

**Russell County Commission
Meeting Minutes
January 22, 2014
9:30 A.M. EST**

An adjourned meeting of the Russell County Commission was called to order. Members present were Chair Peggy Martin, Vice Chair Cattie Epps, Gentry Lee, Tillman Pugh, Ronnie Reed, Chance Corbett and Larry Screws. Also present was Attorney Kenneth Funderburk and County Administrator LeAnn Horne who kept the minutes.

A quorum was established.

Chair Martin welcomed elected officials, department heads, media and guests. She also thanked Cable T.V. of East Alabama for production of the Commission meeting for the public's view.

The meeting was video recorded by ACCA Representative, Mr. John Gross for ACCA's program usage.

Chair Martin requested a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the agenda and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

The invocation was given by Jr. White, Pastor of Woodland Baptist Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Pugh.

Chair Martin requested a motion to approve the January 8th, 2014 meeting minutes. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The minutes were approved with 6 Commission votes. Commissioner Corbett abstained due to his absence at the January 8th, meeting.

Chief Alexander requested approval for a resolution to name the new Investigative Center after Sheriff Heath Taylor. He will be presented the resolution today at the ribbon cutting for the center. Commissioner Epps motioned to approve the resolution and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Lee-Russell Representative Barbara Scott presented the 2014 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update which is good for five years. Russell County's current plan, which covers Russell County, Phenix City and Hurtsboro, will expire in 2015. Maintaining update of the plan not only keeps the community safe and prepared for natural hazards, and allows the county to be eligible for hazard mitigation funding if something should occur. The county is asked to provide three things:

1. An elected official to attend the stakeholder and technical advisory meeting for the plan update.
2. Encouraging department heads to attend meeting. The first meeting will be February 6 from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers.

3. Adoption of the completed plan by resolution.

Commissioner Lee motioned to allow Lee-Russell Council of Governments to begin the update of the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. EMA Director Bob Franklin reminded the Commission that this is funded by a grant from the Alabama Emergency Management. The vote was unanimous.

The Court ordered Cremation for Patricia L. Widmeier was taken off the agenda by Coroner Sumbry.

Chamber of Commerce Representative James McGill requested a letter from the Commission to the Alabama Department of Transportation concerning safety issues at the back gate to Fort Benning and Hwy 165. He suggested 3 projects that would help ease those traffic and safety issues:

1. Opening up the Bon Acre Road to accommodate some of the traffic to and from Fort Benning,
2. Constructing merge lanes in this area for safely entering and exiting onto Hwy 165.
3. Opening up the West security gate at the military boundary of Bon Acre Road to help alleviate traffic onto Hwy 165.

Fort Benning has estimated cost for these projects is \$2,000,000 and funding the projects are not possible at this time. The purpose of the letter is to request the Alabama DOT to help fund changes to the back gate that will improve access and safety issues. Commissioner Lee motioned to authorize a letter to be written by Mr. McGill or the Engineer to the Alabama DOT, Fort Benning, Senators, and Congressmen. The letter should outline the three projects to maintain safety and alleviate traffic issues at Fort Benning's Back Gate. Seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.

County Engineer Larry Kite presented the results for the Annual Materials and Services Bid. Tabulation sheet were distributed to the Commissioner with recommendations as follows:

- Traffic Stripping and Markers – Ozark Stripping Company
- Liquid Asphalt – Ergon Asphalt & Emulsions, Inc.
- Guardrail – H&L Guardrail
- Lubricants – The McPherson Company, who is on the State bid.
- Bituminous Paving – East Alabama Paving
- Aggregate – Columbus Quarry LLC with the exception of lime stone which will go to APAC Midsouth.
- Hydro-Seeding & Grassing – Parker Grassing
- Reinforced Concrete Pipe and End Treatment – Hanson Pipe and Precast
- Aluminized and HDPE Pipe – Harvey Culvert Company for the aluminized pipe and Thompson Supply for HDPE pipe.
- Truck Hauling – M & M Trucking
- Motor Grader Blades – Thompson Cat

Commissioner Lee motioned to approve Mr. Kite's recommendations. Seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.

County Administrator LeAnn Horne requested a budget amendment for the sanitation department as follows:

Garbage Fund 511

Garbage Department - 54100

Decrease 511 54100 172	Landfill Dumping	\$24,000.00
Decrease 511 54100 219	Other Miscellaneous	\$3,025.00
Decrease 511 54100 252	Postage	\$1,000.00
Decrease 511 54100 550	Vehicles	\$36,025.00
	Total	\$64,025.00

Increase 511 54100 214	Minor Equipment	\$24,000.00
Increase 511 54100 253	Advertising	\$3,000.00
Increase 511 54100 265	Registration & Training	\$1,000.00
Increase 511 54100 272	Insurance	\$36,000.00
Increase 511 54100 272	Equipment & Furniture	\$25.00
	Total	\$64,025.00

Commissioner Epps motioned to accept the Administrator's recommendation. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Administrator Horne stated after the annual review of Board appointments list that would need new or reappointments for the Boards were included in today's packet. Those requiring updating are as follows:

- o Personnel Review Board
- o Valley Partnership
- o Russell County Utility Board
- o East Alabama Mental Health Board

No action is required today and the appointments will be brought back at another meeting, giving the Commission time to review.

Chair Martin made the following announcements:

- o Phenix City/Russell County Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner will be held 6:30 p.m. on January 30, at Central High School. Tickets \$40.00
- o Agenda Items and announcement are to be submitted to the Commission Office by Wednesday at noon prior to the Commission work session.
- o Reminder: last day to qualify as a candidate for office is February 7, 2014.

Commissioner Screws stated that the Personnel Review Policy Committee has completed review of personnel policy feels that it is ready for Commission and the County Attorney to review for corrections or suggestions. Copies of the policy will be sent to the Webb & Eley. After corrections are made the personnel policy will be brought back for Commission approval. Commissioner Lee suggested sending copies to the ACCA.

Administrator Horne announced that Carolyn Robinson has been promoted to Human Resource Manager and the Personnel Department will be changing. Once the policy is approved, Ms. Robinson will oversee the policy and make sure guide lines are followed.

Commissioner Corbett discussed the meeting that was held in District 6 the recent county lease of the Crawford Masonic Lodge and renovations to the lodge. He also requested for residents who would like to make a donation to the project may do so by sending donations to the Commission Office, noting that their donation is for the Masonic Lodge project. March 1st from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. there will be a work day at the Lodge for citizens and county employees who would like to take part.

Chair Martin stated there is no other business and requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Lee motioned to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned.