

The Russell Commission
Meeting minutes
June 11, 2014
9:30 A.M. EST

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:

Penny Lewis and several citizens, who live on Stagg Drive, thanked the Commission and the Engineering department for having Stagg Drive paved. After the meeting Commissioners Pugh and Corbett stated that they also appreciated the Stagg Drive residents who took the time to come to the meeting to thank the county departments responsible for the Stagg Drive project.

EMA Director Bob Franklin discussed a FEMA Grant for fire departments. Ft Mitchell Fire Department applied for the FEMA grant and has been awarded \$390,000 to purchase two pumper trucks.

Mr. Franklin gave an update for the Russell County Volunteer Fire Department ISO ratings. Most of the county fire departments were previously rated as a 7.9. Since that rating, all of the departments have improved. Crawford's ISO rating has dropped to a class 4, Cottonton, Dixie, Fort Mitchell, Seale, Hurtsboro, Hatchechubbee, and Uchee Creek have now dropped to a class 5. The lower ISO ratings will lower insurance rates for residents who live in those districts. The rating will take effect in September 2014.

Chamber of Commerce representative Kelli Roberts stated that an outdoor expo will be held in Birmingham, Alabama. The Chamber will be at the expo promoting the following County attractions: White Water Rafting, the River Walk, Fort Mitchell Historic Site, and The Indian Heritage Center.

An adjourned meeting of the Russell County Commission was called to order; members present were Chair Peggy Martin, Vice Chair Cattie Epps, Gentry Lee, Tillman Pugh, Ronnie Reed, 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.

The invocation was given by Junior White, Pastor of Woodland Baptist Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Chair Epps.

Vice Chair Epps was excused from the meeting to attend another scheduled meeting.

Chair Martin requested a motion to approve the May 28th, 2014 meeting minutes. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Pugh. The vote was unanimous.

Mik Cole gave a power point presentation of the Russell County Tour, May 20th, with the ADECA director Jim Byard and Division Chief Beatrice Forniss.

County Engineer Larry Kite provided an update on the Annual Dirt Road Paving Program and current Federal Aid Programs.

Commission Corbett discussed purchasing equipment (chain saws) and establishing an agreement with the Russell County Volunteer Fire Departments for clearing fallen trees from the roadways after normal working hours. If the county's volunteer fire departments agree to do tree removal, money can be saved by eliminating overtime to county employees. This will also cut down on the time it takes to remove a tree blocking traffic. Commissioner Corbett asked to not take action at this time, giving the Volunteer Fire Department Association Chair time to discuss this arrangement with the area fire chiefs. If the Association is in favor of the agreement, Commissioner Corbett will bring the purchase of equipment and the agreement up at budget time.

A Court Ordered cremation of the body of Gordon R. Downing was presented by the Administrator Horne for Coroner Sumbry. The Order states that a reasonable fee not to exceed \$400 is authorized for the cremation expenses, payable to Phenix Mortuary. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the payment, seconded by Commissioner Screws. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Corbett provided the results of the Masonic Lodge Project Rebid. The bid opening was June 6th at 4:00 p.m. EST. 5 bid packets were sent to local contractors with only one bid submitted from Haden Home Repair. The amount submitted from Haden was \$18,500 for a turnkey project. Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve Haden Home Repair for the Masonic Lodge Project. Seconded by Commissioner Lee. The vote was unanimous.

The District 7 board appointment for E-911 will end in June. The position is currently held by Katie Mitchell, who attends all the meetings and would like to continue serving. Commissioner Screws motioned to reappoint Ms. Mitchell for the E-911 board. Seconded by Commissioner Corbett. The vote was unanimous.

Administrator Horne announced the budget process has begun; worksheets have been sent out to department heads and appropriation letters mailed to organizations that have request.

Chair Martin announced the Planning Commission has scheduled a meeting for June 17th at 4:30 p.m. EST in the Commission Chambers. The County Commission and public are invited.

Commissioner Corbett announced a public hearing will be held Monday, June 23, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. for the Community Development Block Grant Application. The meeting will be in the Commission Chambers.

Chair Martin adjourned the meeting.