

The Russell County Commission
Meeting Minutes
April 24, 2013
9:30 A.M. EDT.

Public Comment: Dianne Cannon addressed concerns she had about a creek that runs through her property located off of Newsome Drive. The creek has caused sink holes in her yard going toward her house. She is asking for help to correct the problem. Commission Pugh stated he has talked to her daughter and is currently seeking a solution to her problem.

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, and Chance Corbett. Larry Screws was absent. Also present were the County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk and LeAnn Horne who kept the minutes.

A quorum was established.

Chair Martin stated that two items were left off of the agenda: the Pledge of Allegiance and the Power of Purple Proclamation. She requested a motion to approve the agenda with the added items. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the agenda with the addition items and was seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.

The invocation was given by Raymond Cochran, Pastor of Franchise Missionary Baptist Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Pugh.

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

A motion to approve the April 10th, 2013 meeting minutes was requested by Chair Martin. Commissioner Lee motioned to table approval of the minutes until the next meeting since there was not a work session and there had not been time to review the minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Pugh. The vote was unanimous.

The Power of Purple Proclamation was read by Administrator Horne and presented to Representatives for American Cancer Society and Relay for Life.

Commissioner Epps briefly discussed the Department of Human Resources appointments. She motioned to table this item until the next meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

House of Restoration Director Pastor Johnnie Robinson requested a one-time appropriation of \$10,000 for the homeless shelter. Due to a mix up with the Federal grant funding, money that normally would have already been received has been stopped because of a mix up with county information. This has placed constraints on the shelter. If the appropriation is approved and the Commission feels that it is necessary; the House of Restoration is willing to repay the appropriation. Commissioner Pugh

motioned to approve the appropriation and to treat this one-time funding as a business deal: future appropriations will be withheld until the advancement of \$10,000 has been satisfied. The House of Restoration must also provide the County Administrator with appropriate documentation to show that this is a viable organization. Seconded by Commissioner Lee, who added it is preferred that the \$10,000 be paid back in one lump sum. Commissioner Pugh stated he would like to make a clarification, this will be considered advancement against their normal appropriations. This is not a loan that way we will not have to take legal action to recover the money. The Administrator polled the Commission. The vote was unanimous.

Special Enforcement Officer Bill Friend requested that by resolution for the Commission declares the property at 145 B Woodland Drive to be a public nuisance and a notice of abatement posted. Mr. Friend stated for the past sixteen months he has tried to get the owners to clean the property. The house has collapsed on one side making it dangerous as well as an eyesore. The first four months the owners did make an effort to clean the area, but now the owners are in California and have not returned. 4 C&D dumpsters were taken to this location and filled prior to May and the house is still half full of trash. Mr. Friend made pictures of the site available for the Commission's review. Several family members have been contacted and extensions given trying them opportunity to comply. The County Attorney has also sent letters to expedite the clean-up, but those letters came back as undeliverable. The land is abandoned. He would like to set the public hearing for abatement on May 22nd, 2013 at 9:30. Commissioner Pugh motioned to approve Mr. Friend's request. Seconded by Commissioner Lee. The vote was unanimous.

Recreational Director Mike Parker and Lee Russell Representative Barbara Scott made a request to submit a pre-application for the 2013 Recreational Trail Program Grant. The deadline for submittal is May 29, 2013. If a high rating is received the County will be invited to submit a full application, due at the first of July. Awards are made at the end of September with the funds being made available December 1st. Coach Parker is interested in building a multi-use trail (walking-biking) at the Sports Complex in Seale and has talked with the Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood Engineer, John Bricken, who has agreed to do pro bono design and budget work for the project. There will be a cash match of 20%. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the pre-application. Seconded by Commissioner Pugh. The vote was unanimous.

Coach Parker announced there will be a tournament this week-end at the Sport Complex. 7 teams will be completing on Saturday, April 27th. The public is invited to attend.

County Engineer Larry Kite discussed the proposed changes in the existing \$6 Rule as follows:

Background: The \$6 Rule provides a means for citizens to participate in the cost of paving dirt roads maintained by Russell County allowing the County to budget and schedule these projects for design and construction sooner than would occur without the participation.

Description: The \$6 Rule requires the participating party(ies) to pay to the County Commission an amount equal to \$6.00 per linear foot of roadway to be paved at a width of 20 feet (the cost for lesser widths will be adjusted on a pro-rated basis) . The \$6.00 per foot covers the majority of the paving material costs associated with the project. The County provides the remaining materials (drainage pipe, base, erosion control, signs, etc.) and the equipment and labor for the project

Procedure: A request should be made to the County Engineer for the road(s) to be considered for paving utilizing the \$6 Rule. The County Engineer will determine the feasibility of the project based on the current condition of the road, the topography, existing or available right of way, utilities, etc. (see criteria and requirements below). The County Engineer will calculate the linear footage of roadway to be paved and furnish the cost to the requesting parties with an acknowledgment of participation to be signed and returned to the County Engineer. The project will be presented to the County Commission for approval and scheduling based on prior approved and budgeted projects. This will normally occur during the budget approval process prior to October 1 of each year. After the project is approved the participating party(ies) will be notified in writing 60 days prior to the scheduled start date. The total participation cost must be paid to the County Commission within 30 days of the written notification. If the total amount is not paid within 30 days the project will lose priority and be moved down in the schedule.

Requirements and Design Criteria:

- 1- A minimum 60' deeded right of way along the entire project is required prior to commencing design and construction. The right of way may be reduced when in the opinion of the County Engineer it is not feasible or necessary to obtain a 60' right of way in order to design and construct the project to acceptable engineering standards and in accordance with the Dirt Road Improvement Policy (adopted 9-1-2011).
- 2- All private utility lines located under the roadbed shall be re-located outside of the roadbed by others prior to commencing design or construction of the project. Any public utility lines located under the roadbed should be re-located if possible prior to commencing work.
- 3- All non-conforming structures and mailboxes located on the right of way shall be removed and corrected prior to construction of the project.
- 4- The paving will consist of a "double layer surface treatment" (chip seal) layer and grassed shoulders as specified by the Dirt Road Improvement Policy
- 5- Traffic stripe and markings will not typically be placed on low volume roads. All disturbed areas will be grassed after completion of work.

6- Scheduling of Projects:

a. The County Commission shall schedule all existing request under the \$6.00 Rule during the annual budget process by placing them in sequential order.

b. The work on approved projects shall be commenced in the sequential order which they have been assigned.

c. After the budget process is completed, any subsequent request shall be given a sequential number following the last number approved by the County Commission during the budget process with subsequent projects following in sequential order based upon filing date.

Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve the proposed changes and was seconded by Commissioner Pugh. The vote was unanimous.

Chair Martin announced the Annual Health and Wellness Fair is scheduled for May 9th from 8:30a.m. until 4:00 p.m.in the Atrium. All County Employees are encourage to participate.

Chair Martin also revealed the Russell County Challenge Coin. An idea Commissioner Corbett took from the Military for honoring those who have surpassed limitations, displayed courage, or high achievements. She suggested appointing an Awards Committee of 2 Commissioners (Commissioner Epps and Corbett) and the Commission Chair. The Committee will set the criteria and review nominees. Commissioner Corbett motioned to appoint a committee of 2 Commissioners and the Commission Chair. Seconded by Commissioner Pugh. The vote was unanimous.

Special Enforcement Officer Bill Friend thanked all the participants and contributions for the PALS Spring Clean-up.

Chair Martin adjourned the meeting.