

The Russell County Commission
Meeting Minutes
December 12, 2012
9:30 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 was County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk and County Administrator LeAnn Horne, who kept the minutes.

A quorum was established.

Chair Martin announced there are requests to add two items to the agenda: a resolution for the Board of Education and the Holiday Schedule for the Judicial Center and requested a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Commissioner Reed motioned to approve the meeting agenda and was seconded by Commissioner Corbett. The vote was unanimous.

The invocation was given by Grant Parker, Pastor of Epworth United Methodist Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Reed.

Elected officials, department heads, media and visitors were welcomed by Chair Martin.

Chair Martin requested an approval for the November 28th, 2012 meeting minutes. Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve the minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Certificates of recognition and county lapel pins were given to the Russell County Extension Office and members of the 4H program for their help at the Judicial Center Open House. Extension Office Director Ted Gilbert was present to receive the certificates for his office and those students who were unable to attend the meeting.

Administrator Horne presented the Board of Education Resolution which was not included at the November 28th meeting for re-funding bonds which are paid by designated portions of county sales tax. Vice Chair Epps motioned to approve the resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Special Enforcement Officer Bill Friend discussed a house which was severely damaged by fire. Neighbors have complained about the length of time since the fire and the owners have had adequate time for clearing the damaged home. Mr. Friend tried contacting the owners concerning the property clean up, but there has been no response. Therefore, he is requesting to declare the property by resolution as a public nuisance and have the property abated. The resolution will be posted for 10 days, before the next appropriate step is taken, which will be setting a public hearing after the

2nd meeting in January. Attorney Funderburk gave a time line of the required steps. Commissioner Pugh motioned to abate the property based on the time line recommended by the County Attorney. Seconded by Commissioner Lee. The vote was unanimous.

Building Inspector Greg Smith presented recommended 2009 International Energy Codes. The energy codes have been adopted by the State of Alabama , therefore become mandatory. Commissioner Pugh motioned to approve the recommended code. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Recreational Director Mike Parker requested approval to submit a resolution and an application for the Baseball Tomorrow Grant. If awarded to County, funds will be for lighting the new field at the Russell County Sports Complex. The grant does require matching funds from the county and were included in this year's budget. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve the application and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Two court ordered cremations were brought by Coroner Sumbry for approval. The cremations are for William Jones by Colonial Funeral Home and Margaret Stiles by Vance Funeral Home. The cremation charges are not to exceed \$400.00 each. Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve the cremations and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Probate Judge discussed renewal of the \$5.00 indexing fee collected by his office. Those fees collected are for the Probate's discretionary funds and are audited by the Alabama State of Examiners of Public Accounts. Renewal of the fee is every two years. Commissioner Epps motioned to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous..

Sheriff Taylor distributed tabulation sheets for the Investigators Building Bid results. The low bidder was the Langford Construction from LaGrange at \$351,639. He recommended rejecting all bids due the bids being in excess of \$100,000 over the amount expected. Sheriff Taylor wants to look at other options to bring back to the Commission for review. Commissioner Screws motioned to reject all bids. Seconded by Commissioner Corbett. The vote was unanimous.

Sheriff Taylor requested approval to let bids for the Semi Annual Jail Food Bid and to open those bids January 10th, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. in the Commission Chamber. Commissioner Reed motioned to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Corbett. The vote was unanimous.

Homeland Security /EMA Director Bob Franklin announced the award of a grant which will allow the County to install 5 more sirens. Installation of the sirens will be:

- Hwy 80 and Jenkins Road
- Pitts Road and South Herring Road
- Hwy 165 and Owens Road

- Upshaw Flats Road and Grant Circle
- Leroy Road and County Road 12

He requests the Commission to accept the award for the total amount of project is \$106,000 with a Federal share of \$79,500, a county match of 25% which will be \$26,500. The county match has been included in this year's budget. Commissioner Screws motioned to accept the Grant award. Seconded by Commissioner Corbett. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Epps motioned to bring the EMA Director's salary up to \$57,000 retroactive October 1, 2012. Seconded by Commissioner Corbett. Commissioner Lee asked that the record showed that at the time Mr. Franklin was selected as director there was not a salary increase in his salary as assistant director. This salary adjustment is not a raise, but a correction to an oversight of the Commission at that time. The Commission was polled; the vote was unanimous.

County Engineer Larry Kite requested that some inventory in his department be declared as surplus and sold. (3) Three of the items listed are contingent on his next agenda item which is a request to purchase (3) three 2007 Mack dump trucks. He would like to sell the surplus trucks through J.M. Woods Auction Company, where there is a guaranteed sale price. The auction will be held in February. Other equipment he would like to surplus is radio equipment that could not be converted to the required narrow band frequency. Those items will be sold through Govdeals.com. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve Mr. Kite's request. Seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Kite also requested to lease/purchase (3) Mack truck chassis from Nextran Company and (3) three dump truck bodies from Childersburg Truck Service, Inc. These trucks are from the Association of County Commissions of Alabama joint bid program. Two of the trucks will be \$127,235.00 each and one truck will cost \$126,360 for the total amount of \$380,830. Financing will be with Bancorp South Equipment Finance which is payable over (4) four years at 2.4% interest. This purchase was within the budget. Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve the purchase and was seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.

