

MINUTES OF HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
SEPTEMBER 10, 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, 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. Percy Garrett, Pastor, Greenvally Community Church, gave the invocation. Commissioner Curtis 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 and Public Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver reported the Southeast Alabama Medical Center held a Re-Dedication Ceremony on September 9<sup>th</sup>, and he congratulated them on 50 years of success.

The chairman reported the county had gotten approval to do some dredging over at Chattahoochee Park and the water level is down due to the dredging.

Chairman Culver reported Thursday's administrative meeting was the last day Mrs. Peggy Ussery, the Dothan Eagle, would cover the county. He stated she had been doing a great job covering the commission for the last 10 years. He reported he wanted to publicly express the commission's appreciation to her. Chairman Culver welcomed back Ms. Debbie Ingram who will be covering the county. He stated he looked forward to a very positive relationship.

#### Awards and Presentations

1. Proclamation – "National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month" – Mr. Webb Reyner, Supervisor, SpectraCare/Prevention Program

Commissioner Forrester made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring September as "National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month." Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver asked Mr. Webb Reyner, Supervisor, SpectraCare/Prevention Program to come forward and presented him with the Proclamation. Mr. Reyner thanked Chairman Culver and the commission for their support. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Proclamation – “National Rehabilitation Week” – Ms. Margaret Futch, Administrator, HealthSouth, Mr. Will Craig, Director of Marketing Operations, Ms. Teresa Hutcheson, Ms. Erin Owens, and Ms. Donna Leverett, Rehab Liaisons

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring September as “National Rehabilitation Week.” Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported Ms. Margaret Futch was unable to attend. He asked Mr. Will Craig, Director of Marketing Operations, and Ms. Teresa Hutcheson, Ms. Erin Owens, and Ms. Donna Leverett, Rehab Liaisons, to come forward and presented the Proclamation. Mr. Craig thanked Chairman Culver and the commission for their support. The chairman called for the question and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Proclamation – “Family Day” – Mrs. Susan Trawick, Executive Director, Dothan-Houston County Substance Abuse Partnership, Ms. Beth Ford, Youth Council Coordinator, Ms. Amanda Haynes – Youth Council President

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring September 24<sup>th</sup> as “Family Day.” Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. Chairman Culver asked Mrs. Susan Trawick, Executive Director, Dothan-Houston County Substance Abuse Partnership, Ms. Beth Ford, Youth Council Coordinator, and Ms. Amanda Haynes, Youth Council President, to come forward and presented the Proclamation. Mrs. Trawick thanked Chairman Culver and the commission for the Proclamation and their support. All three ladies stressed the importance of the family taking the time to sit down and eat a meal together and talk. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

#### Consent Agenda

1. Re-appointments to Houston County Department of Human Resources – Mr. Wallace Smith and Mr. Tommy Long.
2. Request from EMA to take bids on three laptop computers.
3. Request from EMA to take bids on night vision goggles for Region 2 – 100% reimbursable grant.
4. Request to award bids for stone, concrete, and asphalt.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the consent agenda to include the re-appointment of Mr. Wallace Smith and Mr. Tommy Long to the Houston County Department of Human Resources, taking bids on three laptop computers

for EMA, taking bids on night vision goggles for Region 2 through a 100% reimbursable grant, and to award bids for stone to Lewis Materials, low bidder meeting specs in each category, to award the bid for concrete to BHC Concrete, low bidder meeting specs, in the amount of \$92.00 per yard, and to award the bid for hot plant mix to APAC, low bidder meeting specs, at a price of \$46.00 per ton, 8 miles round trip, or \$322.00 for 7 tons per trip, with a total bid price of \$336.48. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. (Please see Bid Summary Sheets in Minute Book)

## Regular Agenda

1. Request to adopt Resolution appointing members of the Houston County HealthCare Authority.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to adopt the Resolution appointing members to the Houston County Health Care Authority. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported at this time every two years, each district commissioner appoints one person to serve a six year term on the HealthCare Authority. The chairman reported the following members would be appointed and re-appointed: District 1: Ms. Joan Dixon, District 2: Mr. John McDaniel, District 3: Dr. Roddy Cook, and District 4: Mr. Bob Theune. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

2. Request to adopt 2007-'08 Budget.

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to adopt the 2007-'08 budget. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion.

