

The Russell County Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
February 12, 2014  
9:30 A.M. EST

Before the Commission Meeting was called to order, The Russell County High School Chorus and Pastor Larry Wynn sang in recognition of Black History Month.

Columbus Consolidated Government Director of Public Services, Pat Biegler presented the Commission with the Go Green Appreciation Award for Russell County's recycling effort.

An adjourned meeting of the Russell County Commission was called to order. Commissioners present were: Chair Peggy Martin, Vice Chair Cattie Epps, Gentry Lee, Tillman Pugh, Ronnie Reed, Cattie Epps, Chance Corbett and Larry Screws. Also present was the County 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 invocation was given by Ralph Henderson, Pastor of Oswichee Baptist Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Screws.

Chair Martin requested a motion to approve the January 22, 2014 meeting minutes. Commissioner Epps motioned to approve the minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Revenue Commission Chief Clerk Peggy Seymour presented the Ad Valorem Tax Resolution for the 2014 collection. This resolution is required by the state each year. Commissioner Epps motioned to approve the resolution and was seconded by Commissioner Pugh. The vote was unanimous.

Sheriff Heath Taylor discussed the Annual Jail Food Bid results. He recommended rejecting the bids and resubmitting the bids. There was confusion on wording sent back for bids and thought it would be fair to send the bids back out and open the bids Friday February 21<sup>st</sup> at 2:00 p.m. in the Commission Chamber. Commissioner Pugh motioned to reject the bids and to send out for rebid by the Administrator today. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Russell County Engineering Technician Alan McClure requested approval to purchase a 2003 herbicide truck from Alabama Department Transportation Surplus in the amount of

\$25,000. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the purchase. Seconded by Commissioner Corbett. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. McClure also presented two (2) ALDOT Federal Aid Funding Agreements for ATRIP projects:

1. Resurfacing of Cottonton Road, 7.2 miles.
2. Resurfacing of Prudence Road, 7.84 miles

Commissioner Screws motioned to approve the agreements and was seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.

Administrator LeAnn Horne discussed two (2) boards which have members whose terms were ending.

1. The Valley Partnership - the Commission designates who serves. In the past the Chair and County Engineer serves on the board. Commissioner Lee motioned to continue with the positions being held by the chair and engineer serving on the board. Seconded by Commissioner Corbett. The vote was unanimous.
2. The Russell County Utility Board – this is a five member board with two open positions at this time.
  - o Commissioner Corbett nominated James Sinkule. Commissioner Epps motioned to close the nomination and was seconded by Commissioner Screws. The vote was unanimous.
  - o Commissioner Screws nominated Doris Elmore for the second position. Commissioner Reed motioned to close nominations and was seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Lee motioned to appoint both nominees to the Utility Board. Seconded by Commissioner Pugh. The vote was unanimous.

Administrator Horne presented The ACCA Liability Self-Insurance Fund, a three year contract proposal which the Commission approves by resolution. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Pugh. The vote was unanimous. A one-time “longevity Bonus of \$57,380.93 will be returned to the county for reentering the program.

County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk recommended going into executive session to discuss issues related to business license tax. The Commission will have to reconvene to vote.

Commissioner Pugh motioned to go into executive session. Seconded by Commissioner Lee. The vote was unanimous. Chair Martin requested that Probate Judge Harden and Special Enforcement Officer Bill Friend to attend the executive session.

Announcements were made before going into executive session.

Chair Martin announced that the Russell County Courthouse will be closed February 17, 2014 in observance of President’s Day.

Commissioner Corbett discussed the Search Foundation Mini-Grants for Russell County Schools. 19 projects were submitted by teachers, only 9 have been funded. There were 10 left to be funded and are being submitted for companies, businesses or individuals who would like to fund one of the listed projects.

Commissioner Pugh informed the public that demolition is taking place at the Ladonia Complex. There will be inconveniences on opening day concerning the concession stand and restrooms.

Commissioner Corbett also announced that there will also be demolition of a storage building at the Crawford Masonic Lodge.

Chair Martin requested a motion to reconvene the meeting. Commissioner Pugh motioned to reconvene and was seconded by Commissioner Lee. The vote was unanimous.

Attorney Kenneth Funderburk stated for the contested claim with Mead regarding the amount of their business license; He recommended accepting the \$174,340.67, the full settlement of the law contested claims with Mead and that we accept that as full settlement of those claims. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve Attorney Funderburk's recommendation. Seconded by Commissioner Pugh. The vote was unanimous.

Attorney Funderburk's second recommendation for the Brown Healey Company was to waive the penalty for their business license. They did attempt to pay for business license but their payment was routed to the wrong department. Commissioner Epps motioned to approve the recommendation, Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Chair Martin adjourned the meeting