

MINUTES OF HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
APRIL 29, 2008

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

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. Rev. Laurie Williams, Pastor, Triumphant Cross Lutheran Church, gave the invocation. Commissioner Harvey led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

#### Announcements and Public Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver reported May 7<sup>th</sup> is Older Americans Day out at Eastgate Park from 9:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M., and he invited all senior citizens to come out and participate. He stated Earl Thompson Conley would be providing the entertainment.

#### Awards and Presentations

1. Envision Update – Dr. Thomas Harrison, Envision Coordinator

Dr. Thomas Harrison gave the quarterly Envision Update. He stated he had given the commission the Task Force reports. Dr. Harrison then reviewed the highlights.

Dr. Roy Watford, Houston County Schools, reviewed the 1st Annual Fine Arts Showcase which was held April 12<sup>th</sup> at the Civic Center. He reported the event showcased the many aspects of the arts taught in the school, and there were thirteen city, county, and private school area bands and choirs that performed during the day, and over 300 works of art were on display. Dr. Watford reported the event was quite successful and plans have begun for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fine Arts Showcase in 2009.

Chairman Culver stated it was always a pleasure to have Dr. Watford, and he thanked him for the outstanding job on the showcase. The chairman thanked Dr. Harrison for his continued good leadership in the Envision process. (Please see attached in Minute book)

## 2. Keep the Wiregrass Beautiful Program – Mrs. Cynthia Green, Coordinator

Chairman Culver reported Commissioner Cook serves on that board and he stated he felt it was an exciting time for Mrs. Green to announce the things they have going on.

Mrs. Green gave a timeline on where the board has been on the Keep the Wiregrass Beautiful Program, where they are going, and how the residents of Houston County can greatly benefit and be a part of the endeavor.

She reported almost two years ago, a regional survey was sent out through the Envision process asking the citizens of our communities their feelings about their community and what they would like to see to make the community better. Mrs. Green stated there were several different areas that were addressed, but one of the priorities that came out of that was to make sure that we have a cleaner community; not only for the residents but for industries coming in to hopefully relocate here. She reported from that endeavor, Dr. Jack Sasser and others on the Quality of Life Task Force and the Envision leaders, all of our mayors, county chairs, and other elected officials came together to review different programs that already exist, and one of the best matches for our community is Keep America Beautiful, a grassroots organization that has been around for a long time.

Mrs. Green stated through a lot of planning and through much support they have begun the pre-certification process for Keep America Beautiful, becoming the 15<sup>th</sup> affiliate in the State of Alabama. She reported with the pre-certification process they have compiled a team that has been responsible for setting up their organization so that they can serve as a full-time affiliate. Mrs. Green pointed out they have also conducted litter indexes in the 5 communities that joined this endeavor from the beginning; City of Dothan, Houston County, Fort Rucker, Ozark, and Webb. She reported the litter indexes that were conducted consisted of team members composed of 4-6 people who got on a van and drove around sub areas in the 5 communities. Mrs. Green reported the litter was graded on the highways and in the inner communities on a scale of 1 to 4. She reported the results were interesting. She stated that planning along with focus surveys that have been sent out to government, business, and civic organizations will help them develop a plan and to prioritize how they can go out and start making the Wiregrass a cleaner community.

She asked the commission to mark Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, on their calendars. Mrs. Green reported they will have a trainer from Keep America Beautiful that will be in Dothan for a day and they will participate in Board training for the Keep the Wiregrass board of directors. She pointed out later on that day, the elected officials from the 5 communities and also members of General Packett's staff at Fort Rucker will sign a joint resolution stating that they are supporting this program and are going to review the current codes and ordinances that we have. Mrs. Green stated they will encourage the residents to join in by educating the

people on litter prevention, waste reduction, and community improvement and beautification. She reported the nationwide program for Keep America Beautiful called Great American Clean-up occurs every year between March 1<sup>st</sup> and May 31<sup>st</sup>. Mrs. Green stated many of our communities, through Spirit of Service Day and other programs, are working on the Great American Clean-up through pick-up programs. She stated they have also participated in Forestry Education Day with the City of Ozark and Dale County. Mrs. Green reported the Town of Webb has been cleaning up through church efforts and other individuals. She stated national sponsors such as Glad trash bags and Purell hand sanitizer have been given out during these clean-ups. Mrs. Green stated the reason for that is if they show they are partnering all of these different programs that Keep America Beautiful has; then they are more likely to obtain grant funding. Mrs. Green stated she hoped on June 5<sup>th</sup> residents, the media, the county commission and all others would join them in educating people to change their behavior and their attitude about litter in an effort to Keep the Wiregrass Beautiful. She urged everyone to be good citizens by doing their part. She thanked Commissioner Cook, Barkley Kirkland, and John Rudd for serving on these committees as well. Chairman Culver stated there is a lot of litter out there and the commission often throws their hands up about what they can do. He stated this is a really good program, and he felt the best way to take care of the litter problem is awareness and have people to take pride in their community. He thanked Mrs. Green and her committee for all their work on that endeavor to make our community better.

