

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
JANUARY 25, 2010

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

ABSENT: Gary Sherrer, Attorney, Mark Pool, Engineer

Chairman Mark S. Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, established that a quorum was present and welcomed everyone. Rev. Bill Smith, Pastor, First Christian 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

There were none.

Awards and Presentations

1. Presentation of Annual Financial Statement – Bill Dempsey, Chief Administrative Officer

Bill Dempsey gave the Annual Financial Report touching on the highlights. Mr. Dempsey reported the county had a total fund balance of \$9.8 million including the bond monies. He reported the long term debt through 2007 is \$38 million. The CAO reported the sales tax revenue collected for 2008-09 was down 6.2 percent from the previous year and the county is down 3.9 compared to this time last year. Mr. Dempsey pointed out over the next few years, the county will reduce its leases and debt to the Houston County Industrial Development Authority. He reported there would be a reduction of \$1 million in long term debt this year. Mr. Dempsey reported proactive planning by the commission has put the county in sound financial shape.

Chairman Culver thanked Mr. Dempsey and the Accounting Department for their work and for a good report. He stated he thought they would have one more difficult budget year, but then he thought things would start to improve both from the economy and certainly from the bond payment.

Regular Agenda

1. Appointment to Houston County Personnel Board.

Chairman Culver reported this appointment would be effective February 2, 2010. He stated the recommendation was Mrs. Velma Tribue of Cowarts, Alabama. Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to appoint Mrs. Velma Tribue to the Houston County Personnel Board. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Culver thanked Mr. Wallace Cooley for his long service on the Personnel Board. He pointed out he has gotten along well and addressed issues and done a good job, and the commission would expect that cooperation to continue with Mrs. Tribue on the board also. He thanked Ms. Stephenson for her help.

2. Request from EMA to approve budget amendment for EMPG Grant in the amount of \$10,256.85 – Mr. Clark Matthews.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the request from EMA for a budget amendment in the amount of \$10,256.85 for an EMPG Grant. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this is extra money that has been received that EMA will try to use on extra furnishings and possibly re-route it to use it for an overrun on a vehicle. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached budget amendment in Minute Book)

3. Request from SE Alabama Regional Planning & Development Commission to adopt Resolution for updated Houston County Hazard Mitigation Plan – Mr. Scott Farmer.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to adopt the Resolution for the updated Houston County Hazard Mitigation Plan. Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported Mr. Farmer was not present, but he thought he had stated on Thursday this occurs every 6 years, and it has to be kept on file. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

4. Request from Houston County Sheriff's Department for a 010-Lounge Retail Liquor – Class 1 Liquor License – Christy McLendon d/b/a 109 Bar & Grill, 4542 S. State Highway #109, Suite B, Slocomb, AL

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the Sheriff's request for a 010-Lounge Retail Liquor – Class 1 Liquor License – Christy McLendon d/b/a 109 Bar & Grill, 4542 S. State Highway #109, Suite B, Slocomb, Alabama. Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion. Chairman Culver asked if anyone present was in opposition? There being none, the chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Request from Senior Employment Program, SE Alabama Regional Planning & Development Commission, for an additional five (5) positions in the amount of \$2,250.00 – Mrs. Barbara Knight.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request from the Senior Employment Program, SE Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission, for an additional five (5) positions in the amount of \$2,250.00 and the appropriate budget amendment. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this is the Senior Aides Program and it was discussed on Thursday. He stated it is a really good program and these employees cost the county around \$900.00 a year each, and they can go out and work for organizations including the county. Chairman Culver reported the hope is once these employees work their year the employing agency will keep them on and hire them as gainfully employed people. He pointed out this would be for half a year. Chairman Culver called for the

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

6. Request for ALDOT to review and place proper signage on 231 South to address safety concerns.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request for ALDOT to review and place proper signage on 231 South to address safety concerns. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. Chairman Culver then read the proposed letter.

Commissioner Snellgrove stated the commission was talking about 231 South, and the state refusing to put the signs up. He reported on Highway 84 East at Glen Lawrence Road, the county appropriated \$30,000 in 2006 along with the Town of Cowarts. He reported at that time, the state told them it warranted a red light, but once the money was appropriated the request went back to Montgomery, and there has been no action taken on it. Commissioner Snellgrove stated he had spoken with the Mayor of Cowarts earlier in the day and he was informed the state had rejected the request. He requested that the matter be followed up on. Mr. Snellgrove reported there had been several wrecks with one or two fatalities. He pointed out since the first study, a new church has been built in the area. Chairman Culver reported after many years and numerous requests, they got a turning lane at Dairy Fresh on 84 East. Chairman Culver reported he would check on the light or the situation and report back to the commission. Chairman Culver also reported for several years there had been requests to the legislators to install a light down at Sadie's .

Commissioner Cook reported that the Town of Madrid had applied for a light at the intersection of 231 South and Decatur Road. She stated there had been several wrecks with fatalities. She asked the chairman to check on that intersection also?

Chairman Culver reported when the commission asks the Road & Bridge Department to check into stop signs and red lights at various locations across the county there are manuals that the Road & Bridge Department has to go by . He reported the state's response oftentimes particularly on lights is that they do not meet the warrants, does not meet the traffic as is our department when you ask them to do things. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

7. Request from Dothan Area Botanical Gardens for site work for proposed Botanical Center.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request from Dothan Area Botanical Gardens for site work for the proposed Botanical Center. Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported Mr. Paul Angeloff was present to answer any questions. The chairman reported this project would not entail a lot of work, and it is a relatively flat area. He reported this project would be done according to the county's procedures and policies. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

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

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

9. Request to extend the current thermoplastic contract for three (3) additional months.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to extend the current thermoplastic contract for three (3) months with Ennis Paint. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

10. Request to award bid for 2010 Chevrolet Tahoe 1500 Police Vehicle for the Sheriff's Department.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to award the bid for a 2010 Chevrolet Tahoe 1500 Police Vehicle for the Sheriff's Department to Solomon Motor Company, in the amount of \$25,571.50. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this is a budgeted item. Commissioner Snellgrove asked if the county could only get one vendor to bid? Mr. Dempsey reported the bid specs were sent out to seven different companies. Mr. Dempsey reported only one responded. Commissioner Snellgrove reported with the state of the economy, you would think there would be more than one vendor to bid. It was pointed out it was cheaper than the state bid price and it was also good that it was a local vendor. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached sheet in Minute Book)

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer

Mr. Dempsey reported the county has approximately \$1.1 million in the 08 bond funds remaining, and it has to be spent by February 2011. He recommended the commission fund the recently approved land purchase out of the bond money versus the Special Assessment Projects Fund. Chairman Culver reported he thought it was a good idea because they use some of that in budget items that they may not get to, and the commission can go back and use the Special Assessment Projects monies. The chairman called for a motion. Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to fund the recently approved land purchase out of the bond money versus the Special Assessment Projects Fund. Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

County Engineer

Acting County Engineer Barkley Kirkland reported last Thursday, the county received 5-6 inches of rain and then more on Sunday night. He stated Mixon Farms and Barnes Road are closed, and there is damage to others but they will have to wait for them to dry out before they can be fixed. He asked everyone to please be patient.

County Attorney

Mr. Pat Jones, Acting County Attorney, had no report.

Adjourn.

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