

The Russell County Commission
Meeting Minutes
November 27, 2013
9:30 A.M. EDT

Public Comments:

Chair Martin announced that recently the Russell County Sanitation Department won the Alabama PALS State Award. She congratulated sanitation workers who were in attendance of the Commission meeting for their service to the County.

Citizens who live on Faye Drive discussed a dumping problem that exists on this drive. Faye Drive is located in Commissioner Pugh's district. Commissioner Pugh stated that Special Enforcement Officer Bill Friend has been notified and is working on this issue. Officer Friend has to go through legal channels by notifying the owner of the property even though it was his tenant who dumped trash and debris at this lot.

Seale resident Roger Mitchell complained about the progress of the investigation for his stolen backhoe.

The Chamber of Commerce Representative Kelli Roberts announced the ASA Pro Am Archery Tournament which will be held February 28th through March 2nd, 2014. She gave detailed information about the event.

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

A quorum was established.

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

The invocation was given by Alan Griffith, Pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Corbett.

Chair Martin requested a motion to approve the November 13th, 2013 meeting minutes. Commissioner Epps motioned to approve the minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

County Administrator read the National Farm-City Week Resolution and was presented to Russell County Extension Office and Farm City Committee members by Chair Martin. Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve the resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Lee. The vote to approve the resolution was unanimous.

Commissioner Corbett presented the family of the Late Sgt. Daniel Davis with a resolution honoring his life and service to the area's law enforcement. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the resolution by unanimous consent.

Homeland Security/EMA Director Bob Franklin requested permission to have the Commission Chair to sign the annual agreement with State of Alabama Emergency Management Agency for a performance grant. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the agreement. Seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.

County Engineer Larry Kite presented a standard funding agreement with ALDOT for a federal aid road project to widen and resurface County Road 41 (Boswell Road) from Sandfort Road to Alabama Hwy 169, approximately 4.46 miles. This project was previously approved by the Commission. Plans and necessary documents for this project have been approved by ALDOT for advertisement of project bidding, which will be handled by ALDOT. The funding agreement commits the County to a required 20% match fund which will be combined with the regular federal aid funds that the County receives through ALDOT. This is not an ATRIP project and was planned prior to ATRIP. The County's estimated cost for the project was \$978,000, but State's estimated amount prior to the funding agreement was higher at \$1,158,046.01. Therefore, the funding agreement shows a 20% match amount of \$231,609.20. The County will not necessarily pay that amount, but will be based on the actual bids. Bids will be opened on December 6, 2013. Within 30 days of the bid opening the County will be invoiced for the correct 20 % match amount. The project should be awarded by February and construction should begin after April. Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve the agreement and was seconded by Commissioner Pugh. The vote was unanimous.

Sheriff Taylor gave the results for the Investigative Center Furniture Bid held November 22nd. Three businesses replied, but he recommended Malone Office Supply because of their low bid. Commissioner Lee motioned to accept the Sheriff's recommendation. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Sheriff Taylor also gave results for the Vehicle Bid held November 22nd, for a 2013 Dodge Charger. Carl Gregory of Columbus submitted a bid of \$23,943. per vehicle with a Hemi engine and spot light mounted on the driver door. Commissioner Reed motioned to approve the award and was seconded by Commissioner Lee. The vote was unanimous.

Sheriff Taylor responded to the complaint that Seale resident Roger Mitchell voiced during the public comments before the meeting. He discussed steps that have been taken in the investigation.

The annual election for Commission Chair and Vice Chair took place. The floor was opened for Chair nominations:
Commissioner Corbett nominated Peggy Martin for Commission Chair.

Commissioner Epps motioned to close the nomination for Chair and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous. Commissioner Martin will remain Chair for another term.

The floor was opened for nominations for Vice Chair:

Commissioner Reed nominated Cattie Epps for Commission Vice Chair.

Commissioner Pugh nominated Chance Corbett for Vice Chair.

Commissioner Epps motioned for the nomination to be closed. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Corbett received 3 votes; Commissioner Epps received 4 votes.

Commissioner Epps will remain the Vice Chair for another term.

Administrator LeAnn Horne announced that the second work session and Commission meeting in December will fall during the week of Christmas. She requested that the Commission cancel both the work session and the regular Commission meeting and only have one meeting in December. Commissioner Lee motioned to cancel the regular December 25th, meeting. Therefore, that will also cancel the work session. Seconded by Commissioner Pugh. The vote was unanimous.

Administrator Horne stated each year the County Commission sponsors the Santa Float in the Christmas Parade, which will be held December 14th. This year the County has been invoiced for the amount of \$410.00. She requested approve to pay the float out of the Contingent Fund. Commissioner Epps motioned to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

County Attorney Funderburk presented written request with recommendation to go into an executive session to discuss several matters. Commissioner Lee motioned to go into executive session. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Announcements made before the executive session:

Chair Martin reminded the Commission of the ACCA legislative conference in Birmingham December 4th and 5th.

Commissioner Lee announced that the Christmas Dance will be held December 14th at the Old Seale Courthouse at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are on sale now.

Mik Cole announced that Chair Martin also received the Alabama PALS 2013 Governor's Award in the County Commission Award Category.

Chair Martin requested a motion to reconvene the meeting. Commissioner Lee motioned to reconvene and was seconded by Commissioner Pugh. The vote was unanimous.

Attorney Funderburk stated concerning the personnel matter he recommended to deny the grievance. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve his recommendation. Seconded by Commissioner Pugh. The vote unanimous.

Attorney Funderburk recommended that for the Historic project, the Commission authorize for him and Commissioner Corbett to complete negotiations for a lease on the historic building located in Crawford. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Pugh. The vote was unanimous.

The Attorney's third recommendation was to approve the two items the Chamber of Commerce requested to negotiate with the business considering expansion in Russell County. The items for negotiation are Sales and Use tax and property Tax. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Lee. The vote was unanimous.

Chair Martin stated that today's business had been concluded. Commissioner Lee motioned to adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned.