

Knowles Drive Closure Public Hearing
October 27, 2010
9:30 A.M. EST

The Public Hearing for the closure of Knowles Drive was called to order by Chair Martin.

County Engineer Larry Kite stated this is a portion of Knowles Drive which has been petitioned for vacation. It was advertised in the local newspaper for four consecutive weeks as well as notices sent to adjacent property owners and utilities owners. There were no public comments.

The public hearing was closed.

The Russell County Commission
Meeting Minutes
October 27, 2010
9:33 A.M. EST

Public Comments:

Revenue Commissioner Naomi Elliott announced the new GIS website which is now available. Elected officials, department heads, county personnel and public who may have an interest in how to use the site are invited to a class to be held November 8 at the Commission Chambers. The first session will begin at 9:00 a.m. EST with another to follow at 11:00 a.m.

Mrs. Makita Smith, President of the Conference T.E.A.R.S. who announced they were awarded a grant from the Alabama Department of Public Health for a Tobacco Youth Prevention Grant. A press conference will be held Friday, October 29, 2010 at 3:00 p.m. EST. at their office location 1011 South Railroad Street.

Probate Judge Alford Harden announced changes in voting sites: Pittsview has a new building at the same site, and now is handicap accessible with an improved parking area .

The Russell County Commission Meeting 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 County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk and Assistant Administrator Vickie Perry, who kept the minutes.

A quorum was established.

Chair Martin requested an amendment of the agenda, to remove the Executive Session under the County Attorney's Items. Commissioner Dudley motioned to approve the agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous to approve the agenda.

The invocation was given by Raymond Cochran, Pastor of Franchise Missionary Baptist Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Lee.

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

Chair Martin requested approval of the October 13, 2010 meeting minutes. Commissioner Lee stated the contract that was approved was not in the minutes, so at this time I motion to table the minutes until the contract is added. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dudley. The Commission was polled. District 1(Lee) voted, yes; District 2 (Pugh) abstained; District 3 (Martin) voted, yes; District 4 (Reed) voted, yes; District 6 (Dudley) voted, yes; District 5 (Epps) voted, yes; District 7 (Screws) voted, yes. 6 yes votes and 1 abstention. The motioned passed.

Commissioner Screws requested for the Commission to consider meeting with department heads who fall under the Commission's supervision on a six month to yearly basis to get feed back or to give feed back, so when a renewal or a matter of importance should arise, then there are no surprises. He requested this be considered in the next month or two and create a guideline so this could take place.

The floor was opened for nominations for the Russell County appointments for the Wiregrass Board. Commissioner Screws nominated Commissioner Epps. Commissioner Reed nominated J.W. Brannen, who is currently serving a term. Commissioner Lee nominated Johnnie Robinson who is the other current board member. Chair Martin requested a motion to close the nominations. Commissioner Screws motioned to close the nominations and was seconded by Commissioner Lee. The vote was unanimous. The votes for the appointments were as follows:

J.W. Brannen	1
Reverend Johnnie Robinson	5
Commissioner Epps	6

The Wiregrass Board appointments for the next two year term are:
Commissioner Epps and Reverend Johnnie Robinson.

Sheriff Elect Heath Taylor presented the Sandfort Road Shelter Project. This County owned property and is under renovation to house 20 large animals on a temporary basis. Equipment and labor for this project will be provided by the

Sheriff and Engineering department. Materials were bid out with the lowest bid coming from B.W. Capps for the cost of \$4,251.46. Commissioner Dudley motioned to approve going forward with the project at Sheriff Elect Taylor's request. Seconded by Commissioner Screws. The vote was unanimous.

Chair Martin stated Commissioner Epps, Commissioner Reed and herself had discussed purchasing lapel pins symbolizing Russell County to give to distinguished guests visiting our County. An illustration of the pin was made available for review. The cost for 500 lapel pins is \$910.74 which is a nominal \$1.69 per pin. Commissioner Reed motioned to approve the purchase and was seconded by Commissioner Epps. District 1 (Lee) abstained; District 2 (Pugh) abstained; District 3 (Martin) voted, yes; District 4 (Reed) voted, yes; District 5 (Epps) voted, yes; District 6 (Dudley) abstained; District 7 (Screws) voted, yes. 4 yes votes and 3 abstentions. The motion passed. Commission Lee stated he was not opposed to the lapel pins, but whether it allowed for Commissions to purchase items to give away, that was why he abstained. After discussion between the Commission and the County Attorney stating it falls within the category of giving proclamations and donations to various clubs there is no difference; the three abstentions were changed to yes votes. The vote became unanimous.

Sheriff Elect Taylor presented the Electronic Security Bid for approval. Norment Security Group presented the lowest bid for \$149,884.00. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the lowest recommended bidder and was seconded by Commissioner Dudley. The vote was approved.

