

MINUTES OF HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
OCTOBER 10, 2006

PRESENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Bobby R. Snellgrove, Commissioner Frances M. Cook, Commissioner Phillip L. Forrester, Mark Pool, Engineer, and Roy Roberts, Administrator

ABSENT: Gary Sherrer, Attorney

Chairman Mark S. Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order. Pastor Bobby Marks of Cornerstone Bible Church gave the invocation. Commissioner Forrester led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Announcements and Public Comment from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver congratulated Mark Pool on the birth of his first grandchild. The chairman reported Ms. Peggy Ussery, *The Dothan Eagle*, would be getting married on October 14th, and extended congratulations to her.

Awards and Presentations

1. Proclamation – “Red Ribbon Week” – Mrs. Susan Trawick, Executive Director, Dothan-Houston County Substance Abuse Partnership, and Ms. Megan Mitchell, County President

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the Proclamation for “Red Ribbon Week.” Commissioner Snellgrove seconded; and it carried unanimously. Chairman Culver then read the proclamation declaring October 23rd -31st as “Red Ribbon Week”, and presented it to Mrs. Susan Trawick. Mrs. Trawick thanked the commission for their participation and support of “Red Ribbon Week.” She stated drugs are really a problem and her organization planned to stand up and let it be known there are great resources available. Ms. Megan Mitchell, County President, and a senior at Cottonwood High School, reported the Red Ribbon campaign is the longest and oldest drug prevention program in the nation, and it reaches millions of young people during the designated week. She reported it is an ideal way for the community to unite and take a visible stance against drugs. She thanked the commission for the proclamation and their support of “Red Ribbon Week.” Chairman Culver reported red ribbons would be displayed on all county buildings, and thanked them for their efforts.

2. Presentation – “Small Business Safe Day” – Mr. Shelby Womack, Executive Director, EMA

Mr. Womack reported approximately four years ago, an alliance was formed in the Wiregrass between the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce, Houston County EMA, Troy University, and the Wiregrass Chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers to specifically address problems with small businesses where they are unable to send people to get the necessary safety training for various reasons. He stated with the alliance, the businesses can send their employees to get the approved training locally and a lot of times at no cost. He pointed out the larger companies have safety staff and do their own training, but small businesses do not have the staff nor are they aware of the type training they need. Mr. Womack reported a Safe Day is scheduled for Thursday, October 19th at Troy University Dothan at no cost. Chairman Culver reported the commission supports the community’s involvement in the Safe Day and encouraged everyone to go out. He thanked Mr. Womack for his involvement.

3. Employee of the Month – Road and Bridge

Mr. Pool asked Mr. Harold Fleming to come forward and presented him with the "Employee of the Month" Certificate. Mr. Pool stated Mr. Fleming has been employed with the county since September, 1997, and is currently a Construction Supervisor. He pointed out Mr. Fleming has had perfect attendance since 1997, and does a good job. Mr. Fleming stated he has enjoyed working with the county and each day he just tries to do his job.

4. Sanitation Annual Report.

Mr. Pool reported the commissioners had an 11 year report in front of them with the history showing the trends in trash tonnage, household garbage, and a tipping fee chart. Mr. Pool reported a revenue chart is also included. The engineer stated expenses are not in the report because they fall under the administrator. He reported the county is growing; therefore creating more garbage. Mr. Pool stated they pick up 10,668 households. He reported he did not see anything that would cause any adjustments to be made. Chairman Culver stated the document in front of them is not the annual report, but the Road and Bridge monthly report along with sanitation and parks. He reported the document they received on Thursday is the annual report. Mr. Roberts reported when the budget projections were made from a cost standpoint, the county projected with the revenues and expenditures a shortfall of about \$2.00 per month. He stated since that time that fuel costs have gone down somewhat, and they will be monitoring those expenses. Mr. Roberts pointed out at some point they will probably have to come back and talk about sanitation costs.

Consent Agenda

1. Request to fill unexpired term on SpectraCare Board – Marc Nelson.

Chairman Culver reported the SpectraCare Board had recommended Mr. Marc Nelson be appointed to fill the vacancy left by Dr. James Robeson. He stated they indicated there was a need for a person with accounting knowledge on their board. Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to appoint Mr. Marc Nelson to fill the unexpired term of Dr. James Robeson on the SpectraCare Board. Commissioner Harvey seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

Regular Agenda

1. Appointments to Houston County Industrial Development Authority

Chairman Culver reported a resolution had been prepared that needed to be adopted. Commissioner Harvey made a motion to adopt the resolution. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. The chairman then read the resolution naming the following appointments to the Houston County Industrial Development Authority: Rev. Paul Hollman, Walter Dodson, Willie Durr, Hugh Wheelless, David Parsons, Velma Tribue, and Dr. Craig Adams. Chairman Culver reported from the district commissioners were: Rev. Paul Hollman, Walter Dodson, Willie Durr, and Hugh Wheelless. He pointed out the other three came from the two economic development persons. The chairman called for the question, and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

