

MINUTES OF HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
MAY 12, 2008

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 Bill Dempsey, Chief Administrative Officer

ABSENT: None

Chairman Mark S. Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, established that a quorum was present and welcomed everyone. Chaplain Curtis Grant, Houston County Sheriff's Office, gave the invocation. Commissioner Snellgrove led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Announcements and Public Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver reminded everyone that the existing Brannon Stand Road Bridge will be closed at 6:00 A.M. on June 2nd. He reported the detour would be open but it will be slow, and he encouraged everyone who normally uses that route to find another route until about October 1st. Chairman Culver stated if the commission takes the action on the agenda, it will be posted for no trucks weighing over 13 tons.

The chairman reported a significant brush and woods fire occurred May 11th, in the southern part of the county that was brought under control late that afternoon. He stated the fire has rekindled and people are currently fighting the fire. Chairman Culver reported a lot of people responded on May 11th and he thanked the following: Houston County Rescue Squad, Rehobeth Fire, Southern Junction, Madrid, Taylor, Graceville, Fadette, Houston County EMA Office, Sheriff's Office, Red Cross, State Troopers, and the Alabama Forestry Commission. He reported they all played a hand in getting the fire under control. He stated today, Rehobeth, Alabama Forestry, Southern Junction, EMA, and Graceville are down there. The chairman thanked everyone who participated in trying to get the fire under control.

Awards and Presentations:

1. Proclamation – “National Police Week” – Sheriff Andy Hughes, Captain Tony Gonzalez, and Chaplain Curtis Grant.

Chairman Culver asked Sheriff Andy Hughes and Chaplain Grant to come forward. Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the Proclamation.

Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. Chairman Culver then read the Proclamation declaring May 12th-18th as “National Police Week” in Houston County, and presented it to Sheriff Hughes. The chairman thanked the Sheriff and Chaplain Grant for assisting the commission in recognizing and paying respect to the survivors of the fallen heroes. Sheriff Hughes thanked the Chairman for recognizing the Sheriff’s Deputies who have died in the line of duty. The Sheriff extended his gratefulness to the families of the deputies who gave their lives in the line of duty on behalf of the Houston County Sheriff’s Office. He reported they had only known of 2 deputies who lost their lives in the line of duty until last year when they did some research and found 2 previous deputies who had died in the early 1900’s in the line of duty. He stated they were here to recognize Deputy Lucius Alvan North, Deputy Grady Granger, Lt. Fred McClain, and Investigator Garvis Snellgrove, the four deputies who have died in the line of duty with the Houston County Sheriff’s Office. At that time, he asked the surviving family members to stand and be recognized. He thanked them and stated these deputies gave the ultimate sacrifice for the citizens of Houston County, and he stated the family members have also made the ultimate sacrifice for their loved ones being killed in the line of duty. The sheriff stated these deputies will not be forgotten because they have left a legacy for the deputies who serve today to further serve the citizens of Houston County.

Chairman Culver called on Chaplain Grant for the video presentation. Due to problems with the video equipment, the video was not shown at that time. Chairman Culver apologized and stated the commission would re-schedule showing the video.

2. Proclamation – “Small Business Week” – Ms. Rona Miller, Chairperson, Small Business Week.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring May 12th -16th as “Small Business Week.” Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. Chairman Culver asked Ms. Rona Miller and others to come forward. The chairman then read the Proclamation and presented it to Ms. Miller. Ms. Miller introduced Mrs. JoAnne McGhee, Crown Properties, and Mr. Matt Parker, President, Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce. She stated Ms. Caroline Shippey, chamber staff member, who does all the work, was in the audience, and also Mr. Jim McGhee of Crown Properties. Ms. Miller invited everyone to the activities planned all week in observance of “Small Business Week.”

Mr. Parker thanked the commission for recognizing Small Business Week. He pointed out 90% of the economy is small business and he stated they recognize how important it is in our community as well as the nation that there are viable small businesses operating and keeping the economy going. Mr. Parker reported the county commission has recognized the importance of small and large business through its track record and he stated they appreciate the county

in their partnership with supporting the community's small and large business efforts. He stated they were excited to announce, with the creation of the Dothan-Houston County Micro Loan Program, which has helped a lot of small businesses in our community, that they are changing the program and expanding it from a \$4,000 to \$10,000 loan program to a \$4,000 to \$20,000 loan program in celebration and recognition of this week with their partnership with the city, county, and the SE Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission. He reported they have more resources to help small businesses and they have an incubator in the community. Mr. Parker stated they have several small businesses that have benefited from their loan programs, and the Revolving Loan Fund Programs that are out there to really help businesses to grow and expand. Mr. Parker reported they really appreciate the county's partnership and the small business people, and he stated they are excited that they will be recognizing the Small Business Person of the Year at the luncheon.

