

MINUTES OF HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
MAY 9, 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. Ms. LaFrances Craig, member of Greater Beulah Baptist Church, gave the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Cook.

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

Announcements.

Chairman Culver reported the Taylor Senior Citizens Center will be having an Open House on May 15th. He stated that they have built a brand new center and the county assisted with it, and the Town of Taylor has done a great job. He encouraged anyone in the area or the county to attend the Open House on May 15th from 2:00 until 4:00 P.M. The chairman congratulated the Town of Taylor on a beautiful building, and he stated their program had outgrown their old facility.

Chairman Culver requested the community help watch for who is putting the soap in the fountain at Justice Park. He reported it has happened everyday and he encouraged anyone who might see someone to try to get a tag number to alert the authorities. The chairman reported that the park has certainly dressed up that corner, and he extended congratulations to everyone who was involved in the project.

Chairman Culver reported a new policy has been developed regarding work orders and each commissioner should have received a list of the work orders through an e-mail. The chairman stated he is being sent a list of the work orders and he will be e-mailing the commissioners on the first of each month.

The chairman reported the Mayor of Ashford had requested that Item #25 be temporarily removed from the agenda. He stated that he would like to move Item #24 up to Item #3 because it could impact some items below it. Chairman Culver reported that he would like to take Item #26 off the agenda due to the county's local legislation that allows the commission to appoint 2 members to the E-911 Board was passed last Thursday. The chairman recommended that 2 members be appointed, and send them over to the E-911 meeting on May 10th. He stated that the law has passed and the commission has the authority to appoint the 2

members. The chairman then asked for a motion appointing Commissioner Bobby Snellgrove and Commissioner Frances Cook to the E-911 Board per the local law that was passed last week. Commissioner Forrester made a motion to appoint Commissioner Bobby Snellgrove and Commissioner Frances Cook to the E-911 Board as per the local law passed last week. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver stated he was not here on Thursday, but he understood there were some questions raised and the county's representatives can ask those questions in person if deemed appropriately. Chairman Culver reported that he would advise the city. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Culver reported that the county's other 2 local bills passed last Thursday. He pointed out one of the bills is in regard to some amendments being made to the Pre-Trial Diversion Program. He reported the other bill that passed was regarding having to live in the county in order to serve on the Personnel Board, and clarifying the meaning of the definition of "city and county." He pointed out the bill does not take effect until August 1st and this will allow the current election the Personnel Board is trying to have done before the law goes into effect. Chairman Culver reported they are waiting on an Attorney General's Opinion and he asked Attorney Sherrer to check on it.

The chairman recognized Representative Locy Baker and asked him to come forward. Representative Baker presented the commission with a check in the amount of \$101,760.78 from the Administrative Office of the Courts to assist in the payment of the furniture at the Courthouse. He pointed out the first portion has already been received and this is the second portion. Chairman Culver thanked Representative Baker and stated when the courthouse was renovated, the commission worked a partnership with the state. He pointed out Representative Baker worked hard to make sure the county could get this money back and he has oversight over this portion in the budget. Chairman Culver reported there will be one more payment next year.

ITEM #1. Proclamation – "National Women's Health Week" – Mrs. Diane Buntyn and Ms. Robin Holder, SAMC.

Chairman Culver asked Mrs. Diane Buntyn, Director of Nursing, SAMC, and Ms. Robin Holder, Spirit of Women Coordinator, SAMC, to come forward and presented Mrs. Buntyn with a proclamation declaring May 8th-14th as "National Women's Health Week." Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the proclamation as presented. Commissioner Forrester seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. Ms. Holder reported they were very excited about participating in Women's Health Week. She reported they were very dedicated in educating women and their families about how to live a healthier lifestyle. Ms. Holder pointed out they have 16 programs planned during the National Women's Health Week geared toward different age groups to help them take care of

themselves as well as their family. She thanked the commission for the proclamation.

ITEM #2. Proclamation – “Foster Care Month” – Mrs. Mary Paulk, Director, Department of Human Resources.

Chairman Culver asked Mrs. Mary Paulk and her group to come forward. Chairman Culver then presented Mrs. Paulk with a proclamation declaring the month of May as “Foster Care Month.” Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the proclamation as presented. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Paulk thanked Chairman Culver and the commission for all of their support. Mrs. Paulk reported without the foster parents they could not do their job because they open their homes and their hearts all hours of the day and night to children who have been victims of abuse and neglect and give them the nurture to make good citizens out of them. Mrs. Paulk then introduced Ms. Stephanie Wilson, Program Supervisor in Family and Children’s Services. Ms. Wilson then introduced Ms. Shanna Wester, Resource Supervisor, Ms. Marjorie Storey and Ms. LaFrances Craig, foster parents. Ms. Wester stated they take this time each year to show the foster parents how much they mean to DHR and the children that are placed in their homes. She pointed out a banquet for the foster parents will be May 19th at 6:30 P.M., at Lafayette Street UMC. Ms. Wester reported a balloon release will be held on May 23rd at 11:30 A.M. behind the Farm Center. Chairman Culver thanked Mrs. Paulk and her staff for the continued difficult work they do.

