

The Russell County Commission
Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2010
9:30 A.M. EST

Public comment was made by Citizen Loftin, who discussed the absence of Sheriff patrols and the large amount of illegal dumping in the areas of Lonesome Pine, Seale and Brickyard Roads.

An adjourned meeting of the Russell County Commission was called to order. Members present: Chair Peggy Martin, Vice-chair Gentry Lee, Tillman Pugh, Ronnie Reed, Mervin Dudley and Larry Screws. Cattie Epps was absent because she was attending the NACO conference. 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 agenda. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the agenda and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. Commissioner Dudley motioned to place the Water Board appointment on today's agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Screws. The vote to add the board appointment was unanimously approved. The agenda was unanimously approved.

The invocation was given by Judd Stinson, Pastor of the Summerville United Methodist Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Lee.

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

Chair Martin requested a motion approving the February 24, 2010 meeting minutes. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the minutes with minor corrections made since the work session. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. District 1 (Lee) voted, yes; District 2 (Pugh) abstained; District 3 (Martin) voted, yes; District 4 (Reed) voted, yes; District 5 (Epps) absent; District 6 (Dudley) abstained, due to being absent; District 7 (Screws) yes. The motion passed.

Barbara Scott from Lee/Russell Council of Governments, requested approval of a resolution retaining Lee /Russell for their grant administrative services of the EECB Grant and to authorize the Commission Chair to execute the contract between Russell County Commission and Lee/Russell Council. Commissioner Dudley motioned to approve the resolution authorizing the Chair to sign the agreement. Seconded by Commissioner Screws. The vote was unanimous.

County Engineer Larry Kite stated Barbara Scott from Lee/Russell notified him a grant was available to fund Geographic Information System (GIS) Hardware, Software, Consultation and Training through the Delta Regional Authority. This equipment will allow our department to compile road and bridge data, also work orders data which is used daily into a central mapping center. Information could be given readily to the Commission and citizens as well as make the Engineering Department more efficient. This system is estimated to cost \$50,000 to \$70,000. The grant will require a 20% county match. Barbara Scott added: They are requesting from the Commission approval to apply for the grant. At the next meeting, the actual price of the system and the cost of the match requirement will be brought back to the Commission for review, before approving a resolution. This is only a pre-application. The Delta Regional Authority will review submittals and invite approved applicants to fill out a full application in July. Grant awards will not be made until the 2010-2011 fiscal year. Commissioner Lee motioned to

approve the application to the DELTA Regional Grant. Seconded by Commissioner Dudley. The vote was unanimous.

Barbara Scott also discussed the 2010 Emergency Shelter Grant which the Commission has sponsored for the House of Restoration for the last 3 to 4 years. Pastor Robinson requested the Commission to support the House of Restoration in this year's application for the grant. The grant aids in defraying the cost of helping those who are homeless. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Dudley. The vote was unanimous.

County Administrator LeAnn Horne presented the Cliatt-Martin Cemetery Request. The Planning Commission has reviewed and approved all information pertaining to this request of the Martin Family with one minor change that the Probate Judge is handling. Commissioner Dudley motioned to approve the request. Seconded by Commissioner Lee. The vote was unanimous.

Sheriff Tommy Boswell reported: an employee of the Sheriff's Department was called to active duty in Iraq for 14 months and has returned home. His vacant deputy's slot was filled while he was deployed. Plans were to place him in an open slot on his return which would not have increased the number of employees at the Sheriff's Department. With job situations as they are at the present, there is not a vacancy. Law requires for him to be placed back into the same level as he was before deployment. On February 1st, 2010, he was placed back into his job as the law states. Sheriff Boswell requested: The Commission to create a temporary deputy slot until a opening becomes available, thereafter removing the temporary slot created. Commissioner Reed motioned to approve the temporary deputy slot and was seconded by Commissioner Dudley. The vote was unanimous. County Administrator Horne stated this will be a Grade 8/Step 4. The purpose of amending the salary schedule is to remain in compliance with the state examiners.

County Engineer Larry Kite requested approval to purchase a copier/plotter for the amount of \$14,736.93 to replace the existing copier/ plotter which is beyond repair. This item was budgeted and the purchase cost is below the budgeted amount. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the purchase. Seconded by Commissioner Dudley. The vote was unanimous.

Larry Kite announced the County was approved for financial assistance through the Emergency Watershed Protection Program in the amount of \$55,574. He requested approval of the agreement between Russell County and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The funds will go toward erosion problems on Carson Drive area created by excessive rain in March and April 2009. This agreement is to give 75% reimbursement back to the County. The total estimate of the project was \$74,098. The County will pay \$18,524 which will be in-kind. Commissioner Dudley motioned to approve the agreement. Seconded by Commissioner Screws. The vote was unanimous.

Kenneth Funderburk stated the City has informed us of their decision not to participate in the joint financing of the jail expansion project, at this time. The City has given reasons for their decision. Commissioner Lee motioned to ask the architect to postpone the expansion plans, at this time and for the County to pay the architect for work completed to-date. The Sheriff estimated the architect's expense to be \$41,000. Seconded by Commissioner Dudley. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Dudley motioned to schedule a joint work session with the County Commission, the City Council, Sheriff Boswell and Phenix City's Police Chief to discuss the jail expansion project and give the public the opportunity to hear both sides as well as talk about options. Seconded by Commissioner Lee. The vote was unanimous.

Special Enforcement Officer Bill Friend stated a business, located in the County has failed to renew their State Business License for the past two years and County Business License for this year. Several attempts have been made including writing citations and verbal warnings. Mr. Friend requested permission to issue a warrant for operating a business without a license. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve Mr. Friend's recommendation and was seconded by Commissioner Lee. Commissioner Reed motioned to table this issue until the return of Commissioner Epps since this business is in her district. Commissioner Reed's motioned died for lack of a second. The Administrator polled the Commission. The vote was unanimous approving the warrant for the business owner.

Commissioner Lee motioned to appoint Robert Brundidge to serve out Solomon Mitchell's remaining term due to his retirement, which expires March 2013, on the Russell County Water, Sewage and Utility Board. Seconded by Commissioner Dudley. The vote was unanimous.

Chair Martin announced Congressman Mike Roger's Congressional Assistant, Cheryl Cunningham, will be at the Courthouse every third Tuesday of each month from 10:00 A.M. until 12:00 P.M. to answer questions and offer help to citizens.

Commissioner Dudley asked to please keep the families of Agnes Miller, former County Commissioner Dolly Wilson's sister, in your prayers due to her passing.

Commissioner Lee motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned.