

MINUTES OF HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
JULY 9, 2007

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 S. Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, established that a quorum was present, and welcomed everyone. Rev. Robert Register, Pastor, Antioch 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 Snellgrove seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

Announcements and Public Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver asked Senator Harri Anne Smith to come forward and presented her with one of the new county pins with the new logo. He stated it is always a pleasure to have her at one of the meetings, and usually she has good news when she attends. Chairman Culver reported Senator Smith has been diligent over the years of her service in working for and with Houston County in getting funds, getting appointments made, and getting things done for the county. He publicly thanked the senator for all she has done for Houston County. The chairman reported in April, Senator Smith, Mr. Pool, and he went to Montgomery to meet with Director McInnes, and they discussed the replacement and upgrade of the Brannon Stand Road bridge. He stated this item is on the long range plan, and they feel is a critical issue in the county and for the citizens of the county. The chairman reported the commission is asking for help from various sources.

Senator Smith reported it was a pleasure to attend and she bragged on the chairman and commissioners, and Mr. Pool, Engineer. She stated Mr. Pool always knows the exact time of the year to go to Montgomery and ask for funding. Senator Smith reported this year they asked for some turned in federal funding and were surprised to learn that no counties had turned in any. She pointed out just recently, they received a letter notifying the county that state dollars would be given for the Brannon Stand Road project. Senator Smith reported they let the Highway Director know how important the Brannon Stand Road bridge is to the citizens of Houston County, how many accidents have occurred around the area, that it is a safety issue with the school in that area, and how well traveled that road is. At that time, she announced that the state would contribute \$250,000 to that project to help fix and make that bridge safer. She stated she was pleased to announce on behalf of the Highway Director and

the Governor and the State that the state is committing \$250,000 to the project. Senator Smith reported she was proud to be a part of it. Chairman Culver reported the commission was proud that Senator Smith was a part of it and along with that funding they have had discussions with the city, the federal government, and they are also looking at the county's regular funds. The chairman reported the commission feels pretty good about funding that project and making it happen next summer. He pointed out they have been talking about possibly doing a bond issue. He reported he and Mr. Pool have looked at it, but with this help and some other help, they don't feel they would have to put this bridge in the bond issue. The chairman reported the bridge would be paid with funds they have coming in. The chairman thanked Senator Smith again for everything she does for Houston County, and stated the county would not receive these funds without the help of our legislative delegation.

Chairman Culver reported Mr. Pool and his staff have been working over the last month or so on what they think is an exciting project. He stated the commission has been so proud of all of the upgrades and things done down at Chattahoochee Park. At that time, Mr. Pool showed slides of the newly constructed handicapped access fishing dock. Mr. Pool reported the pier was designed in their office and they copied a little of the design from the Conservation Department. He pointed out a pier was built on the Barbour County Lake and his staff changed it around and made it a little bigger. He stated it is 10 feet wide and it opens up a side of the lake that had not been open before. Mr. Pool reported they had \$3,700 in materials on the project, and they had budgeted \$5,000. The chairman reported it looks good and he wanted to let the public know it is available. He pointed out it is on the south side of the dam. Chairman Culver reported the road and bridge staff did a great job and he thought it was good to tie it in since the county has had such success with handicapped hunting. Mr. Pool reported the park is running 58% above revenue from the year before, and the year before was a record year.

Chairman Culver reminded everyone who lives in the City of Dothan in Districts 2, 4, and 6 to vote on July 10<sup>th</sup>. He reported the polls would be open from 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. The chairman requested that the voters check their polling place because it is not the same polling place for county, state, and federal elections. He pointed out it always creates confusion and he stated he wished there was something that could be done to make them all at the same polling place. Chairman Culver reported because of the district lines that would be nearly impossible to do.

#### Regular Agenda

1. Request from Houston County Board of Education to pave a portion of connector from Ashford Elementary School to Ashford Industrial Park Road.

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the request from the Houston County Board of Education to pave a portion of the connector from Ashford Elementary School to the Ashford Industrial Park Road. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. The chairman reported this is per policy and will be paved from the school out to the road, and the board of education will pay for the paving. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Request from Ashford Industrial Development Board to gravel Industrial Park Road to assist in economic development.

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the request from the Ashford Industrial Development Board to gravel Industrial Park Road to assist in an economic development project. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported there is a letter in the packets from Summerford Pallet Company, who has located there, and they have in excess of 20 trucks per day with 25 employees. He pointed out they anticipate a growth and this will benefit them along with other economic development activities that might bring other industries in to locate on that road in advance of the paving being done. The chairman pointed out the grant for the paving continues to be pursued and they hope the money will be in hand by the end of the year for paving that road. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Request from Revenue Commissioner to approve Annual List of Errors, Insolvents, Supplements and Escape Reports.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to grant the request from the Revenue Commissioner to approve the Annual List of Errors, Insolvents, Supplements and Escape Reports. Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion. The chairman stated this is normal and customary. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Request from Maintenance for Commission to authorize payment on contracts for vinyl siding and roof on the residence at Chattahoochee State Park.

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the request from Maintenance for the commission to authorize payment on vinyl siding and authorize the contract and payment on the roofing on the residence at Chattahoochee State Park. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Commissioner Snellgrove stated for the public's information the contract is a total of \$27,000 for both projects.

5. Request to place a portion of Singletary Road from the Florida State Line to Sonny Mixon Road on the District 3 Dirt Road Paving List.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the request to place a portion of Singletary Road from the Florida State Line to Sonny Mixon Road on the District 3 Dirt Road Paving List. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. Commissioner Cook reported they had been working on this for a long time and she hoped it would help the people at Antioch Church and the other people on that road. The commissioner reported she hoped they would get to it soon. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

6. Request to award bid for three (3) grapples.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to award the bid for three grapples to the low bidder meeting specs, Flint Equipment Company, in the amount of \$22,115.34 with a delivery date of August 9, 2007. Commissioner Harvey seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached Bid Summary Sheet in Minute Book)

7. Request to adjust salary for newly certified engineer to \$65,000 per year beginning on the first day of the next payroll.

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the request to adjust the salary for the newly certified engineer to \$65,000 per year beginning on the first day of the next payroll. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported Mr. Pool called around locally and around the state and got averages, and this was a more than fair price to bump the individual up to. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

Reports from Staff:

a. County Administrator

Mr. Roberts reported the sales tax revenues for the month of May increased by 4.7% after a downturn the prior month. The chairman stated he thought that was a good increase for one month. Mr. Roberts pointed out year to date, the county is at 2%.

b. County Engineer

Mr. Pool requested the commissioners look at page 5-A in their monthly report, and their new mileage is located all the way over to the right. He stated it will be added to their existing mileage. Mr. Pool reported the sheet would only be in the report one time. Chairman Culver asked Mr. Pool if they were still working on the number of houses per mile? Mr. Pool reported they would have to go count every house. Chairman Culver reported once the commissioners receive the number of houses per mile, they will be ready to select the new miles.

c. County Attorney – There was no report.

Adjourn.

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