

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 14, 2009

PRESENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver, Commissioner Bobby R. Snellgrove, Commissioner Frances M. Cook, Gary Sherrer, Attorney, Barkley Kirkland, Acting Engineer, and William J. Dempsey, Chief Administrative Officer

ABSENT: Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Phillip L. Forrester, Mark Pool, Engineer

Chairman Mark Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, established that a quorum was present, and welcomed everyone. Pastor Jeff Greiner of the Church of the Nations gave the invocation. Commissioner Cook led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Cook 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

There were none.

Awards and Presentations

1. Proclamation – “Hunger Action Month” – David Hanks, Executive Director, Wiregrass Area United Way Food Bank

Chairman Culver asked Mr. David Hanks, Executive Director, Wiregrass Area United Way Food Bank, and Commissioner Cook, who serves on the Food Bank Board, to come forward. Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the Proclamation as prepared. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. The chairman then read the Proclamation declaring September as “Hunger Action Month” in Houston County, and presented it to Mr. Hanks. Chairman Culver stated on behalf of the commission and the citizens of Houston County, how much everyone appreciates the tremendous work the food bank does and the growth they have experienced.

Mr. Hanks reported this is an awareness time for the food bank and he stated they were in an economic disaster situation with the state of the economy, the loss of jobs and the challenges everyone is making. He stated the food bank has always benefited from the support of the Houston County Commission and in these times they are experiencing, the support could not be more important because they are in a position to make a difference with these people that are struggling. Mr. Hanks reported they would probably have a record distribution this year with 3 million pounds. He pointed out previously it has been 2.6 million pounds. Mr. Hanks reported there would be 2.3 million meals distributed throughout the five county Wiregrass area. Mr. Hanks stated the Houston County Commission’s consistent support makes all the difference in the world and he thanked the commission and the citizens of Houston County.

Commissioner Cook reported serving on the Wiregrass Area United Way Food Bank Board made her realize what they do and it is so vital to the people they assist during these devastating economic times everyone is experiencing. Commissioner Cook stated she appreciated the great job Mr. Hanks does and that it was an honor to serve on the board.

Consent Agenda

1. Appointment to Houston-Love Memorial Library Board – Edna McLoyd
2. Appointment to Houston County Port Authority – James Green.
3. Request to approve Annual Debris Removal Contract for an additional year with BAMACO, Inc.
4. Request to extend thermoplastic materials contract for three months.

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda to include the re-appointment of Edna McLoyd to the Houston-Love Memorial Library Board, the re-appointment of James Green to the Houston County Port Authority, to approve the Annual Debris Removal Contract for an additional year with BAMACO, Inc., and to extend the thermoplastic materials contract for three months with Ennis Paint. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. (Please see attached sheets in Minute Book)

Regular Agenda

1. Request to approve 2009-2010 Budget.

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the 2009-2010 Budget. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported the budget has been covered in detail over the last two weeks with the work session and Thursday's administrative meeting. He stated they were not going to go back over it. The chairman called for any questions or comments concerning the budget. There being none, the chairman called for the question; and it carried unanimously.

2. Request to approve budget amendment for payment to Donofro & Associates for work done on Houston County project.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the budget amendment for payment to Donofro & Associates for work done on a Houston County project. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported they had hoped to be working on this project but it has been delayed until some unknown time in the future. He pointed out this payment is for services that have already been provided to the county, and were going to have to be provided anyway. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached budget amendment in Minute Book)

3. Request for Lounge Retail Liquor License – Class 1 – Jamie C. Clark d/b/a Crazy Horse Bar & Grill, LLC, 14805 Highway #84 West, Wicksburg (Houston County) Alabama.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the request for a Lounge Retail Liquor License – Class 1 for Jamie C. Clark d/b/a Crazy Horse Bar & Grill, LLC, 14805 Highway #84 West, Wicksburg (Houston County) Alabama. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. The chairman asked if anyone was present in opposition to the request? There being none, he called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Request from Road & Bridge to approve budget amendment to transfer funds for the purchase of a loader.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the request from Road & Bridge for a budget amendment to transfer funds for the purchase of a loader. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported they have been looking for this piece of equipment for a while and this loader has been located from the state salvage yard. He pointed out the county will turn around and sell an old one for about 70% of the cost of this one. Chairman Culver reported it will be a pretty good deal for the county. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached budget amendment in Minute Book)

5. Request to award bids on cement mortar flowable backfill, unleaded gasoline, low sulfur diesel fuel, seed, MC70 prime, crushed limestone, bag cement, fertilizer and hot plant mix 416.

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to award bids on cement mortar flowable backfill, unleaded gasoline, low sulfur diesel fuel, seed, MC70 prime, crushed limestone, bag cement, fertilizer and hot plant mix 416 to the low bidder meeting specs. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported there were a couple of questions on Thursday. He stated there was a tie in a couple of instances for low bids, and that is not an unusual circumstance. The chairman pointed out in the past, the county has bought quantities from both entities that were low bidders. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached Bid Summary sheets in Minute Book)

6. Request from EMA to approve Code Red Agreement.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to grant EMA's request to approve the Code Red Agreement. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported Mr. Matthews mentioned this at the E-911 Advisory Board meeting and there appeared to be an air of excitement about having the program in place as opposed to what the county has been doing. He stated based on the comments he heard, Mr. Matthews has been working diligently on this for awhile and there was some appreciation there and certainly with the commission for getting it to this point. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached agreement in Minute Book)

7. Request from EMA to approve Emergency Operation Plan and authorize minor changes.

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to grant EMA's request to approve the Emergency Operation Plan and authorize minor changes. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this is something the commission has to do. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer – There was no report

County Engineer – Acting Engineer Barkley Kirkland stated he had no report.

County Attorney – There was no report

Chairman Culver reported since Thursday, Mr. Pool's demonstration and discussion of the county's issues got some attention with FEMA. He stated he understood FEMA is making some changes in some ways they have worked with the county and some of their personnel, they are reevaluating some things and he thanked Congressman Bobby Bright's Washington office for their assistance. Chairman Culver reported it appears the county is getting some movement on the issues, but the bottom line will be the amount of money the county receives. Chairman Culver reported the perception of cooperative spirit has come down from the top and the county is moving forward in a more positive manner.

Chairman Culver asked Mr. Kirkland to comment on the Ardilla intersection? He reported they have turned traffic on a temporary detour on the south side of the intersection. Mr. Kirkland stated they had started clearing on that leg and the work would be going on for the next 4-5 months.

Adjourn.

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