

STATE OF ALABAMA §

LAUDERDALE COUNTY §

The Lauderdale County Commission convened at the Lauderdale County Courthouse in the City of Florence, Alabama at 11:00 a.m. on the 25th day of February, 2013. The meeting was called to order by the Commission Chairman, Dewey D. Mitchell. Upon roll call, the following members answered present:

Dewey D. Mitchell	Chairman of Commission
Roger Garner	Commissioner, District 1
D.C. Thornton	Commissioner, District 1
Fay Parker	Commissioner, District 2

Legal Counsel:

Christopher A. Smith	County Attorney
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ABSENT:

Larry Irons	Commissioner, District 2
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Dewey D. Mitchell, Chairman, declared a quorum of the Commission to be present and the meeting open for the transaction of business.

The invocation was delivered by Commissioner Roger Garner

Public Comment on agenda items:

Hank Thomas, Waterloo, Alabama. Mr. Thomas stated that in the local newspaper discussed how different things were weighted differently on the Ambulance bid and how the Lauderdale County put little weight on the cost of the rates listed on the ambulance bid. Mr. Thomas stated that the persons of Lauderdale County would have to pay the difference in how much their insurance would cover and what was left over. Mr. Thomas also stated that Shoals Ambulance Service did not have the financial statement that was required, only a business plan. Mr. Thomas stated that according to Alabama Bid Law that Lauderdale County must provide an answer to the losing bidder as to why they did not accept them if they were the low bidder. Shelly Pettus, Center Star, Alabama stated that she agreed with Mr. Thomas's statement and said that if the county goes with Shoals Ambulance service that the Center Star area will be left out of coverage area. Ms. Pettus also

asked why we moved the public meeting to the beginning of the meeting. Chairman Mitchell explained that the public comment section at the beginning of the meeting was meeting agenda items only, and there was still a public comment section at the end of the meeting to discuss any items. Chairman Mitchell also explained that the Killen-Center Star area was not left out of the ambulance bid and was included. Danny Pettus, Center Star, Alabama asked that his two commissioners vote to keep the ambulance service that we now have and that they were a proven service for our area and if it's not broke don't fix it. Bill Smoak, Florence, Alabama, stated that since the local paper had stated that Medicaid and Medicare will be out of money next year we should consider what will happen and that the unknown could put services of business and we should keep our same ambulance service. Jim Downing asked that the commissioners keep our same service and not change services.

Commissioner Garner moved, seconded by Commissioner Thornton that all items listed on the regular business agenda be approved for immediate consideration. There being no discussion and upon a vote taken, motion unanimously approved. Agenda is herein recorded and made a part of these minutes.

Commissioner Thornton moved, seconded by Commissioner Parker that the minutes of the last regular meeting of the Commission be approved for recording. There being no discussion and upon a vote taken, motion unanimously approved.

Commissioner Thornton moved, seconded by Commissioner Garner that a resolution be adopted authorizing execution of a new internet security service contract with Barricuda Web Filter 310, with a start up cost of \$3397.00 and an annual cost of \$948.00 yearly, which will start in 2014. There being no further discussion and upon a vote taken, motion unanimously approved. Resolution and contract agreement are herein recorded and made a part of these minutes.

In compliance with competitive bid laws of the State of Alabama, sealed bids were advertised for Bid No. LA-2013-9 "High Definition Cameras and Monitor System", Bid responses were publicly opened and read aloud on February 20, 2013. A bid tabulation sheet was prepared for Commission, reviewed by the Solid Waste Manager, who recommended that the bid from McNeilus Trucking being the low bidder and meeting all specifications. Commissioner Garner moved, seconded by Commissioner Parker that the bid is awarded to McNeilus Trucking of Villa Rica, Georgia in the amount of \$ 2033.31 for each camera. There being no discussion an upon a vote

taken, motion unanimously approved. Bid tabulation is herein recorded and made a part of these minutes.

