

**Russell County Commission
Meeting Minutes
July 25th, 2012
9:30 A.M. EST**

Public Comments:

Brenda Jones discussed a matter involving her termination from a private organization.

Executive Director of Beyond Expectations Cynthia McKinney announced they will hold their 2nd Annual Back to School Give-A-Way on August 4th from 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the old Seale Courthouse. She also invited the Commission to this event.

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

County Administrator Horne established a quorum was present.

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

Invocation was provided by Steve Pace, Associate Pastor Summerville Baptist Church.

The pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner Pugh.

Chair Martin welcomed department heads, elected officials, media and members of the public to today's meeting.

A request was made by Chair Martin for an approval of the July 11th, 2012 Commission minutes. Commissioner Dudley motioned to approve the meeting minutes. Commissioner Reed seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

A discussion was presented at the Monday night's work session by resident, Ben Baker, requesting an increase of Sandfort Road's speed limit between the sections of Woodland Drive to Hwy 169 from 45 mph to 50 mph. The Engineer will do a study of this issue and bring his recommendations to the Commission. At the work session Mr. Baker felt that area was a speed trap

for State Troopers. Sheriff Taylor stated he has placed a call to the State Trooper headquarters regarding this issue.

Revenue Commissioner Naomi Elliott presented the S&W Minicomputers Maintenance contract renewal for computers used in the Revenue Office. This annual contract will cover the 2012-2013 maintenance for software and hardware. Commissioner Dudley motioned to approve the renewal and was seconded by Commissioners Epps and Reed. The vote for approval was unanimous.

Tag Commissioner Paulette Colbert also requested approval of the S&W Contract for the Tag Office. Commissioner Dudley motioned to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.

Chief Appraiser Heath Crowe was on hand with the S&W Contract for the Mapper /Appraisal Office and requested approval of the contract from The Commission. Commissioner Dudley motioned to approve the contract. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

County Engineer Larry Kite presented the Scrap Tire Disposal Agreement between Russell County and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management for reimbursement of the collection and disposal of scrap tires illegally dumped on county rights-of-way. The contract is a renewal agreement from last year which the County will collect approximately \$30,000 in reimbursements for equipment and labor. The maximum reimbursement is \$100,000. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the agreement renewal. Seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Kite stated during preparation of last year's budget his department was aware of a Federal Communications requirement that all mobile radios are to be updated to narrow band frequency. Therefore, it was placed and approved in the 2011-2012 budget for the replacement of all the departmental radios that can not be reprogrammed to the narrow band frequency. The deadline for the frequency change is January 2013. The purchase will be made off the State Bid List with Communications and Electronics of Phenix City. The change will cost approximately \$25,018.17. Mr. Kite requested approval for the purchase. Commissioner Dudley motioned to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Kite also requested approval to let bids for a used Hydro-Seeder, a piece of equipment that engineering does not have. The Hydro-Seeder will save time and money for seeding easements and the rights-of-way after construction projects are completed and are required by ADEM for erosion control. These projects can be large acreage and are presently seeded by hand or hired out at the amount of \$16, 000 per acre, which is included in the annual materials and services bid. He requested the bid opening to be August

28th at 2:00 p.m. Commissioner Dudley motioned to approve the bid. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Sheriff Taylor requested a budget transfer for the 6 new correction officers and 1 sergeant salaries that are needed for the jail addition as follows:

Decrease 001 52200 550	Motor Vehicles	\$1,598.00
Decrease 001 52200 541	Equip & Furniture	\$1,000.00
Decrease 001 52200 499	Other	\$1,300.00
Decrease 001 52200 327	Uniform	\$3,000.00
Decrease 001 52200 304	Contract Services	\$40,000.00
Decrease 001 52200 251	Telephone	\$1,000.00
Decrease 001 52200 242	Natural Gas/Water	\$10,000.00
Decrease 001 52200 239	Other Repair & Maint.	\$29,000.00
Decrease 001 52200 214	Minor Equipment	\$18,000.00
Decrease 001 52200 211	Office Supplies	\$4,000.00
	Total	\$108,898.00

