

The Russell County Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
February 24, 2010  
9:30 A.M. EST

The Russell County High School Chorus performed before the Commission Meeting began as a closing to Black History Month. Commissioner Reed gave out Certificates of Recognition to the Chorus from himself and The Lieutenant Governor, Jim Folsom, Jr.

Public Comments:

Lovetta Martin discussed a need for the installation of guardrails on Cross Winds Road.

Dr. Alexander spoke in the behalf of Jimmy Lee Long and Hovett Dixon and thanked the Commission moving forward with this issue.

An adjourned meeting of the Russell County Commission was called to order. Members present were: Chair Peggy Martin, Vice Chair Gentry Lee, Tillman Pugh, Ronnie Reed, Cattie Epps and Larry Screws. Mervin Dudley was out due to illness. Also present were County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk and County Administrator LeAnn Horne, who kept the minutes.

A quorum was established.

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

The invocation was given by Reverend Wesley Price, Pastor of the Cottonton Baptist Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Screws.

Chair Martin welcomed elected officials, department heads, media and guests. Afterwards she requested a motion to approve the February 10, 2010 meeting minutes. Commissioner Reed motioned to approve the meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Epps.

William Kent and Katie Werneth discussed the Mill Creek Watershed Plan.

Commissioner Epps requested to place a business item on the agenda, Contract Proposal, under business items as stated at Monday night's work session. Commissioner Reed motioned to approve this item 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 7 (Screws) voted, yes. 4 yes votes and 2 abstentions. The motion passed.

C.C. Lamb addressed the Commission concerning speed limits, sight distance and other issues on Wendy Road. The Engineering did place a speed limit sign on this road after Monday's night work session.

County Administrator LeAnn Horne discussed the need for an Energy Study and stated in 2006 laws were passed with the objective of reducing energy consumption 10% by the year 2008; by 2010 the goal was for consumption to be reduced by 20%. This puts the County in the position of analyzing all of our existing energy systems and bringing them into compliance with federal and state laws. During budget time, the Commission was presented with an energy audit for all buildings owned by the County. The next step in this process is to send out a request for proposal. This will not commit the Commission. At this time, I request to send out an RFP, so that the companies who specialize in energy systems can submit a proposal based on the RFP criteria. The RFP will

be due in a month. At this point there is no cost to the Commission. Commissioner Epps motioned to accept the recommendation of Ms. Horne and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. District 1 ( Lee) voted, no; District 2 (Pugh) yes; District 3 (Martin) voted, yes; District 4 (Reed) voted, yes; District 5 (Epps) voted, yes; District 6 (Dudley)absent ; District 7 (Screws)voted, yes. The motion passed with 5 yes votes and 1 no vote.

Ms. Horne updated the Commission on the proposals for the County-wide Comprehensive Plan. Two proposals were submitted. The committee, which consisted of the County Attorney, the County Administrator and the Chief Mapper/ Appraisal for Russell County reviewed each proposal. The Committee unanimously recommends the proposal from Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood, Inc, which was the lowest price and will include an in-depth sewer/water study for the Fort Mitchell and other areas that were outlined in the proposal. She further explained that Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood understand the entire price of the study was not budgeted in this 2009 -2010 budget, but they are willing to work with the County. We will need budget the remainder in the upcoming 2010 -2011 budget for final payment. The amount for the study is \$183,500. Commissioner Lee motioned for Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood to be authorized to develop the Russell County Comprehensive Plan. Seconded By Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Coroner Sumbry presented an agreement between the Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences and Russell County for \$250,000 for all counties that is allocated in this years state general fund budget for the transportation of bodies for the purpose of conducting autopsies. Initially, it was believed this money would be used by the state to reinstate its transportation of bodies, but now is agreed to distribute these funds to county commissions to help defray any expenses counties may have incurred this budget year. This agreement must be approved and returned by March 11, 2010. Commission Reed motioned to approve the agreement and was seconded by Commissioner Screws. The vote was unanimous.

Judge Harden presented a letter received by his office from Phenix Foods requesting a refund of penalties for County Business License. Commissioner Lee motioned to table this request until the next regular Commission Meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Pugh. District 1 ( Lee) voted, yes; District 2 (Pugh)voted, yes; District 3 (Martin) voted, yes; District 4 (Reed) voted, no; District 5 (Epps) voted, no; District 6 (Dudley) absent; District 7 (Screws) voted, no. 3 yes votes and 3 no votes. The motion did not pass.