ITEM #24. Request to amend policy for establishment of a precondition for non-governmental entities, agencies or organizations to receive funding from the Commission.

Chairman Culver stated that he understood there was a lengthy discussion at the Administrative meeting. He reported they had done some checking and he asked Mr. Sherrer to come to the podium for comments. Chairman Culver stated he understood one of the concerns was the rescue squads. He reported Mr. Sherrer had informed him earlier that state law authorizes the commission to fund volunteer fire departments, rescue squads, and the South Alabama Air Rescue. Chairman Culver stated that he did not think the issue of funding the rescue squads will be a problem regardless of what is done with the policy. Mr. Sherrer reported in Section 9-3-18 it is declared to be a public entity by the state legislature. The chairman reported the commission had several policies before them and Mr. Sherrer had looked over some of them. He asked Mr. Sherrer if he would like to make any comments before the commission discussed them? Mr. Sherrer reported he had not had a chance to look at all of them with some detail but what he understood in his conversation earlier that morning is that the current policy the county has allows the county commission to require whatever documentation it deems necessary whether it be by audit or an alternative way. He stated that the county is already authorized to do what he understood they

were talking about doing and if the commission decided to do that it would be limiting itself to doing it one way instead of having some flexibility. Chairman Culver reported in the current policy there is a statement that says "an agency or organization that shall provide to the commission on an annual basis a copy of as is satisfactory to the commission." The chairman stated that he thought what the attorney is saying is that rather than limiting the commission by changing the policy it can have a procedural statement saying "satisfactory to the commission", and it will mean a certified audit. Mr. Sherrer stated a certified audit or if a small entity brought all of its books to the commission they could do it any of the ways they wanted to do because the commission already has the authority to do a certified audit. He reported that a small entity may not be able to have a certified audit done each year and there may be some way the commission could work out for a review of their operations. Commissioner Cook stated if the commission leaves the policy like it is then they are covered to be able to ensure if a certified audit by a CPA is needed. Mr. Sherrer stated whatever is deemed satisfactory to the commission. Commissioner Snellgrove stated that the commission needed to determine what would be satisfactory rather than go by the same policy because there are too many ins and outs. Mr. Snellgrove stated Mr. Roberts did an adjustment on this and everyone should have a copy of it showing if they receive revenue in excess of \$30,000, they have to provide a certified audit but less than that they can use a procedural review of all receipts and disbursements of monies appropriated by the commission. Commissioner Snellgrove reported that this policy would take some of the financial burden off anyone whose total revenue is less than \$30,000. Mr. Roberts reported he talked to 2 different CPA's from different firms and they said that a procedural audit is much more limited in scope but it is limited down to what the commission is looking for—accounting for the money and spending the money properly. Mr. Roberts reported it is not an audit as such but a review of revenues and expenditures and would cost \$500 or less versus \$2,500 - \$3,000 for a certified audit. Mr. Roberts reported when a full audit is done it is broad internal control and organization. He stated that the wording is if their total revenue, not the total revenue appropriation from the county commission, exceeds \$30,000 they would have to have a full audit. He stated if it is under \$30,000, which should include most of the rescue squads and smaller agencies and allow them to do a more limited review than a full audit. Chairman Culver asked what the \$500 version is called? Mr. Roberts reported it is called a procedural review. Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to table this item until the next meeting in order to have some time to make a decision. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. Commissioner Harvey stated according to the attorney, the commission already has permission to call for any type audit at any given time. Chairman Culver stated that was correct. Mr. Roberts reported the commission needs to decide what it is going to require. Chairman Culver stated obviously what the commission is looking for is to make sure the tax dollars that are given to the organizations are spent in the proper manner. He stated that Mr. Roberts is saying a procedural review would do that for both the small and large organizations. Mr. Roberts reported they would go in and take all of the revenues and account for all the revenues and

make sure they all were deposited in the bank and were recorded properly and go through and take all the checks and break down all the expenditures and give the report of the revenues and expenditures. Commissioner Snellgrove asked if this would be required from an outside firm rather than someone in-house? Mr. Roberts stated that the way he had it worded he thought it was important to use people qualified to review these things. He stated he did not think it could be taken in-house and done with the county's accounting staff because their expertise was not in auditing. Chairman Culver stated the county wanted to make it as simple as possible and cover the commission at the same time. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

ITEM #3. Request from Wiregrass Festival of Murals – funding assistance for Train Mural – Mr. Wendell Stepp.

Chairman Culver asked Mr. Wendell Stepp and Ms. Cathy Cole, Executive Director, The Downtown Group, and Mr. Ron DeVane, President, Downtown Group, to come forward. Mr. Wendell Stepp stated each one of them was going to address a different subject. He reported during the administrative meeting, the Wiregrass Festival of Murals requested a grant of \$10,000 to help complete the painting of the railroad mural now in progress. Mr. Stepp reported the money they are requesting will strictly be used for the completion of the train mural and nothing else. Mr. Stepp reported no person on the Mural Committee is paid a salary. He stated that he had been on the committee since 1992 and he could not recall a member of the committee ever even asking for compensation for doing any particular thing. Mr. Stepp reported that the only person paid is the artist who by contract buys the paint they specify and his brushes and any other miscellaneous items necessary. He pointed out when a mural is completed, any money that remains is deposited in the mural maintenance account to be used to apply UV coating which is done every 3-5 years to prevent ultraviolet rays from fading the murals and also for making any necessary repairs on the murals. Mr. Stepp reported when they started out with the murals they carried heavy insurance on the murals but they do not waste money in that way any more. He stated that since 1992, they have only had one mural slightly damaged. Mr. Stepp reported they have raised \$50,459 to date for the train mural. He reported \$10,000 of it was from the City of Dothan and the remainder was from private donations. Mr. Stepp reported that they need \$22,899 to complete the mural, and if they are granted the request for \$10,000 they will raise the \$12,899. He stated that the check would be directly deposited into the mural account and any withdrawals from that account requires 2 signatures.

