

The Russell County Commission
Meeting Minutes
April 22, 2009
9:30 A.M. EST

A public comment was made by Mamie Sanders concerning Honeysuckle Dr.

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

Chairman Dudley requested a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Epps motioned to approve the agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Lee led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The invocation was given by Tom Weise, Pastor of St. Patrick and Mother Mary Church.

Chairman Dudley welcomed elected officials, department heads, media and guests.

Chairman Dudley requested a motion to approve the April 8, 2009 meeting minutes. Commissioner Reed motioned to approve with the omission of a statement which did not alter the results of the minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Reed motioned for the Commissioner to sign a proclamation recognizing April as Fair Housing Month. Commissioner Epps seconded. The vote to approve the Fair Housing Proclamation was approved.

Commissioner Reed also presented a resolution honoring Kathy Russell for her outstanding service to Russell County. Commissioner Reed motioned to approve the resolution and was seconded by Commissioner Lee. The vote was unanimous.

County Engineer Larry Kite gave a report on the Harris Subdivision flooding during the severe storms of April 18th. After surveying the area, Mr. Kite has determined it is possible to make improvements to help the situation. He currently is working on a design to resolve the problem at the lowest cost to the county. Mr. Kite stated he hopes to begin work on the project within six to eight weeks. Property owners have been notified of the project.

Sheriff Boswell updated the Commissioner on the recent tornado and severe storm damage to areas in Russell County. Damage areas have been assessed and reports have been given to agencies that may offer help to these areas and citizens.

Commissioner Lee presented the Exchange Club's offer to purchase the Freedom Shine for display at the new Courthouse. Mr. Lee motioned to accept the Freedom Shine for display in the New Courthouse. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Pugh made his district's reappointment of David Ellis to the Russell County Planning Commission.

Commissioner Reed selected himself as his district appointment for the E-911 Board.

Sheriff Boswell presented the results of the annual Jail Food bid. After reviewing the tabulation sheets and discussing how the results were achieved. Sheriff Boswell recommended approving the vendors selected as food providers. Commissioner Reed motioned to accept Sheriff Boswell's recommendation and was seconded by Commissioner Screws. The vote was unanimous.

County Engineer Larry Kite discussed the much needed Pitts Road Bridge Project, which was approved by resolution February 2003. Mr. Kite: This resolution was only valid for three years and is requiring an updated resolution. The current estimate for funding is \$588,000. There are stimulus funds available through an ACCA grant process. The plans for the project are ready and have been paid, but need updating which will involve a fee. We want to have the process started so it will be ready when funds become available. The Commission will need to approve a new updated resolution for this project. Commissioner Lee motioned to reinstate the resolution approved in 2003 with changes made. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Kite requested a budget amendment due to unfunded line items for principal and interest payments on four equipment loans, two of which had not been included in the 2008-2009 Budget and two loans that were obligated by Russell County and the Highway Department in 2007-2008. There are also adjustments being made to cover increases in utility cost and emergency repairs to heaters in the shop. The adjustments are as follows:

ENGINEERING FUND 111

(53100)

DECREASE	111 53100 211	OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$500.00
DECREASE	111 53100 212	FUEL & LUBRICANTS	\$85,000.00
DECREASE	111 53100 213	MATERIAL & SUPPLIES	\$5,000.00
DECREASE	111 53100 215	TIRES & TUBES	\$3,000.00
DECREASE	111 53100 225	CONSTRUCTION EQUIP REN	\$1,000.00
DECREASE	111 53100 232	REPAIRS/MAINT CONS EQUIP	\$12,000.00
DECREASE	111 53100 304	CONTRACT SERVICES	\$2,000.00
DECREASE	111 53100 314	RIGHT OF WAY	\$5,000.00
DECREASE	111 53100 541	EQUIP & FURN	\$5,000.00
DECREASE	111 53100 550	MOTOR VEHICLES	\$13,500.00
DECREASE	111 53100 561	CONSTRUCTION EQUIP	\$95,000.00
		TOTAL	\$227,000.00
INCREASE	111 35500 000	FUND BALANCE	-29,500.00
INCREASE	111 53100 214	MINOR EQUIP	\$2,800.00
INCREASE	111 53100 233	OFFICE EQUIP & REPAIRS	\$500.00
INCREASE	111 53100 239	OFFICE REPAIRS/MAINT	\$5,000.00
INCREASE	111 53100 241	ELECTRICITY	\$7,000.00
INCREASE	111 53100 242	NATURAL GAS/WATER	\$1,200.00
INCREASE	111 53100 611	PRINCIPAL	\$210,600.00
INCREASE	111 53100 612	INTEREST	\$29,400.00
		TOTAL	\$227,000.00

County Administrator LeAnn Horne requested approval for sponsorship of the 20th Annual Exchange Club Horse Show through a \$150.00 advertisement taken from the Contingent Fund. Commissioner Reed motioned to approve the Exchange Club advertisement. Seconded by Commissioner Screws. The vote to approve was unanimous.

