

The Russell County Commission
Meeting Minutes
December 14, 2011
9:30 A.M. EST

Public Comments:

Roger Martin gave an update on the Mill Creek and Holland Creek Watershed Restoration Program.

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, Mervin Dudley and Larry Screws. Also present was the County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk and the County Administrator LeAnn Horne, who kept the minutes.

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

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Reed.

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

Chair Martin requested a motion to approve the November 23rd meeting minutes. Commissioner Dudley motioned to approve the minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Pugh presented a proclamation of appreciation to Mark Godwin for his donation of materials to the Engineer Department.

Ron Howard representative from Coast 2 Coast discussed the new prescription drug card program available to all employees and residents of Russell County.

Scott Holmes, who was not present at the meeting, sent an update on the status of the Russell County Judicial Center renovation. The schedule date of reopening is the first week of February 2012.

Recreational Director Mike Parker presented bid results for the construction of the multipurpose field for the Russell County Sports Complex. The low bid was Sports Turf. During the bid process other items that were not originally included in the field were added. Those items included were:

- High grade of Bermuda grass
- State of the art score board
- Black vinyl fencing with windscreen

- Padded backstop
- Larger dugouts with step-up benchers
- Concrete plaza which will allow for 2 sets of bleachers
- Portable pitching mound
- 2 warm up areas
- 2 bull pens to the side of the field
- The existing transformer will also be moved at no cost to the County

Barbara Scott from Lee/Russell discussed the bid tabulation sheets for the multipurpose field. The low bid was \$245,033 which is \$3,000 less than the construction budget. She presented a resolution for review and approval. Commissioner Dudley motioned to approve the resolution and the award of the bid to Sports Turf. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

James McGill requested a letter to be created and send to SAIC stating the County's position concerning the road to Fort Benning's back gate. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the letter and was seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.

Coroner Sumbry discussed repairs of the van that had been approved for his department. Those repairs were going to cost approximately \$4,000 and were advised by the mechanic to place that money in another vehicle. After discussions with the Sheriff and the County Administrator, he was offered a swap for another van in better condition than the present van. He requested to retain the present service for transport to and from the Alabama Forensic Lab in Montgomery until he is able to have repairs made to the new van completed. Administrator Horne stated the current amount that will be paid is \$3,300.; however, that is reimbursement from Phenix City and will not require a budget amendment. In order to give the Coroner time to get the vehicle ready for service she recommended a \$1,200. budget amendment where it would be necessary to increase fund balance adding back to contract service fund, which will be \$1,200. This is in the event we have to use the transport service. It is \$400 per trip for the transport service. The budget request is as follows:

General Fund 001

Coroner-52400

Increase	001 35500 000	FUND BALANCE	\$1,200.00
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Increase	001 52400 304	CONTRACT SERVICES	\$1,200.00
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<u>Total</u>			<u>\$1,200.00</u>
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Commissioner Reed motioned to approve the request. Seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.

County Engineer Larry Kite requested to post several county roads for no thru truck traffic to reduce the wear of County Roads that are not able to handle the heavy loads of trucks. There are State roads that are nearby that can handle those loads.

Commissioner Dudley motioned to ask Mr. Kite to go back and to get with the other applicable district and bring it back to the first meeting in January 2012 with a recommendation for review and approval of a list that could be charted for identification. This chart will be at the Courthouse in case it needs to be referred if there are questions why this is being done. The purpose of this is to try to get people to utilize the standard roads that will hold the weight load of these trucks to protect the integrity of our roads since we have a limited budget. Seconded by Commissioner Screws. Commissioner Pugh stated it was talked about identifying roads to close and his preference is to identify approved trucking routes in the county. Commissioner Epps asked where most of these roads are located. Mr. Kite stated they were mostly in District 6. The vote was unanimous.

Larry Kite also made a request to purchase a Puromax Pothole Patcher from the ACCA joint bid from Equipment, Parts and Specialty Company in the amount of \$177,507. He proposed to finance the equipment with BankSouth for 60 months to be paid monthly in arrears at 2.49% interest. The original plan was to buy the equipment with financing and make the payment annually in arrears which would not require budgeted money until next budget year, but, to save money they would begin payments in February. He would be able to fund the new equipment with the sale of surplus equipment. This will replace 2002 one-man pothole patcher that is currently being used. It would cost more to repair the equipment which stays in the shop for repairs than in use. A budget transfer will be required for monthly payments from other line items in order to purchase the equipment now, later replacing the transfers with the sale of the used equipment. Transfer is as follows:

Decrease	111 561	Construction Equipment	\$29,000
Increase	111 611	Principal	\$22,500
Increase	111 612	Interest	\$3,000
Increase	111 272	Insurance	\$3,500
		Total	\$29,000

Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the Engineer's request to purchase the pothole patcher. Seconded by Commissioner Epps. After discussion of the purchase of the new equipment and maintenance cost of the old equipment, Mr. Kite was asked to bring back the cost of retro-fitting the old equipment. Commissioner Dudley requested to table this item until the additional information was brought back to the Commission for review. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Chair Martin discussed a letter from a citizen who travels Poyner Drive and complained about potholes on that road. Mr. Kite investigated to find if those holes were made by the Phenix City Sewer Department. Mr. Kite called to inquire when those would be repaired and was told they are scheduled to be done soon. The Engineer Department will keep a watch for the repairs and if they are not made in a timely manner his department is allowed to make the repairs and bill the Utility Company for them.

Mr. Kite asked for authorization to advertise for the Annual Materials Bid, to be opened January 12th, 2012 at 2:30 P.M. Commissioner Epps motioned to approve the bid and was seconded by Commissioner Dudley. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Lee presented the Engineer's Employment Agreement. He stated that he did not agree with some of the language in the agreement and requested that it be reviewed and brought back to the Commission, before the current contract renews. He motioned to table this item until the December 28, 2011; seconded by Commissioner Dudley. The vote was unanimous.

Russell County Extension Office Director, Ted Gilbert requested the Commission to adjust the appropriation given to his Office. County Administrator Horne stated this is not an increase to the Extension Office's appropriation. Due to an advancement afforded to his office the previous budget year and in error was not replaced during the budget process. His appropriation was not level funded. Ms. Horne requested amending the fund balance as follows:

Appropriation			
Increase 001 35500 000	Fund Balance		\$16,000.00
Increase 001 59211 700	Extension Services		\$16,000.00
		Total	\$16,000.00

This will put the Extension Services back to \$43,500.00
Commissioner Screws motioned to approve the adjustment and was seconded by Commissioner Dudley. The vote was unanimous.

Administrator Horne stated, December 26th, 2011 is a County Holiday and the Courthouse will be closed. The next work session falls on that holiday. Commissioner Lee motioned to cancel the work session. Seconded by Commissioner Dudley. The vote was unanimous.

Chair Martin announced the Courthouse will be closed December 23rd and 26th for Christmas Holidays and will also be closed January 2nd, 2012 for New Year's Holiday.

Commissioner Lee announced the Annual Christmas Dance will be held December 17th, 2011 at the Old Seale Courthouse.

The meeting was adjourned.