Ms. Cathy Cole reported that Commissioner Harvey invited her to attend and she made a few brief remarks on the mural program. She invited questions on an audit that was just completed by the city at the request of the Downtown Group's board members. She stated their books are public record and if at any time anyone would like to see the books they have a bookkeeper. Ms. Cole reported she has no signing authority on any checks and that is part of the checks and

balances they have in place following what occurred with the Downtown Group and the recommendations that were made by Valerie Harris, city auditor. She stated Bob Hendrix, Director, Dothan Area Convention and Visitor's Bureau, wanted to attend to talk on behalf of the value of the murals to tourism in the City of Dothan. She reported a nationally known composer came to Dothan and was inspired by the murals and wrote a symphony. She stated Dothan is recognized in the state as a Mural City and soon to be nationally recognized. Ms. Cole reported they do not take that lightly. She stated that they cannot afford to abandon this valuable program in any way. Ms. Cole reported that the commission's support was pivotal to the completion of the current mural. Ms. Cole asked for the commission's serious consideration on behalf of the Downtown Group, the Murals Committee, Mr. Wendell Stepp and all those who have served so faithfully to keep the mural project going.

Mr. Ron Devane reported an article came out in the Dothan Eagle a week ago and he had already responded to it. He stated that a lot of things had already been put into place as soon as they found out that there had been discrepancies in their accounts. Mr. Devane reported as with any volunteer organizations, there is a big turnover every year. He stated he had just become President of the Downtown Group even though he had served on the Board of Directors, and a lot of their members volunteer with other organizations in Dothan not just the Downtown Group. Mr. Devane reported a lot of people do not understand the impact the murals have on our community. He reported people will come to see the murals from all over and learn the history of Dothan/Houston County and will learn to respect it as we do. He stated they are ready to move on and hopefully something like what happened earlier will not ever happen again. Mr. Devane reported in regard to what the city and county require from the Downtown Group, representatives from the city and county serve on their board. He stated they are proud to have Commissioner Harvey as the county's representative. Mr. Devane reported the board members are very busy and they had gotten lax in double checking, but they will not ever do that again. Mr. Devane reported he received the letter from the county requesting the audit. He stated he was told it was okay that they would settle for a profit and loss statement. Mr. Devane stated that he did not realize this and had he known he would have said they needed to have an audit. He stated that they wanted to be checked and know where the money goes. Mr. Devane reported that all the members of the board wanted the mural project to move forward. He stated that he hoped the county would help with the project because it is very important to the community.

Commissioner Harvey asked how many more murals were needed to become a national attraction? Mr. Stepp stated that being a national attraction is not something in writing, but is based on when you get 20 murals, historically the National Convention and Visitors Bureau starts promoting that city as a stop for the tour buses. He pointed out Dothan is starting to get more tour buses in. Mr. Stepp reported Bob Hendrix and Ms. Sandi Fischer have conducted several tours on Sundays recently for big tour buses coming through. He reported he has

taken people from California to Massachusetts on the mural tour. Mr. Stepp reported with 20 murals Dothan will receive the backing from Convention and Visitors Bureaus all across the country. Commissioner Forrester asked Mr. Stepp if the train mural was number 18? Mr. Stepp stated yes.

Chairman Culver asked for any questions, comments, or motions?

Mr. Tom Steely, resident of east Houston County, expressed his concern on behalf of the taxpayers in the county regarding things he thought were more important than the murals. He stated the murals were beautiful but paving roads, buying a new garbage truck, schools and libraries, and work around the administrative building were necessities. Mr. Steely stated he did not feel a private group should come to the county and ask for contributions because when they started the project they did not ask for any contributions. He stated that there were enough wealthy people in Dothan to raise the \$10,000 with no trouble. He asked if this would be tabled until the next administrative meeting? Chairman Culver stated that he did not know because the commission had not voted.

Chairman Culver thanked the representatives for coming and he stated the murals do create an excitement and an attraction downtown. He stated Commissioner Cook, his wife, and a lot of other ladies worked hard on the ladies' mural and were very successful with it. Chairman Culver reported this is a big mural and it is costing more than any other mural that has been done. Mr. Stepp reported this mural is about the same price as the rest of the murals when you figure it per square foot because it is 222 feet long 34 feet high on one end and 24 feet on the other end.

