

MINUTES OF HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
MAY 14, 2007

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

ABSENT: Mark Pool, Engineer

Chairman Mark Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order. Dr. Curtis Grant, Chaplain, Houston County Sheriff's Department, gave the invocation. Commissioner Forrester led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Announcements and Public Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver thanked Commissioner Forrester for chairing the administrative meeting in his absence.

The chairman reported a statewide election would be held on June 5th. He stated two amendments would be on the ballot, and he stated although the commission does not get involved in politics, he urged everyone to vote in the affirmative. The chairman pointed out one of the amendments has to do with the commitments regarding the announcement that was just made in reference to the steel company that is locating in Mobile. Chairman Culver reported this is a tremendous announcement for the State of Alabama. He stated the polls will be open from 7:00 A.M. until 7:00 P.M. and he asked everyone to go and exercise their right to vote.

Awards and Presentations

1. Proclamation - "Law Enforcement Memorial Week" – Sheriff Andy Hughes, Chaplain Curtis Grant.

Chairman Culver asked Sheriff Andy Hughes and Chaplain Curtis Grant to come forward. Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring "Law Enforcement Memorial Week" as May 13th-20th. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. Chairman Culver then read the proclamation and presented it to Sheriff Hughes. The chairman asked all of the law enforcement personnel in the room to raise their hand and they received a round of applause. Chairman Culver stated the commission as well as the citizens do appreciate what law enforcement does in the same manner as what the soldiers do to protect our country.

Sheriff Hughes stated they were present to memorialize those law enforcement officers in Houston County as well as across the U.S. who have given their lives in service of the citizens of this country. He stated they wanted to make sure that the survivors are recognized. At that time, he asked Mrs. Fred McLain and Mr. Gene McLain to come forward. He reported on October 12, 1980, Lt. Fred McLain died in the line of duty in Houston County in service to the citizens of our county. Sheriff Hughes presented the proclamation and flowers to Mrs. McLain and her son, Gene McLain. He also recognized the families of law enforcement officers as contributors here in Houston County as well as the United States.

Chief Deputy Valenza thanked the commission for the recognition of Law Enforcement Memorial Week. He then reported he knew Lt. McLain and everyone liked and respected him. Chief Deputy Valenza then gave a brief synopsis of the events leading up to the night he died. It was pointed out Lt. McLain's number, 3806, was retired upon his death.

A video was then shown about the meaning of Law Enforcement Memorial Week.

Chairman Culver thanked Sheriff Hughes and Chaplain Grant and stated the commission appreciates what the law enforcement officers and their families go through. He stated law enforcement and the armed services put themselves in harm's way everyday. He commended them and expressed gratitude on behalf of the commission.

2. Proclamation – "Foster Care Month" – Mrs. Mary Paulk, Executive Director, Department of Human Resources.

Chairman Culver asked Mrs. Mary Paulk and her guests to come forward. Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring May as "Foster Care Month." Commissioner Forrester seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. Chairman Culver then read the proclamation and presented it to Mrs. Paulk. Mrs. Paulk stated they were honored to be in attendance. She stated she would like to thank the volunteers who serve the children of Houston County as foster parents as well as the dedicated staff members. Mrs. Paulk also thanked the law enforcement representatives who work with them. She reported they depend on law enforcement on a daily basis to go out with them. Mrs. Paulk reminded everyone to remember children come into the foster parents' home all hours of the day and night and with all types of issues. She stated the foster parents in Houston County and throughout the state are wonderful in providing care for these children for whatever reason cannot remain in their own home. She stated she wished that they did not need Foster Care Month but in reality they do. Mrs. Paulk thanked the commission for helping to recognize its importance. She then introduced Ms. Tina Green, Supervisor of the Resource Unit, and stated they are responsible for licensing and approving foster parent homes. Mrs. Paulk also introduced Ms. Jennie Bell

and Ms. Barbara Daniel who work with Ms. Green. Chairman Culver reported foster parenting is truly a gift of the heart. He stated there is no monetary compensation. He pointed out there is a bill that was to be passed this year that still has some chance to raise the daily stipend for foster parents. Chairman Culver encouraged everyone to let their legislators to know that would be a good thing to pass the legislation. He thanked Mrs. Paulk for all she does to ensure the children are placed in the proper environment.

3. Resolution – Honoring all Alabamians who have served or continue to serve in the Armed Forces.

Chairman Culver reported this resolution was requested by the State of Alabama particularly Hinton Mitchum and Lt. Governor Folsom, Seth Hammett, Speaker of the House, Senator Jabo Waggoner, Senate Minority Leader, and other Republicans and Democrats alike that we adopt a resolution similar to the one the State did honoring all Alabamians who have served or continue to serve in the Armed Forces. Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request to adopt the Resolution honoring all Alabamians who have served or continue to serve in the Armed Forces. Commissioner Cook seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. Chairman Culver stated they want the resolution sent to them in Montgomery, and it will be presented at the Sports Festival. The chairman then read the resolution. He stated the commission commends all of those who are serving or have served in the Armed Forces along with their family members.

