

The Russell County Commission
Meeting Minutes
February 24th, 2016
9:30 A.M. EST

Commissioner Reed arranged for the Russell County High School Choir led by Rudy Barraca to sing in honor of Black History Month. Commissioner Reed also presented the students from Russell County High and Mr. Barraca with certificates of recognition.

An adjourned meeting of the Russell County Commission was called to order.

The invocation was given by Steve Pace, Associate Pastor of Summerville Baptist Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Lee.

Public comments:

- Hurtsboro Mayor Vivian Covington announced that the City of Hurtsboro applied for a CDBG Grant, but were turned down. ADECA will allow reapplication for the grant and suggested to have the Commission write a letter of support for Hurtsboro, which will help gain the 2 points lacking at the last application. The letter should include projects that Russell County is helping Hurtsboro with such as County Road 49. Mayor Covington stated the grant will help fund paving 3 other streets within Hurtsboro. The letter of support is needed by the end of March 2016.
- Housing Authority Representative Steve Pace stated that they are pleased to have the Commission or their representatives present at Housing Authority events and encouraged the Commission to continue as they have more public debates and discussions as they anticipate more development among the Phenix City Housing Authority. Please look for announcements and progress as they are looking to secure alternate locations as they anticipate the future of redevelopment in the downtown area.
- George Biser IV discussed the current repaving on Jefferson Avenue and requested to include his driveway to be in the paving of Jefferson Avenue since it is part of the county right-of-way and tie it into the county maintenance. County Engineer Larry Kite had addressed the issue with Mr. Biser and made him aware that there is an established maintenance point for 10 to 20 years. Regardless of the right-of-way there is a set point that is maintained and that is where they pave to. Mr. Kite said he thought that was the right decision, but he would come out to see if there is something that they missed.

Chair Martin thanked Cable T.V. of East Alabama and The Citizen of East Alabama for covering the Commission Meeting. She also welcomed elected officials, department heads, media and guests.

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

A quorum was established.

Chair Martin requested a motion to approve the February 10th, 2016 meeting minutes. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve the minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. All Commissioners present voted to approve the minutes, except Commissioner Pugh, who abstained due to his absence at that meeting.

Chief William Alexander requested an additional Resource Officer for the County School System. The County School Board agreed to pay salary and benefits for the new officer with the county paying for the vehicle for the officer. Administrator Horne stated a budget amendment:

Sheriff-52100				
Increase	001	41110 001	Ad Valorem Tax	\$25,000.00
Increase	001	52100 550	Motor Vehicle	\$25,000.00
			Total	\$25,000.00

Commissioner Lee motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Screws. The vote was unanimous.

Chief Alexander also requested a budget amendment for the Courthouse Security Officer:

Sheriff-52100				
Increase	001	41110 001	Ad Valorem Tax	\$55,000.00
Increase	001	52100 304	Contract Service	\$30,000.00
Increase	001	52100 550	Motor Vehicle	\$25,000.00
			Total	\$55,000.00

Chief Alexander stated that he hired a retired Phenix City Police Officer who will not need benefits. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Corbett. The vote was unanimous.

County Engineer Larry Kite presented an ALDOT Funding Agreement for ATRIP Project 57-05-26, RCP 57-011-13, resurfacing CR-41 (Clark Road) from CR-137 (Uchee Hill Hwy) to CR-28 (Sandfort Road) length -3.74 miles. The Bid opening for this project will be Friday, February 26th; 2016. It is anticipated to come in under the budgeted amount. Mr. Kite requested approval of the agreement and for the Chair and County Administrator to sign the documentation.

Project cost are as follows:

Federal Funding	\$640,536.00
County Funds 20% match	\$160,134.00

Total Cost

\$800,670.00

Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Screws. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Kite also discussed damages that occurred during the flood in December 2015. The projects that they have been working on trying to get roads back open and repaired. We have been meeting with FEMA trying to nail down the cost estimates on the projects with the understanding some of the cost estimates will still change. We have been on Fire Tower Road for several weeks which turned into a much larger project with in-house crews. We were trying to do all we could with in-house crews, but decided to pursue contracting some of the work out because there is still a road closed, Leroy Road.

There are also some issues with water service. So we are proposing to put bids out for that job. To recoup some of the funding that had to be spent out of the Engineering budget, I am requesting a budget amendment that will replace about \$80,000 that has been spent for materials and helping with contract services which will mostly be truck hauling.

We are requesting to Increase Gasoline fund 111 53100 213 Road Maintenance / Repairs in the amount of \$157,346 and Increase Line 304 Contract Services in the amount of \$45,000. That is with the understanding that we will be getting most or all of this money back through FEMA reimbursements. Some of the funds are already on the way. Then we have the Leroy Road project bid proposal that we would like to mail out today and open them next Wednesday, March 2nd, at 10:30 a.m. This will be for pipe replacement on Leroy Road which is 140 feet of 72 inch pipe. Our cost estimate was \$45,000. That included materials and the county will supply all the materials which is part of that \$157,346 that we requested. We expect the bids to come in lower than the \$45,000 and we will need to bring that back to the Commission for an approval, to get that going. We are giving them 10 calendar days to show up and 10 working days to complete the project, so the sooner the Commission can approve that the better.