Mr. Devane stated that Mr. Steely did bring up some good points, and stated that he would get with Mr. Steely if he would like to see the impact and revenue the murals bring in. He reported when tourists come in they do pay because they stay in the motels, eat in our restaurants, and shop. Mr. Devane stated that down the road every citizen of Houston County will benefit financially from the murals.

Mr. Steely stated when you talk about impact, the citizens pay the taxes and these murals are not necessary items.

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to table this request until such time the policy for appropriations is established. Commissioner Harvey seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

ITEM #4. Request from Houston County Water Authority – approve application to amend Articles of Incorporation – Mr. Jerry Smith.

Chairman Culver called on Mr. Jerry Smith, Chairman of the Houston County Water Authority, and he stated that he also does an outstanding job with the Alabama Forestry Commission. Mr. Smith stated their board's request is for the commission to approve a change to their by-laws that will allow board members to be compensated. Commissioner Cook reported they discussed this Thursday and she understood the board members would be compensated \$200 and the chairman \$300 per meeting. Mr. Smith stated those amounts would be per month instead of per meeting. Commissioner Cook asked if there was a cap? Mr. Smith stated it was a per member maximum for the month, and the amount would be the same regardless of how many times they meet each month. Commissioner Cook stated the members would receive \$2,400 annually and the chairman \$3,600 annually. Mr. Smith reported if the member is not present for the meeting that month they will not be compensated. Commissioner Harvey stated he thought Commissioner Cook was asking how many meetings were being held each month? Mr. Smith stated they are currently meeting once a month because they do not meet for the sake of meeting. Commissioner Forrester asked how many members were on the board? Mr. Smith stated there were 4 members and chairman for a total of 5. Commissioner Snellgrove reported since the administrative meeting, Mr. Roberts had looked at the Code of Alabama 11-88-6 and he has different numbers than what Mr. Smith has presented. He stated there has apparently been an amendment to it and in talking with the county attorney, he had requested that this be tabled until the next meeting. Mr. Smith reported that he had legal documentation prepared by an independent counsel. Mr. Smith stated that he would be glad to provide any documentation the commission might request. Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to table this item until the next meeting. Commissioner Harvey seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

ITEM #5. Safety Committee Presentation – Mr. Clark Matthews, EMA and Mr. Charles Kirkland – Solution Enterprises, Inc.

Chairman Culver asked Mr. Clark Matthews, EMA, and Mr. Charles Kirkland, Solution Enterprises, Inc., to come forward. Mr. Matthews reported after a lot of meetings and discussion, they have come up with a three phase approach and if the commission approves it to appoint a safety team of dedicated employees. Mr. Matthews stated that before they get started with the program, they need a commitment from the commission in order to make the program a success. He pointed out Phase I will be a 30 hour approved OSHA course. He stated they felt if there was ever a liability situation in court they would have something they could stand on that was concrete. Mr. Matthews reported they would focus more on some of the jobs such as sanitation. He reported Phase II would be additional educational programs, and would have a committee to analyze jobs at the work sites. Mr. Matthews reported there will also be some safety inspections and accident investigations. He stated as a result they hoped to have some strong Standard Operating Guidelines. Mr. Matthews reported Phase III would be to meet monthly and have a team member from Solution Enterprises to keep the

members focused on what they want to do and give advanced education instead of the county trying to struggle on its own. He stated he felt this would allow Houston County to develop a team and a safety program second to none. Mr. Matthews reported they would teach the team and county employees the minimum safety standard inside and the hazardous job of work sites, understanding components of effective safety and health programs, and that safety is actually an investment in the county and the equipment. He reported that he felt it would improve motivation and morale in the long run. Mr. Matthews then reported the cost for the course would be around \$11,500, and the safety specifics in the training would run approximately \$4,500, and the monthly meetings would run around \$400 per month. He stated the county would receive a lot in return for the money.

Mr. Kirkland stated as a citizen of Houston County, and being connected to safety he expressed his appreciation to the commission for their interest in being proactive. He stated that safety had to start with the commission. He reported each commissioner had received a package about Solutions, Inc. Mr. Kirkland then stated there are some resources within the county that he felt the public had not been educated on that were available and needed to be utilized. He reported Solution Enterprises works with Troy University and they now offer curriculum on safety. Mr. Kirkland reported that the Wiregrass Safety Alliance, is a resource that is better known in Washington, D.C., Mobile, Alabama and Atlanta, Georgia than it is in Houston County and it was the first of its kind in the nation. He reported they did not do their job of making the public aware of it. He stated that Houston County should be very proud of this and its sole purpose is to help anyone at any agency or small business as far as safety is concerned.

