

The Russell County Commission
Meeting Minutes
August 14, 2013
9:30 A.M. EDT

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

A quorum was established.

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

The invocation was given by Dexter James, Pastor of Central Baptist Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Corbett.

Chair Martin requested a motion for approval of the minutes. Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve the July 24th, 2013 meeting minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Pugh. The motioned passed with 6 yes votes and 1 abstention from Commissioner Epps who was absent from that meeting.

Commissioner Pugh motioned to approve a certificate of recognition for Don Brown whose company won the bid for lighting repairs at the Ladonia Sports Complex. Mr. Brown went beyond bid specks for correcting the damaged lights. Commissioner Lee seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Bob Franklin announced that Russell County Volunteer Fire Association, which is made up of the 11 county volunteer departments, applied and was awarded a communication grant given by FEMA. The grant award is for \$370,932.00. The federal share is for \$296,746 with a 20% match of \$74,186. Normally this type of grant match is 5% based on the county population, but since this is a regional grant it took in the entire rural population which is 20,000 and increased the match to 20%. The Russell County Volunteer Fire Association is requesting help from the Commission, funding the match, to be included in the 2013/2014 budget. The \$74,186 also does not include the installation of the radios. The grant will replace the 3 repeaters that the volunteer departments are currently using as well as placing repeaters in the Ft. Mitchell and Hurtsboro to cover dead sports. New radios will be installed in every fire apparatus in the county and supply a hand held radio for every seating position in the apparatus.

Probate Judge Alford Harden presented Act NO. 2012-365, this was passed May 8, 2012 by The Legislature of Alabama and approved by Governor Bentley May 14, 2012. This act allows Russell County to establish an additional fee for the cost of mailing or overhead related to business license renewals. This fee is to be collected by the judge of probate at the time of renewal and paid to the county general fund. Judge Haden requested for the Commission to approve a mailing fee of \$2.00 to begin in September 1, 2013 when renewals go out. Commissioner Pugh motioned to approve the mailing fee and was seconded by Commissioner Lee. The vote was unanimous.

Sheriff Taylor requested a budget amendment as follows:

GENERAL FUND 001
SHERIFF DEPT-52100

DECREASE	001 52100 222	DATA PROCESSING	\$950.00
INCREASE	001 52100 215	TIRES & TUBES	\$250.00
INCREASE	001 52100 251	TELEPHONE	\$500.00
INCREASE	001 52100 499	OTHER	\$200.00
TOTAL			\$950.00

JAIL DEPT-52200

DECREASE	001 52200 242	NATURAL GAS	\$20,000.00
DECREASE	001 52200 304	CONTRACT SERVICE	\$10,000.00
DECREASE	001 52200 541	EQUIP & FURN	\$5,000.00
DECREASE	001 52200 550	VEHICLES	\$2,000.00
INCREASE	001 52200 239	REPAIRS & MAINT	\$10,000.00
INCREASE	001 52200 251	TELEPHONE	\$3,500.00
INCREASE	001 52200 306	MEDICAL	\$23,500.00
TOTAL			\$37,000.00

Commissioner Lee motioned to approve and seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Corbett stated that 2 DHR Board positions will expire August 28, 2013 and will need to be filled.

The first board position:

Commissioner Pugh nominated Eva Alexander for another 6 year term on the board.

Commissioner Reed nominated Dr. Joseph Appiah for the same position

Commissioner Epps nominated Alpha Cofield.

Commissioner Corbett asked the Chair to read a list of rules for the election process. The process will begin with the position currently held by Eva Alexander and proceed to the position held by Caroline Batcheldor. Any Commissioner may nominate one person for a board position. Each Commissioner can only vote one time per board position. Once nominations are closed they will be voted on in reverse order of which nominations were made and continue until a nominee receives a majority of the Commissioner votes. Once a nominee has four votes or a majority of Commission votes that nominee is the appointee for the position at hand. Once the first position is filled then the process will be repeated for the second position. These rules were approved at the July 24th, Commission meeting. State law Section 38-2-7 dictates the number of DHR Board positions and requirements for those who are appointed to serve

Commissioner Epps motioned to close the nomination. Seconded by Commissioner Lee. The vote was unanimous.

The vote was opened: Dr. Appiah received 4 votes therefore, will hold the first position on the DHR Board.

The nomination was reopened for the second board position.

Commissioner Epps nominated Alpha Cofield

Commissioner Corbett nominated to reappoint Caroline Batcheldor for another term.

Commissioner Pugh motioned to close the nomination. Seconded by Commissioner Lee. The vote was unanimous.

Caroline Batcheldor received 4 votes and kept her position on the board.

County Engineer Larry Kite stated that the county was awarded \$1,192 million dollars for round three of Alabama transportation Rehabilitation Program (ATRIP). The Governor's Office has directed the County Commission to select projects to be funded with the award from the list of eligible projects that were submitted. There are 8 projects on the list, five are county projects, two are joint county/city projects and one is a total city project. The notification of the project selection must be back by August 23, 2013. He recommended allocating:

- \$404,000 toward the resurfacing of Auburn Road project (joint county/city)
- \$537,600 for the resurfacing of Clark Road from Sandfort Road to 431 and also from U.S. 431 to Uchee Hill Highway
- \$250,488 split equally \$125,244 allocated to the Crosswinds Road and the rest to the 5th Street South resurfacing project(City project)

Commissioner Pugh motioned to approve the Engineer's recommendation. Seconded by Commissioner Corbett. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Kite noted that the dollar amounts given are the Federal funding portions, which is 80%. The county funding match will not be budgeted in the 2013/2014 but in the 2014/2015 fiscal year.

County Administrator LeAnn Horne presented the credit card policy and procedure that the ACCA developed by resolution for all counties, because of a legislation that was passed in 2013 Act 211, which authorizes the county commissions to use if they chose to utilize credit card purchases. The resolution list very specific purchases and there are very strict restrictions. Administrator Horne recommended only having one credit card that will be kept in the County Commission Office. The County has to meet and comply with all state auditors and state regulations. If there is a charge that deems not acceptable by the Alabama State Examiners or the County Commission that will fall back on the individual who utilized the card. The County Administrator stated she would be monitoring use of the credit card. Commissioner Epps motioned to accept the recommendation of Administrator Horne. Seconded by Commissioner Reed.

District 1(Lee) voted, no; 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 7(Screws) voted, yes;. 4 votes yes and 2 votes no; the motioned passed.

County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk discussed a request from Alabama Power Company concerning approval of easement next to the Russell County Jail project. Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve the easement and was seconded by Commissioner Lee. The vote was unanimous.

Attorney Funderburk stated his next item on the agenda concerned a personnel matter and recommended going into executive session for discussion. Commissioner Pugh motioned moving into executive session. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Chair Martin requested a motion to reconvene the commission meeting. Commissioner Lee motioned to reconvene and was seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.

Attorney Funderburk recommended dismissing the grievances and appeal, affirming the action of the County Engineer. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the recommendation. Seconded by Commissioner Pugh. The vote was unanimous.

Chair Martin adjourned the meeting.