

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
FEBRUARY 23, 2009

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 Bill Dempsey, Chief Administrative Officer

ABSENT: None

Chairman Mark Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, declared a quorum was present, and welcomed everyone. Dr. Brian Magnuson, Pastor, Westgate Church of Christ, gave the invocation. Commissioner Phil Forrester led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

Announcements and Public Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver reported since the last Commission meeting, a mobile home fire occurred in Cowarts. He reported two neighbors, Adam Campbell and he stated he did not have the other neighbor's name, saved the lady's life who lived in the mobile home. Chairman Culver reported their actions are typical of the people who reside in Houston County, and he wanted to mention their names because the lady is living today due to their heroic actions. He reported the commission appreciated their services.

The chairman commended Mrs. Sherry Douglas, Director, In-Home Services, for her efforts in signing up 49 clients in the Senior Energy Assistance Program for those who cannot pay their energy costs. He pointed out the clients were able to get assistance in the amount of approximately \$16,000.00. Chairman Culver stated Mrs. Douglas went above and beyond her normal duties, and he publicly thanked her for the excellent job she is doing to take care of the underserved senior population. He reported the In-Home Service clients are those that cannot get out and are below the poverty level.

Consent Agenda

1. Re-appointment – Dothan-Houston County Mental Retardation Board – William Glover
2. Re-appointments – Houston County Water Authority – Danny McNeil and Stan West

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda to include re-appointing William Glover to the Dothan-Houston County Mental Retardation Board, and re-appointing Danny McNeil and Stan West to the Houston County Water Authority. Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion.

Chairman Culver reported Mr. Glover had served on the Mental Retardation Board for quite some time. He reported the Water Authority was working with the commission to get water lines run across the county and they continue to do a good job. The chairman pointed out Mr. McNeil is the chairman of the Water Authority's board. He reported Mr. West has been a great addition to that board.

The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

#### Regular Agenda

1. Request to approve legislation to provide further for the regulation of the sale of alcoholic beverages to the county.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the legislation to provide further for the regulation of the sale of alcoholic beverages to the county. Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion.

Chairman Culver asked everyone to recall on Thursday they changed from their starting point to get to the current legislation before the commission. He stated he had hoped to have the revised version back from Legislative Reference but he did not have it. The chairman pointed out that he did not anticipate it being significantly different from what the commissioners had in their packet because the district language was deleted, and they made it a county-wide vote. Chairman Culver reported he had a copy of the City of Dothan's legislation and the county is doing the exact same thing as stated in their legislation. He stated the City's reads Sunday between the hours of 1:00 and midnight. Chairman Culver reported the County's reads after 1:00 P.M. The chairman stated it authorizes the sale on-premise only. He pointed out there will be no off-premises at all. Chairman Culver reported if the city's and the county's legislation goes through everyone will be doing the same thing whether a person is in unincorporated Dothan or Ashford unincorporated Houston County.

Commissioner Snellgrove asked if it would be a county-wide election by the people of Houston County? Chairman Culver stated yes. Commissioner Snellgrove asked if the county's election could be as far as away as 2010, and the City's election would take place in July? Chairman Culver stated that was correct. The chairman stated assuming both pieces of legislation pass, the City's election would take place in conjunction with the Mayor's election to be held the second week of July. He reported the County's election would be at the first state-wide election, which could be a General election. He stated it would probably be the Primary in June, 2010. Chairman Culver reported if for some reason, the state passed legislation that required a state-wide Special election between now and June, 2010, it would be held at that time. The chairman stated he did not know of any legislation that would require a special election.

Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Request from Houston County Board of Education for site work @ Rehobeth High School.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the request from the Houston County Board of Education for site work at Rehobeth High School. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this involves 15 acres, and Mr. Tim Pitchford, Superintendent, understands the time constraints for the project as well as the County's policy. The chairman reported this is part of the ongoing growth and safety issues at the Rehobeth dual school complex.

Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Request from Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries to act as a pass through of funds to help defray costs for the 2008 Alabama State Champion 4-H Livestock Judging Team.

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the request from the Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries to act as a pass through to help defray costs for the 2008 Alabama State Champion 4-H Livestock Judging Team. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Request from EMA to approve the purchase of a copier and the appropriate budget amendment.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve EMA's request to purchase a copier and the appropriate budget amendment. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion.

Chairman Culver reported this is in budget and per policy, and it is a local vendor. Mr. Dempsey reported it is substituting for a budgeted item. Commissioner Snellgrove asked if the maintenance charge was customary? The chairman reported the maintenance is usually on a per copy basis, and that is customary. He stated that per copy fee usually includes everything but the paper.

Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached budget amendment in Minute Book)

5. Request from EMA to approve Homeland Security 8MAL Grant in the amount of \$39,425.88, and the appropriate budget amendment.

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve EMA's request for a Homeland Security 8MAL Grant in the amount of \$39,425.88, and the appropriate budget amendment. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion.

Mr. Clark Matthews, EMA Director, reported it was a pass through to the Dothan Fire Department for the heavy rescue and HAZMAT Teams sustainment money for a year. Mr. Matthews stated this was basically just the paperwork.

Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

6. Request from EMA to approve Memo of Understanding between the Alabama Public Health Care Authority and EMA for the transfer of bus conversion kits to EMA.

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to grant EMA's request to approve the Memo of Understanding between the Alabama Public Health Care Authority and EMA for the transfer of bus conversion kits to EMA. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion.

Mr. Matthews reported everyone was familiar with what happened during Hurricane Katrina. He stated one of the problems the county has prior to a hurricane coming in is the ability to move a lot of people at one time. Mr. Matthews reported they are putting these kits in different counties that would allow for bus conversions, and they would be able to evacuate elderly people and hospitals. Mr. Matthews stated basically it could be used in our area as well in other areas of the state if needed. He pointed out one of the things that happened during Hurricane Katrina was the fact they did not have enough ambulances to evacuate the people. He reported they will have to be maintained but there should be very little maintenance on them. Mr. Matthews reported they would probably have to furnish a bus and that would be reimbursed back to the county.

Chairman Culver stated he thought the commission had talked about something similar to this before, but it was for moving deceased bodies. Mr. Matthews reported this was discussed at one other meeting, and he was not aware that there would be a Memo of Understanding. He stated Mr. Dempsey felt like the commission should approve it before he entered into it.

Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

7. Request to sell six (6) surplus trucks thru DeanCo Auction.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the request to sell six (6) surplus trucks thru DeanCo Auction. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached list in Minute Book)

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer – there was none

County Engineer – there was none

County Attorney – there was none

Adjourn.

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