

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

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

The invocation was led by Vice Chair Screws.

The Pledge of Allegiance led by Commission Lee.

Vice Chair Screws thanked Cable T.V. of East Alabama and the Citizen of East Alabama for covering the Commission meeting. He also welcomed elected officials, department heads, media and guests.

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

Vice Chair Screws requested a motion to approve today's agenda. County Attorney Funderburk asked to remove his item from the agenda. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the agenda with the change. Seconded by Commissioners Pugh and Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Vice Chair Screws requested a motion to approve meeting minutes of April 13th, 2016. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Pugh. The vote was unanimous.

The Power of Purple Proclamation recognizing May 2nd – 6th as the annual "Relay for Life" was presented to representatives of the event. Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve the Proclamation. Seconded by Commissioners Pugh and Reed. The vote was unanimous.

A request for the advertisement for the Annual Twin Cities Horse Show was presented. Commissioner Pugh motioned to approve purchase of a \$250.00 advertisement for support of the annual event. Seconded by Commissioner Corbett. Administrator Horne stated the payment will come from the Contingent Fund.

Special Code Enforcement Officer Bill Friend gave a brief history of the Inspection Department and the reduction of home building due to the down size of Fort Benning. He explained that 12 months ago he thought it would be beneficial to cross train employees in the Building Inspections and the License Inspection Department. These employees could cover the duties of employees out sick or on vacation within these departments. He asked the Commission to approve Building Inspector Greg Smith as a

Deputy License Inspector. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve Mr. Friend's request. Seconded by Commissioner Corbett. The vote was unanimous.

Sheriff Heath Taylor discussed the Ambulance Contract which is up for renewal in July 2016. The current contract allows for 2 - one year extensions without rebidding the contract. The Ambulance Committee met and felt that the current ambulance service has been a good service for the county and citizens. Therefore, recommended extending the contract for another year. After next year if the Ambulance Committee's recommendation is the same and accepted by the Commission, the contract will go for bid in 2018. Commissioner Pugh motioned to approve Sheriff Taylor's recommendation and was seconded by Commissioners Lee and Corbett. The vote was unanimous.

Care Ambulance General Manager, Kevin Harralson addressed the Commission thanking them for construction of the Public Safety Building that houses the ambulance service. Mr. Harralson also thanked Bill Friend for overseeing the project and looks forward to their continuing service to the citizens of Russell County.

County Administrator LeAnn Horne informed the Commission that she had received a notice from Judge Landreau stating that effective immediately, beds held for juveniles at the LCYDC have increased from \$29,000 each to \$33,215.00 each. Administrator Horne asked the Commission if they would join and split the cost with the City of Phenix City. City Finance Director Steve Smith has been contacted agreed to bring this up to the City Council, if the Commission agrees. Commissioner Pugh motioned to approve subject to the City's participation. Seconded by Commissioner Lee. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Lee asked how much it would cost to construct a juvenile facility. Sheriff Taylor discussed the juvenile system and how the county needs a juvenile deterrent. He also stated that the State does not want to lock up juveniles at their level and that if the City and County could join to build a juvenile detention center, beds could be rented to other counties that do not their own facilities. This would enable Russell County's Judges to sentence juveniles rather than having to release them without consequences.

Commissioner Pugh asked Sheriff Taylor if he would do some ground work concerning cost of a county juvenile facility and bring back this information to the Commission during the 2016-2017 budget meetings. Also, to make inquiries to Teen University about their facilities they may have since they work with troubled youths in the area.

Commissioner Pugh requested to know if the agenda item that the County Attorney's removed from today's meeting had been resolved. Attorney Funderburk stated that it was removed because it was not ready to be addressed.

Commissioner Pugh motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Lee.

The meeting was adjourned.