Commissioner Reed motioned to deny the refund request and was seconded by Commissioner Epps. District 1 ( Lee) voted, no; District 2 (Pugh) abstained; District 3 (Martin) voted, yes; District 4 (Reed) voted, yes; District 5 (Epps) voted, yes; District 6 (Dudley) absent; District 7 (Screws) voted, yes. Four (4) votes yes, one (1) no vote and one (1) abstention, the motioned passed denying the penalty fee refund to Phenix Foods.

Judge Harden stated, due to a construction project at the Chattahoochee Valley Community College polling place, a temporary location is needed. Troy State has offered a room at One University Place to replace the loss of the polling site. Judge Harden is requesting the Commission give the County Attorney and himself, the authority to contact the Justice Department and temporary move this site until the end of 2010 and then return it to the regular site after construction has been completed. Commissioner Epps motioned to approve the Probate Judge's request. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. Commissioner Lee asked if the polling place would still remain in the same district. Judge Harden stated, it would be the same. The vote was unanimous.

Mik Cole requested the Commission to amend her contract from 2 hours per week to 10 -20 hours weekly. The extra hours are needed to complete the publication of the Russell County bulletin "The Connection" and other special projects she is involved in. She stated, if a project is estimated more than 25 hours or more to conclude, it will be brought back to the Commission for review

and approval before the project begins. Commissioner Reed commended Mrs. Cole for her excellent work for the County's and other projects; he also stated she goes far beyond what is expected of her. Commissioners Martin and Epps also attested of her work and also other officials. Commissioner Reed motioned to extend Mik Cole's contract. Seconded By Commissioner Epps. District 1 ( Lee) voted, no; District 2 (Pugh) voted, no; District 3 (Martin) voted, yes; District 4 (Reed) voted, yes; District 5 (Epps) voted, yes; District 6 (Dudley) absent, District 7 (Screws) voted, no. Three (3) votes yes and three (3) votes no. The motion did not pass.

County Engineer Larry Kite recommended awarding the re-bid for concrete pipe, Bid No. 009-10 to Hanson Pipe and Precast. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve Mr. Kite's recommendation. Seconded by Commissioner Screws. 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) absent, District 7 (Screws) voted, yes. The motion passes with five (5) yes votes and one (1) no vote.

Larry Kite requested approval for the purchase of a used 2000 International flat bed crew-cab truck from the ALADOT Surplus list in the amount of \$14, 500. The truck price is under the amount for required bids and also is not necessary since the purchase is from the State. \$21,000 was approved for this item in this 2009-2010 budget year. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the purchase. Seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.

Chair Martin announced a federal grant awarded to the Sheriff's Department for the "Click it or Ticket It" program for May 24<sup>th</sup> to June 6, 2010 in the amount of \$2,515 and also for "Drunk Driving Over the Limit Under Arrest" for the amount of \$2,100.

County Administrator announced a Seniors Companions Program which provided job opportunities for seniors in our county. The program provides training, reimbursements for travel cost and pays \$7.25 an hour. The duties are assisting and accompany people to various appointments, grocery shopping, community centers and social events. They are looking for 25 people over the age of 60. Applications will be available in the Commission Office.

Commissioner Pugh requested Barbara Scott from Lee/Russell Council of Governments to give an update on two walking trails that have been applied for. Mrs. Scott stated submittals were made in November 2009 for Commissioner Screw's district. She is unaware of any grant submittals for this district, but can check.

Commissioner Pugh asked the County Attorney if a meeting had been set up with Attorney's Web & Eley as planned at the last Commission meeting for update for all law suits.

Mr. Funderburk stated that has not been set.

County Administrator announced this is the one year anniversary of the county offices being located in this building. The Commission made a wise decision to purchase this building and the consolidation of offices has served the public well. She also thanked those who worked long hours to accomplish the renovations and relocation.

Commissioner Epps extended an invitation to the Pine Hill Missionary Baptist Church the NAACP will hold their annual Freedom Banquet February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Commissioner Lee motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned.