

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
OCTOBER 25, 2010

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

ABSENT: Mark Pool, Engineer

Chairman Mark S. Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, declared a quorum was present, and welcomed everyone. Rev. Robert Oates, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, gave the invocation. Commissioner Snellgrove 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 Commission is the awarding authority for the ACCA Joint Bid Program for all counties in the state. He stated bids were opened on October 15<sup>th</sup>, and they will be reviewed, and the county will award those bids on November 22<sup>nd</sup>.

He reported the Grand Opening of the National Peanut Festival will be Friday, October 29th. He pointed out Thursday night will be a sneak peek, and people can go down and ride the rides. The chairman reported the Ribbon Cutting will be at 5:00 P.M. on October 29th, down at the National Peanut Festival. He stated they looked forward to a good fair, and he encouraged everyone to go and enjoy the festival.

Chairman Culver reminded everyone the General Election would be Tuesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, and he encouraged everyone to go out and vote and exercise that right that so many have given so much for.

Chairman Culver announced that the Ashford Lions Club would be having their Brunswick Stew sale on November 6<sup>th</sup> from Noon until 2:00P.M. at Efurds. He encouraged everyone to get out and enjoy the good Brunswick stew.

The chairman called on Mrs. Tami Culver, Director of Field Services, Congressman Bobby Bright's Office, to come forward, and he also asked Commissioners Snellgrove and Cook to join her. Chairman Culver stated as most everyone was aware, this was the last commission meeting for Commissioners Snellgrove and Cook. He reported Commissioner Cook had represented the citizens of the county for 16 years and Commissioner Snellgrove had represented the citizens of the county for 12 years, collectively with 28 years of service to the public. The chairman stated he appreciated the opportunity to work with both of them and he stated he felt they had done a lot of good things for the county together and that both of them had served very admirably and very well. Chairman Culver announced an Outgoing Reception for the two of them and anybody else that might be outgoing between now and then would be held on November 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 A.M. on the sixth floor of the Administrative Building. He encouraged everyone

to come and show their appreciation. Mr. Culver stated as chairman and personally he wanted to thank them for their service and everything they had done together. He stated he knew they would not have to come to the commission meetings, but the work they had done is valuable and the commission would be calling on them for help down the road.

At that time, he turned the meeting over to Mrs. Tami Culver who stated serving on the Houston County Commission was not just regular business hours, it is early mornings, late evenings, weekends and holidays. She reported Commissioners Snellgrove and Cook have served Houston County with much integrity, pride, and honor. She presented a Congressional Certificate to each of them on behalf of Congressman Bobby Bright for their outstanding and invaluable service to the community. Mrs. Culver reported on a personal note that she was going to miss them as well and she thanked them for their service to Houston County. Chairman Culver reported he felt the whole community extends their thanks. He asked the commissioners for any comments they might have?

Commissioner Cook reported it has been an honor and privilege and she was going to miss everybody but she was still a citizen of Houston County, and she and Bobby would be watching. She stated they better do good and better take care of the taxpayers' dollars; and she was sure they would. She wished Mr. Battles and Mr. Sinquefield the best of everything. She received a round of applause.

Commissioner Snellgrove thanked the people of District 2 for voting for him 12 years ago and allowing him to serve as a County Commissioner. He stated it was an honor and a privilege to have served as a public servant for the last 12 years. Commissioner Snellgrove reported there is less than one percent of one percent of the general public that ever has the opportunity to serve as a public servant. He stated he certainly hoped he had not let anyone down over the last 12 years. Commissioner Snellgrove reported as Commissioner Cook had stated earlier, that they would be supporting the new commissioners and he thanked everyone for allowing him to serve. He received a round of applause and they both were given a standing ovation.

