

MINUTES OF HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
OCTOBER 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, Chief Administrative Officer

ABSENT: None

Chairman Mark S. Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, established that a quorum was present and welcomed everyone. Commissioner Curtis Harvey gave the invocation. Commissioner Frances 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.

Chairman Culver stated it was the Commission's pleasure to have Mr. Jim Walker, Director of the Alabama State Homeland Security, present. He stated he appreciated the job Mr. Walker does for our state and nation. The chairman thanked him for taking the time to come by the commission meeting while he was in town. Chairman Culver then called on Mr. Walker for comments.

Mr. Walker stated he appreciated the opportunity to be at the commission meeting. He pointed out there are 7 Homeland Security regions in the state and Houston County is in Region 2 which is comprised of 10 counties in the Wiregrass region. He stated they would be meeting with each of the Homeland Security points of contact for each county. He congratulated Sheriff Andy Hughes and Mr. Clark Matthews, EMA Director, for the manner in which they have maintained all of the specialized equipment. Mr. Walker then stated additional equipment including hi-tech devices as well as cell phone repeater towers would be coming soon. Chairman Culver reported Homeland Security had made people think regionally and that was important for Houston County because of its location. He pointed out we draw from Florida and Georgia as well. Mr. Walker stated Houston County had led the way to help partner with Georgia and Florida to share assets and resources. Mr. Walker pointed out every county in Alabama has signed a Mutual Aid Agreement which allows every county to have access to whatever equipment they might need that has been put around the state of Alabama. Chairman Culver reported Houston County is also a certified NIMS trained commission. Mr. Walker thanked the commission for the opportunity to attend the meeting.

Announcements and Public Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver reported the Sheriff had requested that Item #9 be tabled until some additional information could be obtained. He stated he would entertain a motion when it came up on the agenda.

Regular Agenda

1. Appointment to Houston County Health Care Authority.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to appoint Ms. Mary Mayo to the Houston County Health Care Authority. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this appointment is standing on its own because the person previously appointed could not serve because of some health issues with a loved one. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Request to reject bids on night vision goggles and re-bid.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to reject the bids on night vision goggles and re-bid. Commissioner Cook seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Request from Wiregrass Rehabilitation Center for site work and preparation for new building, and appropriation of \$100,000.00.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request from the Wiregrass Rehabilitation Center for site work preparation for the new building and an appropriation in the amount of \$100,000.00 for the new building with the appropriate budget amendment. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this was discussed at length on Thursday and talked about the 100 new jobs they would be creating for those that otherwise would not have jobs, and the partnership that has been put together with the city and the state. Commissioner Cook thanked Dr. Jack Sasser and his staff for the excellent job they do. The commissioner stated in listening to the two young men who spoke on Thursday confirmed the importance of this organization in this community. Chairman Culver encouraged members of the media who have not been out there to go and take a tour in order to see what they do and to see how the needs are being met. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached budget amendment)

4. Request to approve consulting agreement for Houston County Water Lab.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the consulting agreement for the Houston County Water Lab. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. The chairman reported this is a change in the person providing this contract and will be at a lower rate. He pointed out it will also give the county some ability for

pack up personnel that the department did not have previously. Chairman Culver reported the gentleman the county is contracting with now is the one that brought it to the commission's attention in the first place that the county should take over the water lab to keep it from being lost to Montgomery. Chairman Culver called for the motion; and it carried unanimously.

5. Request from EMA to approve Citizens Core Group grant in the amount of \$15,000.00.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the request from EMA for a Citizens Core Group grant in the amount of \$15,000.00. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported Mr. Mathews had to leave with Mr. Walker but he had explained on Thursday this is something that is being done all over the state. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

6. Request from EMA to approve grant for specialized equipment in the amount of \$54,375.00 for the Houston County Sheriff's Department and Dothan Fire Department. (100% grant)

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request from EMA for a grant for specialized equipment in the amount of \$54,375.00 for the Houston County Sheriff's Department and Dothan Fire Department. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this is a 100% grant and the county will act as a pass through. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

7. Request to bid on asphalt zipper on GovDeals not to exceed \$50,000.00.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the request to bid on an asphalt zipper on GovDeals not to exceed \$50,000.00. Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

8. Request to construct new bridge over Beaver Creek on Brannon Stand Road. Cost estimate for bridge - \$1,300,000.00.

Commissioner Forrester made a motion to approve the request to construct a new bridge over Beaver Creek on Brannon Stand Road. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported the informational meeting on October 8th, went well and the people who were there had a really good discussion about the bridge. He stated everyone who was there was very positive about the bridge and detour. The chairman stated he appreciated all of the people who attended the meeting. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

9. Request to upgrade access doors at Courthouse for security purposes.

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to table this item. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. Chairman Culver reported the reason it was tabled is because they are trying to get some additional information.

10. Request to replace floor selector system in elevator at the Sheriff's Department.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to replace the floor selector system in the elevator at the Sheriff's Department. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. Commissioner Snellgrove stated he thought he understood that the funds for this would be coming out of the Maintenance Department's budget. Mr. Roberts reported the maintenance for the Sheriff's Department and the Jail is budgeted in the Maintenance Department. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

Reports from Staff:

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