The Public Hearing for the Vacation of Knowles Drive was held prior to the Commission meeting. Since no one came forward to contest the closure of the road Commissioner Dudley motioned to vacate Knowles Drive. Seconded by Commissioner Screws. The vote was unanimous.

Special Enforcement Officer Bill Friend reviewed the abatement of 133 Whiterock Road. September 22, 2010, it was brought before and approved by the Commission the approval of abatement of this property. The owner is deceased. Certified letters were sent to possible family, but were returned unclaimed. The open hearing for this location was set and held October 25, 2010 prior to the Monday night work session; no one came forward for dispute. The clean up bid for the property was \$400. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Pugh. Commissioner Reed asked if there were any relatives to contact. Mr. Friend stated the bank has been notified, but for some reason has not been foreclosed on or paid for, nor will they talk to them about the property. After the clean up, proper paper work will be delivered to the Revenue Office for the placement of a lien on this property. District 1 (Lee) voted, yes; District 2 (Pugh) voted, yes; District 3 (Martin) voted, yes; District 4 (Reed) voted, no; District 5 (Epps) voted, yes; District 6 (Dudley) voted, yes; District 7 (Screws) votes, yes. 6 yes votes and 1 no vote, the motion passed.

Assistant Administrator Vickie Perry stated a check was received in the amount of \$10, 000 for the Russell County Historic Grant and requested the approval of the Commission to increase the budget as follows:

Increase Revenue	State Grant	\$10, 000
Increase Russell County Historical Commission		\$10,000

Commissioner Lee stated the line item in the budget for the Historical Commission is designated for the maintenance of the Historical Headquarters, located beside the new Courthouse. Separate books are kept on the house and the Fort, therefore it should be indicated that this money was intended by the Legislator to go the Fort Mitchell Project of the Russell County Historical Commission, and so there should be the creation of a new line item for these funds. Commissioner Dudley motioned to approve the budget increase. Seconded by Commissioner Screws. Commissioner Lee also stated that since one of his relatives recently began a business relationship with the Ft. Mitchell Project, he will abstain from the vote. District 1 (Lee) abstained; District 2 (Pugh) abstained; District 3 (Martin) voted, yes; District 4 (Reed) abstained; District 5 (Epps) voted, yes; District 6 (Dudley) voted, yes; District 7 (Screws) voted, yes. 4 yes votes and 3 abstentions; the motion passed.

Judge Bellamy requested for the Russell County Commission to accept and disburse grant money received for the Juvenile Court Grant in the amount of \$40,000 to be used for the Juvenile Dependency Drug Court. Commissioner Lee motioned for the County Commission accept the responsibility of administering the grant money. Second by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Sheriff Elect Heath Taylor stated, discussions at the Monday night's work session suggested the Sheriff's Department and the Administrator should review funds and options to bridge the gap between monies saved for the jail expansion project and the additional funds needed to allow the Architect, Mike Rutland, to move forward with the bid process for the upgrades and additions. Money saved for the electronic upgrade was \$130,000. The amount for Mr. Rutland's company to proceed with plans for bid is \$160,000; therefore, the difference is \$30,000 Mr. Rutland also suggested placing \$25,000 contingency fund on the electronic upgrade. This makes us approximately \$55,000 short. After discussions with the Administrator, the total bill for the electronics upgrade with the cost of the Architect's Firm and the project was \$180,000. At the completion of the project, 1/3 of the amount, as a capital expenditure in the jail will billed to Phenix City. That amount is currently in the contract between the County and the City for they are responsible for 1/3 of any maintenance at the jail. Mr. Rutland has stated in a letter; he would accept the \$130,000 now and the additional \$30,000 at completion of the project after the City has been billed and paid for their portion. The City will be notified before the project has begun. Commissioner Pugh

motioned to go forward with the project. Seconded by Commissioner Dudley. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Lee stated that RDS will look for businesses that operate in Russell County that do not have a business license and if one is located then they are allowed to collect for the last three years of business. Money collected at that time will be split 50/50 with the County. There would not be additional cost to the county. The following year business license inspectors would collect business license fees and Russell County would collect and retain all money. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the contract.

County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk stated there had been questions raised concerning money owed to the School Board and the speed of remittances. RDS said to place proposed changes in the contract and Mr. Funderburk wanted the Commission to consider these amendments to the proposed contract:

- Concentrate their search of business outside of Russell County where the County does not have a data base.
- Limit to a 1 year contract beginning to 2010-2011
- Make the point of contact with the County License Inspector Bill Friend.
- RDS' portion of collected fees to only be 25% rather than 50%
- Information is to be sent electronically

Commissioner Lee withdrew his motion. Commissioner Pugh motioned to approve the contract with the amendments recommended by the County Attorney. Seconded by Commissioner Dudley. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Screws reminded the public November 2, 2010 is Election Day and please consider voting yes to amendment # 3, which deals with road and bridge improvements in the County. This is a State-wide referendum and must pass state-wide.

Chair Martin adjourned the meeting.