Chairman Culver reported that this is a presentation and not a request to take any action at this meeting. He stated if there is going to be a request to move forward then it will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. Chairman Culver asked if this could be funded by Homeland Security? Mr. Matthews stated no. The chairman asked how many members on the recommended safety team? Mr. Matthews reported they had talked about 8-12 members. Mr. Roberts stated there were two groups; one would be a safety committee headed by Mr. Matthews composed of 2 appointments from the county engineer one to cover road & bridge and one to cover sanitation, 2 appointments from the sheriff one to cover the Sheriff's Department and one for the jail, and county buildings would represent all the departments not covered by the Sheriff and the county engineer. He stated Sean Curtis or his designee would be on the committee and as county administrator, he would serve on the committee. Mr. Roberts reported this program is designed to cover around 25 people in a training course and the idea is that the lead man level in the various departments is needed to make this work. He stated it is not necessarily the same person that would oversee the program but it would be the person to make the program work. Mr. Roberts reported these people would be selected by the department heads to go through the OSHA training. He pointed out all of the people would not be trained on all of

the aspects because there would be a different set of training for corrections officers at the jail than the road and bridge employees. Mr. Roberts reported the idea would be to have a broad training and these people that have been trained would be used to do the inspections and the job analysis so that people qualified in the areas would be available on a job site. He stated there would be no point in taking a deputy to a construction site and ask him to do an analysis of that job. He stated a committee of 7 or more would be overseers and a broad training of actual lead persons who would be knowledgeable in the various areas. Chairman Culver asked if this is classified as professional services? Mr. Roberts stated yes in his opinion. Chairman Culver asked Mr. Roberts and Mr. Sherrer to discuss it. Mr. Kirkland stated they approached it as giving the students a little more than just training and with this program, all who go through the 30 hours do receive a card from OSHA. Chairman Culver reported the county received a certification on safety not too long ago and he felt the county has done a really good job on making the work environment safe for the employees even though our county has not received professional help. He stated he thought it could always be supplemented and particularly if there is a committee. Chairman Culver asked if this would impact the county's insurance? Mr. Roberts reported they met with representatives of Meadowbrook Insurance last week and they gave some ideas that were helpful in formulating this plan and were very supportive. He stated that one of the concerns is that jails and sheriff's departments are not industry type departments. Mr. Roberts reported Meadowbrook indicated they had approximately 600 tapes on various things. He stated the county would be coordinating with their support. Mr. Roberts reported the county's cost for workman's comp insurance exceeds \$800,000, and just a reduction of a few percentage points in the experience will more than pay for the cost of the program. He stated there have been 3-4 excellent years in workman's comp and liability and the county has seen the premiums go down some. Mr. Roberts reported the county was also coming off 3 years of really bad experience that caused the premiums to triple. Mr. Roberts stated that he was excited about this program and felt it would save money in the long run. Chairman Culver asked if there were any comments. The chairman asked that a formal request be submitted and it would be placed on the next administrative agenda. Chairman Culver thanked Mr. Matthews and Mr. Kirkland for all of their work on this program.

ITEM #6. Request to consider sanitation accounts receivable write-offs.

Chairman Culver reported there was a list in the packets and this was normal and customary. Mr. Roberts reported it goes back 4-6 years when AlaTax got involved in the process and they found it was more difficult than they imagined. Mr. Roberts pointed out it created problems for the sanitation department in that they lost some control on the accounting part, and the county immediately took it back. He reported the county increased their receipts. Mr. Roberts reported these write-offs would allow the books to be cleaned up. He pointed out the department collects in excess of \$1 million a year on sanitation charges and

percentage wise these are very small. Commissioner Cook stated she understood from Thursday's meeting that they had exhausted all means of collecting the monies. Mr. Roberts stated that they have tried to note the reasons on the list of write-offs. Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the list of Sanitation accounts receivable write-offs. Commissioner Forrester seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached list in Minute Book)

ITEM #7. Request from Community Corrections to approve budget amendment for the cost of expenses for an additional Probation Officer.

Chairman Culver reported these are equipment items in order for the new officer to work. Mr. Tony Weber stated that was correct. He reported they had a vehicle donated by the Sheriff's Department and three donated from the U.S.D.A. extension office and that cut the expenses drastically. Chairman Culver reported this is an internal budget amendment. Commissioner Snellgrove asked if this agency was staying within their budget? Mr. Roberts stated yes, and that they were doing really well. Commissioner Cook seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached budget amendment in Minute Book)

ITEM #8. Request from EMA – consider changing from BOE student to part-time employee.

Chairman Culver reported the reasons were given at the administrative meeting. Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the request from EMA to consider changing from a BOE student to a part-time employee. Commissioner Harvey seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

ITEM #9. Request to reject and rebid video teleconferencing equipment.

Chairman Culver reported this equipment will link the courthouse with the jail so that the video arraignments will hopefully save the Sheriff a considerable amount of fuel costs. Commissioner Snellgrove asked if there was a commitment from the judges that they planned to use the equipment? Chairman Culver stated that the judges were very interested in using it and particularly the district judges. He stated if the commission finds out the judges are not using the equipment, then the commission will have to take action. Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to reject and rebid the video teleconferencing equipment. Commissioner Cook seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

ITEM #10. Request from Maintenance to approve budget amendment to seal pre-cast joists at Administrative building.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the budget amendment to seal pre-cast joints at the Administrative building. Commissioner Cook seconded the

motion. Commissioner Snellgrove asked Mr. Roberts if the money was in the budget? Mr. Curtis stated they had originally planned to do it in-house but they were going to get done by an outside firm, and there is money they are not going to spend this year that they can use. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached budget amendment in Minute Book)

ITEM #11. Request to send out proposals to towns and cities to purchase Houston County Road & Bridge badger 670.

