

The Russell County Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
9:30 A.M. EST.

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

A public comment was made by Bill Spies who requested support from the Commission for the installation of barrier arms at the railroad crossing at Owens Road. He also stated that the stop sign and railroad crossing sign need to be relocated approximately 2 feet further from the pavement. Large equipment trucks must cross the center lines on the road to miss those signs, causing vehicles on the other side of the road to stop or move off the roadway for the large trucks to pass.

An adjourned meeting of the Russell County Commission was called to order. Members present were: Chair Peggy Martin, Vice Chair Cattie Epps, Gentry Lee, Ronnie Reed, Chance Corbett and Larry Screws. Commissioner Pugh was absent. Also present was the County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk and County Administrator LeAnn Horne, who kept the minutes.

A quorum was established.

The invocation was given by Bobby Watford, Pastor of United Baptist Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Corbett.

Chair Martin requested a motion to approve the June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014 meeting minutes. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve and was second by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.

Lee-Russell Council of Government Representative Barbara Scott presented a resolution authorizing application for the 214 Community Development Block Grant Community Enhancement Fund. It also pledges \$27,392 in cash match to make the project whole and to be responsible for over runs. The grant application is for installation of an elevator, accessible toilet facilities and entrance to the courthouse. Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve the resolution and was seconded by Commissioner Lee. The vote was unanimous.

Administrator Horne stated that Children and Family Connection's has requested an emergency appropriation. After Monday night's work session concerning this issue, she met with Director Mattie Arrington to discuss their situation and to look over their finances. Administrator Horne recommended appropriating \$25,000 to the Children and Family Connection to help cover their IRS debt Ms. Arrington will contact the IRS to

request payment arrangement for the remainder of the debt. Children and Family Connection agreed to make payments to repay the county each month. The Commission will withhold their yearly appropriation until the \$25,000 is paid back. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve Administrator Horne's recommendation. Commissioner Screws recommended the county not issuing the \$25,000 until a signed repayment plan has been reached with the IRS. Once the county has been notified of a repayment plan, the Administrator can release the check to the IRS on behalf of the Children and Family Connection. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. It was discussed that this organization has been in operation for 18 years and has helped numerous families in the city and county; therefore, an arrangement was made to help keep the doors open for families who are in crisis. The vote was unanimous.

County Engineer Larry Kite discussed the arms barrier for the railroad crossing on Owens Road. He stated he would like to get Owens Road crossing included in a section 130 Federal program, through the Alabama Department of Transportation. Railroad crossings are identified based on certain criteria, such as traffic count and accidents that have occurred. School bus use is also considered as well as some other factors. A meeting has taken place with the ALDOT and the Railroad to identify the Bradley Road railroad crossing and they were also taken to look at the Owens Road Crossing. Mr. Kite said they will continue to work on its inclusion as well as scheduling another meeting at Owens Road. A letter of support from the Commission will also be helpful. Commissioner Lee motioned to send a letter of support from the engineering to be signed by the Chair. Seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.

Sanitation Manager Carl Currington requested to have three (3) trucks deemed as surplus. The trucks mileage range from 300,000 to 600,000 and are basically worn out. Commissioner Screws motioned to surplus the trucks and seconded by Commissioner Epps. The motion was unanimous.

County Engineer Larry Kite gave results of the trailer bid held June 17, for a 20 ton equipment trailer. Only one bid was received from Thompson Tractor Company for a 2012 Trail King TK40LP in the amount of \$23,533. This purchase was included in the 2013-2014 budget. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve the bid award to Thompson Tractor. Seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.

Engineer Kite also requested authorization to send out bids for a tractor, 2013 or newer to pull a 15 foot rotary cutter. He would like to open bids July 15<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. in the Russell County Commission Chambers. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve the request and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Corbett announced that Russell County applied and won the National Association of Counties (NACo) 2014 Achievement Award for the Citizens Academy Program. He has been asked to present the program at the ACCA Conference in August so other counties can hear the success and mirror the program in their counties. He also submitted the Citizen's Academy Program for the ACCA's Annual Award. Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve holding another class to begin August and

run through January 2015. Seconded by Commissioner Screws. The vote was unanimous. Administrator Horne publicized that applications for the academy will be accepted until July 29<sup>th</sup> and are available on the county website (rcala.com) and at the Commission Office.

Chief William Alexander stated that the Sheriff's Department would like to apply for a COPS Grant, which will pay the salary for two additional deputies for three years. He requested a letter of support which will not obligate the Commission financially at this point. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the letter of support. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Screws presented a letter of request from Mr. Jordan to purchase county property located on County Road 26, in Hatchachubbee. The property has an uninhabitable building that is a liability for the county. It would cost approximately \$30,000 to \$40,000 to have the building removed. Commissioner Screws motioned to make a contract with Mr. Jordan to remove the building and in return give him the 7 acre tract of land. Seconded by Commissioner Lee, who also requested to give him the deed before the building has been taken down. Attorney Funderburk recommended that Mr. Jordan sign the agreement to remove the building from the property and then the deed will be issued to him. Commissioner Screws changed his motion to reflect the recommendation of the County Attorney and was seconded by Commissioner Lee. The vote was unanimous. Commissioner Corbett made the public aware that the reason for giving the property to Mr. Jordan is because the cost of removing the building is more than the tract of land is worth. Commissioner Screws added this property also was purchased from Mr. Jordan's grandfather, and lives adjacent to this property.

Administrator Horne requested to transfer \$25,651.00 these funds will be wired to a trustee, who will hold the money until work is completed on Patriots Point. The County Engineer will certify the work is finished before the money is released.

Gasoline Fund 111

Engineering Dept. - 53100

Increase 111 35000 000	Fund Balance	\$25,651.00
Increase 111 53100 530	Improvements Other Than	\$25,651.00
	Total	\$25, 651.00

Commissioner Screws motioned to approve the transfer and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Administrator Horne also requested to transfer funds within the Maintenance Department as follows:

General Fund 001

Maintenance Dept. - 51970

Decrease 001 51970 214	Minor Equipment	\$6,000.00
Decrease 001 51970 241	Electricity	\$15,000.00

Increase 001 51970 250	Communications	\$3,000.00
Increase 001 51970 251	Telephone	\$3,000.00

Increase 001 51970 304	Contract Services	\$15,000.00
	Total	\$21,000.00

Commissioner Epps motioned to approve the transfer and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Chair Martin made the following announcements:

The Fort Benning Independence Celebration will be held June 28<sup>th</sup>, at 3 P.M. at York Field.

The Courthouse will be closed July 4<sup>th</sup>.

The Russell County Baseball Association 11-12 year olds won the district tournament and have qualified for the Dixie Major State Tournament which will be held in Headland, Alabama and begins July 19<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Corbett announced that former employee, Donald Rumsey, of the Russell County EMA is in the hospital and asked that he be remembered in everyone's prayers.

Chair Martin adjourned the meeting.