

MINUTES OF HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
APRIL 10, 2006

PRESENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Bobby R. Snellgrove, Commissioner Frances M. Cook, Commissioner Phillip L. Forrester, Gary Sherrer, Attorney, Myer Holloway, Acting Engineer, and Roy Roberts, Administrator

ABSENT: Mark Pool, Engineer

Chairman Mark S. Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, established that a quorum was present and welcomed everyone. Minister Eric Greer of Westgate Church of Christ gave the invocation. Chairman Culver reported Minister Greer was instrumental in coordinating relief efforts for the Hurricane Katrina victims, and thanked him for all his hard work. Commissioner Cook led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Announcements and Public Comment from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver reminded everyone this is Holy Week and he encouraged them to pause and take time to remember why we celebrate Holy Week. He reported there are a lot of churches that are having activities all week long and he encouraged everyone to get involved in their church or find a church that is meeting at lunch and having events all week to reflect on the new life we have been given, spring, and remember Easter.

The chairman reminded everyone of the Community Wide Prayer Breakfast on April 11th, at 7:30 A.M. at the Dothan Civic Center. He reported the previous Command Chaplain at Fort Rucker, Col. Alvin M. Moore, III, will be speaking.

He thanked everyone for their participation in Spirit of Service Day on Saturday. He reported there were some issues with weather and some events were cancelled but they had a good day.

Chairman Culver reported there has been a lot of activity at Chattahoochee Park and he encouraged everyone to go over and visit the park located in the SE corner of the State. He reported the camper hook-ups are available and there is fishing and horse riding trails.

Commissioner Cook thanked everyone for their cards and their support during the loss of her husband. Chairman Culver stated she was in the commission's prayers.

Consent Agenda

1. Appointment – Wiregrass Area United Way Food Bank Board – Commissioner Frances Cook.
2. Request to award bids on 12 personal computers and 1 laptop computer.
3. Request to award bids on sign making material, concrete, concrete block, cement, and seed.

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the consent agenda appointing Commissioner Cook to serve on the Board of the Wiregrass Area United Way Food Bank, award bids on 12 personal computers and 1 laptop computer to Dell, low bidder specs, in the amount of \$14,086.28 for the total bid, and to award the bids on sign making material, concrete, concrete block, cement, and seed to the low bidders in each category. Commissioner Harvey seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached Bid Summary Sheets in Minute Book)

Regular Agenda

1. Request to establish date for referendum to determine whether draft or keg beer may be sold in Houston County.

Chairman Culver reported Thursday afternoon after the Administrative meeting, all of the county's local bills passed and specifically the bill dealing with the ability of the citizens of Houston County to vote on whether or not they want to allow draft beer into the county. The chairman stated that since the bill passed Thursday, it will be on the ballot for the June primary. Chairman Culver reported the motion needs to state approve placing it on the June ballot per our local legislation and pending it becoming law because he did not believe the Governor has signed it yet. Commissioner Forrester made a motion to place the bill dealing with the ability of the citizens of Houston County to vote on whether or not they want to allow draft beer into the county on the June ballot per our local legislation and pending it becoming law. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Chairman Culver thanked the legislative delegation for their diligence on this bill. Chairman Culver requested Judge Cooley to take care of getting the bill on the ballot. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

2. Request to change policy on BC/BS Medicare Supplemental Insurance.

Chairman Culver reported this was discussed at the Administrative meeting, and the main thing is that the county wants to continue to maintain the preferred status on the insurance rates and in order to do that the county has to have so many retirees. He stated that he hoped it would encourage the retirees to

participate. Commissioner Cook made a motion to change the policy on the BC/BS Medicare Supplemental Insurance. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion.

Mr. Roy Roberts, Administrator, reported currently, that once people reach Medicare, which normally would come at 65 but now it may come at 66 or 67, they are no longer allowed to participate under the county policy. He reported this reduces the number of participants. Mr. Roberts pointed out the State insurance has a requirement that at least 5% of your active employees that number of retirees must participate in the plan, and he stated that the county has struggled for several years and this should help. He reported that this change will allow the county to participate at the preferred rate but it will also benefit the retirees allowing them to participate in the county's insurance. Mr. Roberts reported generally, the county's premiums they would pay are less than the C-Plus premiums, and the county's policy has some prescription drug benefits where C-Plus does not. He stated that it is an added benefit to the county's retirees and it allows the county to save as much as \$300,000 per year if the county can qualify for the preferred rate versus the regular rate. Commissioner Cook stated it was mentioned on Thursday that it would not cover those that are already retired, and she asked if that was correct? Mr. Roberts stated he had received a clarification on it, and it will not allow retirees that are not already participating or if the retiree is already on Medicare. He reported any retiree that currently is not on Medicare that has insurance coverage through the county will be able to participate under the Medicare benefits once he reaches age 65. Mr. Roberts reported any retiree that did not take the county's insurance when he retired cannot come back in. It was pointed out these are the state's regulations. Mr. Roberts pointed out they do not operate under local acts and their plan is self governing. The chairman called for the question, and it carried unanimously.

