

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 13, 2017

PRESENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Doug Siquefield, Commissioner Jackie Battles, Commissioner Brandon Shoupe, Pres Register, County Attorney, Barkley Kirkland, County Engineer, and W. J. Dempsey, CAO

ABSENT: None

Chairman Mark S. Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, declared a quorum present, and welcomed everyone. Rev. Mark Benson, Pastor, First Assembly of God Church, gave the invocation. Commissioner Siquefield led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Announcements and Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver asked everyone to please keep the family of Greg Yost and the National Peanut Festival family in their thoughts and prayers. He reported Mr. Yost passed away unexpectedly on Sunday. He stated Mr. Yost had worked with the National Peanut Festival for many years, and had done an outstanding job. The chairman pointed out that he knew the inner workings of the grounds and buildings, etc. Chairman Culver reported too many good people had been lost. He stated each day is a blessing and everyone needed to live their life in that manner.

The Chairman reminded everyone Monday, February 20th, is President's Day, and all federal, state and county offices would be closed.

Commissioner Shoupe congratulated Ms. Reagan Bull, a student at Wicksburg, on winning the County Spelling Bee. He reported she will compete in the State Spelling Bee in Birmingham.

The chairman thanked Commissioner Doug Siquefield for doing an outstanding job chairing the Admin meeting on Thursday during his absence. He also thanked County Attorney, Pres Register, for attending.

Awards and Presentations

Chairman Culver reported he was going to take the Chairman's privilege before the law enforcement awards. He stated Scout Master David Neeley was present with two of his scouts, and he asked them to come forward. At that time, Mr. Neeley introduced Andrew and Benjamin Wilkins. Chairman Culver reported it is always a pleasure to have the scouts attend our meeting, and he presented them with a county pin. Mr. Neeley reported the boys were studying the local law part of their program, and were working on their civic badges. The chairman thanked them for their participation in the scouting program.

1. Presentation – 2016 Alabama State Trooper of Year Award – Jason McCallister
2016 Deputy of the Year Award – Investigator Adam Zeh – John Seay, Commander, VFW Post 273
and Ed Pritchard, Quartermaster, VFW Post 273

Chairman Culver reported Ed Pritchard was under the weather and would not be able to attend. He asked Commander John Seay to come forward. Mr. Seay stated he was going to let Tracy McCord of the Alabama State Troopers and Sheriff Donald Valenza present the awards, and he asked them to come forward along with Trooper Jason McCallister and Investigator Adam Zeh. Trooper McCord reported that Trooper McCallister began his career with the Houston County Sheriff's Department and then became an Alabama State Trooper. He stated Trooper McCallister works hard and exemplifies all of the qualities to earn the Trooper of the Year Award. Sheriff Valenza thanked the VFW Post 273 for giving the award each year. He stated Investigator Zeh began work as a Deputy and has come up through the ranks and is very deserving of the award. He presented the award and congratulated Investigator Zeh. Chairman Culver also thanked the VFW Post 273 for recognizing our law enforcement, allowing the commission to be a small part in this program. He stated they work tirelessly to keep us safe.

Regular Agenda

1. Request to fill vacancy on SE Alabama Community Action Partnership Board – Ben Irwin.

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to appoint Ben Irwin to fill the vacancy on the SE Alabama Community Action Partnership Board. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Request to adopt Resolution in Support of ATRIP-2 Bond Issue.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to adopt the Resolution in Support of the ATRIP-2 Bond Issue. Commissioner Siquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported a joint meeting with Dale and Henry Counties was held earlier this month at Headland High School regarding the ATRIP-2 Program. He reported it was well attended and the majority of those who understood the program were in favor of it. The chairman stated this Resolution is only in support of an ATRIP-2 Program in order to try to get something done. He pointed out a total of approximately \$75 million will be received by the 5 counties in our area for the roads. Chairman Culver reported there is no other legislation out there. He stated if this ATRIP-2 Bond issue is approved by the legislature, the proposal will be tweaked several times and will probably not be this exact piece of legislation.

Commissioner Harvey stated he thought this was a good program and would only cost drivers an average of \$15.00 per year. He pointed out the 3 cents per gallon tax would go away in 14 years.

Commissioner Siquefield reported 53 counties around the state were in support of the ATRIP-2 Program.

Commissioner Shoupe reported he was going to vote against the proposal because many of his constituents in his district had voiced their opposition. He stated the 3-cents a gallon tax is supposed to go away in 14 years, and if this passed, the roads that would be resurfaced under this program would

need it again. He pointed out providing for the infrastructure for the citizens is a fundamental operation of government. Commissioner Shoupe reported a better job of communicating the need has to be done.

