

MINUTES OF HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
MAY 23, 2005

PRESENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Bobby Snellgrove, Commissioner Frances M. Cook, Gary Sherrer, Attorney, Mark Pool, Engineer, and Roy Roberts, Administrator

ABSENT: Commissioner Philip L. Forrester

Chairman Mark Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order. Rev. Rick Glenn, Associate Pastor, Memphis Baptist Church, gave the invocation. Commissioner Harvey led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Announcements.

Chairman Culver stated there have been some concerns expressed to the commission and the members wanted to take an opportunity to let the Governor know their positive feelings on Fort Rucker. He stated also a couple of comments have been made about a potential activity in Ashford. The chairman stated he thought the commission wanted to write a letter. At that time, he called on Commissioner Snellgrove for comments. Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to send a letter to the Governor commending him on the work he did to keep Fort Rucker off the list of bases to be closed. He stated there is talk about closing the National Guard Armory in Ashford and he would also like to include that in the letter asking him to reconsider closing Ashford because it is a vital station in the county as well as Ashford. Chairman Culver stated there is a motion on the floor to send the Governor a letter commending him for his efforts to keep Fort Rucker and requesting that he allow Ashford's National Guard unit to remain in place. Commissioner Harvey seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

ITEM #1. Request to adopt Safety Program.

Chairman Culver stated this was not discussed on Thursday, and he stated the commissioners had the document Mr. Roberts had prepared. He then called on Mr. Roberts for comments. Mr. Roberts reported the proposal was presented to the commission and the public at the previous meetings. He stated he thought the program was being well received by Meadowbrook Insurance and they are also supportive of it. Mr. Roberts reported they will be interactive with this group, the EMA staff, and him to put together a program that will protect the employees, drive the costs down, and will be recognized as a leading edge type program throughout the state. Mr. Roberts recommended the program and stated he appreciated the involvement Commissioner Snellgrove has had in it. Chairman Culver reported the county has had an improving and a good safety record over the last several years but the county cannot be safe enough and he felt it was a good effort. Chairman Culver questioned the committee meeting monthly. He requested that the committee not meet monthly for the sake of meeting because that was one of the problems in the past. Mr. Roberts stated they plan to do everything that is needed to get the program kicked off and he felt it would be necessary to meet monthly for the first 4-6 months, and once the program is running, the meetings would be on a quarterly basis. Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to adopt the Safety Program. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. Commissioner Snellgrove reported that the Safety Program was not about money but the safety and welfare of the county employees as well as the citizens who come in and out of the county's buildings. Commissioner Snellgrove stated since the county started working on the safety program he had received a memo from Mr. Pool about an engineer in Macon County getting killed. He stated the commission certainly did not want it to happen in our county or any other county and he felt the safety program is a win-win situation for the

Houston County taxpayers as well as the employees. The chairman called for the question and the motion carried unanimously.

ITEM #2. Request to approve reporting standards for non-governmental entities, agencies or organizations to receive funding from the commission.

Chairman Culver reported this was on the agenda Thursday and it has been discussed several times. He pointed out it is not a policy but a procedure the commission will go by. He reported the attorney stated the county does not need to change its policy because the commission has the authority to do it by procedure. Chairman Culver stated Mr. Roberts was out of town last week and asked him if he had looked at it? Mr. Roberts stated he had reviewed and it was fine but he wanted to underline this is the minimum standard and the commission will still expect all agencies that perform full audits to present the commission with a copy of the full audit. He stated it would be a minimum procedural review where they are reviewing all of the revenues and expenditures which is the primary meat of everything in an audit to make sure they are receiving all of the money, documenting the receipt of the money, and explaining the expenditures of the money. Chairman Culver stated that by requiring the procedural review, it gives the county the expenditures and revenues the county needs and at the same time it will save those organizations who cannot afford to spend the money on a full blown audit in order to get something that is acceptable to the commission at a lower cost. Commissioner Harvey asked if a more extensive audit is needed could they request it? Chairman Culver stated the commission has the authority to request whatever the commissioners' desire. Commissioner Cook made a motion to grant the request to approve the reporting standards for non-governmental entities, agencies or organizations to receive funding from the commission. Commissioner Harvey seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

ITEM #3. Request from The Wiregrass Festival of Murals – funding assistance for the Train Mural.

