

The Russell County Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
May 27th, 2015  
9:30 A.M. EST

An adjourned meeting of the Russell County Commission was called to order.

The invocation was given by Alan Griffith, Pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Screws.

Chair Martin welcomed elected officials, department heads, media and guests. She also thanked Cable T.V. of East Alabama and the Citizen News for coverage of the Commission meeting.

Public Comments:

Chamber of Commerce Representative Kelli Roberts announced the Muscogee Creek Native Indian Art Fair scheduled for this week-end (Saturday and Sunday) at the River Walk and Amphitheater. The opening ceremony will begin at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday. An invitation only reception will be held Saturday at 6:00 p.m.

The Commission roll was called, members present were: Chair Peggy Martin, Vice Chair Cattie Epps, Gentry Lee, Tillman Pugh, Ronnie Reed, Chance Corbett and Larry Screws. Also present were Attorney Kenneth Funderburk and County Administrator LeAnn Horne, who kept the minutes.

A quorum was established

Chair Martin requested a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Commissioner Screws motioned to leave the Ambulance Building under discussion, but also place this item as a business item to take action if needed. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve the agenda with the change. Seconded by Commissioner Pugh. The vote was unanimous.

Chair Martin requested a motion to approve the May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015 meeting minutes. Commissioner Pugh motioned to approve the minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Screws. The vote was unanimous.

A proclamation for National Community Action Month was approved and will be presented to the Macon-Russell Community Action at their next meeting by Commissioner Epps.. Commissioner Epps motioned to approve the proclamation and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Screws discussed plans for the ambulance building. The building which is approximately 3,100 square feet was bid out at the current construction cost of \$129.00 per square foot would be \$402,000. If this project was constructed in-house,

materials alone would cost \$284,000. The Ambulance Building was only budgeted for \$150,000. \$20,514.00 has been spent of the budgeted \$150,000 leaving only \$129,486.00 for construction of the building. Commissioner Screws suggested decreasing the size of the building to 1,500 square foot building suitable only for the Ambulance Service. Also use the Architect's drawing for the outside of the building to coordinate with the look of the Russell County Middle School. The Russell County Maintenance Department will construct the building, who stated they can construct for remainder of the budgeted funds of \$129,000. Contents of the building will be a dayroom, kitchenette, bathroom, store or service room, and parking awning instead of a bay. There will be heating and air unit, electricity, plumbing, concrete, brick siding, metal roof, grass and landscaping.

Commissioner Corbett discussed reasons for the original design and suggested accommodating as much of the original plan as possible. Commissioner Lee suggested keeping the Ambulance Building partially adequate without heated bays and if this is not feasible then to revisit the cost of construction at the 2015-2016 Budget Meetings. Commissioner Reed asked the Administrator if any projects could be cut and those funds go toward construction of the Ambulance Building. Commissioner Pugh suggested to shell out the building with the remainder of the budgeted amount and include money to finish the building in the 2015-2016 Budget or cut back on the heated space for the vehicles. Another suggestion by Commissioner Corbett was to build in phases and construct the building as originally planned. Commissioner Pugh and Chair Martin were in agreement to bid out the ambulance project to see what cost would be. Since this was a discussion item it was agreed to continue discussion as a business items and will be voted on at that time.

County Engineer Larry Kite requested approval to purchase a 2015 Dodge R2500 Crew Cab  $\frac{3}{4}$  Ton Pick-up Truck from Ben Atkin's Motors for the amount of \$26,293. This is a budgeted item and will be purchased off the State Bid list. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Screws. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Kite also requested approval of an ALDOT Funding Agreement for an already approved ATRIP project. ALDOT will open bids Friday, May 29th for County Road 137 which is Old U.S. 431. There are several sites on County Road 137 which have different names for the various sections on this road. The agreement states the County is willing participate, pay its share of the funding, allow the project to be bid and awarded. The original approved amount of ATRIP funding was \$1,840,000. These estimates are going back 2 to 3 years ago when the County applied for ATRIP funding. Now the County's portion is up to \$260,000 after adding in \$200,000. This amount was given to the County by the State as additional funding for this project. Engineering's estimate when submitting plans recently was \$1,883,000 which is the Federal portion and is \$43,000 over the original budget. The State's estimate is approximately \$2,297,000 that is \$457,000 over the federally funded portion. It's not anticipated to go that high, but historically bids have come close to the County Engineer's estimates. The money the County pays is based on the actual bid amount and not the funding agreement that has been presented. If the bid should come in over the estimates, Mr. Kite has written a letter stating that the County will utilize other ATRIP funds for other already approved ATRIP projects for this project to proceed. The worst case is the last ATRIP projects