#### Regular Agenda

1. Proclamation - "Red Ribbon Week" – Mrs. Susan Trawick, Executive Director, Dothan-Houston County Substance Abuse Partnership

Chairman Culver asked Mrs. Susan Trawick, Executive Director, Dothan-Houston County Substance Abuse Partnership, to come forward to receive the Proclamation for "Red Ribbon Week" in Houston County. Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring October 25-30, 2010 as "Red Ribbon Week" in Houston County. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. Chairman Culver then read the Proclamation and presented it to Mrs. Trawick, and thanked her for all of the great work she and her staff do. Mrs. Trawick thanked the commission for allowing them to be present. She reported the issuance of the Proclamation was the beginning of a week long celebration. Mrs. Trawick reported this is the public's opportunity to talk to their children about drugs and alcohol. She stated a lot of restaurants would have coloring sheets for small children as they come in this week and she stated it

was a great lead in to start the conversation about medicines and drugs, etc. She stated for the older kids, family dinners were a great opportunity.

Mrs. Trawick introduced Ms. Tori Money, Sophomore, Rehobeth High School, and Vice-President of Substance Abuse Youth Council. She gave the history of "Red Ribbon Week." She stated while "Red Ribbon Week" brought the focus out to the community, it is a year round problem and the Partnership works all year helping to educate the community to the dangers of drugs and alcohol. Ms. Money asked everyone to take a stand with her and wear a red ribbon and lead a drug free life. She thanked the commission for their time. The chairman thanked Mrs. Trawick and Ms. Money and he stated on behalf of Sheriff Hughes and law enforcement, he thanked them for bringing awareness to the situation that they battle daily.

#### Regular Agenda

1. Request to adopt Resolution in support of Constitutional Amendment 1.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to adopt the Resolution in support of Constitutional Amendment 1. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. The chairman stated although he was not going to read the Resolution, it is a technical correction that involves shifting of administrative costs that were incorrectly done in a bill in 2006. He reported in 2006, Alabama voters approved a constitutional amendment that provided at least 10 mils of ad valorem taxes in each school district. He pointed out the language in the bill could unintentionally result in the re-distribution of cost of assessing to everybody else that receives property taxes. Chairman Culver reported this amendment will correct the problem, and he encouraged everyone to vote yes. (Please see in Resolution Book)

2. Request to adopt Resolution in support of Constitutional Amendment 3.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to adopt the Resolution in support of Constitutional Amendment 3. Commissioner Cook seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. Chairman Culver then read the Resolution. He stated it had significant impact on Houston County directly. The chairman reported the Resolution mentioned the \$3,954,809 as discussed by Mr. Pool on Thursday. He stated it could go up based on the new census because part of the gas tax is divided according to population. The chairman reported in addition during that period, another minimum of \$6,855,002 will be spent on state or local roads within Houston County. Chairman Culver reported the bottom line is that approximately \$11 million would be spent in Houston County on state and local roads and bridges. He reported in addition, our State Senator, Harri Anne Smith, was able to get into this bill a one time \$1 million appropriation to go to the final study on the I-10 Connector Toll Road Project. The chairman stated they have been told that they were waiting on the state for the funding of the study, and it will be funded through this program. He reported not only will this create \$11 million to be spent in Houston County, but it will greatly assist in moving forward with the I-10 Toll Road Project. The chairman reported the passage of the amendment will do a lot of good for our area and he encouraged everyone to vote yes on Amendment #3. (Please see in Resolution Book)

3. Request from The Downtown Group for permission to install a Directional P-Nut on the corner of Main and Foster Street on County property.

Commissioner Forrester made a motion to approve the request from The Downtown Group for permission to install a Directional P-Nut on the corner of Main and Foster Street on County property pending approval by the City of Dothan or the Historical Commission. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. The chairman reported the county is authorizing the site and Mr. Curtis has looked at it and stated it did not interfere with anything. He stated there would be signage showing what is located on Foster Street and because of that, it will need approval by the city or Historical Commission or both. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Request to begin proceedings to close portion of Jeffcoat Boulevard located in District 2.

