

MINUTES OF HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
JUNE 12, 2006

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, declared a quorum present, and welcomed everyone. Rev. Robert Register, Pastor, Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, gave the invocation. Commissioner Cook 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 and Public Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver reported for several years the county worked very diligently to provide funding, equipment, and personnel in order for the Road and Bridge Department to have the best roads in Houston County. He stated since this commission has been in office, they have been moving forward with the current engineering administration in working to have the best and safest roads in Houston County. He pointed out the county finished second in road grading for a couple of years and Mr. Pool and his staff took it hard and they got to work. Chairman Culver then read a letter from the Alabama Department of Transportation commending Mr. Pool for an Overall Grade of 95 on all county roads and bridges constructed with federal or state funds. The chairman reported this equals the highest average in the state and the county was also commended on there being no projects graded in the 70–75 range. The chairman reported Houston County is once again tops in the state on the road grades. He pointed out the letter states the county is tied and being tied for first is better than second. The chairman commended Mr. Pool and the Commission on this achievement. He also commended everyone in the Road and Bridge Department and they received a round of applause. Mr. Pool asked Mr. Barkley Kirkland, Assistant Engineer, to come forward along with his supervisors. Mr. Pool stated the employees in the road and bridge department deserve this recognition. He then introduced the supervisors as follows: Brad Burgess, Harold Fleming, and Eddie Johnson. He stated these are men who helped to work on the strategy to help make the roads safer. Mr. Pool pointed out statistics show that Houston County has a lower death rate. He reported they could not do anything without the commission's support, and commission and employees deserve a round of applause for a great job.

Chairman Culver reported the “Sales Tax Holiday” was approved in the Legislative Session and the commission will vote on July 5<sup>th</sup> to be a part of that. He pointed out a question and answer session on the “Sales Tax Holiday” will be held June 15<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 A.M. at the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce. He urged anyone interested in attending to call the Chamber of Commerce and register. He pointed out there will be a representative from the Alabama Retail Association, the Alabama Department of Revenue, and a representative from AlaTax to answer any questions anyone might have.

The chairman reported his father-in-law, his son, Cannon, and he went to Chattahoochee County Park over the weekend and stayed in the travel trailer. He stated the shell crackers are bedding, and they saw a lot of fish being caught. The chairman reported the algae control program is working and it is a lot better than it was. He commended Mr. Weaver who oversees the Park, Mickey Sego and his staff who handle the grounds, and the engineering staff for doing a great job. He reported they had a great time, and he encouraged anyone who is interested in going down for a day or a night to go and get away.

#### Awards and Presentations

1. Proclamation – Tri-State BBQ Festival “Smokin’ in the Wiregrass”  
Tri-State BBQ Festival Committee

Chairman Culver asked Ms. Jane Arnette, Co-Chair of the Tri-State BBQ Festival Committee, and other members to come forward. He presented her with the Proclamation declaring the Tri-State BBQ Festival “Smoking in the Wiregrass” on June 24<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Forrester made a motion to approve the Proclamation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Snellgrove and it carried unanimously. Ms. Arnette introduced Mr. Robin Rainer and Mrs. Cynthia Green, Planning Committee members who have worked with the media, and Ms. Anne Rumble, who was in the audience. Ms. Arnette thanked the Commission for the proclamation and stated this is the first “Smokin’ in the Wiregrass” Tri-State BBQ Festival. She reported approximately 36 teams would be coming from Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, and other areas, and they were very excited. She pointed out there would be a professional division as well as a backyard division for the local grillers. She reported there would be entertainment, arts and crafts vendors, and a kids’ zone. Ms. Arnette reported some professional vendors would be coming in to sell their BBQ. Ms. Arnette reported this is a family event, and the committee hoped it would showcase Southeast Alabama. Each commissioner was given a T-Shirt. She thanked the media for all of their support and the sponsors, and encouraged everyone to come out and enjoy the day.

2. Employee of the Month – Road and Bridge Department

Mr. Pool reported the Employee of the Month, Randall Adams, was not at the meeting. Mr. Pool stated his nickname is “Flash”, and he has had perfect

attendance for the last two years. Mr. Pool reported he was an excellent employee and congratulated him on being "Employee of the Month."

Chairman Culver requested to go back to announcements and public comments. He asked Mr. Shelby Womack, EMA Director, for comments about the tropical storm, Alberto. Mr. Womack reported this storm is weak and has a lot of water, and it is one they would like to see come in. He stated it looked as though it was going to turn and go through Florida and not affect us much. Chairman Culver stated he hoped this was not going to be a regular occurrence to have Mr. Womack reporting on a storm, but he thought he would ask him for the report today.

### Consent Agenda

1. Request to award bid for thirty cubic yard garbage truck.
2. Request to award six month bids for hot plant mix for resurfacing and dirt road paving, and fertilizer.
3. Request to award annual bids for sign faces (1 color) and sign faces (2 colors).

