

MINUTES OF HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
MARCH 28, 2005

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 Roy Roberts Administrator.

ABSENT: None.

Chairman Mark Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order. Commissioner Curtis Harvey gave the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Forrester.

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

Announcements.

Chairman Culver extended sympathy to former Commissioner Homer Junior Aman and his family on the death of his son. He asked everyone to keep them in their thoughts and prayers.

The chairman reported the county would be picking up the debris in the area where the tornado and storm damage occurred last week. He asked everyone to cut their trees and limbs up in 4 foot sections and separate it from the other debris. Chairman Culver asked everyone to put it at the road, and it would be picked up at no charge in that area.

ITEM #1. Re-appointments to The Dothan-Houston County Mental Retardation Board, Inc. – Henry C. Vaughn, III and William J. Dempsey.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to re-appoint Henry C. Vaughn, III and William J. Dempsey to The Dothan-Houston County Mental Retardation Board, Inc. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

ITEM #2. Request to increase late fees for Sanitation.

Chairman Culver reported this item has been discussed a few times and when the garbage rate was increased to \$12.00 it left the commission with a gap in where they needed to be. He stated at that time in order to bridge the gap, discussion was held about increasing the late fee from \$3.00 to \$5.00. Mr. Culver pointed out this has been on the agenda previously and one of the commissioners requested it be put back on the agenda. Commissioner Forrester made a motion that the late fee for Sanitation be increased from \$3.00 to \$5.00 effective May 1, 2005. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. The chairman called for the question and the vote was: YEAS: Commissioners Forrester, Cook and Harvey. NAYS: Commissioner Snellgrove. The motion carried.

ITEM #3. Request from Community Corrections – approval for one additional Probate Officer slot.

Chairman Culver reported Mr. Gary Knight, Community Corrections Officer, was present and he asked him to come forward to answer any questions. Mr. Knight reported 20 additional inmates should bring in approximately \$90,000 into the program over a year's time. He reported the individual's salary and benefits should be around \$30,000 and he estimated an additional \$8,000-\$10,000 would be needed to bring in equipment such as computers to assist the new probation officer. Mr. Knight pointed out they have office space and phone lines and are ready to go. He stated that they can accommodate 40 more inmates into the program. He reported they have 108 inmates at this time, and that should bring

them up to around 135-140 inmates. Chairman Culver reported the slot has been approved by the Personnel Board and it is a matter of the commission approving the funding. Mr. Culver stated that Mr. Knight would need to gather up all those costs for the computer and present it back. Mr. Knight stated that it was being done. Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the request from Community Corrections for one additional Probate Officer slot. Commissioner Forrester seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

ITEM #4. Request to authorize 2 cards for after hours check out at Courthouse.

Chairman Culver reported this item was discussed in a broad way at the administrative meeting and they do need to get together and come up with a more concise policy than what we currently have. He pointed out these cards would be assigned to Judge Lawson Little, Presiding Judge, and he would be responsible for signing them out for after hours use. The chairman reported they discussed on Thursday they can go back and check a history on individual cards because they are digitized and there is a lot of information you can get off. He stated that they instructed Mr. Sean Curtis, Maintenance Manager, to do that in a couple of months and be sure the cards are not being abused. Commissioner Cook asked if she understood they would not do the \$65.00 in order for the county to change them over to have access after hours and on weekends for the time being and just monitor it and see if it is being abused? Chairman Culver stated that was the way he interpreted the discussion at the administrative meeting. Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the request to authorize 2 cards for after hours check out at the Courthouse. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for any discussion or questions.

Sheriff Glover stated as discussed at the administrative meeting, the Presiding Judge approved the plan and they wrote the plan, and the Supreme Court has approved it. He reported the Sheriff is responsible for operating the security at the courthouse and he is very concerned about it. Sheriff Glover requested when the 2 cards are issued that he be consulted because he will catch the flack if something happens in the courthouse. He stated that he thought there were too many cards out and he realized last week that the ones that would respond to any incidents in the courthouse did not have a key to get in. He pointed out that had been taken care of. The Sheriff stated that the security needed to be tight at the courthouse. The chairman stated he thought it might be a good policy that the commission put a moratorium on the further issuance of cards until the meeting they discussed at the administrative meeting is held and they come up with some plan. The chairman reported he did not think a motion was necessary. Chairman Culver stated that he would try to get the meeting put together. The chairman called for the question on the motion and it carried unanimously.

ITEM #5. Liquor License Request – Retail Beer (off premises only) Creek Place Enterprises, LLC d/b/a Countryside Petro, 14341 South Highway 231, Cottonwood, AL

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the request for a Retail Beer License (off premises only) for Creek Place Enterprises, LLC d/b/a Countryside Petro, 14341 South Highway 231, Cottonwood, AL. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

ITEM #6. Request to add Wallace Buie Road to District 1 paving list.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request to add Wallace Buie Road to the District 1 paving list. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

ITEM #7. Request to award auctioneers for sale of seven (7) motor graders.

