

The Russell County Commission
Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2011
9:30 A.M. EDT

Public Comments:

Reverend Johnnie Robinson discussed Point –In-Time Count. A meeting will be held January 18, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. in the Higginbotham Building on the Troy University Campus.

Roger Martin, Executive Director of Chattahoochee River Watch, introduced Kimberly Lowe, a 2nd year graduate student at Columbus State. She will be working with Mr. Martin 's Agency for the next 20 weeks as part of internship.

An adjourned meeting of the Russell County Commission was called to order. Members present were: Chair Peggy Martin, Vice Chair Gentry Lee, Tillman Pugh, Ronnie Reed, Cattie Epps, Mervin Dudley and Larry Screws. Also present were the County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk and the County Administrator LeAnn Horne, who kept the minutes.

A quorum was established.

The invocation was given by Wesley Price, Pastor of Cottonton Baptist Church.

Chair Martin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Martin requested a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Dudley motioned to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.

Chair Martin welcomed elected officials, department heads, media and visitors.

Chair Martin requested a motion approving the December 23rd, 2010 meeting minutes. Commissioner Epps motioned to approve the minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Lee. There were six votes approving the minutes and one abstention from Commissioner Dudley, who was absent at that meeting. The motioned passed.

Chair Martin presented a resolution Honoring Sheriff Tommy Boswell for his 37 years of service in Law Enforcement. Twenty one of those years were spent as Sheriff of Russell County. He was also presented for his retirement a collage depicting his accomplishments while he was Sheriff. Commissioner Lee stated,

hearing that there are no objections; I will declare this was approved by unanimous consent.

Judge Michael Bellamy requested approval of a resolution for the Russell County Community Corrections Program supporting the continuation of this program. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the resolution of support. Seconded by Commissioner Dudley. The vote was unanimous.

Barbara Scott presented two resolutions for the Community Development Block Grant award. ADECA has given the grant for the construction of 2 multipurpose ball fields at the Russell County Sports Complex.

The first resolution to accept grant award of \$250,000 from ADECA, committing to a cash match of \$40,686 and authorizing the Commission Chair to sign all grant documents on behalf of the County. Commissioner Dudley motioned to approve the first resolution and was seconded by Commissioner Epps. The County Administrator stated the County's match for the grant was placed in the 2010-2011 budgets. The vote was unanimous.

The second resolution is authorizing the Commission Chair to enter into an agreement with Lee-Russell Council of Governments for grant administration services for the CDBG grant. This cost of this service is \$25, 000 which equals 10% of the grant award. Commissioner Dudley motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Screws. The County Administrator reminded the Commission that grants are audited; therefore, all expenditures are accounted for. The vote was unanimous.

Judge Alford Harden presented a resolution for the approval for the Probate Judge Index Fee, which must be renewed by the Commission every two years. If the \$5.00 fee is not approved it will be terminated only to be set back into place by legislation. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the index fee. Seconded by Commissioner Dudley. Judge Harden stated the resolution will be retroactive to December 31, 2010 since there was not a Commission Meeting at that time. He also stated the Secretary of State sent notice there will be an increase in the State incorporation fees, therefore, increases the fee to the Probate Office and will go into the General Fund. The vote was unanimous.

Judge Harden requested to refund a business license purchase in error by Cotton County Hunting Preserve in Seale. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the refund and was seconded by Commissioner Dudley. The vote was unanimous.

Sheriff Elect Heath Taylor announced the opening of a satellite office in Hurtsboro, January 18, 2011 to better serve the lower end of the county. This office will be funded from the current Sheriff's Budget. There are also plans of another satellite office to be placed in the Ft. Mitchell area. Commissioner Lee

motioned to authorize the opening of the Hurtsboro office and any expenditures that may be needed within the Sheriff's Budget. Seconded by Commissioner Dudley. The vote was unanimous.

Sheriff Elect Heath Taylor stated due to the increase in the jail population and the welfare of inmates; Dr Warr had concerns and recommended hiring an additional part-time nurse. The employment application presented to the Commission is for a registered nurse, who is recommended by Dr. Warr. Sheriff Taylor requested an approval for a part-time slot, which will be funded by the Sheriff's current budget and will come out of their medical line items. Her salary will total \$12,000 per year. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve an additional part-time nurse for the jail. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. This will be a personal contract with no benefits. The vote was unanimous.

County Engineer Larry Kite announced the temporary closure of Nuckols Road for resurfacing. This project is a federally funded program for widening and resurfacing of Nuckols Road from Alabama Hwy 165 to County Road 24, which involves in-house work to widen shoulders and replace two major cross drains. The work will begin January 24th to February 4th. Mr. Kite is requesting approval to proceed with the project and send the appropriate notices to media and emergency response personnel. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Kite also presented a request to sell nine pieces of equipment as surplus for auction or scrap. A list was presented to the Commission for review. Commissioner Dudley motioned to approve Mr. Kite's request. Seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.

Coroner Sumbry requested a budget transfer as follows:

GENERAL FUND 001

CORONER-52400

DECREASE 001 52400 265 REGISTRATION & TRAINING \$320.00

INCREASE 001 52400 273 SURETY BOND \$320.00

Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the budget transfer and was seconded by Commissioner Dudley. The vote was unanimous.

County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk recommended going into executive for two items: a continued discussion for industrial prospect and a legal matter. Commissioner Dudley motioned to move into an executive session. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Chair Martin announced January 17th is a State Holiday and the Courthouse will be closed.

Chair Martin requested a motion to reconvene the Commission Meeting. Commissioner Epps motioned to reconvene and was seconded by Commissioner Lee. The vote was unanimous.

County Attorney Funderburk recommended redrafting the tax abatement on Phase 2 with the 165 Partners. Commissioner Epps motioned to approve the County Attorney's recommendation. Seconded by Commissioner Screws. District 1 (Lee) voted, abstained; District 2 (Pugh) voted, no; District 3 (Martin) voted, yes; District 4 (Reed) voted, yes; District 5 (Epps) voted, yes; District 6 (Dudley) voted, no; District 7 (Screws) voted, yes. With 4 yes votes, 2 no votes and 1 abstention the motion passed.

Mr. Funderburk also recommended talking with RDS about the percentage stated in their agreement pertaining to the business license contract proposal. Commissioner Dudley motioned to approve Mr. Funderburk's recommendation and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous,

Chair Martin adjourned the meeting.