

The Russell County Commission
Meeting Minutes
June 27th, 2012
9:30 A.M. EST

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

A quorum was established.

Vice Chair Epps requested a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Commissioner Dudley motioned to approve the agenda and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Vice Chair Epps welcomed elected officials, department heads, media and visitors.

The invocation was given by Marvin Minton, Pastor of Crawford Road Baptist Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Screws.

Vice Chair Epps called for a motion to approve the June 13, 2012 meeting minutes. Commissioner Dudley motioned to approve the meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Sheriff Taylor requested approval to let the Semi-Annual Food Bid and to open those bids, July 19th, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers. Sheriff Taylor discussed the food list provided in the Commission packets and ways the new jail kitchen will save money by being able to use more fresh foods than packaged items. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the bid. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Sheriff Taylor discussed the transfer of funds within his budget to cover cost for air cards and phones that are needed in the deputies' vehicles for the e-tickets:

GENERAL Fund 001

Sheriff Dept-52100

Decrease 001 52100 550	Motor Vehicles	\$3,611.52
Decrease 001 52100 542	Communication Equip	\$1,500.00
Decrease 001 52100 233	Office Equip Repairs	\$1,000.00
Decrease 001 52100 214	Minor Equip	\$5,000.00
Increase 001 52100 250	Communications	\$11,111.52
	Total	\$11,111.52

Commissioner Screws motioned to approve the budget transfer. Seconded by Commissioner Dudley. The vote was unanimous.

Sheriff Taylor stated that the Jail Addition will need furniture such as bunk beds, tables with built in stools and chairs, which were not bid out by Hyperion during the construction bids. The cost was included in the project, but was not bid because it had been planned to buy these items from the Alabama State Correctional Facility. By buying from the State Shop the furniture would not need to be a bid. It was not known that the State's Correctional Furniture had shut down. It is estimated the items will cost \$60,000. Commissioner Pugh motioned to approve the bid and was seconded by Commissioner Dudley. The vote was unanimous.

Interim Homeland Security / EMA Director Bob Franklin discussed the Inoperable Communications Grant submitted by his department for the City of Phenix City Police Department. The \$21,255.20 Grant was awarded to the Russell County. Mr. Franklin stated his office submitted the grant for Phenix City because it was given by Alabama's Homeland Security. All the required documents have been returned to the State and money has been received. He is requesting that the money be given to Phenix City Police Department as planned. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve giving the money to the Phenix City Police Department. Seconded by Commissioner Dudley. The vote was unanimous.

County Engineer Larry Kite requested to hire a CDG Engineer for geotechnical services, which will include a subsurface exploration and distress evaluation, to bring back their recommendations to remediate a slope failure on Cross Winds Road. The testing are not able do be done in-house and are important to the repair of slope properly. Cost of this service is \$9,000. It is unknown what the repair will cost, but Mr. Kite hopes to use Federal Aid money to do the repairs. Commissioner Dudley motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Kite provided the Commission with a list of items he would like declared as surplus. The estimated the value of these items is \$2,960. This year's budget included \$15,000 for the sale of scrap equipment, which has been exceeded. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Pugh. The vote was unanimous.

Vice Chair Epps presented a request for authorization to work with the City of Phenix City on a Joint Park Project located on a small parcel of land in front of the Courthouse. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve the joint project. Seconded by Commissioner Pugh, who also requested the Commission allow Ms. Horne to chair the committee and give her the authority to bring in whoever she needs for the design and the implementation of any agreement with the City be brought back to the Commission work session to be discussed. Commissioner Screws agreed to amend his motion to include Commissioner Pugh's request. The vote was unanimous.

County Administrator LeAnn Horne stated due to contract negotiations, the County has exceeded the budgeted amount in the telephone line. The new contract should be finalized by the end of this month, but for now Ms. Horne has requested for a budget transfer as follows:

General Fund 001

Commission 51100

Decrease 001 51100 541	Equipment & Furniture	\$2,460.00
Increase 001 51100 251	Telephone	\$2,460.00
	Total	\$2,460.00

Maintenance Dept 51970

Decrease 001 51970 541	Equipment & Furniture	\$15,000.00
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Judges

Increase 001 51210 251	Telephone	\$2,400.00
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Circuit Clerk

Increase 001 51220 251	Telephone	\$1,275.00
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Court Reporters

Increase 001 51280 251	Telephone	\$650.00
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Veterans Department

Increase 001 51940 251	Telephone	\$1,250.00
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Maintenance Department

Increase 001 51970 212	Fuel & Lube.	\$500.00
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Increase 001 51970 214	Minor Equipment	\$500.00
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Increase 001 51970 219	Other Misc.	\$3,000.00
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Increase 001 51970 228	Uniform Rental	\$2,000.00
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Increase 001 51940 251	Telephone	\$1,825.00
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Juvenile

Increase 001 52600 251	Telephone	\$825.00
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Board of Education

Increase 001 58100 251	Telephone	\$775.00
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Total		\$15,000.00
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Commissioner Pugh motioned to approve the transfer. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

James McGill discussed growth in the County, annexation and loss of revenue due to the lack of sewerage in the County.

County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk presented contract by Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis & Miles, P.C. concerning the British Petroleum litigation. The contract is at no cost to the Commission unless the County is awarded money. They will need the sales tax amounts for litigation concerning diminished sales tax collections during the time in question. If the Commission would like to join this litigation a motion will be needed. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the contract and authorize the County Administrator to sign the documents. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. Commissioner Lee requested to include the lodging taxes. The vote was unanimous.

Attorney Funderburk gave an update on the River's Reach Subdivision Bond matter and discussed actions that may need to be taken in approximately 3 weeks. The case is pending and mediation will take place the third week in July. The Engineer's Office has been notified and informed they have let the contract. If they have let the contract and begin construction again there is no problem other than any cost that the County may try to recover during litigation. If they do their work and fulfill their requirements under the bond; if not and there is mediation, at some point if an agreement is offered, the Commission will need to review the agreement and vote whether or not to approve it.

Vice Chair Epps made these announcements:

- The Courthouse will be closed July 4th for Independence Day.
- July 3rd at 3:00 p.m. on York Field in Fort Benning, a free concert by MCoe Band at the Ranger Joe's stage, fun activities and fireworks.
- Sara Smith announced a Meet and Greet will be held at the Quality Inn on July 14th at 2 p.m. EST. All local City and County Candidates will be there, also Lucy Baxley the Public Service Commission candidate and the Alabama Supreme Court Candidate Harry Lyon. The dinner will be \$10.00 per person. RSVP by Monday July 11th.

County Engineer Larry Kite announced the Alabama Department of Transportation will hold a Public Involvement Meeting for a project to replace three bridges over Little Uchee Creek on U.S. Highway 80. The bridges are narrow with no shoulder and will be replaced with 2 lane bridges with wide shoulders. The meeting will be held on Thursday June 28th from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. EST at Shady Woods Baptist Church located at 4 All American Drive.

Fort Mitchell Volunteer Fire Department will hold their annual fundraiser Saturday, June 30th, 2012.

The meeting was adjourned by Vice Chair Epps.