

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
JULY 25, 2005

PRESENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Phillip L. Forrester, Gary Sherrer, Attorney, Mark Pool, Engineer, and Nancy Bristow, Acting Administrator.

ABSENT: Commissioner Bobby Snellgrove and Commissioner Frances Cook.

Chairman Mark Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order. Dr. Hays McKay, Pastor, Covenant United Methodist Church, gave the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Harvey.

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

Announcements.

Chairman Culver reported he had a pretty significant prayer list. He reported Commissioner Snellgrove is still recovering and he hopes to be back at the next meeting. Chairman Culver asked for everyone to keep Mr. Snellgrove in their thoughts and prayers. The chairman reported Commissioner Cook's husband continues to be in the hospital and will need everyone's prayers and support over the coming days and weeks along with Commissioner Cook and her family. Chairman Culver reported the following have been ill or in the hospital: Mayor Chester Sowell, Judge John Steensland, Roy Roberts, who had to be taken to the emergency room while he was out of town last week, Gary Sherrer, our county attorney, and Ms. June Meares in the accounting department. He asked for prayers for these people and stated some of these are extremely serious issues and he wished the best for everyone.

The chairman reported the Special Session of the Alabama Legislature will hopefully end July 26th. He pointed out one of the bills they are addressing in response to the Supreme Court Bill is on eminent domain, and they are going to pass it. Chairman Culver reported he felt the citizens' property rights are not to be taken lightly and the commission would not want to be in a posture of ever wanting to be asked to go and take someone's home in order to build a hotel or something like that. He stated he did not believe this commission or any other commissions or councils in the State of Alabama would do that. He reported the protection that this bill will provide is appropriate. Chairman Culver reported early on they did have concerns about going too far and making it where when the county is out paving roads and working on bridges, they get the adequate right-of-way. He pointed out that has been taken care of in the bill and they have excluded roads. The chairman reported there is some concern on the part of economic development people about including industrial thoughts. He stated the protection from offices, residential developments, commercial, motels, etc., is

appropriate and he commended the legislature for taking prompt action on it at this time.

Chairman Culver reported during the regular legislative session, a bill proposing a 10 mill property tax was presented. He pointed out the bill is of somewhat concern and it was not in the call for the Special Session and has been passed by the Senate. He reported it will be voted on by the House July 26th. The chairman reported Houston County will be affected because we have 8 mills. He pointed out it will be a constitutional amendment to be voted on statewide, and if it passes regardless of what the vote is in your county, all counties that have less than 10 mills would be raised to 10 mills. Chairman Culver reported his concern is that people from all over the state will be making a decision for the people in Houston County. He stated he felt if the citizens of Houston County wanted a constitutional amendment to raise the property taxes then they should be able to vote on it as a stand alone issue rather than in this manner. He reported if it is passed in the House, it will be either on the ballot in November or the June Primary.

ITEM #1. Request to approve loan for the Town of Cottonwood for emergency equipment.

Chairman Culver reported the Town of Cottonwood has gotten a grant to assist them with a generator and some other emergency equipment they desperately need. He stated the amount is \$19,000 and the grant will go through Houston County. Chairman Culver reported he had talked with Mr. Roberts and it is not a problem for the county to fund the purchase of the equipment in order to receive the grant. Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the loan for the Town of Cottonwood for emergency equipment. Commissioner Forrester seconded; and the motion carried.

ITEM #2. Request to take bids for UHF repeater for the Sheriff's Department.

Mr. Clark Matthews, EMA, reported this is through a Homeland Security Grant and will be for the east side of the county. He stated this is a 100% grant but they need approval to take bids for it. Chairman Culver asked if the Sheriff's Department was in charge of the specs and if they would be submitting them to accounting to mail out? Mr. Matthews reported he had the specs ready. The chairman asked Mr. Matthews to get a copy to accounting. He pointed out there is a new policy that the commission wants to see the specs before they are mailed out. Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request to take bids for a UHF repeater for the Sheriff's Department along with the specs. Commissioner Forrester seconded; and the motion carried.

ITEM #3. Liquor License Request – Retail Beer (off premises only) – Frances Nichole Forrester Wilkinson – Kountry Konvenience – 3087 South County Road #59, Dothan, AL.

Commissioner Forrester made a motion to approve the liquor license request for retail beer (off premises only) for Frances Nichole Forrester Wilkinson, Kountry Konvenience, 3087 South County Road #59, Dothan, AL. Commissioner Harvey seconded; and the motion carried.

ITEM #4. Request to award bids for all grades of unleaded gasoline and low sulfur diesel fuel.

Mr. Pool reported they added 4 cents a gallon to the price. He pointed out on the fuel they are set up on where they can add 4.7 cents a gallon to the price. Chairman Culver asked if this is the same addition as the previous bid? Mr. Pool reported it was exactly the same. Commissioner Forrester made a motion to award the bids for all grades of unleaded gasoline and low sulfur diesel fuel to Southwest Georgia Oil, low bidder meeting specs, in the amount of \$.047, for all grades of unleaded gasoline and \$.0475 for low sulfur diesel fuel. Commissioner Harvey seconded; and the motion carried. (Please see attached Bid Summary Sheets in Minute Book)

ITEM #5. Request to award bids for crushed concrete, fiber mesh concrete, crushed limestone, and hot plant mix 416.

Chairman Culver reported these items are all used to build roads and bridges and repair them. Commissioner Forrester made a motion to award the bids for crushed concrete, fiber mesh concrete, crushed limestone, and hot plant mix 416 to the low bidder meeting specs in each category as follows:

Crushed Concrete	Lewis Materials	\$14.00 delivery price	\$10.00 pickup price
Fiber Mesh Concrete	Wiregrass Ready Mix		\$83.50 per yard
Crushed Limestone	Lewis Materials	AHD#5	\$18.25
		AHD #78	\$18.35
		Crusher Run	\$17.75
		Class 1 RR	\$21.25
		Class 11 RR	\$21.25
Hot Plant Mix 416	APAC		\$41.00 per ton

Commissioner Harvey seconded; and the motion carried. (Please see attached Bid Summary Sheets in Minute Book)

ITEM #6. Request to approve the sale of Mack dump trucks.

Mr. Pool reported the guaranteed price from J. M. Wood is excellent and it works out to \$70,230 per truck for the 2001 models. He pointed out the county paid \$81,593 for each of the nine trucks. Mr. Pool reported they cost about \$270.00 per month. Mr. Pool recommended the commission approve the price of \$632,072.00 for nine dump trucks from J. M. Wood Auction. Chairman Culver reported the county takes really good care of their trucks and they bring more

money when they get ready to get rid of them. Chairman Culver stated some counties around the state have made money on the program. Mr. Pool reported Houston County is going to get into making money. He pointed out the trucks are always under warranty and it takes work out of the shop. Mr. Pool reported the shop is operating with 2-3 less mechanics than when he came to work. It was pointed out these trucks have been turned over about every three or four years. Mr. Pool reported the new program he is looking at is every six months. Commissioner Forrester made a motion to approve the sale of nine Mack dump trucks to the high bidder meetings specs, J. M. Wood Auction, in the amount of \$632,072.00. Commissioner Harvey seconded; and the motion carried. (Please see attached Bid Summary Sheet in Minute Book)

ITEM #7. Administrator's Report.

Ms. Bristow, acting Administrator stated there was no report. Chairman Culver reported Mr. Roberts was attending a meeting in Montgomery.

ITEM #8. Engineer's Report.

Mr. Pool reported the bridge on Lamp Brothers Road would be open this week. He stated on the Movie Gallery Project, the cost estimate was originally \$172,000 and they finished the project at \$166,000. Chairman Culver stated that was good that it was under budget.

He requested the commission approve four loads of dirt to the Dothan Botanical Gardens. Commissioner Forrester made a motion to approve the request for four loads of dirt to the Dothan Botanical Gardens. Commissioner Harvey seconded; and the motion carried.

Mr. Pool reported they started the pick-up of limbs from Hurricane Dennis. Chairman Culver asked everyone to have their limbs out to the road no later than July 26th for pickup.

ITEM #9. Adjourn.

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