

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
AUGUST 24, 2009

PRESENT: Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Bobby R. Snellgrove, Commissioner Phillip L. Forrester, Mark Pool, County Engineer, and William J. Dempsey, Chief Administrative Officer

ABSENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver, Commissioner Frances M. Cook, and Gary Sherrer, County Attorney

Acting Chairman Curtis Harvey called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, established that a quorum was present, and welcomed everyone. Rev. Jim Tate, Pastor, Memphis Baptist Church, gave the invocation. Commissioner Snellgrove led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Announcements and Public Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Acting Chairman Harvey announced that a Press Conference would be held at the Northview High School Campus between the north side of the Fine Arts Building and the Gymnasium on August 26<sup>th</sup>, at 11:30 A.M., for a private fund raising project to construct a Sports Enhancement Facility. He stated they will be announcing the start of a two year financing campaign, and Mrs. Debbie Ingram is the contact person.

Consent Agenda

1. Request to award bid for hot rolled steel sheet piling.
2. Request to extend bid for fiber-mesh concrete and bulk cement.

Commissioner Forrester made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda to include awarding the bid for hot rolled steel sheet piling to Skyline Steel, low bidder meeting specs, in the amount of \$66,569.15, and extending the bid for fiber-mesh concrete to BHC Concrete for an additional six months at the current price and extending the bid for bulk cement to Quality Redi-Mix, LLC at the pick-up price of \$133.00 per ton, which will remain in effect until February 12, 2010. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached Bid Summary Sheets in Minute Book)

Acting Chairman Harvey reported there was no Administrative meeting due to the majority of the commission being at the ACCA Annual Conference last week. He stated he would leave every item open for discussion by the general public.

Regular Agenda

1. Request from the Houston County Industrial Development Authority for site work for Economic Development Project in Cowarts.

Mr. David Parsons, Chairman, Houston County Industrial Development Authority, reported they were requesting rough grading site work on the Houston County Industrial Development Authority's property to accommodate Project JJ, which will construct a 25,000 square foot manufacturing facility. He stated the investment will be \$2.3 million and create 35 new jobs with a payroll close to \$1 million in the next three years. He reported the project is a joint effort of the Houston County Commission, Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce, The Town of Cowarts, and the Houston County Industrial Development Authority. Mr. Parsons pointed out they have agreements with the authority and Project JJ officials to insure a return and benefit for the county grading site for the new project. Mr. Parsons stated Mr. Pool, Engineer, had the completed site grading plans. Mr. Parsons reported they felt the grading work would take less than two weeks and would help develop this portion of Houston County in a positive way. He pointed out the request for the work would be at the end of September or the beginning of October. Mr. Parsons reported the Town of Cowarts would also be addressing additional items for the project.

Mr. Pool reported he needed a better description on what the Houston County Industrial Development Authority wanted the county to do. Mr. Parsons stated they would get the information to Mr. Pool. Mr. Pool stated he did not know what the commission would be voting on.

Commissioner Snellgrove stated he thought the request was for the county to do the site work pending the elevations to be coordinated with the county engineer. Mr. Pool stated he needed a definition of the site work. Commissioner Snellgrove asked Mr. Pool if he was suggesting that the item be tabled for two weeks? Mr. Pool stated it was up to the commission, but he did not know what they would be doing. Commissioner Snellgrove then made a motion to table the request until the next meeting. Commissioner Forrester seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Request to approve and advertise Resolution adopting Building Laws and Codes for Houston County.

Acting Chairman Harvey asked Mr. Justin Barfield, Assistant Engineer, to come forward and discuss the request. Mr. Barfield reported it involves the commission approving a set of codes for the county suggesting what the people who build out in the county should follow. He stated it is another step in the program they initiated last year. Mr. Barfield reported as of June 1, 2008 they started a building program in the county. He pointed out after talking with the county attorney, he suggested that the county adopt the International Building Code and the International Residential Code to format what the City of Dothan currently has in effect. Mr. Barfield reported it is not a new tax or a new form of revenue. He stated it is adopting a set of building codes that they suggest people build by out in the county.

Mr. Pool reported this involves permits for homes and he asked if it was for businesses too? Mr. Barfield reported it was for homes but they were approving the commercial code as well. Mr. Pool reported FEMA mandates that they keep people from putting trailers or homes in flood zones so when there is a disaster like the one in March or every time there is a disaster FEMA does not have to pay out more and more money. He stated FEMA has mandated them to control building in the flood zones and the only way to do it is by the permitting process. Mr. Pool reported there have been 9 permits issued

so far this year. He stated it is not anything new and it does not have anything to do with fences or barns. Mr. Pool reported it is new homes and they do require a licensed contractor but if a person wants to build his own home, they can get a permit too. He stated there would be no electrical inspections or anything like that. Mr. Pool reported they are trying to do what FEMA mandates to keep people out of flood zones. He pointed out there were millions of dollars paid out to individuals this year and the county had close to \$5 million, and county has to have the funding set up where FEMA will come in and help the county out. Mr. Pool reported FEMA came in and did a complete inspection in April on everything the county was doing and he stated they received an "A".

Commissioner Harvey asked for any questions or comments from the audience? There were none.

Commissioner Snellgrove stated the county has received a lot of complaints from the rural area about people coming in and building homes that are not up to standards, and people are signing 15 and 30 year notes on homes that have no inspections, no permits, and the builders are not licensed. Mr. Snellgrove stated he looked at this being a consumer protection program more than anything else. He stated it was not a revenue source. He pointed out it costs the county money and they have been issuing permits all year.

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the Resolution to adopt and advertise the Building Laws and Codes for Houston County. Commissioner Forrester seconded; and a the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

3. Request to approve Houston County Community Corrections Work Plan.

Acting Chairperson Harvey asked Mr. Gary Knight, Director, Houston County Community Corrections Program, to come forward. Mr. Knight stated the request was basically a formality. He reported the plan had been submitted every year but the Department of Corrections has added some restrictions as to what needs to be submitted and that the plan be approved by the county commission.

Commissioner Forrester made a motion to approve the request to approve the Houston County Community Corrections Work Plan. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Request to approve Agreement between Alabama Department of Transportation and Houston County for emergency repairs on various Houston County roads.

Mr. Pool reported these sites are 100% funded by the Federal Highway Administration. He stated there are still some 80/20 sites made up of work under the bridges and he stated there would be another group later on. He stated the main thing is the 100% money.

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to grant the request to approve the agreement between Alabama Department of Transportation and Houston County for emergency repairs on various Houston County roads. Commissioner Forrester seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

5. Request from the Dothan Areas Botanical Gardens to grade road.

Commissioner Forrester made a motion to approve the request from the Dothan Area Botanical Gardens to grade road. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

Reports from Staff:

Chief Administrative Officer – there was no report

County Engineer

Mr. Pool reported Lamp Brothers Road is closed and will open August 25<sup>th</sup>, East Cook Road will be closed for 8-9 months for the construction of a new bridge, South Park will be closed at Littlefield Road on September 2<sup>nd</sup> for a week and a half for cross drain work.

He reported the county has received \$902,000 from FEMA to date. Commissioner Forrester asked about the total amount. Mr. Pool stated the total amount is \$4.38 million and after the 75/25 is taken out and the 10% is received back from the state it is \$3.6 million. He pointed out they have asked for another \$700,000 and are still waiting for them to okay it.

County Attorney – there was no report due to the attorney's absence.

Adjourn.

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