Chairman Culver reported the commission discussed on Thursday rather than spending general fund money to use some of the funds in the centennial account. He reported the funds have been generated both from initial funding for the centennial activities along with the sales from the cookbooks. He stated Thursday the commission discussed taking \$4,000 from the centennial account and making up any difference with general fund monies. He reported Commissioner Forrester is not present, but he suggested that the commission fund the mural with \$5,000 out of the centennial account and no general fund monies. The chairman stated if the pictures of the courthouse come up and there is not enough left in the centennial account then they can be made up of general fund money. Commissioner Cook made a motion to fund the Wiregrass Festival of Murals \$5,000 for the train mural with the monies coming from the centennial account. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver asked Mr. Wendell Stepp if it would be okay to give the Wiregrass Festival of Murals \$4,000 now and \$1,000 in September? Mr. Stepp stated yes. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

ITEM #4. Request to submit ADEM MWPP Report and adopt Resolution.

Chairman Culver stated this is a required ADEM report on the county's wastewater treatment facility at the distribution park. Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the request to submit the ADEM MWPP report and adopt the resolution. Commissioner Harvey seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

ITEM #5. Request from Sheriff – declare property surplus and authorize obtaining quotes from an auctioneer to sell the property.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request from the Sheriff to declare the list of property surplus and authorize obtaining quotes from an auctioneer to sell the property. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached list in Minute Book)

ITEM #6. Request from HRDC – commission to serve as the pass through for the purchase of a van for the Wicksburg HRDC.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request from HRDC for the commission to serve as the pass through for the purchase of a van for the Wicksburg HRDC. Commissioner Cook seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

ITEM #7. Request to approve budget amendment from the General Fund for \$594,925.00 to the Gasoline Fund (resurfacing Gene Terry Road, County Road #55, Hickory Grove Road, and Bazemore Mill Road.)

Chairman Culver reported this is to take advantage of the lower cost and will be advanced from next year's budget. Mr. Pool stated he would give the commission an update and the actual cost when they complete these roads. Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to grant the request to approve the budget amendment from the General Fund for \$594,925.00 to the Gasoline Fund for resurfacing Gene Terry Road, County Road #55, Hickory Grove Road, and Bazemore Mill Road. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Mr. Roberts asked if this was going to be a loan or an expenditure? The chairman stated he did not know if it qualified as a loan but the intent of the discussion was to move forward what resurfacing that would be done next year into this year's budget. He stated he hoped the commission would keep that in mind during the budget discussions. Chairman Culver stated he did not know if it goes on the books as a loan or an expenditure; but it would probably be an expenditure. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached Budget Amendment in Minute Book)

ITEM #8. Request to consider a horse trailer parking area at Chattahoochee State Park.

Mr. Pool showed the media and the public a map of the area for the horse trailers. Mr. Pool reported this would not happen overnight because the Department of Conservation will have to put the proposed area in the area where they are going to cut trees sometime this year. Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the request for a horse trailer parking area at the Chattahoochee State Park. Commissioner Cook seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

ITEM #9. Request from Houston County Board of Education – pave the loop at Ashford Elementary School.

Commissioner Snellgrove asked Mr. Pool if he had an estimate on the county's cost for the project? Mr. Pool stated he did not. He reported it is a small project and the asphalt cost will be \$5,500.00. Commissioner Snellgrove asked if the county's only involvement was labor and equipment? Mr. Pool stated yes. Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the request from the Houston County Board of Education to pave the loop at Ashford Elementary School. Commissioner Harvey seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

ITEM #10. Request to continue trash disposal contract for one (1) year for the same price with Rose Hill Landfill, L.L.C.

Mr. Pool reported this is for the inert material and they charge \$12.50 per ton. Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the request to continue the trash disposal contract for one (1) year for the same price with Rose Hill Landfill, L.L.C.

Commissioner Harvey seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached letter in Minute Book)

ITEM #11. Request to establish municipal joint bidding program.