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the request to begin proceedings to close portion of Jeffcoat Boulevard located in District 2. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. The Chairman reported this motion will begin the process which is long. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Request to approve Agreement with Alabama Department of Transportation to resurface County Road 81 from County Road 8 to U.S. Highway 84.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the Agreement with the Alabama Department of Transportation to resurface County Road 81 from County Road 8 to U.S. Highway 84. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. Mr. Myer Holloway reported it would be let in November and it was a much needed improvement to County Road 81. The chairman called for the question and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

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

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

7. Request to award bid for bulk cement and MC70 prime.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to award the bid for bulk cement to Couch Concrete Materials, only bidder meeting specs, in the amount of \$160.00 per ton, and to award the bid for MC70 prime to Ergon, low bidder meeting specs, in the amount of \$2.53 per gallon. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. The chairman called for the question; and it carried unanimously. (Please see Bid Summary Sheets in Minute Book)

8. Request for 010 Lounge Retail Liquor – Class 1 License – Georganna Hutchins d/b/a Highway 109 Bar, 4542 S. State Highway #109, Slocumb, AL 36375 (Houston County)

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the request for a 010 Lounge Retail Liquor – Class 1 License for Georganna Hutchins d/b/a Highway 109 Bar, 4542 S. State highway #109, Slocumb, AL 36375 (Houston County) Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion. The chairman asked if anyone was present in objection to the request? There being none, he called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer – there was no report

County Engineer -

Mr. Holloway, Acting Engineer, reminded everyone that there are still several projects ongoing. He reported they are still working with FEMA to get money for repairs from the recent floods. He reported with the help of Congressman Bright's office they have secured payments from FEMA for that work, and they are expecting payment in the next couple of weeks. Chairman Culver reported he knew that there had been some difficulty with FEMA because they do not have the money either. He reported the county appreciated the help from Congressman Bright's office and the State EMA office. The chairman reported the county needed to get the money into its budget; not the federal budget.

County Attorney –

Mr. Sherrer reported he had one item. He stated late last week he was informed that Dr. Banner would be leaving the service of the County Jail as its Medical Director. He reported because of some time issues with regard to licensure and the Physician's Assistant that works at the Jail he had prepared and proposed the agreement and resolution authorizing Mark Culver, Chairman, to sign on behalf of the county. Mr. Sherrer reported the contract was the same as the one that Dr. Banner had. Chairman Culver stated basically the county was swapping from Dr. Banner to Dr. Mark Choquette.

The chairman asked Sheriff Hughes if he had any comments? The Sheriff reported that Dr. Banner had done a tremendous job for the county out at the Medical Clinic, and he had gotten a lot accomplished especially with the H1N1 flu coming on a year or so ago. He stated Dr. Banner has been overseeing the Physician's Assistant at the Medical Clinic at the Jail, and it has limited his time at his practice. The Sheriff reported they had no objections whatsoever.

Chairman Culver reported it would take unanimous consent to address the issue, and he asked if anyone had any objections? He asked if anyone had any questions for the Sheriff or the County Attorney about the contract? Commissioner Snellgrove reported since Dr. Banner came on board a few years ago, it has been a big savings to the county, and the taxpayers. He stated he was surprised that the cost had not gone up. Sheriff Hughes reported he did not think it could be done any cheaper. He pointed out they have their own pharmacy, they do their own packaging buying the drugs at wholesale rates directly from the manufacturers. The Sheriff reported they have had 2 opportunities from outside medical care

companies that contract with jails and prisons across the country and the figure they gave them to contract the services out was actually doubled the amount they currently pay. The chairman reported recently one had contacted him and he had also contacted the Sheriff about going with an outside firm. He stated he had Mr. Dempsey to run all the numbers including salaries, fringe benefits, and everything involved, and it was significantly higher to go with the outside company than what we currently pay. The chairman reported he appreciated the Sheriff's Department and the commission working together on it. The chairman called for a motion. Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to adopt the Resolution authorizing Chairman Mark Culver to enter into an agreement to hire Dr. Mark Choquette as the Medical Director at the Jail. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

Adjourn.

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