

The Russell County Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
May 14th, 2014  
9:30 A.M. E.D.T.

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

Public Comments: Jimmy Adams from the Board of Registrar's Office announced that identification card for voters would not be sent out until redistricting has been completed. A voters list will be published in the paper to verify polling place for registered voters. If there are any questions they can call the Russell County Board of Registrar's office.

Charles Sizemore discussed the Limited Alabama Self Governing Act and the problems that his area is having with noise from the motocross track that has been opened. He requested to have this act on the referendum for the next general election in November.

An adjourned meeting of the Russell County Commission was called to order; members present were Chair Peggy Martin, Gentry Lee, Tillman Pugh, Ronnie Reed, Cattie Epps, Chance Corbett, and Larry Screws. Also present was the County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk and County Assistant Administrator Vickie Perry, who kept the minutes.

A quorum was established.

The invocation was given by Alan Griffith, Pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chair Martin.

Chair Martin requested a motion to approve the April 23<sup>th</sup>, 2014 meeting minutes. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Pugh. Six of the Commissioners voted to approve the minutes; Commissioner Epps abstained, due to her absence at that meeting. The motion passed.

Commissioner Corbett, Chair Martin and EMA Director Bob Franklin presented Proclamations to Crawford, Dixie, Ladonia, Seale and Uchee Volunteer Fire Departments for their response to the tornado that destroyed homes in the adjacent Lee County area. Lee County EMA Director Kathy Carson was also on hand to thank the members of those volunteer fire departments for their assistance and to the Crawford Baptist Church.

Pastor Steve Williamson accepted a proclamation for the Crawford Baptist Church from the Commission for making the Church Gym available to victims of the tornado and the Red Cross. The church provided clothing, shelter and meals for residents for 7 days after the storm.

American Legion Post 135 Commander Leroy Davis presented a check for \$600 to Pat Johnson Director of the Ft. Mitchell Senior Citizen's Center to continue to help fund their senior meal program. He also discussed the American Legion Birthday Ball that was recently held and invited citizens to the 5 K Victory Run for Vets, which will be held May 17<sup>th</sup>, at the Idle Hour Park.

Commissioner Corbett discussed the Alabama Limited Self Government Act, which was passed in 2005 by the Legislature allowing the County Commission to place an item on the referendum to be voted on by the citizens. Since 2005, 18 different counties have taken the opportunity to vote on a referendum taking steps to regulate issues included in the Alabama Limited Self Government Act, which are as follows: Weeds, junk yards, litter, noise pollution, sewage and animal control. Several of these are already being addressed by the county at some level, leaving weeds and noise as subjects left to be addressed. There are several ways to place these items on the ballot:

- The Commission can pass a resolution which must be completed by the first week in August and submitted to the Justice Department for prior approval and then certified by the Probate Judge by August 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- If the Commission voted not to place the items on the ballot, citizens can sign petitions, but must have signatures from 10% of the qualified voters in the unincorporated area of Russell County. The Probate Judge will have to certify the petitions by August 22.

If this passes, ACCA regulations state that the County must give prior notice to the adoption of any ordinance, a separate hearing must be held prior to adoption. The Act also allows for assessing administrative fines and failure to abate those nuisances once they are identified. It is not required to adopt any portion of those ordinances at that point that comes back to the Commission. If we want to adopt just the noise, that is acceptable. Much discussion took place concerning the Act. Commissioner Corbett requested to add the Alabama Limited Self Government Act to the May 28<sup>th</sup> Commission Meeting agenda under business.

American Legion Post 135 Commander Leroy Davis requested an appropriation for \$10,000 to help fund construction of the Veteran's Park what will surround the new American Legion Post 135. The Veterans Park will include the installation of two walls: one wall will list all Alabama Veterans. The second wall will list all Alabama Veterans who died in combat. A playground and picnic area will also be included in the park's design. Commissioner Lee motioned to postpone Commander Davis request for a later meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Corbett discussed the Masonic Lodge Bid results. The bid received was over the budgeted amount. Therefore, Commissioner Corbett motioned to reject the bid and draw up new specs for a rebid. Seconded by Commissioner Lee. The vote was unanimous.

Sanitation Department Manager Carl Currington asked for the tractor truck bid request be removed from the agenda.

Engineering had several items to be addressed. Assistant Engineer Shawn Blakeney presented the items in Engineer Larry Kite's absence.

- It was requested to table the Columbus-Phenix City M.P.O. Memorandum of Understanding until the May 28<sup>th</sup> Commission Meeting to gather more information for the Commission's review. Commissioner Lee motioned to table and was seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.
- An approval was sought for an ALDOT agreement to do a GEO technical foundation investigation for a bridge replacement over Weolustee Creek and the relief bridge at Little Uchee Creek. The total bid price is \$30,400 with the county's match being \$6,080. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the agreement and was seconded by Commissioner Pugh. The vote is unanimous.
- A budget amendment was requested to cover additional repair and maintenance cost, and an additional GIS training class. The amendment is as follows:

GASOLINE FUND 111

ENGINEERING DEPT-53100

DECREASE	111 53100 561	CONST EQUIP	\$46,000.00
INCREASE	111 53100 232	REPAIRS/MAIN	\$35,000.00
INCREASE	111 53100 265	REGISTRATION/TRA	\$ 1,500.00
INCREASE	111 53100 550	MOTOR VEHICLE	\$ 9,500.00
TOTAL			\$46,000.00

Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the budget amendment. Seconded by Commissioners Reed and Pugh. The vote was unanimous.

- A purchase request for a 2014 F-150 and a 2015 F-250 from the state bid list and a 2006 International Dump Truck from the state surplus was submitted for approval. These items were included in the 2013-2014 budget. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the purchases and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.
- Authorization was sought to solicit sealed bids for used tractor/mower and a 20 ton equipment trailer to be opened June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 2:30 p.m. EST in the Commission Chambers. Commissioner Epps motioned to approve the bid request and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Phenix City Exchange Club Representative Jimmy Adams announced the Annual Twin Cities Classic Horse Show will be held June 7<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Adams asked the Commission to

support the horse show by purchasing an advertisement. This is not a budgeted item and will come out of the Contingent Fund. Commissioner Reed motioned to approve a \$500 advertisement. Seconded by Commissioner Screws. The vote was unanimous.

Chair Martin made announcements:

- May 17<sup>th</sup> from 10 A.M. to 3 P.M. is Russell County Be Ready Day at the 280 Piggly Wiggly Parking Lot.
- Old Seale Hwy Railroad Underpass Public Hearing will be held from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. EST on May 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Old Seale Courthouse. Commissioner Screws announced that due to his daughter's graduation, he would not be in attendance at the public hearing.
- The Courthouse will be closed May 26<sup>th</sup>, for Memorial Day. The work session is canceled.

Probate Judge Alford Harden Jr. announced new computerized voting machines have been purchased to make the voting process simpler and quicker. Also money was procured from HAVA for the purchase of 20 iPads along with a computer program which will help poll workers look up the correct precincts for registered voters who are in doubt.

Commissioner Epps gave an update for the Wiregrass Resource Conservation & Development Council Meeting that she attended in lieu of the last Commission Meeting. She announced that the Wiregrass is offering scholarships.

Commissioner Corbett discussed the success of the benefit trail ride that was held to raise money for the Masonic Lodge Renovation Project.

Chair Martin adjourned the meeting.