Chair Martin stated the District 3 position to the Department of Human Resources is at term. Dr. Thomas Shelton who presently holds the position is willing to continue serving on the Board. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve Dr. Shelton's reappointment. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. Commissioner Screws announced that member, Beth Childree, who holds the District 7 position on the Department of Human Resources Board would like to be replaced; therefore, he will bring back an appointment to the next Commission meeting. The Administrator polled the Commission; the vote was unanimous.

Due to the passing of J.C. Batchelder; the District 6 position of the Planning Commission needs to be filled. Commissioner Corbett motioned to appoint Wanda Lamb to fill the position. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Other Board appointments held by Mr. Batcheldor also needed to be filled. Commissioner Corbett stated that since these positions have had several who would like to be placed on these boards, and he feels each board should be held by different people; he motioned to create a Search Committee of 7 who have been chosen by each Commissioner. The Commission Chair will be the Committee Chair who is a nonvoting member. The Committee should review biographies or resume' and bring back to the Commission the top 3 candidates for these positions for Commission approval no later than the first meeting in February. After much discussion and clarification from the County Attorney about the creations of the Water and Sewer Board; Commissioner Corbett made a new motion, to create a search committee for the Utility Board "Garbage Board", Water Board and Sewer Board member positions that are open. The Search Committee will be comprised of 1 person chosen by each Commissioner's choice given to the Administrator today and will be chaired by the Commission Chair, who is a non-voting member. The search committee is to meet and bring back parameters for the search, including dates and requirements such as bio's, resume's, letters of intent, etc. and to have that report back to the Commission by the first meeting in February. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Administrator Horne stated due the holiday schedule, the works session schedule for December 24th will be cancelled because the Courthouses will be closed for Christmas holidays. As discussed at the work session Monday night, December 26th, the day after Christmas a County Commission meeting is scheduled at 9:30 a.m. Administrator Horne asked what is the pleasure of the Commission regarding the to the Commission meeting. Commissioner Pugh motioned to cancel the meeting and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. District 1 (Lee) voted, no; District 2 (Pugh) voted, yes; District 3 (Martin) voted, yes; District 4 (Reed) voted, yes; District 5 (Epps) voted, yes; District 6 (Corbett) voted, no; District 7 (Screws) voted, yes. 5 yes votes and 2 no votes the motioned past.

Administrator Horne also discussed Judge Johnson's request to close the Judicial Center for New Year's Eve day if it was in conjunction with the Commission's wishes to close the Courthouse. Commissioner Pugh motioned to close the Courthouse for New Year's Eve. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

County Attorney Funderburk discussed a meeting held by the Utility Board, which has made two recommendations:

- Leasing 2 garbage trucks. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve their recommendation. Seconded by Commissioner Corbett. The vote was unanimous.
- Non-Profit organizations are to be charged minimum fees or be charged according to services rendered. Exceptions for non-profits are those that are exempted by law, such as volunteer fire departments governmental offices, etc.

Commissioner Lee stated for the record this is a recommendation which passed unanimously from the garbage board. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the recommendation and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous

Commissioner Pugh requested that money generated by the additional income, for at least the first year; go toward additional part-time people to clear the roadside debris. He asked the Sheriff and the Administrator to decide how to implement this program.

Attorney Funderburk stated that is the board is trying to get a handle of all the income with the goal in mind to hire part time for cleaning county roadways but it will be a couple of months before they will know how much can be dedicated to this plan.

Attorney Funderburk recommended going into executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Commissioner Lee motioned to move into executive session. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Announcements were made before recessing the meeting:
The Courthouse will be closed December 24th and 25th for Christmas and also the Courthouse and Judicial Center will be closed December 31st and January 1st for the New Year's Holiday.

Chair Martin requested a motion to reconvene the Commission meeting. Commissioner Lee motioned to continue the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Attorney Funderburk asked Sheriff Taylor to give his recommendation from the executive session.

Sheriff Taylor requested the Commission allow him to transfer a current Lieutenant in the Sheriff's office to another Lieutenant's position in the jail and the Lieutenant in the jail will transfer to the Sheriff's Department. The Lieutenant who transfers to the Jail will be given a salary increase of \$2,000, which will be absorbed in this budget year. Commissioner Reed motioned to approve the recommendation and was seconded by Commissioner Corbett. The vote was unanimous.

Chair Martin adjourned the meeting.