Increase 001 52200 113	OTHER SALARIES & WAGES	\$28,371.00
Increase 001 52200 121	Retirement	\$2,054.00
Increase 001 52200 122	Health Insurance	\$2,800.00
Increase 001 52200 123	Life Insurance	\$11.00
Increase 001 52200 124	FICA	\$2,162.00
Increase 001 52200 218	Food For Inmates	\$50,000.00
Increase 001 52200 306	Medical	\$23,500.00
	Total	\$108,898.00

Sheriff Taylor also requested a budget transfer for maintenance of the Sheriff's Department vehicles as follows:

Decrease 001 52100 214	Minor Equipment	\$23,000.00
Increase 001 52100 212	Fuel & Lubricants	\$20,000.00
Increase 001 52100 215	Tires & Tubes	\$3,000.00
	Total	\$23,000.00

Commissioner Pugh motioned to approve both budget amendments. Seconded by Commissioner Dudley. The vote was unanimous.

Sheriff Taylor distributed the Food Bid tabulations to the Commissioners for review. He recommended awarding the bids to the low companies that were highlighted on the tabulation sheets. Commissioner Dudley motioned to approve Sheriff Taylor's recommendations. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Screws requested to clear county property that is located in Hurtsboro of the abandoned equipment as well as tear down the shop and

fencing for removal. Clearing of the property should eliminate insurance liabilities. He suggested turning the property over to the Recreational Director Mike Parker for a recreational area. Photos were issued to show the present condition of the area.

A pro and con discussion took place for the removal of the fence that surrounds the area.

It was suggested to give the owner of the abandoned equipment a 30 day notice for their removal. Sheriff Taylor stated an abandonment order from a judge would need to be obtained before the equipment could be legally removed by the county. County Administrator LeAnn Horne stated the owners of the equipment have been notified that the lease was not renewed and have been given 5 months to remove those items. Commissioner Screws motioned to notify the equipment owners of the clean up. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk gave an update on the River's Reach Subdivision. There is a proposed agreement, which is a mediated settlement of the case. He requested authority to provide a written agreement for the project to be completed by November 30, 2012. Should the owners of River's Reach Subdivision complete the scope of work and is approved by the County Engineer, the case be dismissed and released. He requests adding a provision of cost to the agreement. Commissioner Pugh motioned to approve for the County Attorney to work to resolve the River's Reach issue and to bring back to the Commission for review. Seconded by Commissioner Dudley. The vote was unanimous.

Attorney Funderburk clarified several issues which bring confusion to the public: Business license are required for every business, even if they are located on the same property. You must have the license that is required by law.

The law requires the County to provide garbage service for its residents and those county residents are required by law to use and pay for the County's service. The only exception is if the State gives a certificate of exemption. An owner of a shopping strip, mobile home park, etc. can provide an approved county dumpster for their tenants if desired. Dumpsters approved for commercial and household use have lids where as dumpsters used for construction and debris don't and cannot be used for anything but building materials. If the owner of the shopping strip does not want to provide the tenants with an approved dumpster, then the tenants have to sign up for garbage service individually or be cited. If you don't want to use the County service, you can use a different service, in addition to the county's mandatory solid waste fee.

Commissioner Epps gave a short report on the NACO Conference that she had attended. Revenues for all counties are down and many Federal Programs have been cut, leaving the Counties to find new avenues of revenue to assist in the operations of county governments and providing services for county residents. She thanked the Commission for allowing her to go to the conference.

Interim Director Bob Franklin announced Alabama counties that are designated as Drought Disaster Counties. Russell County was included as a disaster area.

Sheriff Taylor gave recognition to Michael San Nicholas, who was awarded Deputy of the Year from the local American Legion. His name was also submitted to the American Legion's State-wide list as a candidate, where he won the State level of Deputy of the Year. San Nicholas was submitted for his role, along with a State Trooper, in saving the life of a soldier who had attempted suicide.

Sheriff Taylor also recognized Sheriff's Office employees who attended the Annual Alabama Sheriff's Conference and were asked to cook two of the conference nights for 400 to 500 people. Among those on the cooking team were Retired Sheriff Tommy Boswell, Teresa Tidwell, Rusty Robinson, Laurie Franklin, Bob Franklin, Sergeant Costello, and Benny Tidwell. Their cooking was enjoyed so much the team was asked to cook for the National Sheriff's Conference next June in, North Carolina.

The meeting was adjourned.