In compliance with competitive bid laws of the State of Alabama, sealed bids were advertised for Bid No. 2013-14, "Reinforced Concrete Culvert on County Road 11". Bids were received, publicly opened and read aloud on February 21, 2013 and bid and tabulation was prepared for Commission review. The County Engineer recommended that the low bid from Brooks and Son Construction be accepted. Commissioner Parker moved, seconded by Commissioner Thornton that the bid be awarded to the low bidder as recommended in the amount of \$188,416.24. After a brief discussion and upon a vote taken, motion unanimously approved. Bid tabulation and contract us herein recorded and made a part of these minutes.

In compliance with competitive bid laws of the State of Alabama, sealed bids were advertised for Bid No. LA-2013-10, "Outdoor Warning Sirens". Bid responses were received, publicly opened and read aloud on February 12, 2013. Bid tabulation was prepared for Commissioner review. Commissioner Parker moved, seconded by Commissioner Thornton that the bid be awarded to the low bidder, The Radio Shop in the amount of \$12,700.00, there being no discussion and upon a vote taken, motion unanimously approved. Bid tabulation is herein recorded and made a part of these minutes.

In compliance with competitive bid laws of the State of Alabama, sealed bids were advertised for Bid No. LA-2013-7 "Advanced Life Support Emergency Medical Treatment & Transport Service". Bid responses were received, publicly opened and read aloud on January 29, 2013. Bids were sent out to thirteen companies and there were two responses. A bid tabulation sheet was prepared for commissioner's review along with a recommendation from a joint ambulance committee composed of City of Florence member and Lauderdale County Officials, Health Care and Emergency Professionals. Commissioner Thornton moved, seconded by Commissioner Garner to follow the recommendations of the joint ambulance committee to award the bid to Shoals Ambulance Service of Muscle Shoals, Alabama. Commissioner Parker asked EMA Director, George Grabryan if the joint ambulance committee had a unanimous decision on recommending Shoals Ambulance Service and Mr. Grabryan stated among the committee members it was. Commissioner Parker also asked when Shoals Ambulance Service would be ready to start if they were awarded the bid. Mr. Bryan Gibson, CEO of Shoals Ambulance Service stated that in approximately sixty days. Commissioner Parker also asked, what was the mileage charge with

Shoals Ambulance, Mr. Gibson stated it was \$12.50 per mile. Commissioner Parker asked if the full time employees that work for Shoals Ambulance Service would have insurance and retirement. Mr. Gibson stated that they would have Blue Cross Blue Shield Insurance but no retirement. Commissioner Parker also asked how would Shoals Ambulance service handle indigent bills and Mr. Gibson stated that they would follow the federal guidelines for below poverty levels. Commissioner Parker then asked the same question of Bruce Carson, the Lauderdale County EMS Director, the cost of mileage was \$12.00, the Lauderdale EMS employees would have insurance and would also have available a retirement plan. Then Commissioner Parker asked Mr. Carson if Lauderdale EMS would accept just a payment for service by accepting the insurance payment only or if they would seek payment for any difference, Mr. Carson stated that they would collect the difference but they would work with the patient. Commissioner Thornton stated that Lauderdale EMS did not always have the staffing that was required in the current contract. The report of the "Ambulance" Committee referred to is included and attached to these minutes. Additionally, the minutes of the other County Commission regular meetings and work sessions were in these issues involving ambulance service were discussed in length and referenced by the Lauderdale County Commission are referenced as if restated herein. There being no more discussion and upon a vote taken motion unanimously approved.

Commissioner Thornton moved, seconded by Commissioner Garner to reappoint Robert Hughes to the NACOLG Revolving Loan Board of Directors until 11-08-2016 or until a replacement given. There being no discussion and upon a vote taken, motion unanimously approved.

Commissioner Thornton moved, seconded by Commissioner Garner to reappoint Greg Ezell to the Northwest Alabama Regional Airport Board until 06-30-2015 or until a replacement given. There being no discussion and upon a vote taken, motion unanimously approved.

Commissioner Parker moved, seconded by Commissioner Thornton to appoint Barry Auchly to the Northwest Alabama Regional Airport Board until 01-02-2016 or until a replacement given. There being no discussion and upon a vote taken, motion unanimously approved.

The invoiced bills were audited, approved and ordered paid upon a motion made by Commissioner Thornton and seconded by Commissioner Garner. There being no discussion of the invoices and upon a vote taken, motion unanimously approved.

