

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR SESSION
February 12, 2024

PRESENT: Acting Chairman Ricky Herring, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Tracy Adams, Commissioner James Ivey, County Engineer Barkley Kirkland, Chief Administrative Officer Peter Covert and County Attorney Pres Register.

Acting Chairman Herring called the 10:00 a.m. meeting to order. He welcomed everyone to the February 12, 2024, Houston County Commission Regular Session. He declared a quorum as a majority was in attendance.

Pastor Caleb Galloway, from First Presbyterian Church, gave the invocation and Commissioner Adams led in the pledge of allegiance.

The minutes of the previous meetings were approved on a motion by Commissioner Ivey and seconded by Commissioner Adams. The motion passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSIONERS

Acting Chairman Herring announced that the Mardi Gras Parade was a huge success and went very well. He added that February 14th is Valentine's Day, and that February is "Heart Month". Commissioner Adams reminded everyone to not cross over roads that are covered with water as there has already been an incident where someone crossed a flooded road and they were stranded in their car.

At this time, Acting Chairman Herring called on EMA Director Mark Powell to give an update on the weather situation. Mr. Powell also reminded everyone to not cross flooded roads today as the rain has been heavy and there are many washed out roads at this time. He urged everyone to be careful and if they do not have to get out, to stay home.

AWARDS & PRESENTATIONS

1. Presentation – 2022-2023 FY Work Completed by Road & Bridge Dept.

County Engineer Kirkland began by stating that this presentation is for the work that Road & Bridge completed in FY 2022-2023. He began with the Rebuild Alabama program projects which included four completed projects, 4.87 miles of roads resurfaced, over 9 miles of shoulder work completed and over 600 linear feet of cross drains replaced. Those roads that were completed included National Road, Fortson Road, Enon Road and Lynn Jarvis Road. Roads

in progress at the end of 2023 include Enterprise Church Road, Garrett Road and W. Cook. The final Rebuild Alabama program cost was estimated at \$832,127 and the completed cost was \$617,152. The total county money spent was \$989,828 and this included cross-drains, zipping, shoulder work and permanent striping. Engineer Kirkland added that if they had to put the \$989,828 into contract work, they could not of been able to pave but about 2 or 3 miles of road, as the cost is so high. He is proud to say that his department is able to do a lot of the work themselves.

The FY 2023-2024 Rebuild Alabama Projects include the recently completed projects on Enterprise Church Road at \$250,704, Skipper Road at \$271,276 and W. Cook Road at \$485,708. The upcoming projects are Garret Road, County Rd. 75 S, County Line Rd., and Bill Yance Rd. Mr. Barkley added that they applied for and received a \$250,000 grant to fix Pea Market Rd., which helped tremendously.

Engineer Kirkland then began with the completed MPO Projects for FY 2022-2023. MPO projects are funded by 80% of Federal Funds. Completed projects included 1.17 miles on Ashford Road, almost 1 mile on Bethel Road, 2.73 miles on Cowarts Creek Road, .96 miles on Hosea Road, 3 miles on Roney Road, almost 4 miles on Taylor Rd., 2.80 miles on Campbellton Highway and a half a mile on S. Broadway in Ashford. Engineer Kirkland gave a report on the upcoming MPO Projects to include Ashford Rd., Enon Rd., Cumbie Rd., D. Hodge Rd., and Crawford Rd.

For the year, they completed 212 miles of permanent striping in Houston County, 65 miles in Coffee County and 95 miles in Dale County. The cost is \$648 per mile but if it was contracted it would cost \$2,500 - \$3,500 per mile.

Engineer Kirkland reported that additional work completed for the 2022 – 2023 year included an Industrial Access Road on Hodgesville Road, which is still in progress. The cost of this project is approximately \$1,009,071, but is 100% reimbursable. Storm rebuild work, which was located near Buds n Blossoms, was a total cost of \$320,178. Other cross drain replacements included Bowen Rd., Beatrice Rd., Houston St., and S. Lindburg Rd. The total linear feet of pipe laid was 222.