Administrator Horne said she had the option to set an emergency meeting for Thursday, March 3rd or at the work session the following Monday, March 7th. The 10 days will begin once the Commission approves that project and the bid amounts. The money will have to be paid in the next 30 days. That is not part of \$157,346 and \$45,000 and again we are estimating probably \$30 to \$50K range.

There are two other projects that will need to be bid out. Our estimates for those are \$157,846, which are ER projects on Federal Aid routes so the county would have a 20% match. By the time that we get ALDOT approvals and agreements done this could be in next budget year. It's not something we have an immediate need for.

Funding the Leroy Road Project and the budget amendment we should be able to get the majority of the work done until it comes down to put some of the others for bid. That will be several months away. I know there has been some discussion as to where that money is coming from, but I'll let Administrator Horne address that.

Administrator Horne advised to transfer from:

General - 001

Increase 001 35500 000	Fund Balance	\$202,346.00
Increase 001 62102 299	Gasoline Fund	\$202,346.00
	Total	\$202,346.00

Gasoline und -111

Increase 111 61114 299	From General Fund	\$202,346.00
Increase 111 53100 213	Road Main/Repairs	\$157,346.00
Increase 111 53100 304	Contract Services	\$45,000.00
	Total	\$202,346.00

Commissioner Screws motioned to approve recommendations of the County Engineer and the County Administrator. Seconded by Commissioner Corbett.

Commissioner Pugh asked for clarification from Mr. Kite about contacting FEMA work instead of doing that work in-house. Commissioner Pugh stated he understood after the Monday's night work session that if the county did the work FEMA would pay the county and that would be a wash and not cost us a lot of money. Is it better for our county employees to do that or contract out some of the other work that is your regular work, from a financial stand point, which has the advantage for the county? Mr. Kite stated it would be better to contract out the FEMA work, where we will have to pay out 12 ½%. It's a 75% FEMA reimbursement 12 ½% basically the State will split the remainder of the match with the County. If we do the work in-house, we will receive 87 ½ % of our equipment, labor rates, materials. If we contract out \$100,000 job we will get \$87,500 back provided they agree.

Commissioner Pugh stated then it is the same whether you do it or if it is contacted out.

Mr. Kite agreed it will be the same reimbursement.

Commissioner Pugh asked is it financially to our advantage to contract out the FEMA work or to contract out the daily work?

Mr. Kite stated it would be better to contract out the FEMA work.

Commissioner Corbett asked if there are any other projects on the list that Mr. Kite provided he anticipates wanting to bid out?

Mr. Kite stated there is a major slope failure on Cottonton Road (CR 4) that will need to be contracted out. This will have to go through ALDOT's process and also repairs to Gammage Road. There are others being looked at, but he is waiting to see how the Leroy Road project goes. If there are others that he can get in there, he will return to the Commission to recommend that.

Administrator Horne polled the Commission. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Corbett motioned to have an emergency called Commission meeting on Thursday, March 3rd at 9:30 a.m. to accept or reject emergency bids for Leroy Road and to rework the budget amendment if required. Seconded by Commissioner Screws.

Mr. Kite stated for the record we are handling the bids as an emergency project in accordance with the Code of Alabama Section 41-16-53. We are doing everything as we normally would the only difference is we are not publically advertising the project.

Chair Martin asked Administrator Horne to poll the Commission. The vote was unanimous

Administrator Horne announced the Public Safety Building which will house the Care Ambulance and the Sheriff's Substation is complete. She requested after the March 9th Commission Meeting around 11:00 a.m. to have a ribbon cutting and would like to invite the community, Care Ambulance, Deputies, the Russell County School Board and anyone the Commission would like. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve the ribbon cutting. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Administrator Horne requested the Commission approve a budget amendment of \$12,500 to be added to the other salaries line in the County Commission Office budget for retirement, health insurance and FICA. This will carry us through this year for the position of Accounts Payable slot due to a retirement. Also she would like the Commission to approve a temporary slot that will cease once the retiree comes off the Commission payroll, then that person will go into the full time slot that we currently have. The amendment is as follows:

Accounts Payable				
Commission - 51100				
Increase	001	41110 001	Ad Valorem Tax	\$12,500.00
Increase	001	51100 113	Other Salaries	\$7,865.00
Increase	001	51100 121	Retirement	\$857.00
Increase	001	51100 122	Health Insurance	\$2,919.00
Increase	001	51100 124	FICA	\$859.00
			Total	\$12,500.00

Commissioner Screws motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

A personnel report was provided by HR Director Carolyn Robinson.

Commissioner Lee motioned to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.