Mr. Roberts expressed his thanks and appreciation to the commission and to the department heads for the dedication they show in the preparation of the budget for the citizens of Houston County. He stated the public should be proud of the leadership in making and putting together a financially sound budget and doing it without any requests for new sources of revenue. Mr. Roberts pointed out he had been with the county for almost 12 years and he did not remember any new taxes that were imposed. He reported there had been some fees in that timeframe but no request for an increase in the tax base. Mr. Roberts thanked Ms. Nancy Bristow and Mrs. Joan Clark for their work in the preparation of the budget.

Mr. Roberts reported Houston County continues to be in sound financial shape. He stated the county is probably ending the best year in its history. He reported the General Fund is projected to begin FY2007-'08 at \$6,770,000 and total funds are projected to begin the year at \$9,639,000. Mr. Roberts also reported the county will enter the fiscal year with the largest carryover ever, \$9.6 million, which was originally projected to be \$6.2 million. Mr. Roberts then reviewed the

highlights of the 2007-'08 budget, with projected expenditures of \$39.3 million, which is an increase of 11 percent over last year's budget.

Chairman Culver thanked Mr. Roberts and the commission for meeting and putting the budget together. The chairman stated the commission appreciated the professionalism Mr. Roberts has brought to the budget process over the years. Chairman Culver also thanked the department heads for the outstanding job they do. The chairman stated one thing that was not mentioned is that the juvenile services cost in the budget is down \$147,000. He stated he felt the meetings with the judges and other people have helped, and he appreciated the judges working on it. The chairman stated it was pointed out there will be three elections in this budget and he stated he wanted to try to clear up any confusion. He pointed out there will be a Presidential Primary in February, regular June Primary and the runoff in June. He stated those three do not count the November election. Chairman Culver reported the county will be re-imubursed for those elections. The chairman reported there is a significant fund balance increase, and he did not want citizens to get the idea the county is flush with money. He stated the county's long range plan includes some significant projects that the commission is committed to that will require some of the fund balance to be used. Chairman Culver reported the water project that the county will be trying to implement over the next 10-15 years will include some opportunities the commission will be working on this year. The Brannon Stand Bridge project along with several intersection and road improvement projects that are not line item funded in this budget but will be drawn out of that reserve. He stated they think it will be good after the costs of the projects are taken out. Chairman Culver reported Mr. Roberts and his staff, the commission, and the department heads are to be commended for the job they have done in establishing the county's budget over the years. He stated he felt it says a lot about the county in general and where the county's financial condition is. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see Commission Budget Review attached in Minute Book)

3. Request from Probate Judge to approve budget amendment to transfer monies in the amount of \$1,638.00 for two five drawer lateral file cabinets.

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the request from the Probate Judge for a budget amendment to transfer monies in the amount of \$1,638.00 for two five drawer lateral file cabinets. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. The chairman reported the money is in the budget but it will be transferred from one account to another, and because it is capital, it is the policy of the commission to approve the request. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see budget amendment in Minute Book)

4. Request to approve budget amendment in the amount of \$5,060.00 for advertising the position of Chief Administrative Officer.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the budget amendment in the amount of \$5,060.00 for advertising the position of Chief Administrative Officer. Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion. The chairman reported this advertising is to hire Mr. Roberts' replacement. He stated he had already received some resumes and the process will close on September 30<sup>th</sup>. The chairman pointed out the commission will begin their portion of it which will include analyzing, interviewing and selecting, and they will be moving forward with that. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see budget amendment in Minute Book)

5. Request from the Town of Columbia for assistance with site preparation work for the new volunteer fire station and senior citizens' multi service center.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request from the Town of Columbia for assistance with site preparation work for the new volunteer fire station and senior citizens' multi service center. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this is another opportunity for the commission to support the volunteer firefighters and senior citizens as they have done in the past. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

6. Request to approve 2008 resurfacing project.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the 2008 resurfacing project. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. The chairman stated the commission was glad to get this project moving forward. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached list of roads in Minute Book)

7. Request to accept right-of-way deeds for Christmas Road, Sherman Brunson Road, Davis Cherry Road, Dawsey Road, and Rabon Road.

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to accept right-of-way deeds for Christmas Road, Sherman Brunson Road, Davis Cherry Road, Dawsey Road and Rabon Road. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported these are all dirt roads that are on the dirt road paving list that hopefully will be paved shortly. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached list in Minute Book)

8. Request to approve contract for roof at Road and Bridge Department.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the request to approve the contract at the Road and Bridge Department. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

Staff Reports:

- a. Chief Administrative Officer – there was no report.
- b. County Engineer

Chairman Culver reported Mr. Pool had been called to court and had to leave. Acting Engineer Justin Barfield stated there was no report.

- c. County Attorney – there was no report.

Adjourn.

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