Right-of-Way Maintenance for the fiscal year included 6,243 miles of herbicide application, 1802 miles of mowing and bush hogging, 81 miles of clearing and 19 miles of ditch work. This work totaled \$1,709,436. He pointed out that spraying the herbicide is a lot cheaper than mowing so they choose to spray instead of mow. In addition, they don't really have the manpower, time, or equipment.

Engineer Kirkland stated that in regard to motor grading, they completed 927 miles for a total

of \$514,070. They also completed 1,131 work orders for a total of almost \$1.7 million dollars. Town request work was just over \$200,000 and completed special projects came in at \$1.26 million dollars.

The ongoing and upcoming special projects for FY 2023-2024 include animal shelter work, Moffett Rd. work, Landmark Park building pad, forensics science building site work, Homeland Security Building parking lot and pipe work for the Sheriff's Dept.

Mr. Kirkland reported that the Sanitation Dept. serviced 13,593 customers, gained 143 new customers, and cleaned up 161 tons of tires, which they get reimbursed for through a grant. The Sanitation knuckle boom service had a total of 11,267 pickups which totaled 1,517 tons.

This concluded Engineer Kirkland's presentation and Acting Chairman Herring thanked him for all the information. He said that this really enlightens a lot of what the Road & Bridge Dept. does and especially with the Rebuild Alabama gas tax money and how it is used. Mr. Herring added that he appreciates the Road & Bridge Dept. for all they do and asked for comments from the commission. Engineer Kirkland said that as they speak, the rainwater is causing havoc to the roads and for everyone to drive carefully and be cautious of standing water.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Request to approve annual Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control Board License Fees for Houston County

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the license fees and Commissioner Adams seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Request to approve temporary polling place for the Town of Cottonwood – Patrick Davenport, Judge of Probate

Commissioner Ivey made a motion to approve the temporary polling place. Commissioner Adams seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Request to approve capital replacement fund budget amendment for fire suppression tank on State Line Road – Tommy Dixon, Buildings Manager

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the budget amendment and Commissioner Adams seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Request to approve Resolution to Authorize Allocation of American Rescue Plan Act Funds for Eligible Storm water Projects – Peter Covert, Chief Administrative Officer

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the resolution and Commissioner Adams seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Request to approve Resolution to Authorize Allocation of American Rescue Plan Act Funds for Eligible Water Infrastructure Project and Delegate Authority to Enter into a Sub award with the Town of Cottonwood – Peter Covert, Chief Administrative Officer

Commissioner Ivey made a motion to approve the resolution and to enter into a sub award with the Town of Cottonwood. Commissioner Adams seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

6. Request to approve Resolution Allocating Additional American Rescue Plan Act Revenue Replacement Funds for Window Replacement and Envelope Sealing at the Houston County Administration Building – Peter Covert, Chief Administrative Officer

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the resolution and Commissioner Adams seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Request to award bid for uniforms to lowest bidder meeting specs – Major Bill Rafferty, Sheriff's Dept.

Commissioner Ivey made a motion to approve the request to award the bid for uniform to lowest bidder meeting specs. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

8. Request to approve budget amendment for reimbursement of US Marshall's Service Overtime Grant – Major Bill Rafferty, Sheriff's Dept.

Commissioner Ivey made a motion to approve the budget amendment for reimbursement of US Marshall's Service Overtime Grant. Commissioner Adams seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

9. Request to award bid for truck dump body to lowest bidder meeting specs – Road & Bridge

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request to award bid for truck dump body to lowest bidder meeting specs. Commissioner Adams seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

10. Request to sell the following items on GovDeals:

- a. Misc. Office supplies (Probate Dept)
- b. Bush Hog (Maintenance Dept.)
- c. Assorted rims (Road & Bridge)

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve to sell the items on GovDeals and Commissioner Adams seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS

Chief Administrative Officer – No report

County Engineer – There was one closed road this morning but with the flood there will be several throughout the day. Update on storm debris in Cottonwood, they have hauled 1156 dump truck loads of trees and 20 loads of trash. They are in hopes of starting back in Cottonwood next Tuesday for a final pass through of pickups.

Commissioner Adams praised the Road and Bridge Dept., for their efforts in cleaning up Cottonwood and it is appreciated.

County Attorney – No report

Adjourned