Chairman Culver thanked Ms. Miller and Mr. Parker and stated he encouraged everyone to get out and recognize small businesses this week and gain information that will help the small business owners.

3. Proclamation – “Foster Care Month” – Mrs. Mary Paulk, Executive Director, Department of Human Resources.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring May as “Foster Care Month.” Commissioner Cook seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. He asked Mrs. Paulk to come forward and to bring her guests. Chairman Culver then read the Proclamation and presented it to Mrs. Paulk and thanked her for heading up this important and often unrecognized week and group of people who do so much in our community. Mrs. Paulk thanked Chairman Culver and the commission for the Proclamation on behalf of the Department of Human Resources and all of the foster parents. Mrs. Paulk stated this is a very important month and all month they are having activities to recognize the foster parents. She stated being a foster parent takes everything a person has—their heart, resources, and every minute of their day every day. Mrs. Paulk reported they have a wonderful group of foster parents who do an excellent job. Mrs. Paulk stated there is also a great group of social workers and case workers who work diligently 24 hours a day 7 days a week. She reported they could not do their job if it were not for all of their partners such as the commission who come together to support them. Mrs. Paulk then introduced key staff members, Ms. Tina Green, Supervisor, Resource Unit, which licenses the foster parents, Ms. Julie Lindsey, Program Supervisor for all the service units at DHR, and Ms. Barbara Daniels, who is responsible for going out and assessing homes and making the decision as to whether the homes meet the standards. Mrs. Paulk thanked the commission again and for the important role they play in her organization.

4. Proclamation – “Cystic Fibrosis Month” – Mrs. JoAnn Avant Breth, and Corey McAlister

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring May as “Cystic Fibrosis Month.” Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. Chairman Culver then asked Mrs. JoAnn Avant Breth and her grandson, Corey McAlister, to come forward. He read the Proclamation and presented it to Mrs. Breth for creating an awareness of a terrible disease that impacts a lot of people. Mrs. Breth reported they have formed a Cystic Fibrosis Board in the Wiregrass and she serves on that board. Mr. McAlister thanked everyone for making this happen, and he stated he was doing well. He stated he hoped they could find a cure for the disease. Mrs. Breth stated Mr. McAlister would graduate in three weeks.

Regular Agenda

1. Request from Revenue Commissioner to execute contracts with Keets Consulting for mapping conversion in the amount of \$39,390 and software upgrade with ESRI in the amount of \$18,015.56.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request from the Revenue Commissioner to execute contracts with Keets Consulting for mapping conversion in the amount of \$39,390 and software upgrade with ESRI in the amount of \$18,015.56. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously.

2. Request from Alabama Cooperative Extension System to increase 4-H Youth Agent’s travel - \$1,000.00.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request from the Alabama Cooperative Extension System to increase the 4-H Youth Agent’s travel by \$1,000.00 for this year only. Commissioner Cook seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Request from Probate Judge to award bid to The Dothan Eagle to publish 2008 Houston County Voter List.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request from the Probate Judge to award the bid to The Dothan Eagle to publish the 2008 Houston County Voter List. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

4. Request to adopt Resolution for CDBG assistance for public water system improvements.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to adopt the Resolution for CDBG assistance for public water system improvements. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion.

Chairman Culver reported this request is to apply for a grant in the amount of \$400,000 with a total project cost of \$488,827. He pointed out this is a continual effort on behalf of the commission to get water to all the citizens out in the county who do not already have water. Chairman Culver reported the commission is partnering with the Town of Ashford for the match of \$55,000 and the Town of Ashford is providing \$34,000 in in-kind work. He reported it would be the fall before they knew if they would receive the grant, and if so, the work would probably begin the spring of next year. The chairman reported they felt they are getting some additional points in the grant process this year and felt optimistic about getting it. Mrs. Emily Waters, SE Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission, reported the percentage ratio is 22 for CDBG funds to local matching funds, which is an excellent ratio. The chairman thanked Mrs. Waters and the Regional Planning and Development Commission for their hard work on this grant. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

5. Request to enter into contract for funding for GASB 45 Actuarial Study.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request to enter into contract funding for GASB 45 Actuarial Study. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion.

Mr. Bill Dempsey reported GASB is an independent organization that makes recommendations to governmental agencies or private sector. He stated this particular GASB 45 refers to funding for post employee benefits other than pension. Mr. Dempsey reported the study itself would be to do an assessment of what the county's liability will be in the coming years. He pointed out this is only an assessment. Mr. Dempsey reported how the county chooses to fund it will be another session. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

6. Request to approve Standard Operating Guideline #6 for portable electric heaters.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the Standard Operating Guideline #6 for portable electric heaters as presented just prior to the meeting that day. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion.

Chairman Culver stated the changes are as follows: 4th paragraph from the bottom, the last sentence stated electrical system must be able to accommodate and he stated the word "heaters" has been inserted.