Consent Agenda

1. Request to award bid on used van for the jail.
2. Request to award bid on fire alarm system.
3. Request to award bid to second lowest bidder for the body repair for one (1) Mack truck.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the consent agenda to include awarding the bid on a used van for the jail to Bondy's Ford, Inc., the only bidder, in the amount of \$16,900.00, awarding the bid on the fire alarm system at the Administrative Building to Sanders Security, low bidder meeting specs, in the amount of \$44,088.00, and to Conners Body Shop, second lowest bidder for the body repair of one (1) Mack truck, in the amount of \$23,688.17. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached bid summary sheets in Minute Book)

Regular Agenda

1. Request from Wiregrass Transit Authority for funding for Dixie Depot project.

Chairman Culver reported Mr. John Sorrell was called Saturday to be in Birmingham to meet with the Federal Transportation Commission in reference to some grant funding. He stated Mr. Sorrell had contacted him over the weekend to see if the commission wanted to put this item off and he stated he told Mr. Sorrell it was his understanding that it was discussed in length at the administrative meeting. Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the request from the Wiregrass Transit Authority for funding of the Dixie Depot project. Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this is a big enhancement of the Dixie area. He pointed out it would also be good to have all of the buses located over at the depot. Chairman Culver reported a significant amount of money has been spent on it with most of it being grant money. He pointed out the City of Dothan has a large amount of money in it. Chairman Culver reported the grant that he is asking the commission to match is for the completion of the pick up and delivery area. Commissioner Snellgrove asked if all of the buses would be at the depot or if they plan to build a bus barn? Chairman Culver stated the buses will be dispatched and delivery and pickup will be at the depot. The chairman pointed out they are renovating the entire depot at a significant cost. He stated the portion in paragraph 4 is for the funding of the passenger shelter portion. Chairman Culver pointed out they were short on the funding to do that.

Chairman Culver then called on Earnest Stokes, Engineering Department, City of Dothan, who is doing the design work on it. Mr. Stokes reported the request is for enough of a match to level federal funding to complete the bus shelter. He pointed out the first time the project was let, there were some glitches with the advertisements. Mr. Stokes reported in the interim between the time it was let the second time and they were planning on awarding without building the shelter to get it in the money. He pointed out Mr. Sorrell has found \$75,000 of funding left over from another grant, which brings it to a little over \$90,000 total grant funds including the match which is enough to do the shelter. Chairman Culver reported this project has been trying to be developed since 1999, and he stated it is good to bring it to completion. Commissioner Snellgrove asked if this was for a passenger shelter instead of a bus shelter? Mr. Stokes reported this would be a disembarking shelter bringing people from the outlying areas back into the Dothan area and they will change from the long range transit buses to local delivery buses. The buses will be located at the current location. Chairman Culver reported the grant is through the Federal Transportation Authority. Mr. Stokes reported the bulk of the money did come through Senator Shelby through the Federal Transportation Authority. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Request from Personnel Board for a budget amendment for salary of new Personnel Director.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the request for a budget amendment for the salary of a new Personnel Director. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver stated they did not know the exact amount. He reported the commission is approving the appropriate budget amendment, and he stated he thought the intent would be that this person start in two weeks, and at that point, they would know the amount of the budget amendment. Chairman Culver reported Mr. Roberts could let any of the commission know the final figure. Chairman Culver told Mrs. Howard that the commission appreciated the many years of service she has given the county and there had been some good things done in Personnel. He reported Mr. Manning Sanders, Chairman of the Personnel Board, was present and he knew the Personnel Board was ready to move forward and willing to address any new issues with the new Personnel Director. Chairman Culver reported he hoped the Personnel Board would recognize Mrs. Howard in some fashion to thank her for her many years of service, and requested they let the commission know so that they can be a part of it. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached budget amendment in Minute Book)

3. Request to approve budget amendment in the amount of \$13,529.00 for the emergency repair of the hot water boiler at the jail.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the budget amendment in the amount of \$13,529.00 for the emergency repair of the hot water boiler at the jail. Commissioner Cook seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached budget amendment in Minute Book)

3. Request to allow DeanCo Auction to sell one 15' Bushwacker mower.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the request to allow DeanCo Auction to sell one 15' Bushwacker mower. Commissioner Harvey seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Request to lower weight limit on County Line Road to 10 tons.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the request to lower the weight limit on County Line Road to 10 tons. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Commissioner Snellgrove asked if it would be permanent? The acting Engineer stated it would be in effect until they resurface the road. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

Staff Reports:

- a. County Administrator

Mr. Roberts reported he had received the sales tax report and the numbers are positive. He pointed out it is not a big increase but they are above 3% which is

an improvement. Mr. Roberts made the commission aware that they have completed the process of securing the county credit card, and the Policies and Procedures that were previously submitted will be on the next meeting's agenda. He stated if there are any changes or comments to let him know.

b. County Engineer

Mr. Barfield reported he had some wildlife pictures Mr. Pool wanted him to show if the commission was interested. Chairman Culver reported they would not test the equipment again.

c. County Attorney.

There was no report.

Adjourn.

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