2. Request from Houston County Health Department to pay for materials for remodeling in the amount of \$800.00, and perform labor at no cost to the Health Department.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request from the Health Department to pay for materials for remodeling in the amount of \$800.00 and perform labor at no cost to the Health Department. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this was discussed at the administrative meeting and this is nothing out of the ordinary because the building is owned by the county. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Request to approve policy for acceptance of private dirt roads.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the policy for the acceptance of private dirt roads as presented. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported all the adjustments were made at the administrative meeting, and they are included in the policy in the packet. He stated Commissioner Forrester was not present and he wanted to give him an opportunity to discuss it. He reported no determination was made on Item #6 because they were split down the middle, and the motion that was made will either include it or an amendment is needed to exclude it. The chairman reported up at the top, he also included the "Houston County Commission may vote by *majority of elected members* to accept a private dirt road as a county road under the following conditions:" He stated he did not think it would happen, but the commission did not want to have 2 commissioners out and have 3 present and someone vote to accept a road for county maintenance forever. Chairman Culver reported that clause would mean that three district commissioners would have to vote to do this.

Commissioner Forrester reported this situation came up by his proposal to the county that it take under maintenance Pine Acres Road located in the Wicksburg community. He reported it was a deplorable situation and he hoped there are no other situations like that in the county. Commissioner Forrester stated if it comes to the commission's attention that there are then he felt like this commission will act as it did on the Pine Acres situation regardless of which district or length, etc. and will vote to accept to bring about a situation that would alleviate the occupants of that road from being in a hazardous situation. Commissioner Forrester stated he hoped that Item #6 would not result in the commission admitting one mile of road to the county maintenance system every year period whether it is a dire situation or not that is on the books or automatically accept a mile of road. He reported he would have preferred that the commission handle each situation on an as per case basis with actually no policy. He stated at the same time, he would certainly adhere to the wishes of the commission. The chairman then called for the question on the motion that includes Item #6 and the clause regarding to be voted on by the majority of elected members; and it carried unanimously. (Please see in Policy Manual)

4. Request from Information Technology to take bids on 23 personal computers, 2 laptops, 1 server, and 1 system printer for various departments.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request from Information Technology to take bids on 23 personal computers, 2 laptops, 1 server, and 1 system printer for various departments. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported the reason there are so many is that the county is taking bids on all computers approved in the budget as of October 1st in an effort to get a better price. He then called for the question, and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

5. Request from Revenue Commissioner to approve Digital Information Cooperative Agreement with the Alabama Department of Transportation and contract with Optimal Geomatics, Inc.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request from the Revenue Commissioner to approve the Digital Information Cooperative Agreement with the Alabama Department of Transportation and the contract with Optimal Geomatics, Inc. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. The chairman stated this is basically the agreement with the Department of Transportation and the company doing the aerial photography and Lidar for the county's revenue office. He reported that has not been done in 7 years, and needs to be done. Chairman Culver reported this was approved in the budget. Commissioner Cook seconded. She reported the county also has assistance in paying for this and

the Revenue Commissioner is going to apply for a grant. Chairman Culver reported that is correct. He stated this item shows up in the budget around \$600,000 and the City of Dothan, Department of Transportation, and the State of Alabama are all assisting with the cost. The chairman stated as mentioned, the Revenue Commissioner is also applying for an additional grant. He reported this is not only useful to the revenue office but to citizens that access. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

6. Request from the Town of Cowarts to assist in the cost for the county to pave the entrance way on the north and east end of the new fire station.

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the request from the Town of Cowarts to assist in the cost for the county to pave the entrance way on the north and east end of the new fire station. Commissioner Harvey seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

Reports from Staff:

- a. County Administrator

Mr. Roberts reported he had an item that is old business. He stated in August they put out for bids for 2 vehicles for EMA which will be purchased and then leased to EMA and the state will reimburse the county for 50% of the cost. Mr. Roberts reported this was done in August thinking that the renewal on the lease was in September but it turned out it is in October, and the awarding of the bids need to be approved. He pointed out he should have gotten this on the agenda. Mr. Roberts pointed out the specs were for a 4 door pickup truck, and Bondy's Ford quoted a price of \$16,881.50. He stated according to his information, the state bid on the four door is \$17,443.00, and he wanted to clarify that. Mr. Roberts requested that the commission approve awarding of the bids on the 2 EMA vehicles pending confirmation that the price from Bondy's Ford is lower than the state bid on the 4 door. Mr. Roberts apologized for not getting the item on the agenda. Commissioner Snellgrove asked if these were the figures? Mr. Roberts stated yes, but he wanted to verify that the 4 door full size pickup price Bondy's quoted is lower than the state bid. He reported if it is not, then the state bid price will be used. The chairman stated the motion needs to be that the commission authorize the awarding of the bid pending the state bid not being lower than the submitted prices, and approve leasing of the vehicles. Commissioner Cook then made the motion. Commissioner Harvey seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached Bid Summary Sheet in Minute Book)

- b. County Engineer

Mr. Pool reported they needed some rain, and they had been working on things conducive to dry weather for about 8 months.

- c. County Attorney

Chairman Culver reported Attorney Sherrer's mother is not doing well, and is in Intensive Care in Birmingham. He asked everyone to keep Mr. Sherrer and his mother in their prayers.

Adjourn.

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