting specs, in the amount of \$9,050.00, to award the bid for G-Treatment to Charles E. Watts, Inc., low bidder meeting specs, at \$1.19 per sq. yd. and a total price of \$359,219.35, and to award the bid for Hot Mix (429) to APAC, low bidder meeting specs, in the amount of \$52.73 per ton, and a total price of \$1,492,786.30, and award the bid for Crushed Limestone #5, #78, Crusher Run, Class I Rip Rap, and Class II Rip Rap to the low bidders meeting specs in each category. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached Bid Summary Sheets in Minute Book)

#### Regular Agenda

1. Appointment – Houston –Love Memorial Library Board – Edna McLoyd

Commissioner Forrester made a motion to appoint Mrs. Edna McLoyd to the Houston-Love Memorial Library Board. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported she will be serving out a term, and he stated he felt the board will be expanded as they move forward. The chairman reported the commission should probably have more appointments in the coming months and he asked the commissioners to be thinking about good people to serve on the Library Board. He stated they have exciting times ahead of them. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Request to establish policy regarding usage of county voting machines.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to establish a policy regarding the usage of county voting machines. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. Chairman Culver stated the policy would be that any municipalities or towns that want to use the HAVA compliant voting equipment that the county owns would be charged \$100 per machine per election, and that would include any run-offs or special elections; any one day use would be \$100 per machine. The Probate Judge stated this would be per election cycle. She stated the run-off would be in two weeks and they would leave the machine because they could still use the same ink cartridge for that short period of time. Judge Cooley reported if they waited for the next election several months later like a primary to a general election then a new cartridge would be needed. Chairman Culver stated the motion was to approve the Probate Judge's request, and the request states \$100 per machine per election. Judge Cooley stated maybe she should have inserted per election cycle. The judge stated they are worried about are the municipal elections in August. Chairman Culver stated for the municipal election there is the regular election and possibly one run-off. Judge Cooley stated they could leave the request as is but for clarification, he might consider inserting election

cycle which would include the run-off. Chairman Culver reported this would be printed into policy form and inserted in the Policy Manual which is being revised. Commissioner Snellgrove stated the request includes the run-off. Commissioner Cook asked Judge Cooley if it meant the primary and general election are the county's, and the county would assume the cost for those? Judge Cooley stated that was correct, and it involves the municipal elections where they borrow the machines. She reported with the policy they will be renting the machines. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Request to add 2 roads on bond resurfacing: South Park from County Line to Malvern Road and Ben Ivey Road from Ashford Road to Glenn Lawrence Road.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the request to add the following roads on bond resurfacing: South Park from County Line to Malvern Road and Ben Ivey Road from Ashford Road to Glenn Lawrence Road. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. Chairman Culver asked if it was County Line Road? Mr. Pool stated it was from the County Line; not County Line Road. Chairman Culver reported when they took bids on the bond resurfacing program, they had set aside \$4.5 million and 45 miles of road. He stated the bids came in somewhat less than anticipated and it allowed the commission to add some additional roads. He reported the resurfacing is done strictly based on the grades the roads have, and typically the worst grade of road is the next one to go on the list. He stated the county is treated as a whole and they try to address the roads with the greatest need regardless of where they are located. He commended the commission on having that policy. Mr. Pool reported these two roads would add six miles bringing the total to 51 miles of road. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Request to concur in low bid for Bridge Replacement, Brannon Stand Road Bridge.

