

The Russell County Commission
Meeting Minutes
January 27th, 2016
9:30 A.M. EST.

An adjourned meeting of the Russell County Commission was called to order by Chair Peggy Martin.

The invocation was given by Richie Ashburn, Pastor of Silver Run Baptist Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Epps.

A public comment was made by Ronald Lunsford who attended a meeting for the National Emergency Response Center in Columbus. The meeting was concerning an organization named, Volunteer Organization Active in Disasters, "VOAD". He explained the organizations are made up from area volunteers and how they respond to communities affected by tornadoes, floods, etc. He encouraged citizens to attend the meetings every 4th Friday at the Columbus Regional Center. The Russell EMA Assistance EMA Director David Martin is one of the instructors for the organization and will help those who would like to join.

Chair Martin welcomed elected officials, department heads, media and guests. She also thanked Cable T.V. of East Alabama and the Citizen News for their coverage of the Commission meeting.

The Commission roll was called, members present were: Chair Peggy Martin, Vice Chair Larry Screws, Gentry Lee, Tillman Pugh, Ronnie Reed, Cattie Epps and Chance Corbett. Also present was Attorney Kenneth Funderburk and County Administrator LeAnn Horne, who kept the minutes.

A quorum was established.

Chair Martin requested a motion to approve the January 13th, 2016 meeting minutes. Commissioner Epps motioned to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Screws. The vote was unanimous.

Assistance Engineer Shawn Blakeney requested to purchase the following equipment utilizing the ACCA County Joint Bid Program:

- 1- Heavy Duty Dump Truck Chassis (Mack GU713) from Nextran Truck Center in the amount of \$123,611.00
- 1- 16ft Steel Dump Body (21 CY Stamped Ox Body) from Childersburg Truck in the amount of \$24,239.00

The purchase is to replace a dump truck that was totaled last week.

Mr. Blakeney also requested to purchase:

- State bid List 1-90 HP Massey Ferguson Tractor in the amount of \$63,838.81

- National Joint Powers Alliance Bid – 1 Diamond Boom Mower in the amount of \$51,696.00.

Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve the purchases and was seconded by Commissioner Screws. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Blakeney presented tabulations for Engineering Annual Materials Bid and recommended the following vendors be awarded the bids:

- 001-16 Traffic Striping and Markers – Ozark Striping Company
- 002-16 Liquid Asphalt - Ergon
- 003-16 Guardrail - No bids were received.
- 004-16 Bituminous Paving – East Alabama Paving
- 005-16 Grassing – Parker Grassing
- 006-16 HDPE Pipe - Split Bid- Fergus –Waterworks & Thompson Supply
 - No bidders on Aluminized Pipe
- 007-16 Aggregate - Split Bid – Columbus Quarry & Southeast Materials
- 008-16 Concrete Pipe – Forterra Pipe and Precast
- 009-16 Truck Hauling – M&M Trucking

Commissioner Screws motioned to approve the recommended bid awards. Seconded by Commissioners Reed and Corbett. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Blakeney included in the Commissioner’s packet an agreement from JM Woods Auction Company for the sale of 2 motor graders and 3 Mack trucks. Commissioner Epps motioned to approve the agreement and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Sheriff Heath Taylor requested approval to award the 2016 Jail Food Bid to Boles Food Group and the Cleaning Supplies Bid awarded to Columbus Paper. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve the awards. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk presented a resolution changing the process of collecting county business license. He recommended adopting a resolution and for the changes to go into effect, April 1, 2016. Attorney Funderburk gave a brief explanation of why he recommended changes. A new business is able to buy a county business license for a minimum fee and are not charged based on the business license schedule. The second year that their license is renewed the purchase price of the business license is based on the preceding year’s receipts. Businesses like Walmart will purchase a business license for \$100; spend \$15 million and never pay a cent more than \$100. Then they have \$3 million dollars of merchandise and pay nothing because the builder doesn’t renew their license. The law as it exists doesn’t provide for a free year. The Dollar Generals and Family Dollars all fall into that category of paying only \$100 and do not pay all that they should pay. The Resolution does make it clear that you do not get a freebie the first year. The Probate office can handle collecting the fees one of two ways. The builders for these businesses supply the contract for their project, take the amount the builder will receive and pay the license for the issuance for the first

year. If the builder doesn't wasn't to do that then they can get a provisional license for 3 months and at the end of three months they will have to come in to the Probate Judge's Office and file the affidavit and pay the license according to the amount of money they received for that quarter. This continues until they get a renewal. The Resolution doesn't change anything, but makes it clear that the business license fee will be collected and is not free. Commissioner Epps motioned to accept the recommendation of the County Attorney. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Personnel Reports are included in the Commissioner Packets.

Announcements were made.

Chair Martin requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Lee made the motion.

The meeting was adjourned.