

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
OCTOBER 26, 2009

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

ABSENT: Gary Sherrer, Attorney

Chairman Mark Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, declared a quorum was present and welcomed everyone. Rev. Mark Kocsis, Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church, gave the invocation. Commissioner Cook led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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

Chairman Culver reported that the ACCA joint bids were opened on October 16<sup>th</sup> and will be part of the minutes. He pointed out the bids will be awarded at the Commission meeting on November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

He commended the City of Dothan and everyone involved with the Ray Sizemore Dedication on October 25<sup>th</sup>. He stated he thought it was quite a worthy honor to be paid to Mr. Sizemore for his many hours of commitment to the community. Chairman Culver reported he presented a Resolution on behalf of the Houston County Commission thanking Mr. Sizemore and commending the City of Dothan for proclaiming the "Ray Sizemore Walk of Fame."

Chairman Culver reported Commissioner Harvey was quite surprised October 23<sup>rd</sup> by his wife in celebration of his 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday. He stated it was a very nice affair.

The chairman reported Commissioner Snellgrove had a birthday this week also and extended best wishes.

#### Awards and Presentations

1. Proclamation – "Red Ribbon Week" – Mrs. Susan Trawick, Executive Director, Dothan-Houston County Substance Abuse Partnership, and Ms. Joy Brown, Youth Council President

Chairman Culver asked Mrs. Susan Trawick, Executive Director, Dothan-Houston County Substance Abuse Partnership and Ms. Joy Brown, Youth Council President, to come forward. The chairman reported the county had planned to have the big red ribbon up on the building, but the logistics of that did not work.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the Proclamation for "Red Ribbon Week." Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. Chairman Culver then read the proclamation and presented it to Mrs. Trawick.

Mrs. Trawick thanked the commission for proclaiming Red Ribbon Week across America. She stated each year they try to bring Red Ribbon Week up one more level. She stated this year they plan to wrap the City of Dothan in one mile of red ribbon beginning at 5:15 at the Dothan Opera House. She stated they had sold portions of the one mile of red ribbon to individuals and community agencies in an effort to raise \$15,000.00. Mrs. Trawick pointed out for every \$1.00 they sold of the red ribbon mile, there was a \$17.00 savings in treatment cost. She stated it also raises awareness that Dothan/Houston County is a community that stands behind drug prevention in making this the healthiest place to live and work.

Mrs. Trawick introduced Ms. Joy Brown, Youth Council County President, who stated what Red Ribbon Week meant to her. She stated the message of being drug free was extremely important, and Red Ribbon Week was the one week out of the year for them to stress that message. She encouraged parents to talk to their children about any kind of drugs and to stay completely away from them.

Chairman Culver presented Mrs. Trawick with \$15.00 on behalf of the Commission for five feet of ribbon at a cost of \$3.00 per foot. He thanked Mrs. Trawick and Ms. Brown for all of their efforts.

2. Check Presentation – Mr. Cory Kirkland, Tobacco Prevention & Control Coordinator, Alabama Department of Health

Mr. Cory Kirkland, Tobacco Prevention & Control Coordinator, Alabama Department of Health, reported he recently became a father and he left the check in his daughter's nursery.

3. Presentation – Teen Tobacco Cessation Grant – Mr. Cory Kirkland, Tobacco Prevention & Control Coordinator, Alabama Department of Health

Mr. Kirkland reported the grant is NOT (Not on Tobacco) and was started by the American Lung Association in conjunction with West Virginia University. He stated NOT is a teen tobacco cessation program, and is only for youth. Mr. Kirkland reported it is similar to life skills in that they use emphasis in teaching teens better communication skills, how to deal with their peers and parents in effort to teach them to say no to tobacco and other types of drugs as well. He stated tobacco is known as a gateway drug for marijuana and many other things. Mr. Kirkland reported he would be going into Northview and Dothan High Schools recruiting tobacco using students to come and learn how they can become tobacco free and hopefully remain that way for the remainder of their lives.

Mr. Kirkland reported the NOT Grant is part of a bigger program and last year there were 27 tobacco prevention grants in the State of Alabama, and this year there are only 14. He stated Ms. Cindy Brockett, Dothan-Houston County Substance Abuse Partnership, will be going in the schools working with Red Ribbon Week, Kick Butts Day, and The Great American Smokeout in an effort to help kids understand that smoking is not the majority; it is the minority. He stated this has been a very successful program.

Ms. Cindy Brockett, stated she was new with the Partnership and very pleased to be a part of everything they do. She stated she would be managing the tobacco grant and would be in the school

systems in the middle schools in Rehobeth and Headland to help them to say no not just to tobacco but also in making bad choices in their lives in using tobacco and alcohol. Ms. Brockett stated she looked forward to getting into the schools and working with the kids. Chairman Culver thanked Mr. Kirkland and Ms. Brockett for the job they do.

#### Regular Agenda

1. Request to appoint Commission member to the Wiregrass Rehabilitation Center's Advisory Council – Commissioner Bobby Snellgrove.

Chairman Culver reported Commissioner Snellgrove volunteered to serve. Commissioner Cook made a motion to appoint Commissioner Bobby Snellgrove to the Wiregrass Rehabilitation Center's Advisory Council. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously.

2. Request from the Town of Cowarts to adopt Resolution for in-kind service work.

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the request from the Town of Cowarts to adopt a Resolution for in-kind service work. Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this was discussed in length on Thursday and they anticipate this project will create approximately 35-40 jobs the first quarter of 2010. He stated the commission appreciated the Town of Cowarts working to get the project for their area.

Mr. Matt Parker thanked the commission on behalf of the Town of Cowarts and the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce for all they do to support economic development in this community and the whole region. Mr. Parker reported without the commission's assistance, they would not be able to do any of it. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

3. Request to approve Agreement with the City of Dothan for the housing and the disposition of animals in the unincorporated areas of Houston County.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the Agreement with the City of Dothan for the housing and the disposition of animals in the unincorporated areas of Houston County. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. The chairman stated the city is the site that the county's rabid animals are taken when they are caught. He pointed out this is an annual contract. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Request from EMA to approve Homeland Security Grant and budget amendment for the Houston County Citizens Corp in the amount of \$12,400.00. (100% grant)

Commissioner Cook made a motion to grant EMA's request to approve Homeland Security Grant and the budget amendment for the Houston County Citizens Corp in the amount of \$12,400.00 for a 100% grant. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. Chairman Culver stated this grant is tied in to VOAD which is a volunteer coordination effort. 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 Grant and budget amendment for the Dothan Fire Department in the amount of \$51,157.67. (100% grant)

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to grant EMA's request to approve Homeland Security Grant and the budget amendment for the Dothan Fire Department in the amount of \$51,157.67 for a 100% grant. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this is a flow through for the fire department. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached budget amendment in Minute Book)

6. Request from EMA to approve Homeland Security Grant and budget amendment for Houston County, Regional Law Enforcement and AMAS Teams in the amount of \$108,188.00. (100% grant)

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to grant EMA's request to approve Homeland Security Grant and budget amendment for Houston County, Regional Law Enforcement and AMAS Teams in the amount of \$108,188.00 for a 100% grant. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached budget amendment in Minute Book)

7. Request from EMA to approve Homeland Security Grant and budget amendment for Law Enforcement Sustainment in the amount of \$40,000.00. (100% grant) (to be used for bomb team)

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to grant EMA's request to approve Homeland Security Grant and budget amendment for Law Enforcement Sustainment in the amount of \$40,000.00 for a 100% grant. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. Chairman Culver pointed out this grant is for the bomb team. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached budget amendment in Minute Book)

8. Request to approve items to be sold o Govdeals.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the items to be sold on Govdeals. Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached list in Minute Book)

9. Request to approve Resolution and Agreement to resurface South Brannon Stand Road from North of SR 52 to North of Fortner Street. (2.153 miles)

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the Resolution and Agreement to resurface South Brannon Stand Road from North of SR 52 to North of Fortner Street. (2.153 miles) Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Mr. Pool stated this project would be done with 100% stimulus money. Chairman Culver reported the MPO received the stimulus money, and the county will receive part of it to use on a couple of projects. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

10. Request to approve Resolution and Agreement to resurface Jordan Avenue from U.S. #84 to East of Glenn Lawrence Road (2.108 miles)

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the Resolution and Agreement to resurface Jordan Avenue from U. S. #84 to East of Glenn Lawrence Road. (2.108 miles) Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this project would also be done with 100% stimulus money from the MPO. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer

Mr. Dempsey reported they expect to mail out packages for quotes on banking services this week. He stated the new service will begin January 1, 2010.

He reported next week, they would be mailing out requests for bids for lawn care services. He stated they were making some consideration of changes. Mr. Dempsey reported anyone who would like to be considered for that service should contact him.

Chairman Culver asked if the county had people on the bid list for banking? It was reported yes. Chairman Culver reported the banking services are bid out every three years. He stated several years ago, it was rotated annually and it became an inefficient way to do it. He reported the county would make sure all the banks are contacted. Chairman Culver reported there would be a pre-bid conference with the banks.

Commissioner Snellgrove asked Mr. Dempsey how the county would select who bids on the grass cutting? Mr. Dempsey stated they had been contacted by a number of people locally and other than that, they plan to go through the phone book. He reported as he had requested earlier anyone interested should contact him before the end of the week. Commissioner Snellgrove stated the county would exhaust all efforts to make sure anyone who might be interested would have an opportunity to bid. Commissioner Snellgrove stated the county would not want them coming after the bids and get involved. Mr. Dempsey stated the county would make all reasonable efforts. He reported they have no plans to make a formal notification in the Dothan Eagle but they are making all reasonable efforts. He stated if anyone knows of any larger companies to let him know because they plan to notify them also. Commissioner Snellgrove stated he hoped the news media would also put this information out. Chairman Culver stated the county will be taking bids on lawn service, but they may or may not award the bids. He reported this is being done for evaluative purposes. Commissioner Forrester asked if the bids would be for a one year period? Mr. Dempsey stated yes.

County Engineer

Mr. Pool reported they have the two stimulus projects in the November let and they also have the reconstruction of the north half of County Road #81. He pointed out they have two years of federal funds that they have saved up to do the project. Mr. Pool reported they are trying to work between the

rains on roadwork. He stated this has been an unusually wet year and it has affected the roadwork. He stated he anticipated a wet winter this year.

County Attorney – there was no report. Chairman Culver reported Mr. Sherrer was out of town and could not make it back in time through no fault of his own.

Adjourn.

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