Mr. Pool reported this is a unique piece of equipment that contractors do not usually buy, and he felt if he could try to sell it to the towns and cities the county might be able to make some money on it. Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the request to send out proposals to towns and cities to purchase a Houston County Road and Bridge badger 670. Commissioner Harvey seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

ITEM #12. Request from the City of Dothan for the county to pay for and install storm drainage pipe, base, prime coat, and curbing on improvements at the intersection of Beverlye and Prevatt Roads for an estimated cost of \$30,000.00.

Mr. Charles Metzger, Traffic Engineer, City of Dothan, reported Beverlye and Prevatt Roads are 2 county maintained roads inside Dothan's city limits and this intersection is maintained by four way stops. He stated due to additional growth on that side of town, improvements need to be made to the intersection. Mr. Metzger stated they would like assistance from the county to pay for and install storm drainage pipe, base, prime coat, and curbing improvements. Mr. Pool stated it seemed like a good project from a citizen's viewpoint. Commissioner Cook stated the county would get some base dirt. She stated that it was worked out on Thursday. Mr. Metzger stated the city hopes maybe some other projects can also be done on John D. Odom and Murphy Mill Road and Park and Taylor Road and some other four way stops. Commissioner Snellgrove asked what the traffic count is in the area? Mr. Metzger stated that it was over 4,000 cars per day. Mr. Snellgrove asked Mr. Pool if the \$30,000 included labor and material or if it was just material? Mr. Pool stated that it was material only. Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the request from the City of Dothan for the county to pay for and install storm drainage pipe, base, prime coat, and curbing on improvements at the intersection of Beverlye and Prevatt Roads for an estimated cost of \$30,000.00. Commissioner Cook seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

ITEM #13. Request from Houston County Schools – pave parking lot at Wicksburg High School.

Mr. Pool reported this is a small project that will be done with funds obtained by Senator Smith. Mr. Pool pointed out the cost estimate on the labor is \$900.00. Commissioner Forrester made a motion to approve the request from Houston County Schools to pave the parking lot at Wicksburg High School. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

ITEM #14. Request from Town of Cowarts – place and compact approximately 1500 cubic yards of sand-clay base at the new fire station.

Commissioner Forrester asked the location of the new fire station? It was reported it was downtown. Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the request from the Town of Cowarts to place and compact approximately 1500 cubic yards of sand-clay base at the new fire station. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Mr. Pool reported the labor would cost approximately \$13,716.58. Chairman Culver asked if this was being done as per the normal and customary policy for volunteer fire departments? Mr. Pool stated yes. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

ITEM #15. Request from Rehobeth Volunteer Fire & Rescue to help cover expenses for dirt work, preparation and paving of the parking lot.

Chairman Culver reported that this request would be per the regular policy also. The chairman stated a tornado came through and dumped a tree on top of the building. Mr. Pool reported this is a wet place and they have to watch the time of year they can do the work and it is also a little off the road. He reported the cost estimate for labor is \$44,700.00, and the Rehobeth Volunteer Fire and Rescue would be paying for the materials. Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the request from the Rehobeth Volunteer Fire and Rescue to help cover expenses for dirt work, preparation and paving of the parking lot. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Cook asked the chairman to note that John and Rita Parrish were present and they are very active in the Rehobeth fire and rescue and she stated the commission appreciated them for all they do.

ITEM #16. Request to change contract with Chattahoochee State Park contractor.

Chairman Culver stated that Mr. Pool had reported to him that they had another good weekend at the park and he thanked the public and encouraged them to go down and use the facilities. Mr. Pool reported this is a change in the verbage, and he covered it in the administrative meeting. Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the request to change the contract with the Chattahoochee State Park contractor. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion.

Commissioner Snellgrove asked the chairman to read the portion that is being changed? Chairman Culver reported Item #7 would be changed to read

“Houston County agrees to pay up to \$300.00 per month toward the cost of health insurance coverage or healthcare for Debra Weaver. Said payment shall be made to Debra Weaver who shall be responsible for obtaining her own insurance or otherwise applying said funds for her healthcare costs.”

Chairman Culver reported the county found it could not provide insurance and this will take care of that. Mr. Roberts stated that it says pay up to \$300 per month and that leaves the county to try to determine what to pay. He asked if it could be changed to the county agrees to pay \$300 per month toward the cost of health insurance? The chairman asked if anyone objected? There were none. He also asked the attorney if it would be okay to change it? Mr. Sherrer stated yes. Commissioner Snellgrove then amended his motion to approve the change to Houston County agrees to pay \$300 per month toward the cost of health insurance. Mr. Pool asked if another change could be made to make the effective date April 15th? The attorney stated the commission would set the date and he stated that would be okay. Commissioner Cook amended her second to the motion. Chairman Culver then stated the motion to approve the request to change the contract with the Chattahoochee State Park contractor with two changes that it became effective April 15th, and it be a flat \$300.00 per month but for the month of April it would \$150.00. Commissioners Snellgrove and Cook accepted the changes. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

ITEM #17. Request to allow County Engineer to keep tri-axle dump trucks in rotation.