Ms. Horne: the Commission approved an RFP to be advertised for an architectural firm to manage and oversee the renovation of the Judicial Center. There have been several responses to the advertisements. The Commission stated local firms were preferable. Firms attended a walk-through of the Judicial Center and provided information on their company as well as projects they have completed in the area. Responding firms were Kersey and Lutrell, also Hecht-Burdeshaw. Included in today's packet was a letter issued by Circuit Court Judge Green encouraging the Commission to act in a timely manner due to the fact of

the Judicial Center's leaking roof. Court is being affected due to the rain and leaks. Commissioner Epps motioned to accept the recommendation of the County Administrator to talk to both firms. Seconded by Commissioner Lee.

Commissioner Lee: Is the County Administrator going to bring back to the Commission a recommendation of which firm to use?

Ms. Horne: I can. The roof needs repair and is priority over other improvements. I cannot talk with the architects until authorized by the Commission or negotiate.

The Commissioner was polled; the vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Pugh: I have had several calls concerning problems at Ladonia Sports Complex. If I understand correctly, the County leases the property from the school system, who in turn leases it for \$1.00 to the Ladonia Sports Club. There are some problems. I would like to thank Heath Taylor; he has people out this morning taking care of the trash problems that could be a result of storm damage. I spoke to the Engineer, who stated he would go out and cut grass only when it has been requested. When I sat on this Commission before, we bought equipment and people were given raises for the job description of maintaining those fields. I am going to ask the Administrator to look at Ladonia and the Senior Center for some type of maintenance. If we are going to do, this lets get a crew and get our equipment. I understand we no longer have that equipment because another department has borrowed it. We need to get the equipment back and get those fields up to date and keep them cut on a weekly basis during the growing season or get it under contract like the Seale Complex.

Ms. Horne: The department head, who is over the grounds maintenance, is currently working on a plan. He is also going to bring back to the Commission in the form of a letter of grounds maintenance a routine schedule as well as any equipment that may be needed. He will also talk to the Sheriff, who has been assisting with some of the ground maintenance, due to the lack of employees. That is being worked on.

Commissioner Lee: I would like to discuss the old Health Department building. Are we moving ahead with cleaning it up and painting?

Ms. Horne: That is on Mr. Seller's list of things to do, but right now priorities were set by the Commission for the courthouse. Not those other things are not being considered or worked on. We have three courtrooms and four Judges, so currently we are finishing a fourth courtroom. Once that is done I can ask him to talk to the Commission if you want to change priorities. They have been working on the demolition of the Judicial Center, trying to get those offices ready to be occupied.

Commissioner Lee: I did not know we were doing the demolition, in-house.

Ms. Horne: Yes, it was stated in the meeting we would do in-house demolition to save money. Any major modification will fall under the architect.

Commissioner Lee: I was just concerned. If the building was vacated, then it would deteriorate fast, if it was not used.

Ms. Horne: I had hoped that once the Commission has chosen an architect, that the architect would take a lead in working with the judicial department. The judicial staff was very kind and worked out their plans, which is very rare. We have had a lot of requests for space: the Board of Education, the Extension Office. It is on our list and I agree with you. The building is being maintained and it is a priority, but right now we are trying to get the Judicial Center repaired.

Commissioner Screws: My question has to do with what was stated earlier, about the movement of other offices that are to take place. People are requesting to move. I don't see what that has to do with the courthouse. If the building is occupied we will not have a problem with it falling in.

Commissioner Lee: This was a decision that had been made before the new Commission took office. Before we move offices that have not already been moved, I think we are waiting on the cost of renovations of the Judicial Center. If the cost is more than the funds we have available, then the Commission will possibly offer the vacated building for sale to make up for funds. Our number one priority is the Judicial Center. There has not been a decision of moving anyone except for this move.

Commissioner Pugh: I wanted to bring to the board; the City has expressed an interest in that building also.

Commissioner Epps announced the Starlite Dance will be held at 8:00 p.m. EDT. on May 2, 2009 at the Old Seale Courthouse. Also 9:00 a.m. on April 25th, 2009 a clean-up campaign for Highway 24 will be held.

Commissioner Lee motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned.