

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AUGUST 22, 2005

PRESENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Bobby R. Snellgrove, Commissioner Phillip L. Forrester, Gary Sherrer, Attorney, Mark Pool, Engineer, and Roy Roberts, Administrator.

ABSENT: Commissioner Frances M. Cook.

Chairman Mark Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order. Rev. Donald Tew, Pastor, Ebenezer Baptist Church, gave the invocation. Commissioner Forrester led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Announcements.

Chairman Culver asked everyone to keep Commissioner Cook and her family in their prayers as they go through these difficult times. He stated the commission is going to be understanding with her and help her all they can in handling whatever comes up.

He reported he would like to move Item #2 down to the next to the last item on the agenda because the commission needed to go into Executive Session to discuss a settlement. There was no objection from the commission.

ITEM #1. Request from Town of Rehobeth regarding polling place.

The chairman reported the Town of Rehobeth's voting place was the fire and rescue squad building. He pointed out one a tornado came through and demolished that building. He reported on a temporary basis, they got the Justice Department to move the polling place for last November's election to the Town Hall. Chairman Culver reported that he and the Probate Judge had met with the Town of Rehobeth and they have since met and would like to make the Town Hall the permanent voting place. He stated approval of this request would authorize our attorney to take whatever actions are necessary to get that move to take place. Chairman Culver asked Mr. Sherrer if he felt there would be any problems in doing this or if it would be just going through the steps? Mr. Sherrer stated that was correct. Commissioner Snellgrove asked what Commissioner Cook's thoughts were on this? Chairman Culver stated she was in favor of this and he and Mrs. Cook had met with the mayor and council. The chairman also pointed out Judge Cooley was in favor of it. Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the request from the Town of Rehobeth to make the Town Hall the permanent voting place. Commissioner Harvey seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

ITEM #3. Request from Houston County Water Authority to approve master plan for a countywide water system.

Chairman Culver reported he and Commissioner Snellgrove met with the water authority about a month ago. He stated one of the things they talked about was to work toward a countywide water system. Chairman Culver pointed out there are very few counties in the state that do not have countywide water systems. He stated Houston County is progressive and has decent revenue figures for funding and he felt it was something the county should work toward. The chairman stated that they asked the water authority to obtain information from PolyEngineering on doing a study of going out and talking to all the water systems out there, finding out where all the water lines are, finding out what their plans for expansion might be, and develop a master plan to guide us and the other systems through the next 5-10 years. He stated he would like to see a concerted effort made over the next 5-10 years to establish the countywide water system. The chairman reported the proposal in the package is the response from PolyEngineering. He stated in order to do that it would involve going out and meeting with each water system. Chairman Culver reported he hoped the county could do some partnering with some of the water systems out there. The chairman stated he did not know if the commission wanted to approve it pending some funding from other water systems or approve it anticipating funding from the other systems. He reported he was hoping the other systems would see the benefit in a master plan because they would all receive benefits when all of the water lines are connected. Commissioner Forrester asked how many systems were in Houston County? Commissioner Harvey stated there were approximately 10. Commissioner Snellgrove stated getting water throughout the county is probably as big an infrastructure as getting a road paved or constructing bridge. He pointed out more and more people are moving out into the rural areas and they are concerned as to when there will be water throughout the entire county. Mr. Snellgrove stated the volunteer fire departments come into play also on the water system. He reported it is a step in the right direction for the commission and also the water authority. Mr. Snellgrove reported this will be a costly project but our county is behind other counties in the state by not already having a countywide system in place. Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the master plan for a countywide water system with a maximum of \$22,412.00. Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion. Commissioner Forrester stated he assumed the water systems were a positive revenue source for the municipalities that have them. It was pointed out some municipalities have been more aggressive than others. Chairman Culver stated that most of them are a positive revenue source and that is why we have the current system. He pointed out those areas that are not served are the ones where there is a significant distance in between homes and the justification of running the line is not there. The chairman reported that is why if the county decides to go on the 10 year program it will take some capital invested in order to make it work because there will not be a return like when you pave a road. He pointed out if water lines are run in areas that might have two miles between houses, there is a

distinct possibility that there will be some development in the area between the houses. Commissioner Forrester stated his concern would be that the municipalities would have to ascertain whether or not they could afford to lose the revenue stream they have or maybe in the settlement of the compromise or the plan that can be approached by some method. Chairman Culver stated that was correct and he thought the county would have to assess that as they go along based on benefit also. Chairman Culver asked if the commission would object if he asked the water systems to contribute \$1,000 each toward the study because they would see benefit. Commissioner Harvey stated if they did, it would cut the cost in half. Commissioner Snellgrove stated he did not have a problem with asking. The chairman called for the question; and it carried unanimously. Chairman Culver stated he was assuming the motion included the appropriate budget amendment. He then stated they would probably not get started until the new budget year and it probably needed to be put in next year's budget. Commissioner Harvey asked about how much it would cost long term? The chairman stated he did not have an exact idea but once the study is done he thought they would have it. He reported it would cost several million dollars.

