

The Russell County Commission  
February 27, 2013  
Meeting Minutes  
9:30 A.M. EST

Chair Martin welcomed elected officials, department heads, media and visitors. She introduced the Russell County High School Chorus who under the direction of Rudy Barraca presented a short program "Giving Voice to Our Heritage 2013" in honor of Black History Month. Reverend Peter Jensen, Pastor of Crossroads Baptist Church sang "Amazing Grace". Commissioner Reed gave certificates of recognition to each participate in the 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, Chance Corbett and Larry Screws. Also present was County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk and 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 Steven Gregg, Pastor of Trinity United Methodist Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Pugh.

Chair Martin requested a motion to approve the February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013 meeting minutes. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve the minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Epps presented a resolution to the family of the late Pauline Sanks. The resolution was read by County Administrator Horne. Commissioner Epps motioned to approve the resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Epps also presented Maurice Wright, pastor of St. Johns African Methodist Episcopal Church, a certificate of recognition welcoming him to Russell County.

Probate Judge Alford Harden was unable to attend the meeting. Probate Chief Clerk Doretha Alston discussed at Judge Harden's request, an order from the State of Alabama to refund \$13,680 to the Continental Carbon Company for a mortgage that was recorded in December 2012. The mortgage did not clearly state that it was not entirely in Russell County. Commissioner Screws motioned to refund the ordered

amount to the Continental Carbon Company. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Russell County Utility Manager Carl Currington recommended placing a solid waste transfer station on 2 acres located at the back of the Engineering Complex. The station will save the County approximately \$200,000 per year in fuel use and truck repairs. The station will be out of the public's view. Trash will be hauled to the Salem Landfill daily by a contracted service. Building a county owned transfer station will also prevent raising garbage fees. There is also an 18 to 24 month plan of relocating the office, maintenance shop and garbage trucks to this 2 acre location. The location may be a crowded, so Mr. Currington suggested increasing acreage to 5 or 8 acres for the accommodation of the Utility Department. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve Mr. Currington's recommendation with the change of increasing the 2 acres to 8 acres to accommodate future growth of the Utility Department. Seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.

Sheriff Taylor requested to re-negotiate the contract for medical treatment for jail inmates. Dr. Warr has indicated he would consider not being billed an hourly rate as he is now, but a salary rate. Sheriff Taylor recommended a contract amount based on medical fees that have been paid to him for the last three years and paying Dr. Warr the average, which is \$66,113. The Administrator would like to offer \$65,000 as the contracted amount. That would also give the Jail a set amount for the budget. Sheriff Taylor recommended authorizing the County Administrator and Dr. Warr work out the salary amount. Commissioner Pugh motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. Administrator Horne stated this will require amending the existing contract and if it is agreeable with the Commission, she will let Attorney Funderburk review the documents before presenting it to Dr. Warr. He will continue to be a contracted professional service and will not receive benefits. Contracted professional services are also exempt from the bid law. The Commission was polled; the vote was unanimous.

Sheriff Taylor stated he had requested for the jail maintenance to replace locks in the older section of the jail. Most have been replaced with locks that were already on hand, but needed 20 more to complete the task. The cost of 20 new locks will be \$14,000. The Commission requires purchases of over \$7,500 be brought to them for approval. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the purchase and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Homeland Security / EMA Director Bob Franklin gave results of the Siren Bid held February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013 at the Commission Chambers. Only one bid was received before the deadline, McCord Communications Services, Inc. for the amount of \$77,045. Another bid came in after the deadline at the EMA Office and was returned to the bidder. Mr. Franklin recommended awarding the bid to McCord Communications. The 5 new sirens will be located at: U.S. Hwy 80 & Jenkins Road, South Herring Road & Pitts Road, Hwy 165 & Owens Road, Upshaw Flats Road & Grant Circle, Leroy Road & County Road 12. Commissioner Epps motioned to approve the recommendations. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

County Engineer Larry Kite discussed warranty problems they have encountered with the DuraMaxx Pothole Patcher purchased January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012. There have been several issues, but the dealer and manufacturer have denied the warranty repairs. Shop Supervisor Mike Williams met with the dealer and manufacturer trying to resolve the problem, but they still refused to make the repairs under the warranty. Mr. Kite is now requesting that the County Attorney be authorized to pursue legal action in this matter. Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve the County Attorney taking the necessary actions. Seconded by Commissioner Lee. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Kite also requested to approve Bankcorp South resolution for the leasing of 3 Mack dump trucks. The Commission has approved the leasing of the trucks, but is required by Bankcorp South the approval of the resolution for authorization of financing and the execution of documents by the Chair. Commissioner Epps motioned to approve the resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Screws recommended accepting the letter from Russell County Water Board Chair E.L. Tolbert Jr. to approve Robert Brundidge remaining as a board member of the Water Authority Board. Seconded by Commissioner Lee. The vote was unanimous.

County Administrator Horne stated annually the Commission must re-approve the county levies for Alcohol Licensing according to the Section 28-3A-4 code of Alabama. The amounts have not changed; Russell County is charging the maximum county fees. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the levies. Seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.

Chair Martin announced Monday, March 4, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. the Russell Baptist Association will host Praying Across Alabama at the Judicial Center located at 501 14<sup>th</sup> Street.

Chair Martin adjourned the meeting.