

The Russell County Commission
Emergency Called Meeting
November 2nd, 2016
1:30 P.M. EDT

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

A quorum was established.

Probate Judge Alford Harden Jr. announced, yesterday afternoon at approximately 1:30 p.m. he was notified that the Phenix City National Guard Armory is closed for renovations. This voting precinct for District 3 was vacated 3 months ago, without notification to the Probate Office.

After discussions with several people and the Secretary of State John Merrill, a solution was created. Sheriff Taylor and Judge Harden contacted the Pastor at Golden Acres Baptist Church, who has graciously agreed to allow this to be the voting location for District 3. It is approximately 100 yards from the National Guard Armory. Judge Harden recommended the Commission approve moving the polling location permanently to Golden Acres Baptist Church.

Steps will be taken with the help of Chief Registrar Jimmy Adams and other members of the Board of Registrars, by sending out cards to all registered voters in that district who vote in that box. Those voters should receive their notifications by Friday November 4th. Tim Chitwood who writes for the Ledger Enquirer has agreed to do a story. The Cable T.V. of East Alabama will place notifications on Channel 7, to air throughout the rest of this week and the week-end and during the football games shown on Saturday, explaining the voting location change. This plan has been approved by the Secretary of State John Merrill.

Commissioner Screws motioned to approve Judge Harden's recommendation. Seconded by Commissioner Epps.

Commissioner Reed asked if the Commission needs to give the Church any money for using their facility.

Judge Harden said if they request funding for use of their gymnasium as a voting location, the Probate Office has funding to cover that.

Judge Harden and Administrator Horne thought a media release could be done tomorrow morning informing voters of the location change before Tuesday's election.

Signs will also be posted on the fence at the Armory letting people know to go across the street to vote.

Administrator Horne polled the Commission. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Pugh motioned to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.