ITEM #4. Request from Dothan Botanical Gardens for three truckloads of topsoil for the Wedding Garden.

Chairman Culver reported the county took them some dirt in July and they are trying to complete the garden. Chairman Culver stated Mr. Pool says he does not have a lot of dirt, and he needed the commission to make a determination on the request. Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request from Dothan Botanical Gardens for three loads of topsoil for the Wedding Garden. Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion. Commissioner Snellgrove asked Mr. Pool if he knew where the City of Dothan gets their topsoil? Mr. Pool stated they have a lot of land east of Dothan. Commissioner Snellgrove suggested that the mayor be contacted to see if they would supply the dirt if the county picked it up. Chairman Culver stated he would get with Mr. Pool and see if they can get it done. The chairman stated the county has been working quite a bit with the city lately and they are working closely together. The chairman called for the question; and it carried unanimously.

ITEM #5. Liquor License Request – Retail Liquor License, Class 1 – Outlaws, LLC, d/b/a Outlaws, 14805 Highway 84 West, Wicksburg (rural Houston County).

Commissioner Forrester made a motion to approve the request for a Retail Liquor License, Class 1 – Outlaws, LLC, d/b/a, 14805 Highway 84 West, Wicksburg (rural Houston County). Commissioner Snellgrove seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

ITEM #6. Request to renew elevator maintenance contract under the same terms for an additional year.

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the request to renew the elevator maintenance contract under the same terms for an additional year. Commissioner Harvey seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

ITEM #7. Request to adopt policy regarding county surplus sales.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to adopt the policy regarding county surplus sales. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion; and the motion carried unanimously. Chairman Culver asked Mr. Roberts to send the policy out to all of the department heads. (Please see in Policy Manual)

ITEM #8. Request to award bid on repeater for Sheriff's Department.

Chairman Culver reported the bid openings on this item are scheduled for August 23rd. The grant that is paying for this has to be finalized about the same time as the next meeting, and there will not be time to award it at the next meeting. The chairman stated someone needed to be authorized to award the bid on behalf of the commission. Mr. Pool stated someone has to have time to review the specs. Chairman Culver recommended that the administrator or the chairman be authorized to award the bid on behalf of the commission. Chairman Culver stated it could be done when they get back from the ACCA annual meeting. Commissioner Forrester made a motion to authorize the county administrator to award the bid on the repeater for the Sheriff's Department. Commissioner Harvey seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

ITEM #9. Request to take bids for hurricane clean-up.

Mr. Pool reported this is a pre-bid in case there is a major hurricane. He stated he hoped this would prevent any bad hurricanes. Chairman Culver reported several counties around the state have taken bids in advance on hurricane clean-up and it would be an annual bid every year. He stated it might be a bid the county would never have to use but some cleanup company would be in place in case of a disastrous hurricane. He reported it is a preparedness thing. Mr. Pool reported FEMA and the Federal Highway Administration will accept any kind of bid you have that you let before something hits. He pointed out they have some information in their asphalt bid to cover a flood. Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the request to take bids on hurricane cleanup. Commissioner Forrester seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

ITEM #10. Administrator's Report.

Mr. Roberts reported a request has been made to the Department of Agriculture for some agricultural promotional funds to be used in Houston County. He stated if the county receives any funding, he would need the commission's approval to serve as the pass through for these funds. Mr. Roberts stated this is an annual

request and the commission has done this in the past. Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the request to serve as the pass through for funding for the promotion of agriculture at the Ag Museum. Commissioner Harvey seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached budget amendment in Minute Book)

Mr. Roberts reported the budget hearings would be August 29th and 30th, and the schedules would be coming out this week. Mr. Roberts stated the budget is going to be a labor of responsibility. Chairman Culver stated when gas prices continue to rise and insurance costs have done what they have done and you get requests for 30 new people it creates quite a job for the commission to balance all of it.

ITEM #11. Engineer's Report.

Mr. Pool reported they found a man's gold wedding band at Chattahoochee State Park. He stated that he had mentioned it in the past and no one has come forward to claim it. He pointed out it is a gold band and he reported part of the inscription on the inside of the ring reads "Todd and Kristi." Mr. Pool reported if someone does not claim it soon, he is going to sell it on GovDeals.com.

Commissioner Forrester made a motion to go into Executive Session at 10:30 A.M. to discuss the Houston County Water Authority's request to participate in a settlement. Chairman Culver stated the members of the commission, Attorney Sherrer and Mr. Pool would be the persons participating. Commissioner Harvey seconded; and the motion carried unanimously

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to reconvene the meeting at 10:45 A.M. Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion.

ITEM #2. Request from Houston County Water Authority to participate in settlement.

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to table the request until further notice. Commissioner Harvey seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

ITEM #12. Adjourn.

Commissioner Forrester made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Harvey and carried unanimously.