

MINUTES OF HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
OCTOBER 23, 2006

PRESENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Bobby R. Snellgrove, Commissioner Phillip Forrester, Gary Sherrer, Attorney, Mark Pool, Engineer, Roy Roberts, Administrator, and Sam Prim, Farm City Week Swap Representative

ABSENT: Commissioner Frances M. Cook

Chairman Mark Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, established that a quorum was present and welcomed everyone. The Reverend Craig Gavin, Rector, The Episcopal Church of the Nativity, gave the invocation. Commissioner Harvey led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Announcements and Public Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver reported Governor Bob Riley would be at Oncology Supply shortly after 11:00 A.M. He stated he would be recognizing them for their new investment, a new state of the art distribution center, which will be adding jobs to our area. He urged anyone who might be interested to attend.

Commissioner Harvey reported about two weeks ago, as part of the Farm City Week Swap, he was out at the Prim Farm helping Mr. Prim to pick peanuts. He pointed out today Mr. Prim is here to attend the commission meeting and see what he does, and then spend the remainder of the day going with him to various activities.

Commissioner Harvey then asked Mr. Prim to brief the commission on their activities at his farm. Mr. Prim stated he let Commissioner Harvey drive the tractor and pick a few peanuts. Mr. Prim stated although he is a part time farmer, which is more the norm in the agriculture community today, he wanted the commission to know how much he appreciates them and all of the elected officials. He reported he felt our area has pretty good support for agriculture through the county commission, city commission, and the state representatives. Mr. Prim stated he enjoyed talking with Mr. Harvey about the county commission and attending the meeting in an effort to learn more. He stated he appreciated the commission allowing him the opportunity to swap with Commissioner Harvey.

Chairman Culver reported the Farm City Week Banquet will be in November and he and Mr. Prim will be discussing the swap. Chairman Culver thanked Mr. Prim and Commissioner Harvey for their participation.

Chairman Culver recognized and congratulated Mrs. Peggy Ussery Hatcher, who was recently married, and stated he was glad to have her back.

Awards and Presentations

1. Presentation from ACCA – Sonny Brasfield, Assistant Executive Director

Chairman Culver asked Mr. Sonny Brasfield, Assistant Executive Director of the Association of County Commissions of Alabama to come forward and bring his guest. At that time, Mr. Brasfield stated it was a pleasure to be in Houston County. He then reported in the 2004 election cycle, county commissions and the local taxpayers spent approximately \$1.4 million publishing the voters list in newspapers around the state. He pointed out that is an amazing expenditure of revenue and it is important that the registered voters and members of the public be notified where they vote. Mr. Brasfield reported he began to work on an idea and Representative Joe Carothers began to assist them with a way to continue to notify the public about where they vote but to save revenue in the process. He pointed out a bill was passed in the 2006 Legislative Session and cleared by the U.S. Justice Department, so it is active today that allows for a voting list to still be published in the newspaper at a national advertising rate that should cut expenditures by approximately 50% when the election process is over. Mr. Brasfield reported it is a significant savings. He reported Representative Carothers was the sponsor in the House and he has helped ACCA to sponsor a number of things over the years. Mr. Brasfield pointed out there is no one in Montgomery any busier than Joe Carothers, and he has been extremely productive for the ACCA in representing county government. He stated if the ACCA had a better friend he did not know who it is. Mr. Brasfield stated ACCA appreciated Mr. Carothers and then presented him with a plaque in appreciation for his sponsorship of Act 2006-537.

Representative Carothers thanked Mr. Brasfield and stated it was a pleasure for him to represent not only the people of District 86 but all of Houston County. He reported when it comes to trying to help county government around the state it is always a pleasure to have the opportunity to be the sponsor of the legislation. Representative Carothers reported now the people can be notified about their voting locations without having to pay the extra cost of the previous way the voter list had to be published across the state. He pointed out it can now be done through a supplement in the paper through a lower rate, and can get the same job done. Representative Carothers reported the county commissions across the state can apply the money saved to other projects. Representative Carothers stated it is always a pleasure to work with the ACCA in trying to improve county governments to serve their constituents. Representative Carothers thanked Mr. Brasfield and Chairman Culver and the Commission. He stated Commissioner Cook was not present but he wanted to thank her too.

Chairman Culver thanked Mr. Brasfield for coming down, and stated it is always good to have him.

Consent Agenda

1. Request to accept David Parson's resignation from the Houston County Port Authority and appoint James Etheredge to fill unexpired term.
2. Request to award bid on one vehicle for the Commission.
3. Request to award bid for concrete roadway drainage pipe.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the consent agenda to accept David Parson's resignation from the Houston County Port Authority and appoint James Etheredge to fill the unexpired term which will end September 30, 2008, and to award the bid on one vehicle for the Commission to Solomon Chevrolet-Cadillac, the only bidder meeting specs, in the amount of \$19,968.00, and to award the bid for concrete roadway drainage pipe to Hanson Pipe & Products Southeast, the only bidder meeting specs, in the amount of \$108,414.40. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached Bid Summary Sheets in Minute Book)

Regular Agenda

1. Request to appoint Clark Matthews as Interim EMA Director effective December 1, 2006, and permanent EMA Director effective January 1, 2007, at a salary of \$46,000.00.

Commissioner Forrester made a motion to appoint Clark Matthews as Interim Director effective December 1, 2006, and permanent EMA Director effective January 1, 2007, at a salary of \$46,000.00. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion.

