

The Russell County Commission
Meeting Minutes
July 10th, 2013
9:30 A.M. EDT

Public Comments:

Dee Braun and James Sinkule discussed the Department of Human Resources appointments whose terms are to end this August. They requested to keep Caroline Batcheldor and Eva Alexander on the board. They have been loyal members and want to continue serving on the DHR Board.

Hurtsboro Mayor Michael Wells gave an update concerning progress for the town of Hurtsboro.

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

A quorum was established.

Chair Martin requested a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Screws requested to add voting centers to the agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Epps. Discussion took place concerning the item. The Commission was polled: District 2 (Pugh) voted, no; District 3 (Martin) voted, yes; District 4 (Reed) voted, yes; District 5 (Epps) voted, yes; District 6 (Corbett) voted; no, District 6 (Screws) voted, yes. 5 yes votes and 2 no votes; the motion passed.

Chair Martin requested a motion to approve the agenda with the addendum. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The Commission was polled: District 2 (Pugh) voted, yes; District 3 (Martin) voted, yes; District 4 (Reed) voted, yes; District 5 (Epps) voted, yes; District 6 (Corbett) voted; no, District 6 (Screws) voted, yes. 6 yes votes and 1 no vote; the motion passed.

Chair Martin requested a motion to approve the minutes for the June 26th, 2013 meeting. Commissioner Epps motioned to approve the minutes and were seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Reed presented Certificates of Recognition to: Phenix City Fireman Richard Scales, EMT Robert "Kyle" Butler and Russell County Deputy Robert "Bob" Atkins who won Fireman, EMT and Deputy of the year from The American Legion Post 135.

Sheriff Taylor stated the Ambulance Committee met on Monday at 2:30 following the meeting for the RFP for the Ambulance Contract deadline line of 2:00 on July 8th. Only one RFP was received which was from Care Ambulance. Sheriff Taylor said there are wordings in the contract that need to be addressed and he requested that the Commission allow the Administrator, The County Attorney and himself work out those issues with the ambulance service, also award the contract to Care Ambulance and allow the Chair to sign. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve Sheriff Taylor's recommendation. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Sheriff Taylor gave an update concerning relocating the ambulance station to property owned by the Russell County Board of Education. Due to illness in the Superintendent's family a meeting between the Ambulance Committee and the Russell County Board of Education has not taken place yet.

East Alabama Mental Health Board appointment, Mary Stovall-Tapley, which was appointed by Commissioner Screws at a previous meeting has declined the appointment due to her husband's illness. She recommended Mr. Rufus Jordan to fill her position on the board. Mr. Jordan is willing to serve the 6 year term, therefore, Commissioner Screws motioned to accept Mrs. Tapley's resignation and to approve Mr. Jordan as her replacement. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Procedures for the Department of Human Resources Appointments were discussed by the County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk stating the State guidelines:

- the board is to be made up of seven members,
- two of the seven member must be women
- terms are for six years

The way the Commission should pick members is not indicated by the State guide lines. Therefore, the Commission will need to decide how members are replaced on this board. Members can be chosen by each district, but do not have to live in that district.

Commissioner Corbett motioned effective immediately, all future appointments to the Russell County Department of Human Resources Board be approved by a process which includes nominations being made by any of the seven County Commissioners and voted on in reverse order of their nominations by present quorum of the Russell County Commission. Seconded by Commissioner Pugh. Discussion took place about how the nomination / appointment procedures took place in the past. The Commission was polled: District 2 (Pugh) voted, yes; District 3 (Martin) voted, yes; District 4 (Reed) voted, no; District 5 (Epps) voted, no; District 6 (Corbett) voted; yes, District 6 (Screws) voted, no. 3 yes votes and 3 no votes; the motion failed.

Commissioner Corbett motioned to table the item. After more discussion concerning the failed motion, Attorney Funderburk stated that the agenda item could be brought up at another meeting.

Commissioner Corbett asked if we tabled today then it could be brought up at the next meeting or a future meeting to set precedence?

Attorney Funderburk stated that is correct.

Probate Judge Harden requested to hold public hearings for the redistricting of Russell County. Three (3) public hearings are required and Judge Harden would like to schedule meetings at three different locations in the county: Russell County Courthouse, Hurtsboro and a location, of the Commission's choice, in the county.

Administrator Horne stated in the Redistricting information it states there should be two consecutive meetings, she offered the date of August 26th, which is a work session to begin at 5:00 p.m. EDT and the second meeting held Wednesday August 28th at 9:30 a.m. EDT prior to the Commission Meeting and any comments can be made during the official meeting.

Judge Harden reminded there is a deadline of 4 months and 21 days before it is set by the court. The maps will be located in three different locations, Hurtsboro, the Courthouse and another location to be named, so the public can be well informed.

Commissioner Pugh stated for public information: there are always concerns from residents who believe when Commission districts change so do the places their children go school. That is not correct it does not have anything to do with School Board Redistricting their children will remain at the same schools.

Commissioner Epps motioned to accept the recommendation of Probate Judge Harden. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Screws presented Voting Centers for discussion. He stated: Because of the census report, there are districts that boundaries of voter precincts will change. He wanted to create voting centers for those voters who have voted at a poll for years, but now will have to go across town or farther into the county to vote. This would require a resolution from the Commission requesting our Legislative Body to create voting centers as needed. This will be for districts that will lose their normal voting precincts due to the redistricting. After pros and cons were discussed, Commissioner Screws motioned: To create a resolution for the legislative body to request the right to create voting centers as needed. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. Commissioner Screws amended his motion to give the Probate Judge the authority to research legislation and prepare this for review by the Commission, legislation to submit to our Legislative Delegation, for a voting center in Russell County. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

County Administrator Horne gave an update on the damaged lighting at the Ladonia Sports Complex. She stated damage to the lights was more severe than had been anticipated and additional \$2,975.60 to the amount the Commission has already approved. Administrator Horne also stated that since this is not a budgeted item, she

would need approval to pay this amount out of reserve funds so they can continue to correct the electrical work. Commissioner Pugh motioned to approve the additional funds and was seconded by Commissioner Screws. The vote was unanimous.

County Attorney recommended going into an executive session to continue discussion from the last meeting's executive session. Commissioner Screws motioned to go into executive session and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

The Commission returned from executive session. The County Attorney stated there were no items to vote on.

Chair Martin adjourned the meeting.