

Public Hearing for Land Abatement
Meeting Minutes
May 22, 2013
9:30 A.M. EDT

A public hearing was called to order by Chair Martin for the land abatement of 145 B Woodland Drive.

Special Enforcement Officer Gary Leeds gave an update concerning clean-up progress at 145 B Woodland Drive, which was declared a nuisance at the April 24th, 2013 Commission Meeting and is now under abatement. The structure is falling down and is a danger. Officer Leeds distributed the latest photos of the property and stated that no actions have been taken by the owner to comply with the laws. Therefore he requested approval to go forward with the next step of the abatement process.

Nina Russell, granddaughter of the owners, stated that the rest of her family has moved to California and she was not able to pay for clean-up of the property. She asked for another 30 day extension be given to her.

Brief discussion took place about concerning how the lien on the property could be paid if the extension was not granted.

Commissioner Lee motioned to adjourn the public meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Reed.

The Public Hearing was adjourned.

Russell County Commission
Meeting Minutes
May 22, 2013
9:40 A.M. EDT.

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 and Larry Screws. Also present was the County Attorney Robert Lane and the 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 Steve Pace, Associate Pastor of Summerville Baptist Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Reed.

Chair Martin requested a motion to approve the May 8th, 2013 meeting minutes. Commissioner Epps motioned to the meeting minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. Commissioner Screws was absent at the last meeting and abstained from the vote. The other 6 Commissioners voted for approval of the minutes.

Commissioner Corbett presented a Proclamation of Recognition to Charlton Martin, who is the National recipient of Officer of the Year. He was also awarded the first Challenge Coin given by the Russell County Commission.

Administrator Horne presented the proclamation and a Challenge Coin to the Family of the Late Gary Davis for his dedication and service to the County's EMA Department and as a volunteer in community and volunteer fire departments.

Chair Martin gave Eva Frances White a proclamation commemorating her 100th birthday. Ms. White briefly discussed how times had changed during her life time of 100 years.

Commissioner Corbett discussed criteria and procedures for the Challenge Coins and asked for the Commission review the material and to share their thoughts or changes.

Recreational Director Mike Parker reported on Park and Recreational activities. He also gave an update on the lighting project at the Russell County Sports Complex. He thanked the Commission for contributing to the success of the Complex. He also requested approval to submit an application for grant assistance in the amount of \$100,000 for the purpose of constructing Phase 1 of a Multi-use Trail and Trailhead Facility. The grant will require a county match of \$20,000. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the application and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Chief Deputy Alexander discussed the investigation for a 010-Lounge Retail Liquor – Class II (Package) License application for the Crimson Barrel Inc. located at 588 Hwy 165, Ft. Mitchell. The application is for a transfer of the license to present owner Sean Guyton. Chief Alexander stated the investigation was complete and did not find a reason to deny the transfer. Commissioner Epps motioned to approve the application and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Coroner Sumbry presented two court order cremations: Oscar Thompson and Alphonso Quincey. Both payments are to be made to Taylor Funeral Home and are not to exceed the amount of \$400 each. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve the payments and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

The East Alabama Mental Health Board appointment was discussed by County Administrator Horne. She received information, since the work session, that another member had submitted a resignation for their seat on the board. That appointment will be brought back at another meeting for their replacement. Currently the term for Ms. Kate Stovall-Tapley has expired. The Executive Director for the Center Dr. Penny has requested to reappoint Ms. Tapley for the position, who is a faithful and loyal board member and is always in attendance of the meetings. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve the reappointment. Seconded by Commissioner Corbett. The vote was unanimous.

County Attorney Larry Kite presented list of proposed projects for the ATRIP Phase III application. The list includes previously applied for projects that were not approved with an additional project, resurfacing Clark Road:

ATRIP Phase 3 (Proposed)	Project#	Status	Cost Est.	Match	Length
Bridge Replacement on Pitts Road (At Bush Creek)	57-184-02	Pending	\$615,000	\$123,000	0.0
Resurfacing CR 24 {Lato Road to AL 165}	57-039-12	Pending	\$765,000	\$153,000	5.2
Resurfacing Crosswinds Road and Slope Stabilization {US Highway 431to Sandfort Road) and Resurfacing Knowles	57-027-12	Pending	\$1,100,000	\$220,000	1.8
Resurfacing Auburn Road {Lee County Line	57-032-12	Pending	\$400,000	\$80,000	1.2
Resurfacing Rutherford Road {Barbour County Line to	57-033-12	Pending	\$1,700,000	\$340,000	5.9
Resurfacing Zion Hill Road (Prudence Road to Alabama	57-034-12	Pending	\$970,000	\$194,000	6.6
Resurfacing Clark Road from Sandfort Rd to US 431and		Pending	\$650,000	\$130,000	3.76
	Totals		\$6,200,000	\$1,240,000	24.5

A resolution is required for the Clark Road project since it was not originally included in Phase 1 or Phase 2.

Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve the Clark Road resolution to be signed by the Commission Chair. Seconded by Commissioner Screws and Pugh.

Commissioner Corbett amended his motion to include the prioritized list of ATRIP Phase 3. Seconded by Commissioner Screws. The vote was unanimous.

Special Enforcement Gary Leeds stated he would be agreeable if the Commission approved a 30 day extension for the land abatement of 145 B Woodland Drive. Commissioner Pugh motioned to give the family until the end of June which will be over

30 days. This should be adequate time to receive money from the owners who are now located in California. If by the first day of July 2013, the property has not been cleaned-up the special enforcement officers have Commission's permission to move forward and bill the owners for actions taken. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Lee left the meeting.

County Administrator LeAnn Horne presented her recommendation for insurance for county property. Three proposals were sent to insurance companies requesting a blanket policy quote that would encompass all county properties versus the current 16 different policies. Three proposals were sent back, two met the criteria. Later one of the companies that submitted a quote and qualified had to pull out of the request for proposal; which left Flowers Insurance Company represented by Mike Worthington. Administrator Horne recommended going forward with the Commission's approval with the quote of \$75,700 for property coverage for the county. This quote will render the County \$30,000 to \$35,000 in savings as to what is currently being paid in policies and premiums.

Commissioner Pugh, thanked the Administrator for her work, but asked to table this item, because one of the carriers had submitted a bid of around \$55,000 and according to the letter that he received they would meet the requirement. I would rather discuss this further at our next meeting. We are talking about another \$11,000 saving to the county.

Administrator Horne: I want to state for the record, that was not the information that I received.

Commissioner Reed: Ms. Horne you are saying we will save about \$35,000?

Administrator Horne: Yes, what was submitted has been reviewed again and was removed from the last meeting's agenda for a comparison as I was requested to do and I provided the Commission a spreadsheet comparison this part Monday at work session.

Commissioner Reed: Then I think we should move forward.

Commissioner Pugh: Would you like to read this letter, Commissioner Reed? I'm not ready to go forward.

Commissioner Reed: I think the quote that Commissioner Pugh has was information that was not turned in.

Administrator Horne: They did not meet the request for proposal, not for the blanket policy as requested. Based on the information that I received. Flowers Insurance quotes offer better and wider coverage for the properties and met the request for proposal.

They were the only one, at this time. that did meet the "RFP". The information that Commissioner Pugh is talking about is not what I have. I'm not sure what has been communicated to Commissioner Pugh by the other insurance company.

Commissioner Pugh: My position is that if it is properly insured with the properly cover insurance then blanket doesn't have anything to do with it, all it does is put it all together. The rating factors are still the same; the deductibles are still the same. I do know that the deductible that you are looking at is \$10,000 on everything and \$50,000 on flood which is much higher. That will eliminate any hail damage, theft damage or anything else on some of the policies. Therefore, I feel it needs more study before and the Commissioners need to be made aware.

Commissioner Epps: Administrator Horne did you receive the information Commissioner Pugh has before you would made your recommendation?

Administrator Horne: They did submit six policies with different information. They did not provide what was requested. We requested that all policies be consolidated under a blanket policy, one policy. This Company did not comply with the "RFP". When you have two companies that comply with the "RFP", it's not fair to go back after the information has been made public .Now the company that did not comply wants to come back and negotiate when they did not meet the "RFP" requirements. An RFP is like a bid.

Commissioner Epps: You did answer my question; you did make it clear that that quote came in after the information had been given to the Commissioners and the public. You did receive a reply before, but not as a blanket policy as requested.

Commissioner Pugh: I differ with that. According to my information, a request was made and I asked if bids were sent out. I was told no; bids had not been sent out. The carrier said that they were quoting Great American. You could put it all under one company which is in the letter that I passed down. \$11,000 difference I would stipulate this, if Mr. Wentworth was willing to make that \$50,000 I will vote for it.