Chairman Culver asked Mr. Matthews and his guest to come forward. He stated Mr. Matthews has been the Assistant EMA Director for several years. Chairman Culver pointed out Mr. Womack could not be present and he would take the appropriate time to recognize him for all the many tremendous things he has done for this county. The chairman stated the commission expected no less of Mr. Matthews, and he certainly had proven his value to the citizens of the county and the area since he has been here.

Mr. Matthews stated he appreciated the commission giving him this opportunity and their vote of confidence. He then introduced his wife, Dianne. He stated he knew he had a tall order to maintain what the county has and he felt he is up to the challenge. Chairman Culver stated the commission is glad to have him move

up and to continue in the capable capacity he has been in. Mr. Roberts asked about the vacation time? Chairman Culver stated there is three weeks vacation included in the package for the EMA Director. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Request to enter into an agreement with the City of Dothan for animal control effective October 1, 2006, and authorize the chairman to negotiate the details.

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to enter into an agreement with the City of Dothan for animal control effective October 1, 2006, and to authorize the chairman to negotiate the details. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported the commission did receive a copy of the marked up version of the previous contract the county had. He pointed out there is a cleaner version that will be submitted and the city has some changes they want to make. The chairman stated in paragraph #2 the important point is "we are desirous of utilizing these facilities for the housing and disposing of animals from the unincorporated area of Houston County outside of the corporate limits of the city." He pointed out the arrangement will be those animals picked up in the unincorporated areas and taken to the shelter will be the county's responsibility. He reported county employees will pick up animals in the corporate limits but the housing of those animals will be the responsibility of those towns and municipalities.

Commissioner Snellgrove asked the chairman to explain the reason the county is involved with animal control? Chairman Culver reported for years the Health Department has been handling the animal control for Houston County. He stated many years ago the Sheriff's Department did but several years ago the Health Department was asked to do it. He pointed out the gentleman left and the state did not authorize the health department to fill the position. Chairman Culver reported in essence from the state level the health department was asked to get out of the dog business because this is the only health department in the state picking up dogs. He reported the county looked at various options and the commission determined in order to provide the best service it would be brought in house. Chairman Culver stated the employee left with the health department was one of the two that was hired to fill the position and the county has also hired another one and they have been placed under the supervision of the gentleman who has been taking care of the water lab for the last three years. The chairman reported one of the positions has been evaluated a little higher because that position will be receiving water testing training also so that he can provide the department head some relief for vacation time. Chairman Culver reported as far as the public is concerned, hopefully everything will be the same as before with the exception of the name change on the county trucks. The chairman then stated the number for animal control is 678-2810, and the public should call them if there are issues for rabid animals or strays. He pointed out after hours they will

call directly to Dispatch as they have in the past. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Request to approve budget amendment for Sanitation part-time clerk that was omitted in the budget.

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the budget amendment for a Sanitation part-time clerk that was omitted in the budget. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Mr. Roberts stated this position was in the budget in prior years and was not filled and somehow going from one budget year to the next it was omitted. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached budget amendment in Minute Book)

4. Request to approve budget amendment for error in salary increases for part-time employees that were not addressed in the budget.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the budget amendment for errors in salary increases for part-time employees that were not addressed in the budget. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported there is a letter in the packet that itemizes the positions along with the budget amendment. He stated the total cost of the budget amendment is \$3,594.00 . The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached budget amendment in Minute Book)

5. Request to approve Mutual Aid Agreement between the Houston County Commission and the Houston County Volunteer Firefighters' Association.

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the Mutual Aid Agreement between the Houston County Firefighters' Association. Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this is a proposal that the county is making to the association. He pointed out Mr. Matthews currently presides over it and they will either have to approve it or not approve it. Chairman Culver reported because of liability issues, the ACCA wanted to look at these all over the state, and the version in the packet is pretty much what the ACCA recommended. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

6. Request from Landmark Park for 4 loads of clay.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request from Landmark Park for 4 loads of clay. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this clay will be used for their Antique Tractor Pull. Chairman Culver called for the question; and it carried unanimously.

Reports from Staff:

a. County Administrator

Mr. Roberts reported he did not get a chance to talk with Attorney Sherrer before the meeting but in the cleanup of the settlement on the Courthouse there were a number of items that were included that relate to equipment and furniture that was damaged by the construction company. He pointed out these were in the settlement but just to air on the side of making sure everything has been properly authorized he had check requests for two judges and a court reporter that had furniture and other items in the settlement. He asked for the commission to authorize the payment of the settlement funds out of the settlement bill. The bills were as follows: Judge Lawson Little - \$1,200.00, Judge Edward Jackson - \$1,450.00 and Chaney Muller Hickey - \$800.00. Chairman Culver stated he thought there was another one and he asked Attorney Sherrer if he had it? Mr. Sherrer stated he had tried to get it and was unable to get it before the meeting. He pointed out it is one that they did not know about until later. Mr. Sherrer reported the affidavit was done the latter part of last week so there has been some delay. The attorney stated he and Mr. Roberts needed to discuss that one because it is a little bit different. He reported there may be a way of doing it without having to do it like the others. Chairman Culver asked if this was approved in the settlement or if the Commission need to take action? Mr. Sherrer stated that it was all approved in the settlement, and no action was necessary. Mr. Roberts stated he was just advising the commission. Mr. Sherrer reported it is good to put it on the record that it is a part of the settlement.

b. County Engineer

Mr. Pool reported on Hodgesville Road, and anytime there is a construction project it is a mess until the project is completed, and they are not through. Chairman Culver asked if he had received some calls from Hodgesville Raod? Mr. Pool stated he had received one call.

c. County Attorney

There was no report.

Adjourn

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Snellgrove, and it carried unanimously.