

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
OCTOBER 13, 2009

PRESENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Bobby R. Snellgrove, Commissioner Frances M. Cook, Commissioner Phillip L. Forrester, Gary Sherrer, Attorney, Myer Holloway, Acting Engineer, and William J. Dempsey, Chief Administrative Officer

ABSENT: Mark Pool, Engineer

Chairman Mark S. Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, established that a quorum was present, and welcomed everyone. Rev. Ronnie Smith, Pastor, Pathway Baptist Church, gave the invocation. Commissioner Bobby Snellgrove led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

#### Announcements and Public Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver thanked everyone for recognizing that October 12<sup>th</sup> was a state, federal, and county holiday and stated hopefully no one showed up for services from the county. He reported the county takes all of the holidays that the state does, and the next one will be Veterans Day on November 11<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Cook reported on October 10<sup>th</sup>, she had the privilege of going to the Southern Showcase Band Competition, and was present for the awards. She stated Rehobeth won the Best Band, Best Drum Major, and Best Color Guard in 1-A. Commissioner Cook pointed out Cottonwood won the Best in Class 1-A for their Dance Line. She reported Houston County High School and Wicksburg both received all 1's. Commissioner Cook reported Rehobeth's band scores were the third highest overall when they competed with the 1's, 2's and 4-A's. She stated the color Guard had the highest scores of all 1's, 2's, and 4-A's, and she stated she was really proud of the county schools, and particularly Rehobeth, which is in her district. The commissioner pointed out her granddaughter is in the Color Guard at Rehobeth.

Chairman Culver congratulated all of the bands on receiving the awards, particularly at this time when funding is so difficult for schools.

Commissioner Cook reported Troy University's Band was there and it was the highlight of the evening. She stated it was awesome when they came out on the field, and she thought they have the best band ever.

#### Awards and Presentations

1. Proclamation – "Pro Bono Week" – Hamp Baxley, Bar Commissioner, 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit

Chairman Culver asked Mr. Hamp Baxley, Bar Commissioner, 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, to come forward. Commissioner Forrester made a motion to approve the Proclamation. Commissioner Cook seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. Chairman Culver then read the Proclamation declaring October 25<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>, as "Pro Bono Week" In Houston County, and presented it to Mr. Baxley.

Chairman Culver stated the county does appreciate the legal community because they are closely tied with them having to provide the courthouse and the court facilities. He pointed out they appreciate the good things the great majority of the lawyers in the community do. Mr. Baxley reported the Alabama State Bar would have an event somewhere in every judicial circuit of Alabama and he felt it was a great step forward. He pointed out each year, they sponsor the "Wills for Heroes" Clinic, and it has been well received by the service members, police, firefighters, and emergency responders. He stated they plan to do that again in the near future to bring free legal assistance to those who need it the most.

#### Regular Agenda

1. Request from Troy University – Dothan for in-kind work – Dr. Don Jeffrey, Vice Chancellor, Dothan Campus, Mrs. Gayla White, and Mr. Scot Craig.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the request from Troy University Dothan for in-kind work on a road project on their campus. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported he thought because the project is so far out and because of the different entities involved in the different pieces of the project it is still sort of influx. He stated he felt the county's commitment to do the project would help to move the project forward. The chairman stated it was also his belief that what the county was committing to is the project. He pointed out he had talked with Mr. Pool and to some of the Troy reps and he felt there needed to be a meeting with those involved in the project to work out the specific details which should come back and be approved at a later time. The chairman stated in this meeting, the county was committing to the project, moving the project forward for the benefit of the campus, the students, and everyone out there. He pointed out there was a water project going on, a road project, and the big project had some details to be worked out. He stated he felt all of that would be done before work actually starts, and he wanted to be sure they understood that. Chairman Culver reported on Thursday, it was stated it may be a year or more before the county gets to the project. Commissioner Snellgrove asked if he understood that once the details were worked out it would come back before the commission? The chairman stated he did not think they had a choice because they were not approving any money at that time, only committing to the project, and he did not think the county knew exactly what the costs would be. He stated he felt once the details were worked out, they would have to come back and approve what the county's actual participation will be. He reported he thought the engineers need to look at the site of the intersection, possibly some lighting on Brannon Stand, and several other things. Mr. Culver stated he had received a couple of calls of concern about the site of the intersection. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Request from Revenue Commissioner to approve budget amendment to advance Appraiser Trainee to next level of training - \$3,619.55.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to grant the request from the Revenue Commissioner to approve the budget amendment in the amount of \$3,619.55 to advance an Appraiser Trainee to the next level of training. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this was not new money; just moving one line item to another line item but because it involves labor, the policy states the

commission has to approve it. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached budget amendment in Minute Book)

3. Request to approve expenditure of 2008 Bond Funds in the amount up to \$500,000 for intersection improvements and paving, and \$240,000 for dirt road and resurfacing project.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to grant the request to approve the expenditure of 2008 Bond Funds in the amount up to \$500,000 for intersection improvements and paving, and \$240,000 for dirt road resurfacing project. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported as discussed on Thursday, the funds are there because the projects that were originally in the bond issue came in under budget. He stated bond money has to be used on capital projects, and the commission is doing that. He stated they were also doing some much needed dirt road resurfacing. Commissioner Snellgrove asked about the time frame for spending the bond money. It was reported the commission has until February, 2011. The chairman stated they would make sure the money is spent before the deadline. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer – there was no report

County Engineer – there was no report

County Attorney – there was no report

Chairman Culver reported Mr. Pool was attending a meeting in Montgomery concerning one of the county's bridge projects, and Mr. Barkley Kirkland was meeting with FEMA. He thanked Mr. Myer Holloway for attending.

Adjourn.

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