Mr. Pool stated he needed to do this because it takes so long to receive an order. He pointed out the last trucks were ordered in June and they have not arrived. Chairman Culver asked Mr. Pool about his current rotation time frame? Mr. Pool stated he would like to say 6 months but he did not know if it would be a year or a year-and-a-half. He reported he had checked with some other counties and they are also having trouble getting them. Mr. Pool stated when they are selling them they are making anywhere from \$10,000 to \$15,000 profit per truck. He stated that he would like to trade them every 6 months but he cannot do that if he does not have the trucks. Chairman Culver asked Mr. Pool if he was going to use his judgment as to when the county would get the best return as to turning them over? Mr. Pool stated as long as it was a hot market he was for turning them over. Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the request to allow the county engineer to keep tri-axle dump trucks in rotation. Commissioner Harvey seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

ITEM #18. Request to adopt Resolution to pave turnouts to right-of-way lines for homes and businesses, effective June 23, 2005 on Houston County resurfacing projects.

Chairman Culver asked on whatever motion is made that pending the state agreement be included. He reported after the last meeting, he contacted Mr. Frank Courson, Alabama Department of Transportation, and he explained their policy but could not give any reason for it. The chairman reported Mr. Courson indicated if the county would adopt a policy he would run it by the hierarchy and try to get it approved. The chairman stated that his concern was to treat everybody the same either do it or do not do it. Mr. Snellgrove reported there was discussion on Thursday that the cost of asphalt was going up. He stated he talked with Mr. Pool that afternoon because he did not understand the discussion at the meeting, and he was informed the only thing going up will be the cost of the asphalt per these driveways. He pointed out the cost to do a driveway will be \$298.33 at the inflated cost. Mr. Snellgrove reported that price would be a win win situation for the commission as well as the taxpayer because it costs quite a bit to go back over a 15-20 year period to patch a driveway. He stated over a period of time, all of the driveways will eventually be paved and that will save the taxpayers some money. Mr. Snellgrove reported the roads the commission is looking at paving right now are about 20-25 years old. Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to adopt the Resolution to pave turnouts to right of way lines for homes and businesses, effective immediately on Houston County resurfacing projects. Chairman Culver asked if he was going to leave out pending the state agreement? Mr. Snellgrove stated he would like for the county to consider doing all driveways in Houston County and if for some reason the state does not follow through with the agreement it would be a minimum cost for the county to do all the driveways. Commissioner Snellgrove stated he did not want the state to keep the county policy from going into effect immediately. Commissioner Forrester asked if this would not encourage the state to back off from what they are already doing? Chairman Culver stated at this time, they are not paving them. Commissioner Snellgrove stated if the county goes with a resolution to pave the turnouts on county maintained roads on resurfacing projects, eventually they will be paved. Chairman Culver stated if Commissioner Snellgrove's motion was effective immediately it could not be pending the state agreement. He asked Commissioner Snellgrove if his motion was to adopt a resolution to pave turnouts to the right-of-way line for homes and businesses, effective immediately on Houston County resurfacing projects? Commissioner Snellgrove stated yes. Chairman Culver asked Mr. Pool if the county paves right-of-ways on state projects if they were going to charge the bid price or the inflated price? Mr. Pool stated it would be the inflated price, \$85.00 per ton. Mr. Pool stated the price would be \$350.00 per drive when you add the labor. He reported the county crews do not do work on every driveway every year. He stated the thought of paving every driveway will never happen because they are putting in about 250 driveways per year. Mr. Pool stated for the project to go into effect immediately, the county is in the middle of a resurfacing project and they have already done

Murphy Mill Road, Bethlehem Road, Brannon Stand Road, and are getting ready to start on Highway #203. He reported they would do the driveways on Highway #203 but they would not do them on Murphy Mill Road, Brannon Stand Road and Bethlehem Road. Mr. Pool pointed stated in order to pave a driveway they have to shape it up, pull the grass, and other things to get it ready. Mr. Pool reported they did not have paving driveways in the bid specs on resurfacing but they did on dirt road paving. He stated the contractor charges the county \$48.00 per ton to pave dirt roads and to do the driveway. He stated the contractor also charges the county \$48.00 per ton to resurface the road but it does not have the driveways included. He reported because it is not in there and the county is close to the end of the contract, the contractor can charge \$85.00 per ton. Mr. Pool reported that is why he put the effective date after the end of the contract. Mr. Pool stated he did not think it would be fair not to do it on all roads. Mr. Pool stated he would like to see the state agreement. Chairman Culver reported June 23rd, would be the day after the contract runs out. He asked Mr. Pool if he was including doing the driveways to the right-of-way lines in the new bid contract so it would be at a lower price? Mr. Pool stated he did it both ways. Chairman Culver reported years ago when the county did this, the crews would go down the road and fix the driveways in advance of the asphalt being applied. Commissioner Snellgrove reported he had a survey from the Road and Bridge Department showing the cost to gravel a driveway in 1996 was \$112.33, and since then labor and fuel costs have probably doubled. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the vote was: YEAS: Commissioners Snellgrove and Harvey. NAYS: Commissioners Cook and Forrester. Chairman stated he would like to see the county adopt the policy and if the commission desires leave the date out pending state approval because he felt it should be done on all driveways. He reported unless the state authorizes the county to do it, they will not be able to do it on all driveways. Chairman Culver reported he thought the state was going to authorize it and he did not think it would create a major problem. He stated he thought the main concern was those roads that were added to the resurfacing project. Commissioner Snellgrove stated the county had to start somewhere because it would be the same excuse on the next paving project. Chairman Culver then voted nay on the motion because he felt it should include pending the state agreement. Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the request as written adding pending the state agreement. Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion. The chairman called for the question; and the vote was: YEAS: Commissioners Cook and Forrester. NAYS: Commissioners Harvey and Snellgrove. Chairman Culver broke the tie by voting yes. Commissioner Harvey asked what happens if the state does not approve it? Chairman Culver stated it would be back on the agenda for discussion. Chairman Culver pointed out if the State does not do it there will be two classes of driveways. (Please see attached in Resolution Book)

