

The Russell County Commission
Meeting Minutes
October 24, 2012
9:30 A.M. EDT.

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

A quorum was established.

Chair Martin requested a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

The invocation was given by Dexter James, Pastor of the Central Baptist Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Lee.

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

Chair Martin requested a motion to approve the September 17th, 2012 Proposed Budget Meeting minutes. Commissioner Dudley motioned to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Chair Martin requested a motion to approve the September 24th, 2012 Proposed Budget Meeting continuation minutes. Commissioner Dudley motioned to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Chair Martin requested a motion to approve the October 10th, 2012 meeting minutes. Commissioner Dudley motioned to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Scott Ferguson from United way presented to the Commission and the Sheriff's Department the Gold Award for contributions made by Russell County employees.

Judge Harden presented a request from Ryder Truck Rentals for the refund of the purchase of a 2011 business license. It was realized the company did not need a license since they did not do business in Russell County and are a Columbus based business. Commissioner Reed motioned to refund the money. Judge Harden stated the refund would be for \$258.72. Seconded by Commissioner Screws.

Commissioner Pugh identified several reasons why he was not in favor of the refund: one being it is after that budget year. Also, Ryder Trucks Rental is doing business in the

county by leasing vehicles to our residents and dispatching their employees to Russell County to pick up those rentals. They are skirting the law and this will open up for other business to follow suit.

Judge Harden explained this business rents trucks in Columbus. They do not deliver the rentals, nor do they pick the rentals up. Ryder customers do bring the rentals to the county, not their employees. The Commission was polled. District 1 (Lee) voted, no; District 2 (Pugh) voted, no; District 3 (Martin) voted, no; District 4 (Reed) voted, yes; District 5 (Epps) was absent, District 6 (Dudley) voted, no ; District 7 (Screws) voted, yes. 4 no votes and 2 yes votes the motioned failed.

Chief Appraiser Heath Crowe stated he requested additional information concerning the Income Works contract after Monday's work session and has not received the requested information at this time. He asked if his business item could be tabled until he could provide answers to the Commission's questions. Commissioner Lee motioned to table this item for a later date. Seconded by Commissioner Reed.

Commissioner Pugh asked Mr. Crowe to involve all departments that this contract would affect, if there are any. He also asked, if we have qualified appraisers why would the county need this contract?

The Commission was polled; the vote was unanimous to table the matter.

Sheriff Taylor requested salary adjustments for the two approved dispatch positions. Both slots were filled by qualified dispatchers; one has 3 years experience and the other has 10 years experience. He requests to change their salary schedules as step 2 and a step 3 instead of the approved step 1. Sheriff Taylor also recommended creating a supervisor position, which was not included in his budget. The salary for the supervisor will increase \$1,500 or more than their current salary. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the Sheriff's request. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Sheriff Taylor also requested the Commission to give approval for the Chair and the Administrator to enter into the contract with the architect to let bids for the Investigative Bureau Building beginning November 1st, 2012 to be opened at the end of November and brought back to the Commission for approval. Sheriff Taylor discussed doing as much work in-house as possible to keep construction cost down. Construction funds will come from savings from the Prentiss Griffith Detention Center savings and money billed to the city for portions of the jail extension. Commission Pugh asked what would be the cost of the architect if the Commission should choose not to build the Investigative Building. Sheriff Taylor stated he would call to get that information while the Commission meeting continued.

County Engineer Larry Kite presented a standard funding agreement required for each federal aid project. The Oswichee Road Widening and Resurfacing Project Phase II was approved for a federal aid application through MPO funding, but since has been

approved for the ATRIP application, Phase 1. There is still a 20% match for the County, but funds will not come from the MPO budget. The scheduled letting date is November 2nd, but will be spring until construction can begin. The project's total cost is \$1,033,580; the estimated county match is \$206, 716. Commissioner Pugh motioned to approve the agreement. Seconded by Commissioner Lee. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Kite also requested approval of a revised resolution for a functional classification change on Owens Road, McClendon Road and Patterson Road. The original resolution was approved April 25th, 2012, in an effort to make those roads eligible for federal aid funding. ALDOT recommended revising the resolution to exclude a portion of McClendon Road and include Patterson Road to make a loop back to Hwy 165. Commissioner Pugh motioned to approve the revision seconded by Commissioner Screws. Commissioner Lee left the meeting briefly before the vote. All remaining Commissioners voted to approve the resolution.

Mr. Kite discussed repairs that were needed for the John Deere 7220 tractor. SunSouth of Columbus, Georgia estimates the cost of repair to the broken differential housing is approximately \$14,995.00. Commissioner Pugh motioned to approve the repair. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Sheriff Taylor returned to the meeting with requested information from JMR Architect's Mike Rutledge, if the County goes through the bid process and decides not to build the Investigative Building; the cost for their services to that point would be \$20,000 and the County would have a complete set of drawings to use when ready to begin the project. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve the contract and was seconded by Commissioner Pugh. The vote was unanimous.

Chair Martin stated due to the Veteran's day Holiday the Courthouse will be closed. Therefore, the work session schedule for that day November 12th will be cancelled.

County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk recommended convening into executive session for a discussion about the Crisis Center lease with Dr. Cooper. Commissioner Dudley motioned moving into executive session. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Announcements were made before the executive session:

The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Judicial Center will take place October 25th from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. The public is invited.

Commissioner Pugh announced the State has approved renaming the Russell County Health Department after the late Dolly Wilson, who was instrumental in establishing the Health Department in Russell County. A public dedication will be planned.

Chair Martin also reminded the public to vote on November 6th.

The Commission returned to the Chambers. Chair Martin requested a motion to reconvene the meeting. Commissioner Pugh motioned to reconvene, seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

County Attorney Funderburk recommended a draft be created for yearly lease between the Crisis Center and Russell County for use of the upper floor at the old Health Department as their administrative office. Commissioner Pugh motioned to approve the County Attorney to draw up a lease to bring back to the Commission for approval. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Chair Martin adjourned the meeting.