Interim Attorney Robert Lane: This was not a bid. If it were a bid it would be different .It is similar to a bid. It would be better to defend the Commission for accepting the one proposal that met the "RFP" requirements than to defend the Commission on the other side. It's not fair to allow someone to come in and undercut knowing what the other company proposed. That is up to the Commission.

Commissioner Pugh: This bid was given back when the original bids were given and I asked for the delay. The price was at fifty something thousand at that time. Flower's bid was higher, so the bid from Harris Fowler was lower before Flower's bid was public knowledge.

Administrator Horne: That was not the information that I received and it did not meet the "RFP".

Commissioner Pugh: What I am saying is, if Mr. Wentworth would accept the lower bid price, then I will vote for him. If not, I will ask to delay until the next meeting and let's get the information here and get the other agents involved and let them say what they have to say.

Commissioner Reed: The Administrator did an outstanding job saving the county \$30,000. At this time, I motion we go ahead.

Commissioner Pugh: There is a motion on the floor to table this item.

Commissioner Epps: I would like to ask Commissioner Pugh a question. At Monday night's work session you made the statement that you wrote these policies.

Commissioner Pugh: I wrote the original coverage back in 1993. I understand the coverage is what I said.

Commissioner Epps: Is this the one that you wrote?

Commissioner Screw: No one seconded Commissioner Pugh's motion. The motion died.

Commissioner Reed: We tabled this thing one time and our job is to save taxpayer's money. \$30,000 is a lot of savings.

Administrator Horne: I would like to say this for the record; the company that is in discussion has had the insurance for ten years and has never come to me to offer a better price to the county or offered to lower the rate. They have been making this additional \$30,000 to \$35,000 all these years. To me you should give your vendors and your clients the best price in the beginning, instead of overcharging them for years. I did not know that until another vendor came to us requesting to quote the county insurance. All county insurances were reviewed. I am glad that we did review all the values of all the buildings, all contents and update all building information, which needed to be done. We worked hand in hand with all the agencies and Mr. Worthington was instrumental in having that review done. Through that review we are going to net the savings of \$30,000 to \$35,000. I feel badly that this company did not follow the "RFP" requirements. This e-mail Commission Pugh presented even states that they decided themselves to submit additional policies rather than submit a blanket policy. Flowers Insurance Company followed the request for a blanket policy for all of the county properties to be under one umbrella at a very much lower rate. I would not recommend it if I felt like the county would not be properly covered and have better protection.

Mr. Worthington was asked to by the Chair to discuss his proposal. Mr. Worthington reported that the county had 15 to 16 different policies and it was his suggestion one policy with one effective date and blanket all properties under that policy to prevent any co- insurance issues, like there is currently, because they have been vastly uninsured.

The values of properties have been increased. The County has more protection than before with my proposal.

Commissioner Screws motioned to accept the recommendation from the County Administrator. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. District 1(Lee) not in meeting room; District 2 (Pugh) voted, no; District 3 (Martin) voted, yes; District 4 (Reed) voted, yes; District 5 (Epps) voted, yes; District 6(Corbett) abstained , District 7(Screws) voted, yes. 4 yes votes, 1 no vote and 1 abstention; the motion passed.

Commissioner Lee returned to the meeting.

Administrator Horne gave the results of the ATM bid. There was only one proposal returned from PGB Bank in Phenix City. They met all bid specks and criteria. She recommended allowing PGB to place an ATM in the Courthouse; however they did not want to extend one to the Judicial Center. Commissioner Epps motioned to approve the County Administrator recommendation. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Administrator Horne stated that Auburn Bank which is located inside Wal-Mart is closing. There are county accounts with this bank, she requested approval to move accounts currently at Auburn Bank to BB&T. Accounts that will be relocated are; Contingent Fund, RRR Gasoline Fund, Secondary Road Fund and the Donation Fund. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve the recommendations and was seconded by Commissioner Corbett. The vote was unanimous.

An announcement was made for Memorial Services that will be held at The Fort Mitchell National Cemetery by Mr. Davis at 1:00p.m. Sunday, May 26th.

Chair Martin announced that the Courthouse will be closed May 27th for Memorial Day.

Special Enforcement Officer Gary Leeds announced that his office is receiving a lot of calls, but there are no codes that can force anyone in Russell County to cut their lawn.

Chair Martin adjourned the meeting.