Mr. Pool reported the high bidder, Iron Planet, gave the best price. Commissioner Cook made a motion to award the bid for auctioneer to Iron Planet for the sale of seven (7) motor graders in the amount of \$974,875.00. Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion. Commissioner Snellgrove asked Mr. Pool how much the county paid for the motor graders? Mr. Pool reported \$154,989.00. He asked how much they would be sold for? Mr. Pool stated \$139,267.00 each. He reported that was the guaranteed amount and they also received \$5,000 for some filters they turned in. Chairman Culver reported if they collect above the \$974,875.00, then the excess will be split between Houston County and Iron Planet with the county getting 90% and Iron Planet 10%. Chairman Culver stated that he had been in contact with a local auctioneer and he is amazed at the price and felt that the county should go with it because it is a really good deal. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached Bid Summary Sheet in Minute Book)

ITEM #8. Request to award bid for steel drum roller.

Chairman Culver reported the low bidder is Joe Money Machinery in the amount of \$16,975.00. Mr. Pool pointed out the budgeted amount is \$20,000.00. Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve awarding the bid for a steel drum roller to Joe Money Machinery in the amount of \$16,975.00. Commissioner Harvey seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached Bid Summary Sheet in Minute Book)

ITEM #9. Engineer's Report.

Mr. Pool reported last week a bridge was closed on Lamp Brothers Road during a routine bridge inspection and there is a problem with the super structure. He stated that they have sent all the information to the highway department, and they will advise the county what size stringers are needed and the decking to put under there to up the weight limit on the bridge while they are replacing all that. Mr. Pool reported the highway department has one team that sets the weight limit on every bridge in the state.

Mr. Pool reported in the budget hearing, they discussed buying a new grade all type piece of equipment. He pointed out there are two different types, one is a grade all which has 2 engines and he showed them a picture. He reported a new one cost around \$284,000 on the county joint bid. Mr. Pool reported a badger is \$210,000. He pointed out \$50,000 was placed in the budget in case one became available at the state lot, and the state has turned in several machines. He reported the state has a revolving equipment fund, and every so many years the equipment is turned regardless of the number of hours it has been run. Mr. Pool stated that contractors do not run these type pieces of equipment. He reported the state is asking \$30,000 for the grade all versus \$284,000 on the county joint bid, and he stated they also have some drot machines that are \$15,000. Mr. Pool reported he and the shop foreman were going to look at them and probably buy something. He stated they wanted to make sure they would be getting a good deal. Chairman Culver asked if that would create a piece of equipment the county needed to get rid of? Mr. Pool reported it depended on how many he got. He pointed out they currently run 4 of the machines, and they do not have any back up. Mr. Pool reported they also have some equipment for \$5,000 and they would be looking at that equipment to see if it would interchange with the county's equipment for parts replacement. Commissioner Snellgrove asked if the state maintains their equipment like Houston County does? Mr. Pool stated he thought they did.

Mr. Pool reported the county still does not have the lease for the Chattahoochee State Park. Chairman Culver reported last week, he e-mailed the commissioner of the Department of Conservation and told him supposedly the lease had been signed by everyone but the Governor, and asked to see if he could check on it and get it off the desk. Mr. Culver stated he expected to hear back today. Mr.

Pool reported people keep calling the office and it makes it look like the county is not doing anything.

Mr. Pool reported the county crews were working to pave Oakhill and Deal Roads as soon as possible. He stated that they were also working at the industrial project in the City of Dothan and the Taylor Senior Citizens Center. Mr. Pool reported the rain had stopped the work. Mr. Pool reported they had completed paving Kimble Road and fixed a bad section of Rambo Road. He stated he had been out and checked the work and the crews did an outstanding job.

ITEM #10. Administrator's Report.

Mr. Roberts reported the interest rates have been rising and he has been working with Merchants Capital to recover some of the negative arbitrage. He stated as of March 23rd, there was a potential savings involved. He stated he gave them the authorization to execute it if it was to the county's benefit, but he had not received a report back as of yet.

Mr. Roberts reported the sales tax revenues report came and there was an increase but at a lower percentage than it has been running. He pointed out it is still at around 8% for the year

Mr. Roberts reported he had received a notification from the state surplus property that there is a one day special 20% discount day if there are vehicles or anything that needs to be purchased. He stated that he had given Mr. Pool and Mr. Curtis copies of the notification. Chairman Culver asked if the piece of equipment Mr. Pool discussed would be on the lot? Mr. Pool stated no that equipment is on the state highway department's lot.

ITEM #11. Request to go into Executive Session to discuss good name and character of employee.

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to recess into Executive Session at 10:35 A.M. Commissioner Harvey seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. Chairman Culver stated they would go to the conference room because the room they normally use is full of boxes.

Commissioner Forrester made a motion to reconvene the meeting at 11:15 A.M. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. Chairman Culver stated there was no action necessary from the Executive Session.

ITEM #12. Adjourn.

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