Commissioner Forrester made the motion to concur in the low bid for the bridge replacement on the Brannon Stand Road Bridge with Scott Bridge Company, Inc., Opelika, AL. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported the bridge is south of the Highlands. He reported the commission has been talking about this bridge for more than one and half years, and had been trying to get federal money for at least three years. He stated they have received financial participation from the City of Dothan, the State of Alabama and the federal government that will help offset the \$1.8 million cost of the bridge and the detour. The chairman pointed out the commission had \$1 million in the bond issue designated for this project. Chairman Culver reported the project will start June 9<sup>th</sup>, and it will take approximately 4 months to complete. He stated around the first of May, some good notice needed to be given on the project as far as the impact, about the detour, and when school starts back again to insure the proper safety. Mr. Pool stated he thought they needed to have another meeting like they had back in the fall. He pointed out they will begin paving the detour shortly and the contractor has 90 calendar days before liquidated damages begin. Chairman Culver reported the county is paying somewhat of a premium for the bridge in order to get it done in an expeditious manner. The chairman stated because of the traffic, because of being located at the school, and since the county received \$750,000 from other entities, they thought it would be best to get the project done as quickly as possible. Commissioner Snellgrove asked if the temporary bridge would be for local traffic only? Mr. Pool stated the weight limit would be dropped so eighteen wheelers could not travel on it. Commissioner Snellgrove stated he thought it should be promoted ahead of time in order to give the trucks time to find another route. Mr. Pool stated loaded eighteen wheelers are not supposed to be going through there now. Mr. Pool reported there would be a different detour for trucks and they would take care of it. He also stated the City of Dothan was also going to help. Chairman Culver stated he thought the first of May the county needed to start a public campaign on the impact of the

project. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Request to reject bids for HRRR-CN08 (236) HCP 35-338-07.

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to reject bids for HRRR-CN08 (236) HCP 35-338-07. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this is a guardrail project that was to be done with federal safety money. Mr. Pool reported the bid came in higher than they thought and they are going to take a couple of sites out and the project will be re-bid through the state. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

6. Request to adopt Resolution to resurface and widen Fortner Street from Honeysuckle Road to Brannon Stand Road (3.02 miles).

Commissioner Cook made a motion to adopt the Resolution to resurface and widen Fortner Street from Honeysuckle Road to Brannon Stand Road (3.02 miles). Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion. Mr. Pool reported this is the first step in the process, and within six months they will have the plans. It was pointed out it will probably be next summer before the project is done depending on whether the federal funds are lined up. Mr. Pool pointed out MPO funds would be used on the project. He reported it was going to be a tight fit and they still might have to acquire some right-of-way. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

7. Request to approve final plat for Southern Hills Subdivision, Phase II.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the final plat for Southern Hills Subdivision, Phase II. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. Mr. Pool stated the subdivision is located off County Road #203 and contains 58 lots. Mr. Pool reported all the specs have been met. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

Staff Reports:

a. Chief Administrative Officer

Mr. Dempsey reported he had received an invoice from PolyEngineering for around \$7,600.00 for work performed for the Houston County Water Authority and was not included in this year's budget, and there was no payment in last year's budget. He stated there is a contract and much of the work was performed in October and November 2006. Mr. Dempsey asked for authorization to go ahead and pay it, but stated he would like to pay it at the contract rate which is roughly \$827.00 less than the invoice price. Chairman Culver reported the commission approved for PolyEngineering to do the countywide water system survey work at an amount not to exceed \$25,000. He stated it was approved over a year ago. The chairman reported the ongoing efforts continue but some of the invoice is as much as a year old. He reported this is money the commission has already approved but did not get transferred forward into the new budget. Mr. Dempsey stated the amount approved was not to exceed \$22,500.00, and the commission is under that amount. Commissioner Snellgrove asked the amount of the invoice? Mr. Dempsey stated it was \$7,664.00 and they were proposing to pay \$6,837.00. The chairman stated unanimous consent was needed to address the issue, and he asked if there were any objections? Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to authorize the county to pay PolyEngineering \$6,837.00 for the water system survey work. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. The chairman called for the question; and it carried unanimously.

b. County Engineer

Mr. Pool stated he was asked to gather numbers on how much money the county had lost by not having any inmates this month. He reported the laborers start off at \$9.17 per hour with a 41% benefits package which brings them to \$12.93. He stated the county has lost approximately \$12,400.00 this month by not having any inmates. Chairman Culver reported this was discussed at the administrative meeting, and he had received communication back from Commander Reed expressing a couple of reasons why the county has not had any inmates. He reported Commander Reed stated he would work on the issue, and try to resolve it or make it somewhat better. The chairman reported there are not that many people who the county puts out on the road available right now at the jail. He reported they do not want to put state prisoners out there. Chairman Culver stated he would get all of the commission a copy of the response as soon as he has his office back. Chairman Culver stated it does cost the county when they do not have the trustees they depend on. Mr. Pool reported stated if they hired some laborers but they are filling the positions now with operators.

c. County Attorney

There was no report.

Adjourn.

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