Chairman Culver called for the question; and the vote was: YEAS: Commissioners Harvey, Siquefield, and Battles NAYS: Commissioner Shoupe The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried. (Please see in Resolution Book)

3. Request to adopt Resolution authorizing the Chairman to execute the 2018-2020 ACCA Liability Self-Insurance Fund, Inc. Participation Agreement – Bill Dempsey, CAO.

Commissioner Siquefield made a motion to adopt the Resolution authorizing the Chairman to execute the 2018-2020 ACCA Liability Self-Insurance Fund, Inc. Participation Agreement. Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion. Mr. Dempsey reported this agreement will be for 3 more years. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

4. Request to approve firm to conduct audits of various agencies.

Commissioner Siquefield made a motion to grant the request to approve the firm to conduct audits of various agencies. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. It was pointed out that several firms had been looked at but it was felt it would be good to have someone removed from Houston County. Mr. Dempsey reported the firm of Gibson and Carden of Troy would be doing the audits. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Request to rescind and replace agreement with SpectraCare Health Systems, Inc.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to rescind and replace the agreement with SpectraCare Health Systems, Inc. Commissioner Siquefield seconded the motion. It was pointed out this was discussed at length at the Administrative meeting. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

6. Request to approve professional services associated with tower project.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the professional services associated with the tower project. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this is for engineering services at the site with PolyEngineering, Inc. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

7. Request authorization to increase County Buildings major repair budget – Bill Dempsey, CAO.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to authorize the increase in the County Buildings major repair budget. Commissioner Siquefield seconded the motion. Mr. Dempsey reported that the DA's Office and the Circuit Clerk had reimbursed the county in the amount of \$9,305.00 for some shelving in the Jackson Buildings. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

8. Request to approve Emergency Replacement of HVAC-15 at DHR with expenditures to come out of the Capital Replacement Fund – Sean Curtis, Maintenance Manager.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the Emergency Replacement of the HVAC-15 at DHR with expenditures to come out of the Capital Replacement Fund. Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion. Commissioner Sinquefield asked Mr. Curtis what might be some major repairs coming up? Mr. Curtis reported there were 3 units left at DHR, 4 at the Health Department, and a compressor on the chiller at the Jail that are on the critical list. He pointed out the critical list is shrinking, and they are getting into more normal repairs. He also stated there are 3 drives on the Courthouse elevator. Mr. Dempsey reported the format of the expenditures in the package will give them a breakdown of each expenditure and a year to date total. He stated they will have to wait and see how far they go before they need to make a budget amendment. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

9. Request from Sheriff's Department to approve all 2016/2017 overtime grant revenues and expenditures – Captain Bill Rafferty.

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to grant the request from the Sheriff's Department to approve all of the 2016/2017 overtime grant revenues and expenditures. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

10. Request from Landmark Park for 20 loads of base dirt – Road and Bridge Department.

Chairman Culver asked Mr. William Holman, Executive Director, Landmark Park, to come forward. Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve Landmark Park's request for 20 loads of base dirt. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Mr. Holman reported this dirt will help get the portion of the road ready for crusher run. Commissioner Sinquefield thanked Mr. Holman and his staff for the great job they do in educating the school kids through the various programs they have. Mr. Holman reported this year marks 40 years since they opened and that over 400,000 school kids have been through the programs. Commissioner Shoupe also stated he appreciated what they do. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

11. Request from the Town of Kinsey to place rock and assist with dirt work on Ruby Drive – Road and Bridge Department.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the Town of Kinsey's request to place rock and assist with dirt work on Ruby Drive. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Chairman Culver pointed out this work will be done according to the county's policy. He called for the question;; and the motion carried unanimously.

12. Request to award bids on reinforced arch concrete pipe to the low bidder meeting specs – Road and Bridge Department.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to award the bid for reinforced arched concrete pipe to Forterra Pipe, the only bidder, in the various categories. Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion. Chairman

Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached Bid Summary Sheet in Minute Book)

13. Request to approve items to be sold on GovDeals – Road and Bridge Department.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the items to be sold on GovDeals. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer – there was no report

County Engineer –

Mr. Kirkland reported there were 2 closed roads, South Bay Springs and Wicksburg Road. He stated South Bay Springs should open sometime this week, and Wicksburg Road would be closed for 2 weeks.

County Attorney – there was no report

Adjourn

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