

The Russell County Commission
Meeting Minutes
September 22, 2010
9:30 A.M. EST.

Public comments were made by:

- Revenue Commissioner Naomi Elliott informed the Commission of a new company, Flag Ship, that providing computer support and services for the GIS system and website.
- Dale Gamble from Lifeline EMS addressed the Commission about the ambulance contract that will expire in June 2011. He requested for the Commission to create a resolution allowing his ambulance service to respond to calls when Care Ambulance does not have an available unit.

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

A quorum was established.

Chair Martin requested an amendment to the agenda omitting the Revenue Commissioner's item due to it being discussed during public comments. Commissioner Lee motioned to remove the Business item: Mapper Department Contracts. Seconded by Commissioner Dudley. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Lee motioned for the agenda to be adopted as written with the change. Seconded by Commissioner Dudley. The vote was unanimous.

The invocation was given by Dewayne Dean, Pastor of Cedar Hill Baptist Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Judge Harden.

Elected officials, department heads, media and visitors were welcomed by the Chair.

Chair Martin requested a motion to approve the August 11^h, 2010 meeting minutes. Commissioner Reed motioned to approve the minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Lee. The vote was unanimous.

Chair Martin requested a motion to approve the September 8, 2010 meeting minutes. Commissioner Dudley motioned to approve the minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Dudley presented a Resolution of Recognition to Millard Herring, who celebrated his 100th birthday on September 12th.

Bruce Koshkin Operations Manager for Care Ambulance Service addressed the Commission to discuss his plans to open a station in the Fort Mitchell area in order to cover the growing county.

License Inspector Bill Friend requested an approval to create legislation to allow the County to collect a \$2.00 mailing fee to off-set the expense of mailing County Business License to business owners. Commissioner Lee motioned to have legislation drafted for the Commission's approval for a \$2.00 business license mailing fee. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Friend requested approval of a resolution to post a notice to abate a public nuisance in accordance to HB 615. The property location is 133 Whiterock Road, a trailer is on site and is 80% demolished with several large dump sites. The owner of the property is deceased. A deadline of October 25, 2010 will be set to allow family members time to respond before going forward with the clean up of the property which will cost approximately \$500. Commissioner Pugh motioned to abate the property at 133 Whiterock Road. Seconded by Commissioner Lee.

Commissioner Reed asked Mr. Friend if family members have made any contact with him concerning the property. Mr. Friend stated: No one has made contact; not even those who have liens on the property.

Chair Martin asked the Administrator to poll the Commission. District 1 (Lee) voted, yes; District 2 (Pugh) voted, yes; District 3 (Martin) voted, yes; District 4 (Reed) voted, no; District 5 (Epps) absent ; District 6 (Dudley) voted, yes; District 7 (Screws) absent. 4 yes votes and 1 no vote. The motion passed.

Judge Bellamy requested a one time allocation of \$25,000 for the continuance and development of the Community Correction / Drug Court Program. This program is presently funded by the State, but Judge Bellamy and Sheriff Elect Heath Taylor are joining together in an effort to expand the program which will require more funding for the program's growth. Commissioner Reed motioned to grant Judge Bellamy's request of a one time allocation of \$25,000. Seconded by Commissioner Dudley.

Commissioner Lee asked Ms Horne if these funds would come from the 2009/2010 budget or from the upcoming 2010/2011 budget.

Ms Horne stated that the 2010/2011 budget is very tight and did not recommend amending, unless there is an emergency. However, there are funds left in the current budget that were not utilized for a grant which could be transferred and

used as an appropriation for the Judge, if it is the Commission's pleasure. The vote was unanimous.