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the consent agenda to award the bid for a thirty cubic yard garbage truck to the low bidder meeting specs, Gulf Coast Truck and Equipment Co., in the amount of \$169,267.46, award six month bids for hot plant mix to the low bidder meeting specs, Lewis, Inc., for a total bid amount of \$171,750.00, and fertilizer to Farmers Coop of Ashford, the only bidder, in the amount of \$310.00 per ton bulk, and award bids for sign faces (1 color) to Osburn Associates, Inc., Hall Signs, and Hanson Traffic Products, low bidders meeting specs in each category, and sign faces (2 colors) to Osburn Associates, Inc., Hall Signs, and Vulcan Signs, low bidders meeting specs in each category. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached Bid Summary Sheets in Minute Book)

### Regular Agenda

1. Request from Alabama Department of Agriculture for Commission to serve as the pass through for funds for the Agricultural Museum at Landmark Park.

Chairman Culver reported the original request was for \$25,000 but they have agreed on \$15,000 if the commission will serve as the pass through. He pointed out the commission has done this before. He reported the Ag Museum has received some severe cuts from the state budget over the last two years and they had to make some drastic cuts. Chairman Culver commended Mr. William Holman, Executive Director, for the excellent program they have put together

under less than best circumstances. Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the request from the Alabama Department of Agriculture for the commission to serve as the pass through for funds in the amount of \$15,000 for the Agricultural Museum at Landmark Park. Commissioner Cook seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Culver stated regarding Landmark Park, he would like to add Item 1(a) to the agenda. He stated each commissioner had a copy of a request for some dirt that Mr. Holman brought up to the office Wednesday afternoon after the 12:00 noon cut off for this meeting's agenda. He reported Landmark Park is in the process of building an Activities Barn and would like the county's assistance in the dirt for the pad. The chairman stated that he told Mr. Holman it would be two weeks before it could be placed on the next agenda, and there is a problem because the project will begin before two weeks. Chairman Culver asked the commission to consider the request if there were no objections? Commissioner Forrester made a motion to approve the request from Landmark Park for the county to provide the 1,100 yards of dirt necessary to build the pad for the Activities Barn. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. Mr. Holman reported they have been looking at this for several years and it is about to begin. He stated that they have not planned a groundbreaking yet. Chairman Culver reported he had spoken with Mr. Pool and Monday, June 19<sup>th</sup> would be the earliest the county can get the dirt out there. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

## 2. Request to set bond amount for election re-count.

Chairman Culver reviewed the expenses for the election recount which totaled \$3,000.00. He reported he did not know if there will or will not be a recount but in this particular case the candidate will be responsible for the cost, and would need to put up a bond. The chairman stated the request is that the commission establish the bond at \$3,000. Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the request to set the bond in the amount of \$3,000 for an election re-count. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Commissioner Snellgrove stated the expense sheet shows meals and lodging; and he asked where the re-count would be? Chairman Culver stated the re-count would be held here and the meals and lodging would be for the election systems representative who has to come from Birmingham. Commissioner Snellgrove asked if the \$3,000 bond would be adequate to cover the cost for this election only? He asked if the commission was setting a precedent that it would always be based on the actual cost? Chairman Culver stated that was correct. Commissioner Snellgrove asked if this would happen in a general election? Chairman Culver stated there could be a re-count in November, and there is a new law that states if the election count is within ½ of 1 percent, the state would pay for the re-count if it is on a state race and the county would pay for the re-count if it is on a county race. He stated because this is neither a state or county election but a primary election, which is a party election, the requesting entity is responsible for the cost.

Chairman Culver commended Probate Judge Cooley, Ms. Susie Shepard, and Ms. Susan Johnson, and all the staff, and Molly Meadows and the Board of Registrars who handled the situation in a very professional manner and went out of their way to get the ID's in and get them counted. (Please see attached Expense Sheet in Minute Book)

3. Request from Community Corrections to make position changes

Chairman Culver reported Mr. Gary Knight was unable to attend today, but this request was covered in the Administrative meeting. Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the request from Community Corrections to make the position changes. Commissioner Harvey seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

4. Request from County Buildings to make position changes.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the request from County Buildings to make position changes. Commissioner Harvey seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

5. Request to add Everett Way to the District One paving list.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request to add Everett Way to the District One paving list. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

Reports from Staff:

- a. County Administrator – there was no report.
- b. County Engineer –

Mr. Pool reported they started work on a bridge last week and felt we will get some rain from Tropical Storm Alberto because when they begin work on a bridge the rains will come. He stated they had begun work on the parking lot.

- c. County Attorney – there was no report.

Chairman Culver stated the road and bridge crews have begun work on the parking lot and hopefully it will not take more than a week. He asked for everyone's patience and stated it will be an inconvenience. Chairman Culver reported upon completion of the parking lot, the commission needs to get together regarding a picnic table or pavilion for employees for breaks. He pointed out this was discussed in a department head meeting. Mr. Pool stated they could have some problems depending on what they find underground.

Chairman Culver stated he thought when the parking lot is completed it will be nice.

Commissioner Snellgrove reported there had been some grass fires in the rural areas due to the dry weather and he urged everyone to be cautious outside.

Adjourn.

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