3. Request from Personnel Board for Commission to approve change in the Refuse Truck Driver position to a Grade 16.

Chairman Culver reported the commission had asked the Personnel Board to review this and gotten some comments back from Mrs. Davenport as it related to that and their recommendation was that it should be a Grade 16. He pointed out it should have been that in the study. Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the request from the Personnel Board for the Commission to approve the change in the Refuse Truck Driver position to a Grade 16. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously.

4. Request from Safety Committee for approval of the first section of the Employees Safety Handbook.

Chairman Culver reported this section contains about 5 standard operating guidelines that the county had for review. He stated he thought the idea was for the commission to approve the plan and the steps they are taking and there are

some typos and a few other minor changes that Commissioner Snellgrove had spoken to Clark Matthews about that need to be looked at. He stated the motion needs to be to approve the material that has been submitted to be corrected. Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the request from the Safety Committee to approve the material that has been submitted to be corrected for the first section of the Employees Safety Handbook. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. Mr. Roberts reported the Safety Committee would be bringing periodically additional changes as groups or sections of the handbook are completed. Chairman Culver thanked the members of the Safety Committee who are involved in the handbook, and stated he felt the county will end up with a document that will not only improve an already safe environment by making it safer for the county employees but also an air of safety for the citizens of the county and the public. Commissioner Snellgrove stated the commission is authorizing this committee to make some changes as far as adding to the safety program. He stated there is no need for the committee to come back to the commission for every change they make as long as they are doing what they are charged to do which is to create a good safety program for the county employees as well as the general public. Chairman Culver reported his understanding of the motion is the commission is approving the five chapters and appendixes as submitted allowing them to make the proper corrections. The chairman stated as they approve new guidelines they will bring them to the commission when they have 2 or 3; not each time they complete a section. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Request from Houston County Board of Education – replace pipe and all needed fill work on Ashford High School campus.

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the request from the Houston County Board of Education to replace pipe and all the needed fill work on the Ashford High School campus. Commissioner Harvey seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

6. Request to condemn the right-of-way on Rabon Road. (District 2)

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the request to condemn the right-of-way on Rabon Road located in District 2. Commissioner Forrester seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

7. Request to approve agreement with Alabama Department of Transportation in the construction of bridge on Paul Lamp Road @ Cedar Creek. (County Federal Funds 80/20)

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the agreement with the Alabama Department of Transportation in the construction of the bridge on Paul Lamp Road @ Cedar Creek. (County Federal Funds 80/20) Commissioner

Snellgrove seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

8. Request to approve agreement with Alabama Department of Transportation in the construction of bridge on Omussee Road @ Golf Creek. (MPO Funds 80/20)

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the agreement with the Alabama Department of Transportation in the construction of bridge on Omussee Road @ Golf Creek. (MPO Funds 80/20) Commissioner Snellgrove seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Culver stated when the two aforementioned bridges are completed that will leave six bridges that the school buses cannot cross. The chairman reported when the program started five years ago, there were over 40 bridges in Houston County. He stated the commission and the engineering staff are to be commended on the progress that has been made. (Please see in Resolution Book)

9. Request to amend subdivision regulations: change minimum setback from 35 feet to 20 feet.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to amend the subdivision regulations by changing the minimum setback from 35 feet to 20 feet. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded; and motion carried unanimously.

Reports from Staff:

- a. County Administrator

Mr. Roberts reported the next commission meeting is set for April 24th which is a state holiday that the county will observe. He requested to move the next commission meeting from April 24th, a holiday, to Tuesday, April 25th, at 10:00 A.M. Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the request to move the next commission meeting from April 24th, a holiday, to Tuesday, April 25th, at 10:00 A.M. Commissioner Harvey seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

- b. County Engineer

Mr. Myer Holloway, acting Engineer, requested the commission's approval for the preliminary plat for the Whaley Subdivision in Ashford. Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the preliminary plat for the Whaley Subdivision in Ashford. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Holloway reported they were putting the finishing touches on the bridge on Prevatt Road and it should be open this week.

c. County Attorney – There was no report.

Commissioner Cook recognized her special guest, Mrs. Dale Peters, her husband's sister. She reported she lives in Athens, Alabama.

Adjourn.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Snellgrove and it carried unanimously.