

*The Russell County Commission
Meeting Minutes
September 26, 2012
9:30 A.M. EDT.*

A public comment was made by Mrs. Johnnie Smith who requested help with the dumping problem on Griggs Road.

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

A quorum was established.

Chair Martin stated that she received a letter from NACO announcing that Vice Chair Cattie Epps has been nominated as a member of the Human Services and Education Steering Committee by the President of NACO, Chris Rogers.

Chair Martin stated she had a request of two items be added to the meeting agenda. Commissioner Screws motioned to place under Business Items, Water Line Easement for St. James Road. Seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Reed motioned to add the EMA Director Position to the agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Epps. After discussion Commissioner Epps withdrew her second and requested that the motion be withdrawn, since the Application Review Committee will be ready to bring a recommendation to the next Commission Meeting. Commissioner Reed agreed to withdraw his motion.

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

The invocation was given by Chair Martin.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Dudley.

Chair Martin welcomed elected officials, department heads, media and visitors.

Chair Martin requested a motion to approve the September 12, 2012 meeting minutes. Commissioner Dudley motioned to approve the minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.

The Wiregrass Board appointments were presented by Chair Martin. Commissioner Lee motioned to reappoint the present members, Commissioner Epps and Pastor Johnnie Robinson. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Reed motioned for the Commission to give a one-time donation of \$500. to Joy Behind Bars from this year's budget. Seconded by Commissioner Screws. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Reed also motioned to give the Juvenile Drug Court a one-time appropriation of \$15, 000 from this year's budget. Seconded by Commissioner Screws. The vote was unanimous.

Russell County Water Authority Manager Mark Clark presented an amendment to their Articles of Incorporation. In 2010 a change in the law which requires all water authorities and board that fall under the Alabama Code 11-88-6 to extend the payment levels for the board members up to the limits of the law which is up to \$400 per meeting attended, not to exceed \$4,800 per year and \$600 per meeting attended for the Chairman of the board, not to exceed \$7,200 per year. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the amendment and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Lee/Russell Representative Barbara Scott and House of Restoration Director Pastor Johnnie Robinson announced Russell County has been awarded the Emergency Solutions Grant that was applied for in the Spring. \$181,025 has been awarded for emergency shelter financial assistance for individuals and families who are at risk of homelessness. Mrs. Scott presented two resolutions, one is to accept the award and allow the Chair to sign all grant documents. The second resolution is between the Commission and Lee / Russell for the administration of the grant award. Pastor Robinson thanked the Commission for their support in obtaining the grant and he discussed how it helps those who are about to become or are already homeless. The required match for the grant is made by the House of Restoration and not by the County. Commissioner Epps motioned to approve the resolutions. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. District 1 (Lee) voted, yes; District 2 (Pugh) voted, yes; District 3 (Martin) voted, yes; District 4 (Reed) voted, yes; District 5 (Epps) voted, yes; District 6 (Dudley) abstained; District 7 (Screws) voted, yes. With 6 yes votes and 1 abstention; the motion passed.

County Engineer Larry Kite requested approval to apply for Phase 2 of the Alabama Transportation Rehabilitation and Improvement Program (ATRIP). The application deadline is October 5th, 2012. Proposed projects include:

- o Pitts Road Bridge*
- o Bridge on Cutrate / Opelika Road*
- o Slope Stabilization and Resurfacing of Crosswinds and Knowles Road*

- *Bridge Replacement on Uchee Hill Highway*
- *Bridge Replacement on Pittsview Highway over Weolustee Creek*
- *Resurfacing Auburn Road from Hwy 80 to the City Limits*
- *Resurfacing Tarver Road (CR24)*
- *Resurfacing Bradley Road (CR 24)*
- *Resurfacing Greenburt Road (CR4 to CR43)*
- *Resurfacing Greenburt Road (Cr 43 to CR 18)*
- *Resurfacing Glenville Highway*
- *Resurfacing Rutherford Road*
- *Resurfacing Zion Hill Road and 0.4 Miles of Uchee Road*

The ATRIP provides 80% Federal Funds that requires a 20% county match. Mr. Kite will bring each project back with approval from the Governor and the ATRIP Committee for the Commission to approve the funding. Funding was provided for the first project in this next year's budget. There is also enough funding on hand to fund the next project that has yet to be awarded. A third project could possibly be funded from 2013-2014 Budget. We are not sure how quick or slow the projects will be awarded. This is a three year program, just it has only been a year and two awards have been made so there has to be a contingency plan. Mr. Kite proposed that \$200,000 be dedicated out of the RRR Gas Tax budget which can only be spent on paved roads and bridges, which is the same requirement for the ATRIP. Each year there is approximately \$500,000 in the RRR Budget to be spent on paved road and bridges. \$150,000 of those funds needs to be dedicated to cover the normal Federal Aid money that the County receives which is approximately \$500,000. After those matches are met there should still be \$150,000 left for fund other projects. Mr. Kite is not asking to borrow funds, though that could be a possibility and the Commission will have an opportunity to look at that option when the time comes. We only need approval to apply by resolution to initiate the projects and start the process with Alabama Department of Transportation. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Screws discussed approving a private individual's request for installing a water line from Hwy 4(Saint James Road) up the county right-of-way to his property. The well on his property is dry and does not have access to water lines near his property. Fort Mitchell Water Manager David Ellis has agreed to allow the installation with approval. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve the request and the individual must follow the specifications of the Water Board and the County Engineers . Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Administrator Horne presented the 2013 Holiday Schedule for the Commissions review and approval. Commissioner Dudley motioned to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.

Administrator Horne requested a budget transfer for the purchase of computer equipment as follows:

GENERAL FUND 001

COMMISSION-51100

DECREASE 001 51100 541	EQUIP & FURN	\$2,000.00
DECREASE 001 51100 499	OTHER	\$3,000.00
DECREASE 001 51100 253	ADVERTISING	\$1,000.00
INCREASE 001 51100 214	MINOR EQUIP	\$6,000.00
	TOTAL	\$6,000.00

Commissioner Epps motioned to approve the transfer. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

An update was given by Administrator Horne regarding the naming of the Russell County Health Department for the late Commissioner Dolly Wilson. The State Health Department requests a letter from the Commission's Attorney or from the family indicating the funding of the signage that will be placed on the building. It is their opinion that public funds should not use for this the sign. This letter will be reviewed at their October 10th, 2012 meeting. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the request seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.

Administrator Horne discussed plans for the Judicial Center Open House. She suggested the date of October 25, 2012 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. This date and time would allow citizens who are getting off work stop by and tour the Center. Commissioner Lee asked to make sure the Judges approve of that date. Administrator Horne stated she would bring back a more formal report, send out invitations and work on a program.

Chair Martin announced the Jail Addition opening will be September 27th, 2012 at 10:30 a.m.

The Courthouse will be closed October 8th for Columbus Day / Native American Heritage Day. That day is also a work session day. Chair Martin stated that when a holiday falls on a work session day the Commission usually cancels the work session. The Commission agreed to cancel and only have the regular Commission Meeting on Wednesday.

Chair Martin adjourned the meeting.