

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION

JULY 11, 2016

PRESENT: Commissioner Jackie Battles, Acting Chairman, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Doug Sinquefield, Commissioner Brandon Shoupe, Pres Register, County Attorney, Barkley Kirkland, County Engineer, and W.J. Dempsey, Chief Administrative Officer

ABSENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver

Acting Chairman, Jackie Battles, called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, declared a quorum present, and welcomed everyone. Acting Chairman Battles reported Chairman Culver was out of town on an economic development project. Rev. Clark Cornelius, Pastor, Grace Church, gave the invocation. Commissioner Curtis Harvey led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Announcements and Comments from Chairman and Commission

There were no announcements or comments .

Awards and Presentations

1. Quarterly Update – Dothan-Houston County Library System – Mr. Jason LeDuc, Director

Acting Chairman Battles asked Mr. Jason LeDuc, Director, Dothan-Houston County Library System, to come forward. He stated Mr. LeDuc would be giving a quarterly report. Mr. LeDuc thanked the commission for the opportunity, and he recognized Mr. James Etheredge, Board Chairman. He reported he had been with the Houston County Library System for 9 months, and he would be giving the highlights from the handout he had given out.

The Director reported the Library System has a 5 year Strategic Plan in place in an effort to make the libraries in the system comfortable and inviting to people to use. He gave an overview of the following goals: 1. Reading is Fundamental in an effort to make Houston County a reading community and an educated community. He stated they have launched a Book Rotation Service to Senior Centers, as well as expanding the Bookmobile service to 3 days per week. 2. Access to Technology – Mr. LeDuc stated they created a new Monthly e-Newsletter as well as launching a “Continuous” Customer Feedback Survey in order to insure that people have access to technology. 3. Comfortable Spaces – He reported they are providing comfortable spaces to those who use the library as well as providing the latest technology. Mr. LeDuc stated the Ashford Library will be installing new windows and doors and doing other renovations in the near future. 4. Supporting Students and 5. Children’s Programs – The Director reported the Summer Reading Program is in full swing. He pointed out Mark Culver is this year’s Chairman and has done a wonderful job energizing programs for children. 6. Organizational Structure – Mr. LeDuc stated in an effort to use their tax dollars wisely, there have been no new hires since he came on board, and one person from the Library System is now in Ashford full-time.

Mr. LeDuc reported in the last 8 months, 476,160 people have visited the Library System. He pointed out the Library is vital to our community, and it has rallied around it. He stated the complete Strategic Plan could be obtained from the website, www.dhcls.org.

Acting Chairman Battles thanked Mr. LeDuc for his update. Commissioner Shoupe thanked Mr. LeDuc for the outstanding job he and his staff are doing. Commissioner Siquefield thanked Mr. LeDuc and Mr. Etheredge for their work also.

Regular Agenda

1. Request from Revenue Commissioner to approve annual list of insolvents, errors and taxes in litigation and uncollected insolvents and litigations from previous years.

Commissioner Siquefield made a motion to grant the Revenue Commissioner's request to approve the annual list of insolvents, errors and taxes in litigation and uncollected insolvents and litigations from previous years. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Acting Chairman Battles reported Mrs. Starla Moss was present to answer any questions. He stated the commission is required by law to approve this each year. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

1. Request from EMA for approval of an Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) – Steve Carlisle, EMA Director.

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve an Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) in the amount of \$10,673.00. Commissioner Siquefield seconded the motion. Acting Chairman Battles called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

2. Request to approve budget amendment for State Line Industrial Park – Fire Protection – Bill Dempsey, CAO.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the budget amendment for State Line Industrial Park for fire protection. Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion. Mr. Dempsey reported they are still trying to determine if the damages will be covered by insurance. He stated the exact amount should be received this week from the insurance company. Mr. Battles called for the question; and it carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

3. Request from Sheriff's Department to acquire radio frequencies for the new communications system – Captain Bill Rafferty.

Commissioner Siquefield made a motion to approve the request from the Sheriff's Department to acquire radio frequencies for the new communications system. Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion. Acting Chairman Battles reported Captain Bill Rafferty discussed this at Thursday's meeting. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Request to purchase ice machine for the Jail at a cost of \$8,800.00 – Captain Keith Reed.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the purchase of an ice machine for the Jail at a cost of \$8,800.00. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion. Mr. Battles reported he spoke with Captain Reed after the meeting on Thursday, and he was informed that ice is used for more than cooling drinks; it is used for icepacks and other things. The Acting Chair called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Request to adopt Resolution to resurface South Bay Springs Road from Geneva County Line to Fortner Street. (Approximately 0.523 miles) Road and Bridge Department.

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to adopt the Resolution to resurface South Bay Springs Road from the Geneva County Line to Fortner Street, approximately 0.523 miles. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Resolution Book)

6. Request to approve Road and Bridge Revenue budget amendment – Road and Bridge Department.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the Road and Bridge Revenue budget amendment. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

7. Request to sell old cranes on GovDeals – Road and bridge Department.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request to sell old cranes on GovDeals. Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer – there was no report

County Engineer –

Barkley Kirkland reported Judge Logue Road between Windmill and Hilltop is closed for three weeks. He also stated they were working putting in cross drains on County Road #55. He pointed out they are installing the cross drains by twos and they are working on #5 and #6. Mr. Kirkland reported Fuller Road and Blackman Road are closed.

County Attorney – there was no report

Adjourn

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