He stated below that, they have added an additional paragraph that states “open flame heaters will not be used anywhere other than approved areas.” The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

7. Request to approve Standard Operating Guideline #7 for safety glasses.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve Revision #3 of the Standard Operating Guideline #7 for safety glasses. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion.

Chairman Culver reported this was also received just prior to the meeting and he then covered the changes as follows: First paragraph under Procedure: Each employee shall receive one pair every 24 months, insert “unless prescription changes” or except in cases of normal wear and tear. He stated at the end of the next sentence: To get a replacement pair, the damaged glasses must be presented to the Department Head insert, “or his designee.” Chairman Culver reported the next sentence states Replacements for lost safety glasses and tinting costs will be at the employee’s expense. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

8. Request to approve 100% grant for fatality management caches in the amount of \$6,200.00, and the appropriate budget amendment.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the 100% grant for fatality management caches in the amount of \$6,200.00, and the appropriate budget amendment. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion.

Chairman Culver reported this is one of The Department of Public Health issues relating to being prepared for a pandemic should it ever occur. He stated it is a 100% funded. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached budget amendment in Minute Book)

9. Request from EMA to approve budget amendments for approved grants.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to grant EMA’s request to approve budget amendments for approved grants. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. Mr. Dempsey stated this is to cover expenses that are incurred this year from revenue that was received last year from grants. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached budget amendment in Minute Book)

10. Request to take bids for generator on the City of Dothan’s Well #13 that supplies SAMC.

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to take bids for generator on the City of Dothan’s Well #13 that supplies the SAMC. Commissioner Harvey seconded

the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

11. Request to approve 100% SNS grant for \$29,200.00 to support the Strategic National Stockpile for the Houston County Region, and the appropriate budget amendment.

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the request for a 100% SNS grant for \$29,200.00 to support the Strategic National Stockpile for the Houston County Region, and the appropriate budget amendment. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached budget amendment in Minute Book)

12. Request to approve budget amendment for Road & Bridge.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the budget amendment for Road & Bridge. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this is an adjustment for cost overruns that were no fault of anyone based on things that you do not have control over. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached budget amendment in Minute Book)

13. Request to approve condemnation proceedings for Ardilla Intersection and Singletary Road.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the condemnation proceedings for the Ardilla Intersection and Singletary Road. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported the Ardilla Intersection is the project the county has been working on for quite some time in conjunction with the City of Dothan and the State of Alabama. He stated the project involves Cottonwood Road, Beverley Road, Saunders Road and Forrester Road. He pointed out Singletary Road is a dirt road paving project. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

14. Request to adopt Resolution to set weight limit on the detour bridge on Brannon Stand Road to 13 tons.

Commissioner Forrester made a motion to adopt the Resolution to set the weight limit on the detour bridge on Brannon Stand Road to 13 tons. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported, as stated earlier, this resolution will set it to the point that loaded school buses can cross it but nothing any heavier. Mr. Pool reported a truck detour will be marked. Chairman Culver stated again that the main bridge will close on June 2nd at 6:00 A.M. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

15. Request from Sheriff to approve budget amendment in the amount of \$50,855.00 for overtime.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the Sheriff's request for a budget amendment in the amount of \$50,855.00 for overtime. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. Commissioner Snellgrove asked if he was correct in that there was no new money involved? Sheriff Hughes stated yes. The Sheriff stated with the new memo that was sent, it is down to \$38,000, and that they are being reimbursed for \$22,000 of that amount. He pointed out this is all in the reserved salary money that has not been used that they are moving for overtime. Chairman Culver stated this is salary money created because the Sheriff has had some vacancies. The Sheriff stated yes. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

16. Request from Kinsey Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. for in-kind services for site grading, leveling, preparation of pad and building of parking lot for new fire station.

Mr. Pool stated he did not have any drawings. Commissioner Harvey made a motion to table this request for two weeks. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. The chairman called for the question; and it carried unanimously.

The problems with the video regarding the deputies who were killed in the line of duty were corrected and it was then shown. The chairman apologized again for the problems with the video. Chairman Culver told the family members that the commission shared in their grief and he thanked them for attending the meeting.

Reports from Staff:

1. Chief Administrative Officer – there was none.
2. County Engineer

Mr. Pool stated there was an article in the Alabama Game & Fish Magazine about the record shellcracker that was caught over at Chattahoochee State Park by Mr. T.J. Lashley, Sr. of Ardilla, on May 5, 1962.

Mr. Pool reported he had men out picking up political signs and they had picked up over 110 so far, and they have covered about 2/3 of the county. Chairman Culver stated a press release was sent out two weeks ago reminding people that political signs are not to be placed on the county right-of-way. Commissioner Snellgrove asked if the political signs could be picked up at the Road and Bridge Department? Mr. Pool stated yes.

3. County Attorney – There was none.

Adjourn.

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