County Engineer Larry Kite presented a petition from adjacent property owners of Knowles Drive, located off of Seale Road, an un-open right-of-way. This 1000 foot drive has never been a county maintained road. Mr. Kite reviewed the petition did not anticipate the County needing that street. A public street is being built just north of that street near Chattahoochee Community College between 431 and Seale Road. State law requires a public hearing to be held and Mr. Kite is requesting the Commission's approval to set a hearing date of October 27, 2010 at 9:30 a.m. prior to the regular Commission meeting. If approval is given the petitioners will have to advertise the public hearing for 4 consecutive weeks in the local paper; also contact to adjacent property owners and utility companies who may have lines located on that road. Commissioner Dudley motioned to accept the recommendation of the County Engineer. Seconded by Commissioner Lee. Commissioner Lee requested the petitioners to place signage on Knowles Drive, large enough to be visible from the road, to give notice of the public hearing date for those who would like to attend. The dimensions of the requested sign were left to County Engineer's discretion. The petitioners are also responsible for all advertising cost as well as signage and are to provide proof of the advertised public hearing date. The vote was unanimous.

County Administrator LeAnn Horne: The 2010-2011 salary schedules were presented and discussed during the budget meeting. However, a separate vote was not held on the salary schedule, so at this time the salary schedule for 2010-2011 is being presented for approval. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Dudley.

Commissioner Pugh: During the work session he commented on some increases that were made in the salary schedule. I questioned the Administrator and she informed me that actually there were some pay raises in one particular area and for that reason I will not vote for the salary schedule.

Commissioner Lee: My understanding of that was one employee in that department was giving up pay so the other employee could have it, so basically there is no change. If there is any employee that wants to give up their salary so another one can have it; I'm in favor of it, as long as they agree to it.

Commissioner Pugh: Let me restate my comment, so it will be clearer, maybe I didn't communicate well. The reason I am against it is not because an employee gave up a salary at one pay period and now he is requesting it back. I'm against it because it was an increase without coming to this board as every other employee has to. That is my objection to it. I'm personally going to vote against it.

Commissioner Dudley: It is my understanding we are just correcting something that should have been done previously, but has not. That is my reason to second the motion.

Commissioner Lee: That is my understanding also. I looked over this budget thoroughly, line items did not increase, so I did not go into the details of what made up the line item, but as long as the line item remained the same I was ok with it.

Ms. Horne: This was a rare situation; the person filling that position is under the Social Security rule, which only allows them to make up to a certain amount of money. They gave up their salary so that the other employee who is working full time could have those funds for their salary and the part-time employee salary.

Chair Martin called for the vote. District 1(Lee) voted, yes; District 2(Pugh) voted, no; District 3(Martin) voted, yes; District 4(Reed) voted, yes; District 5(Epps) absent; District 6 (Dudley) voted, yes; District 7(Screws) absent. 4 yes votes and 1 no vote. The motion passed.

Commissioner Pugh requested to table his district's E-911 Board Appointment until the next Commission Meeting.

Ms. Horne reminded the Commission the next scheduled work session falls on October 11, Columbus Day, which is a state holiday and all state and county offices are closed. Commissioner Lee motioned to cancel the work session. Seconded by Commissioner Dudley. The vote was unanimous.

County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk recommended going into executive session to discuss an economic development item. Commissioner Lee motioned to move into executive session and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Lee motioned to reconvene the Commission Meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. Members returned to the Commission Meeting were: Chair Martin, Vice Chair Gentry Lee, Tillman Pugh, Ronnie Reed, Cattie Epps, who joined the meeting during executive session, and Mervin Dudley.

County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk stated, based on the discussion of the industrial project, "Hot Pot", which the County has been asked to waive the ad valorem tax and sales taxes. The County Commission does have the right to waive those taxes if desired and he recommended relinquishing them for 10 years which is the maximum amount by law. He added with the provision that this company is to pay to the County's General Fund \$240,000 per year commencing the same year the abatement begins. The payment will continue until the project returns to the tax rolls. If the members of the "Hot Pot" project accept those terms and a resolution is drawn up, the Chair will be allowed to sign the resolution and

agreement with “Hot Pot”. This would not have to come back to the Commission as terms and agreements will be set by the Commission. Commissioner Pugh motioned to approve the County Attorney’s recommendation. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous to approve the tax abatements with the provisions and terms set also documents are to be signed by the Chair.

Commissioner Lee motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Dudley.

Meeting adjourned.