Checks Issued February 11, 2013 through February 24, 2013

GENERAL - SPECIAL CHECK # 4506-4561	352,500.82
GASOLINE TAX FUND CHECK # 14771-14782	158,241.08
SOLID WASTE FUND CHECK # 5301-5314	149,757.72
REAPPRAISAL FUND CHECK # 9830-9841	22,986.78
RSVP FUND CHECK # 16101-16107	2,098.97
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE FUND CHECK # 33125-33169 VOID # 33136	136,284.43
LEPA FUND CHECK # 6961-6968	3,917.31
AGRI-BUSINESS FUND CHECK #3195 & 3196	108.79
TVA TAX FUND CHECK # 4890-4902	484,945.69
CHILD PROTECTION FUND CHECK # 1153	1,837.00
INDUSTIRAL DEVELOPMENT TAX FUND CHECK # 1067	583,182.28
TOTAL	1,895,860.87

During the public comment period

Hank Thomas, Waterloo Alabama questioned when he could receive a copy of the bills that are approved during the meetings for review. Brenda Bryant, County Administrator explained that he could pick up a copy of late Friday before the Monday commission meetings. Mr. Thomas stated that since the Alabama bid law stated that the bid must be given to the lowest bidder concerning the Ambulance bid that the public should be given the reasons as to why it was not. Mr. Thomas also asked why the ambulances would not be at local county football games. Chairman Mitchell stated that the Ambulance Bid was a joint bid between the City of Florence and Lauderdale County and that there were many facets of information that were focused upon not just money, but such things as quality of care. Mr. Thomas also stated that he would like for someone, preferably Ken Allamel Lauderdale County Engineer, to look at the condition of Paradise Road and work on the defects of that road.

Shelly Pettus, Center Star Alabama stated that she was very disappointed in her commissioners that they voted for Shoals Ambulance Service, also she asked Mr. Carson Director of Lauderdale EMS if he knew how much the Lauderdale EMS service wrote off in bills not collected or indigent care. Mr. Carson stated he did not. Ms. Pettus also asked the commissioners if they could explain why they chose to go with Shoals Ambulance Service. Commissioner Garner stated that he had read the bids several times and from his point of view the number of units and hours that Shoals was offering was a benefit for the community and in a life or death situation that would mean saving time and lives. Ms. Pettus stated that we want the best service but if the service we had was not broke why fix it. Commissioner Thornton stated that Lauderdale EMS had staffing issues and he had several phone calls over the weekend with the majority of calls wanting him to vote for Shoals Ambulance Service, and that the new service coverage would be superior to the coverage we have now and that Shoals has agreed to have paramedics on every truck and with our current service (Lauderdale EMS) even though it is a requirement they have not always been following the bid requirements and staffing ambulances correctly. Commissioner Parker stated that he had prayed about this ambulance contract and also read the bids several times, and that he had reviewed what the ambulance committee had recommended and he also had several calls over the weekend of citizens in favor of Shoals Ambulance Service. Commissioner Parker stated that Lauderdale EMS had come to Lauderdale County during a difficult time for the county ambulance service several years ago but that sometimes we have to change. Commissioner Parker also addressed the issue of ambulance at the county football games and stated that he had received a

letter stating that is Shoals Ambulance won the bid they would have ambulances at the local county football games. In short the reasons for awarding the bid to Shoals Ambulance were founded on staffing, equipment, man hours on duty. Paramedic's on board all Shoals Ambulance calls and the present Lauderdale EMS past practices of not providing paramedics on all calls in spite of the requirements in the previous contract. Other reasons were also stated by commissioners during comment period.

There being no further discussion to come before the Commission, it was adjourned upon a motion made by Commissioner Thornton and seconded by Commissioner Garner, the meeting was duly adjourned until the next regular meeting subject to call.

Dewey D. Mitchell, Chairman
Lauderdale County Commission

D.C. Thornton, Commissioner
District 1

Roger Garner, Commissioner
District 1

Fay Parker, Commissioner
District 2

ATTEST:

Larry Irons, Commissioner
District 2

Administrator