ITEM #19. Request to condemn right-of-way on Evie Lane in District 2.

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

ITEM #20. Request to take bids on hot mix 429.

Mr. Pool reported it is the resurfacing and dirt road paving bid. He reported he planned to make a change this year to include all the cities and towns could buy off of it. Chairman Culver asked Mr. Pool if he could do that and to check the legal ramifications. Mr. Pool reported it would save the small towns a significant amount of money. Commissioner Snellgrove asked how the specs would be written? He asked if paving driveways would be included? Mr. Pool reported that there would be no changes to the dirt roads; that driveways are in there. He stated on resurfacing, driveways will be included and there will be another place for another bid where they will not be in there. Chairman Culver reported the commission just approved a policy and he asked why he would bid it without the driveways? Mr. Pool stated he was trying to have more options if the state does not approve the agreement. He pointed out this is a large public works project and would have to be advertised in 3 state papers. He reported he will still have a place for less than 75 tons which they will be at a higher price. Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the request to take bids on hot mix 429. Commissioner Harvey seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

ITEM #21. Request to take bids on trash disposal.

Mr. Pool reported this is the inert annual bid. He stated the company has not rolled it over and he is preparing to bid it. Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the request to take bids on trash disposal. Commissioner Harvey seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

ITEM #22. Request to take bids for one (1) garbage truck. (Delivery date 2006 budget)

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the request to take bids for one (1) garbage truck (delivery date 2006 budget). Commissioner Forrester seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

ITEM #23. Employee of the Month – Road & Bridge Department.

Mr. Pool asked Mr. Buddy Moore to come forward and presented him with the "Employee of the Month" certificate. He stated Mr. Moore started with the county in October, 1992 as a parts clerk and in 1998 he was promoted to purchasing agent. He reported Mr. Moore handles everything that is bought in the Road and Bridge department and Sanitation department. Mr. Pool reported he writes the specs on a lot of things and compares it with the state bid and county joint bid, he

handles purchase orders and makes sure everything is in budget, and keeps up with all of the bids. He reported he does an excellent job. Mr. Moore thanked the chairman and the commission for the opportunity to work in Houston County. He stated everything is going in the right direction, and the county is something to be proud of. Chairman Culver thanked Mr. Moore for the excellent job he does.

ITEM #24. Moved to Item #3.

ITEM #25. Request to adopt Resolution to prevent the closing of DETIIHHC131 Armor of the Alabama National Guard in Ashford.

This item was temporarily deleted.

ITEM #26. Request to send letter to E-911 Board asking them to delay appointment of the Coordinator until the Houston County Commission has made appointments to the E-911 District Board.

This item was addressed under the announcements.

ITEM #27. Administrator's Report.

Mr. Roberts reported he received the sales tax report and the sales tax increased by 3.1%. He stated it has moderated but continues to be positive.

ITEM #28. Engineer's Report.

Mr. Pool asked the commissioners to notice in their Monthly Report there is a new page in the back for Parks, and they will find the revenue for both parks and the rules for the parks.

Mr. Pool reported they are still hunting red base dirt. He stated they are interesting in buying the dirt or purchasing the property.

He stated they would be notifying the press when they would begin on Highway #203, but when the work does begin everyone needs to avoid it if possible. He reported Murphy Mill has too much traffic on it and there will be an announcement on it.

Commissioner Snellgrove asked Mr. Pool when they would start dropping the mosquito pellets in the creeks and streams? Mr. Pool stated there was nothing in the budget for it because it comes out of the general fund. Chairman Culver stated he thought it was being done every year and that there were some pellets out at road and bridge. Mr. Pool stated they had some left over and the chairman instructed him to start putting them out. Chairman Culver stated he did not know if anything did any good. Mr. Pool stated he would get a budget amendment ready for the next meeting.

Commissioner Snellgrove reported he had a discharge paper from a gentleman last week whose grandfather worked in the Chattahoochee State Park. He asked the public if anyone had any information on the park to take it to road and bridge? Mr. Snellgrove reported they are trying to gather enough information to compile a history book on the park. Chairman Culver reported they talked about doing some type of flyer on it. He stated the information will be put on the website.

Commissioner Snellgrove asked Mr. Pool for an update on the Solid Waste Authority? Mr. Pool reported they did not meet last month and the month before that there was not a quorum so no business was conducted.

ITEM #29. Adjourn.

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