

The Russell County Property Abatement  
Public Hearing Minutes  
January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013  
9:30 A.M. EST

The Public Hearing for property abatement of 19 Meadowood Drive was called to order by Chair Peggy Martin.

The floor was open for public comments:

Rhonda and James Hawsey, who own the property at 19 Meadowood Drive, discussed the fire that demolished the home at that site. Mr. Hawsey stated they are trying to negotiate with the insurance company and is taking longer than they expected. The insurance has not paid for the damage and is hindering the clean –up process as well as the sale of the property for another home. Also unexpected medical problems have slowed the procedures. The Hawses assured the Commission that they are not neglecting the issue, but were unsure how long the insurance settlement would take.

Sandra Keith who lives in the neighborhood also discussed the abatement.

The public hearing was closed for public comments.

The Commission agreed to give the Hawses 30 days before abatement will take place. Chair Martin stated the public hearing should be added to today's agenda for a vote and requested a motion to add the item under business items. Commissioner Epps motioned to approve the addition and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

The public hearing was adjourned.

The Russell County Commission  
January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013  
Meeting Minutes  
9:45 A.M. EST.

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 were the County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk and County Administrator LeAnn Horne who kept the minutes.

A quorum was established.

Chair Martin requested a motion for the meeting agenda. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the agenda and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

The invocation was given by Marvin Minton, Pastor of the Crawford Road Baptist Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Corbett.

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

A request was made by Chair Martin for a motion to approve the January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013 meeting minutes. Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve the minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Lee. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Screws gave a certificate of recognition to Sherman Thomas, who is a citizen in District 7, recently became Deputy Warden at Muscogee County Security Facility.

Commissioner Epps gave a certificate of recognition to Frankie Jackson Stephens who celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Commissioner Pugh discussed a meeting he had with Hurtsboro Mayor Wells, who proposed to give the County Commission 10% of their road tax to take over roads in Hurtsboro. Commissioner Pugh made a motion to appoint Commissioner Screws as the point person to negotiate with the Mayor and bring back recommendations to the Commission on how to proceed with the proposal or what should be done. Seconded by Commissioner Lee. The vote was unanimous.

Lee-Russell Council of Government Representative Barbara Scott presented a resolution and an administration agreement for the HMGP Siren grant awarded to the County in December 2012. The total project cost is \$106,000 with the grant administration fees being \$6,000. These amounts were included in this fiscal year's budget. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Homeland Security /EMA Director Bob Franklin requested to let bids for 5 new sirens and to open those bids on February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. in the Commission Chamber. Commissioner Epps motioned to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Corbett. The vote was unanimous.

Sheriff Taylor presented the results for the Semi Annual Food Bid. The bid process was handled differently and vendors were asked to bid for a two week menu. The low bidder was Merchant Foods with a \$2.69 a day per inmate bid. The menu changed from 3 hot meals a day to 2 hot meals a day with a sandwich for lunch. The calorie intake will still be the same meeting the dietitian approved menu. The meal cost will be reduced from

\$4.00 a day per inmate to \$2.69. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the bid award. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Sheriff Taylor requested approval for salary schedule change for a Deputy Sheriff Slot at an 8/7 salary of \$34,407.68 to an Investigator Slot at a 9/4 salary of \$34,636.69 effective today's date. Commissioner Epps motioned to approve the salary schedule change and was seconded by Commissioner Screws. The vote was unanimous.

County Engineer Larry Kite presented his recommendations for the Annual Materials Bid result. Commissioner Epps motioned to approve the awards. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous. (Tabulations for the Annual Materials Bid are on file in the Commission Office).

Mr. Kite reminded the Commission of the \$6 Rule which enables residents who would like to contribute to the cost of paving road for the charge of \$6 per linear foot. Steve Green has requested to use this rule for paving 1,455 linear feet of Stillwell Road. His cost would be \$8,730.00. This will still leave 7,838 feet of Stillwell Road unpaved road going toward Padgetts Road. Mr. Kite said his office is in the process of contacting other residents on this road to see if they would like to participate in the program while the road crews are in this area paving. The \$6 Rule also gives priority over other road projects. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Pugh. The vote was unanimous.

Search Committee Chair James Sinkule gave the top three candidates for the Water Authority Board appointment: David Smith, Timothy Jenkins and Michael S. Elliott. The Committee was thanked for their service. Commissioner Lee motioned that the three names submitted by the Search Committee be considered as nominees for the Water Board position and to deal with them the way the Commission normally deals with nominees. There are three names each Commission gets one vote. If a nominee does not receive 4 votes then that person is eliminated and then you vote again. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

The vote was called for Michael Elliott. He received 3 votes: Commissioners Lee, Pugh, and Corbett

Timothy Jenkins received no votes.

David Smith received 4 votes from Commissioners Reed, Epps, Martin, Screws.

David J. Smith was appointed to the Water Authority Board. Another meeting will be scheduled for the Sewer and Utility Board appointments.

The property abatement at 19 Meadowood Drive was brought back for the Commission's vote. Commissioner Lee motioned to extend the abatement for 30 days to give the owners more time to clear the property. If clean-up has not taken place; then the County Officials are authorized to begin the abatement process when the 30 days are up. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

County Administrator Horne announced the sign renaming the Russell County Health Department for the Late Dolly Wilson has been installed. The family of Mrs. Wilson desire to have a dedication, February 13<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Epps stated she attended the dedication of the Russell County Water Authority Building to the Late Jimmie Batcheldor and would like to commend Mark Clark for one of the most beautiful markers she has seen.

Chair Martin asked to please remember the annual PALS "Don't Drop it on Alabama" kick off will be in April. Volunteers are being sought. Special Enforcement Officer Bill Friend and Utility County Shop Manager Carl Currington are the contacts for our area.

Commissioner Lee reminded the Commission of the annual Chamber Dinner which will be held January 31<sup>st</sup> at the Central High School.

Commissioner Corbett stated since the last meeting an action that was contingent to an agreement with the City for their purchase of the County's 7<sup>th</sup> Ave building and a agreeable amount of their 10% gasoline tax was voted on at the last City Council meeting. The vote was 5 to 0 to enter into the agreement with the County.

Chair Martin adjourned the meeting.