Chairman Culver reported each commissioner had received the 2 resolutions involved. He stated he thought this would be a good opportunity for the county and municipalities to work together to save taxpayer dollars. Chairman Culver reported the county buys a lot of asphalt and gets a better price than most of the municipalities including Dothan. He stated he thought if this program is approved, the state law allows the municipalities to buy asphalt at the county's price. Mr. Culver reported Mr. Sherrer had prepared the agreements that need to be adopted and the county commission would have to adopt the resolution that is before the commission. He pointed out if the municipality wants to participate, then they will need to adopt a resolution. He stated it is not mandatory but an available option to the municipalities. Chairman Culver stated he thought it would save many of the municipalities a great deal of money. The chairman asked Mr. Sherrer if the commission needed to adopt the resolution for each entity? Mr. Sherrer stated the blank in there will say Houston County Commission. The chairman stated the commission will be adopting a resolution that will cover them for all municipalities and then each individual municipality will have to adopt an ordinance.

Mr. Pool reported Item #14. states "that prior to soliciting any bids for items to be jointly bid under the Houston County Joint Bidding Program, the Commission shall forward a list of all participating municipalities to the Office of Examiners of Public Accounts." He stated this is a public works project and has to be advertised in three papers statewide for 3 weeks. Mr. Pool reported the way it reads they cannot advertise until they receive something from the Examiners of Public Accounts. Mr. Sherrer stated the county did not have to give them anything but they did not have to give the county anything. The county will have to provide a list of people who may participate to them. Mr. Sherrer stated once the bidding is let the people who are participating do not have to buy through that they can go through a separate bid themselves. Mr. Pool stated if the City of Dothan decides to go with this they will not have to spend the money the county is spending on advertising. Mr. Sherrer stated this will work very much like the state bid where the county has the option to buy off the state bid or do its own bidding. He reported the municipality will have the opportunity to buy off this joint bidding arrangement or do its own separate bid under the bid law or public works law. Commissioner Snellgrove asked out of the 10 municipalities in the county how many are interested in getting on the program? Mr. Pool stated he did not know because he had not discussed it with any of them. Chairman Culver reported a letter will be prepared and he will send it to all of the mayors advising them of the program. Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the municipal joint bidding program and to adopt the resolution. Commissioner

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

ITEM #12. Administrator's Report.

Mr. Roberts reported beginning the first of June they would be sending out the letters to the agencies for the budget request.

ITEM #13. Engineer's Report.

Mr. Pool reported the accounting department had given them their six month numbers and they are in budget. He pointed out they are in good shape taking into account fuel costs.

Mr. Justin Barfield gave an update on resurfacing. He reported school is out at the end of the week and hopefully they will begin on County Road #203 next

Monday. He stated they started the G treatment on County Road #55. He pointed out Murphy Mill Road, Brannon Stand and Bethlehem Road are completed, and they have to do the striping and the shoulder work. He reported the rest of the week they will be working on Hickory Grove, Gene Terry Road and Bazemore Mill Road. Mr. Pool pointed out County Road #55 and Hickory Grove are getting the G treatment and they will do the leveling and the wearing surface. He stated he did not want people to think the G treatment is the final resurface.

Mr. Pool reported the Chattahoochee State Park is doing great and they had a good crowd over the weekend.

Commissioner Snellgrove asked Mr. Pool to explain why Prevatt Road is closed? Mr. Pool reported they closed the bridge before it fell in. He stated they called the highway department to come down and they did an inspection and recommended it be closed. He pointed out some more pilings have crushed and it was very unsafe. Mr. Pool reported they have had the plans for a while but the state has certain limitations and upon the completion of some more paperwork hopefully it will be let soon. He stated the bridge should be built in the next 4 or 5 months. Chairman Culver stated the bridge will be closed for the next 4 or 5 months and he asked everyone to make their travel arrangements accordingly. Mr. Pool stated they are having a lot of problems with people going around "Road Closed" signs and they piled dirt on each end of the bridge to keep them from going through. He reported these signs are there for a reason. Mr. Pool stated safety is important and people need to be concerned.

ITEM #14. Adjourn.

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