use other federal funds including MPO money or our regular Federal allocations, so the county can still proceed with these projects. Mr. Kite wanted to see what the bids come in at and hoped there will not be an issue. In addition to that, ATRIP projects already completed are about \$279,000 to the good. There has been a \$351,000 underrun on Cottonton Road and \$72,000 over for Oswichee Road. The worst case is that the \$457,000, which the State estimates the bid could come in at the County, would have to make up the difference of \$177,000. Mr. Kite felt that if the \$177,000, and probably a good bit more will come out when the bids come in at a lower amount.

Commissioner Pugh: If the State is correct with their estimate, what other projects would be in jeopardy?

Mr. Kite: We will be able to use the \$279,000 that was saved. That will leave \$177,000 to be made up. The last project on the list is Cross Winds Road which has \$125,000 allocated. We can use other MPO funds for the rest. \$50,000 would be remaining. Clark and Auburn Road are the last 2 projects scheduled to let in September. We could make up the rest of the \$50,000 with our regular federal funding allocation which is \$533,000 per year. The State has been well over the last actual bid amounts for the last projects that were let. I will report back to the Commission after the Friday bid results. We will not cut out any ATRIP projects. We will just have to use other Federal funds that are available

Commissioner Corbett: When can you find out about the MPO money? The Cross Winds Project.

Mr. Kite: Cross Winds Road is estimated as \$1,000,000 project and we only have \$125,000 ATRIP so we already had plans to use a sizable portion.

Commissioner Corbett: Is the City in that too?

Mr. Kite: It is in the Transportation Improvement Plan, and has been approved.

Commissioner Corbett: When will you know?

Mr. Kite: Friday when the bids are opened.

This agreement states that the State and the County desire to cooperate in the leveling and resurfacing on five (5) sites on CR-137 (Old US-431), Cr-4 (Prudence Road), and Cr-18 (Cutchin Drive) length-21.4 miles. Project # ACNU59571-ATRIP (016); RCP# 57-037-12; ATRIP# 57-03-11. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve the agreement. Seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.

Building Inspector Greg Smith and Special Enforcement Officer Bill Friend discussed adoption of 2012 International Building Codes for residential and commercial and the 2011 National Electrical Codes, which were distributed for the Commission's review at the May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Commission Meeting. 2015 Codes are out, but most counties wait until after amendments or additions to the new codes are completed. New architectural plans are being submitted with 2012 codes. Russell County is still working under 2006

Building Codes, which creates problems for the builders. After discussion concerning whether or not to adopt the 2012 International Building Codes or wait to review and adopt current 2015 Building codes which have not been adopted yet by surrounding counties or municipalities. Commissioner Pugh motioned to table the 2012 codes and bring the 2015 Building Codes for the Commission's review and possible approval. Seconded by Commissioner Lee. More discussion took place. Chair Martin requested the Administrator to poll the Commission. District 1(Lee) voted, yes; District 2 (Pugh) voted, yes; District 3 (Martin) voted, no; District 4 (Reed) voted, no; District 5 (Epps) voted, no; District 6(Corbett) voted, yes; District 7(Screws) voted, no. 4 no votes and 3 yes votes; the motion failed.

Commissioner Reed motioned to approve the 2012 International Building Code and the 2011 Electrical Codes. Seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous. Commissioner Screws requested to bring the 2015 Building Codes in a reasonable time before October 2015 for review. The codes adopted at this meeting will not go into effect until October 2015.

Commissioner Screws motioned to bid out plans for the original Ambulance Building and bring back the results for the Commission's review. Seconded by Commissioner Epps.

Administrator Horne stated that Mr. Scott Holmes will have to prepare to let the plans for bids. Normally a date and time is stated, but she asked if the Commission would allow her to contact Mr. Holmes to inform him that the Commission would like to proceed. Mr. Holmes will need to bring specs of the building that he will let at the next meeting.

Commissioner Corbett motioned to table this item and was seconded by Commissioner Lee. The vote was unanimous.

Administrator Horne stated that she wanted to make sure Mr. Holmes was informed and also to let the Commission know that there will be added expense for him completing the plans and letting the bid, because that was not in the original price.

Commissioner Corbett explained that his motion was to table the item until the next meeting, stop, not another dime until Mr. Scott is present at the meeting.

Announcements were made.

Commissioner Epps motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned.