

The Russell County Commission
Meeting Minutes
February 22nd, 2012
9:30 A.M. EST.

Public Comments:

Brad Wheeler thanked the Ladonia Volunteer Fire Department for their service to the community.

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

A quorum was established.

Chair Martin stated the County Administrator has requested approval to move the discussion item "Joint Fuel Purchasing Agreement" under business items. Chair Martin requested a motion to approve the meeting agenda with this amendment. Commissioner Dudley motioned to approve the agenda and was seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.

Stephen Gregg, Pastor of the Trinity United Methodist Church gave the invocation.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Epps.

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

Chair Martin requested a motion to approve the February 8th, 2012 meeting minutes. Commissioner Epps stated since the work session was cancelled due to a State Holiday and had only received the minutes for review this morning, she motioned to table the minutes until the next Commission Meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Reed presented certificates in honor of Black History Month to citizens, who have made outstanding achievements in our County.

Mik Cole presented a certificate of recognition to Commissioner Reed for his contributions in the community.

The Homeland Security/EMA Department position was discussed by Administrator Horne she wanted to make the Commission aware of the position vacancy due to Director William Alexander transferring to the Sheriff's Department on February 20, 2012 to become Chief Deputy.

After much discussion, Commissioner Pugh motioned to make this item a business item. Commissioner Lee stated it could not be amendment since the agenda had been approved. This item will be brought back to the next Commission Meeting as a business item.

Revenue Commissioner Naomi Elliott presented the annual Ad Valorem Tax Resolution which is required by law to levy necessary taxes on taxable property in Russell County. Commissioner Dudley motioned to approve the resolution and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

County Engineer Larry Kite presented Resolution No. 2012-20 which was approved by the City on February 7, 2012, for the reimbursement for grading, drainage, base and paving of the City portion of Lonesome Pine Road to the County. The project length is 3,144 feet with the County maintained portion being 2,411 feet and the remaining 733 feet belonging to the City. The estimated cost of the project is \$105,750 with the City's portion being \$32,150. Lonesome Pine Road was not originally included in the approved 2011-2012 budget, but with the City's reimbursement it should allow the County to fund the entire project within the current budget. He recommended approving the project and making it a priority project in order to collect the reimbursements from the City. Commissioner Epps motioned to accept Mr. Kite's recommendation. Seconded by Commissioner Dudley. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Kite also requested approval for the authorization of agreements with the ALADOT for two Federal Aid funded projects. The agreements will require a 20% match of county funds. Project STPPC-5706-(200)/ RCP 27-05-09 is for the widening and resurfacing CR 39(Nuckols Road) from CR 24 to SR 165. The length of this project is 4.609 miles and the county match is approximately \$173,292.

Project No. HSIP-5706 (201)/ RCP 57-12-10 is for the installation of guardrail and end anchors at various locations on CR 39 (Nuckols Road) which will require approximately \$3,973 for the County's portion of the project. Both of these projects were included in the 2011-2012 budget. These projects are schedule to let March 2, 2012. Commissioner Epps motioned to approve the agreements and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Russell County Water Authority Manager Kevin Dabbs requested approval to surplus 3 International Solid Waste trucks one of these is a 2005 truck which needs costly motor repair. Income from these vehicles will go back into the Russell County Utility Operations Funds. Commissioner Dudley motioned to approve Mr. Dabbs' recommendation. Seconded by Commissioners Epps and Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Dabbs also requested approval to purchase a new solid waste truck to replace the 2005 truck that will now become surplus. The vehicle will be purchased from Ingram Equipment Company, LLC and will be paid out of reserve funds from the Russell County Utility. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the purchase and was seconded by Commissioner Dudley. Administrator Horne stated this request was brought to the Russell County Utilities Board and the Russell County Water Authority's CPA, Jimmy Self was present at the Utility Board Meeting. He affirmed there is enough reserve funds for the purchase of the truck. The Commission was polled; the vote was unanimous.

Administrator Horne announced all the Judicial Offices have been relocated back to the Judicial Center and is open for business. An Open House has been discussed for the public possibility in March or April. An assessment of the staffing needs was taken as discussed at the 2011-2012 budget meetings. At this time a temporary custodian position is needed for the remainder of this year. The position will be reviewed at the budget time to decide if the position will need to be continued. The salary schedule for 1 temporary custodian (full time) for 16 pay periods (March 2, 2012 to September 28th, 2012 will be set as follows:

General Fund 001		
Increase 001 43100 710	Business License	\$13,780.00
Maintenance Dept. 51970		
Increase 001 51970 113	Salary	\$12,800.00
Increase 001 51970 124	FICA	\$980.00
	Total	\$13,780.00

Commissioner Screws motioned to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Items presented by County Administrator Horne:

The Fuel Authority Joint Venture Agreement is presented for review .The agreement is between The Commission, Engineering, Board of Education, Utility Board and the Sheriff's Department will continue to meet, purchase fuel. Each department will monitor their fuel consumption and provide a monthly report to the Authority President. Also the Fuel Authority will follow the open meeting laws as specified in the agreement. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the agreement with an amendment to the time in which a meeting can be called to be changed from 3 days to 5 days notice. Seconded by Commissioner Dudley. The vote was unanimous.

The County Levies for Alcohol Licensing is an annual agreement between the counties and the ABC Board. Russell County fees are presently set at the maximum level allowable by the State; therefore, there are no changes to the scheduled fees. Commissioner Dudley motioned to approve the agreement. Seconded by Commissioner Lee. The vote to approve was unanimous.

The Town of Hurtsboro entered into a lease with Russell County in 2001, utilizing the old county shop building. The Town of Hurtsboro for many years has not met the terms of the agreement. There have been several ADEM violations.

Administrator Horne recommended for the Commission to exercise its right and notify the Town of Hurtsboro to terminate the lease. The agreement requires a 60 day notification of termination. Cancellation of the lease will limit the liability exposure that the County is facing as well as safety and health hazards on these premises. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the lease termination; seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

The County-wide Comprehensive Plan Draft was distributed for review several weeks prior to the January 23, 2012 Commission Meeting. The Planning Commission has approved the draft and is waiting for the final approval of The Commission. A public hearing is required to be scheduled for the Comprehensive Plan. Administrator Horne is requesting for it to be held March 14th prior to the Commission Meeting at 9:30 a.m. EST. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the public hearing; seconded by Commissioner Dudley. A notice for the public hearing will be posted as well as placed on the Russell County Website. The Commission was polled; the vote was unanimous.

Probate Judge Alford Harden discussed an issue concerning a business which purchased a county business license with a worthless check. The owners have been notified of the issue, but continue to ignore the notices. Judge Harden requests the Commission grant him the ability to revoke the business license. He requests to present guidelines for future occurrences to the next Commission Meeting for review and approval.

Chair Martin adjourned the meeting.