## Regular Agenda

1. Request to replace appointment to the Dothan-Houston County E-911 Communications District Board.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to appoint Mark Culver to replace her on the Dothan-Houston County E-911 Communications District Board. Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion. Chairman Culver stated Commissioner Cook has served well on that board but she indicated due to time constraints and other issues that she wished to come off that board. He then stated if one of the other commissioners had an interest in serving he would prefer that as opposed to him. Chairman Culver reported Commissioner Snellgrove already serves on the board and he stated he knew Commissioners Harvey and Forrester were also busy. Commissioner Cook stated she had talked with both Commissioner Harvey and Forrester and they had both indicated at this time, neither of them could serve. Commissioner Cook stated she felt Chairman Culver would be a good replacement and this is a critical time for the E-911 board and she felt he would serve it well. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried.

2. Appointment to Houston County Water Authority.

Chairman Culver stated the name for the appointment would be Stan West. Commissioner Harvey made a motion to appoint Stan West to serve on the

Houston County Water Authority. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported there was a resignation on the Water Authority and this will fulfill the balance of a term for one of the appointments. He stated each member of the commission has an appointment and this particular one is the chairman's. He reported the Water Authority had sent the commission some names of people to serve on the board. Chairman Culver stated Commissioner Cook had spoken with Mr. West and he indicated an interest in serving, and it was his pleasure to appoint him. Chairman Culver stated they checked to be sure he lives in the area on the map where there had been problems before. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Request to concur in awarding the bid for HRRR-CN08(236)/guardrail project.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to concur in awarding the bid for the HRRR-CN08(236) guardrail project to Highway Maintenance Inc. with county's amount being \$11,844.00. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported these are the funds passed down by the federal government, and the commission had rejected them early because there was not enough funds and put some additional funds with them. He stated this is a safety program and makes the county's roads safer and makes the citizens safer as well. The chairman called for the question and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

4. Request to award bid for thermo plastic striping material.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to award the bid for thermo plastic striping material to the low bidder meeting specs. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. The chairman stated this is part of the three county striping program. Commissioner Snellgrove questioned about whether there was more than one low bidder? Chairman Culver stated there were a couple that did not meet specs, and the recommendation was to Ennis Paint Company. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached Bid Summary Sheet in Minute Book)

5. Request from Houston County Safety Committee to adopt additional guidelines.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the Safety Committee's request to adopt additional guidelines. Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion. Mr. Bill Dempsey stated as the commission discussed last week, the request is to solidify the county's total safety program. He stated they have had some discussions about ongoing safety programs. He pointed out they plan to expand the building inspection program along with other things the Safety Committee has in place. He stated with this resolution it will show the commission's support, and will allow the Safety Committee to move forward. The chairman called for the

question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

6. Request from Probate Judge for a 100% grant to Improve the Accessibility of Elections to Individuals with Disabilities and the corresponding budget amendment.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the Probate Judge's request for a 100% grant to Improve the Accessibility of Elections to Individuals with Disabilities and the corresponding budget amendment. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. Chairman Culver stated this request is exactly what it says and there are some small things that can be done with a grant for this upcoming election to assist those with disabilities. He pointed out it is a 100% grant and they are doing the right thing to try to do it. Chairman Culver thanked Judge Cooley for bringing it forward. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

#### Reports from Staff:

1. Chief Financial Officer

Mr. Dempsey reported he planned to send out a memo to all department heads which will outline line items in which they have overspent for the year. He stated there were no major problems that he could see but according to the County Modernization Act, there is a requirement that every line item be satisfied that the commission has approved any spending. Mr. Dempsey reported any time a grant is approved or a department may have extra revenue, any of that spending has to be approved in excess of the budget even though they know that the funding may be there the commission would have to approve the increase in the budget. Mr. Dempsey reported he would be sending this out on a monthly basis, and it should eliminate any surprises at budget time. Chairman Culver stated it creates a better awareness for the department heads to know where they are. He reported that is why he added the appropriate budget amendment on Item #6. Chairman Culver stated that wording needs to be part of the motion on any of the grants the county receives from this point forward.

Commissioner Forrester asked Mr. Dempsey if the figure they get every month would be for the preceding month or year-to-date? Mr. Dempsey stated it would be for anything up to that point that is over the budget. He reported if there is something over the budget by \$2,000 and it is not corrected by the next month it will still be \$2,000 and he will present it again and send it to the department head. Mr. Forrester stated the use of the budget monies is a year-to-date sequence. Mr. Dempsey stated there were two things; a spending to-date whether it is ahead of schedule and he stated he would not contact department heads about that type of situation. He reported he would only contact department heads where they have actually overspent the entire budget on a

particular line item. Chairman Culver stated it has to be done based on the new County Modernization Act but it is also a good tool for the department heads to know where they are in their budgets. Mr. Dempsey stated a lot of it is relatively small stuff, and they are going to keep it clean throughout the year.

2. County Engineer – there was none

3. County Attorney – there was none

Adjourn.

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