

STATE OF ALABAMA §

LAUDERDALE COUNTY §

The Lauderdale County Commission convened at the Lauderdale County Courthouse in the City of Florence, Alabama at 9:00 a.m. on the 27th day of February, 2012. The meeting was called to order by the Judge of Probate who acted as Chairman. Upon roll call the following members answered present:

Dewey D. Mitchell	Judge of Probate, Ex-Officio Chairman Lauderdale County Commission
Rhea Tays Fulmer	Commissioner, District 1
D.C. Thornton	Commissioner, District 1
Fay Parker	Commissioner, District 2
Larry Irons	Commissioner, District 2

Legal Counsel:

Christopher A. Smith	County Attorney
----------------------	-----------------

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 Parker.

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

The minutes of the last regular meeting were approved for recording upon a motion made by Commissioner Thornton and seconded by Commissioner Fulmer. There being no discussion and upon a vote taken, motion unanimously approved.

Commissioner Irons moved, seconded by Commissioner Parker that a resolution be adopted authorizing the Absentee Elections Manager to hire two workers for the upcoming elections on March 13 and for the runoff election if required. There being no discussion and upon a vote taken, motion unanimously approved. Resolution is herein recorded and made a part of these minutes.

Commissioner Fulmer moved, seconded by Commissioner Thornton that a resolution be adopted authorizing the removal of certain roadway projects from the Alabama Maintenance Review by the Alabama Department of Transportation. The Chairman referenced the three projects which met the requirements for removal. There being no discussion and upon a vote taken, motion unanimously approved. Resolution and maintenance agreement are herein recorded and made a part of these minutes.

Commissioner Irons moved, seconded by Commissioner Parker that a resolution be adopted authorizing EMA to use a grant of \$22,530.63 from the State Homeland Security Program for the Alabama Department of Public Safety and the First Responders Agencies. This grant provides for five UHF radios to allow Florence Fire Rescue Department to communicate with the Volunteer Fire Departments and six low band radios for the Florence-Lauderdale EMA. Chairman Mitchell called upon Captain Duncan of the Alabama State Troopers to comment on the grant. Captain Duncan stated that this will fill a gap between the law enforcement communities, and that he was very pleased with our county for taking part in the grant program. The Chairman stated that he was very appreciative of their help. Commissioner Irons stated this will help fill a void and this grant was greatly needed. There being no further discussion and upon a vote taken, motion unanimously approved. Resolution and grant agreement are herein recorded and made a part of these minutes.

In compliance with the competitive bid laws of the State of Alabama, sealed bids were advertised for Bid No. 2012-20, "Resurface Various County Roads". Bids were received, publicly opened and read aloud on February 9, 2012. A bid tabulation sheet was prepared for Commission review. Chairman Mitchell called upon the County Engineer, Ken Allamel for review of the bids. Mr. Allamel stated that the county had received three bids with Rogers Group being the lowest and since they were a company the county was familiar with Mr. Allamel recommended the county award the bid to Rogers Group. Commissioner Irons stated that the cost of road paving has gone up tremendously in the last ten years and that has cut down on the amount of roads that could be taken care of, but he has tried to spend the money fairly although it was tough to keep up with. Commissioner Parker stated that it had not been a hard winter and he was proud the weather did not do too much damage, but problems can come up quickly and hopefully, he has done what was needed. Commissioner Thornton added that the cost of a new road figures to be about \$55,000 per mile. Chairman Mitchell added the county had to take money out of the county's reserved funds to make up the needed money for the Road Department. Commissioner Thornton moved, seconded by

Commissioner Irons that the bid be awarded to Rogers Group who was the lowest bidder. There being no further discussion and upon a vote taken, motion unanimously approved. Bid tabulation is herein recorded and made a part of these minutes.

The invoiced bills were audited, approved and ordered paid upon a motion made by Commissioner Irons and seconded by Commissioner Parker. There being no discussion and upon a vote taken, motion unanimously approved.

CHECKS ISSUED FEBRUARY 13, 2012 THROUGH FEBRUARY 26, 2012

GENERAL - SPECIAL CHECK # 43776-43833 VOID # 43779	689,916.28
GASOLINE TAX FUND CHECK # 14369-14383	236,959.29
SOLID WASTE FUND CHECK # 4926-4942	199,740.91
REAPPRAISAL FUND CHECK # 9519-9535	31,715.13
RSVP FUND CHECK # 15899-15907	2,427.70
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE FUND CHECK # 31637-31679	166,101.24
AGRI-BUSINESS FUND CHECK # 3112-3114	362.41
LEPA FUND CHECK # 6763-6771	4,754.68
PUBLIC BLDG., ROAD & BRIDGE CHECK # 390	15,339.33
FIRE PROTECTION FUND CHECK # 3717-3731	30,657.56
SERIES 2001 DEBT SERVICE FUND	12,240.00

CHECK # 198

AL. TRUST CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND 46,479.05
CHECK # 260-262

RRR GASOLINE TAX FUND 20,821.20
CHECK # 545

TOTAL 1,457,514.78

During the public comment period Chairman Mitchell thanked and recognized the two individuals who were in attendance of our meeting. Joe Pliers who is the Assistant Director of the Alabama Management Agency, and Mr. Lee Helms who is from Lee Helms Associates and was the EMA Director during the Governor Fob James administration. Mr. Plier stated that the State EMA is very pleased with our local program and that Lauderdale County is in compliance with FEMA. Mr. Helms stated that he was happy to help in all the planning with the local EMA exercises and that our local EMA was a great help on all kind of projects.

Mr. Hank Thomas, Paradise Drive, Waterloo, Alabama addressed the Commission and asked why we still don't have a current Emergency Plan in place when we were promised to have one in the fall of 2011.

Mr. Lee Helms addressed the Commission stating that we do have draft plans, but since the disasters last April they were still adding points to the plans. He also stated there were no deadlines in these types of plans and the county was in the final stages of putting this plan together. Mr. Thomas stated he had only seen the one plan dated 1989. Mr. Thomas also stated he had received no response from any of the commissioners on the letter he had sent to the commissioners talking about the defects of loose gravel and guard rails on Paradise Drive, and asked if the commissioners were going to amend the current resolution that stated Paradise Drive was to receive minimum maintenance. Chairman Mitchell asked the County Engineer, Ken Allamel if he was aware of the letter and Mr. Allamel answered that he was. Chairman Mitchell stated that Mr. Allamel had acted accordingly to the resolution on Paradise Drive. Mr. Thomas asked what the commissioners were going to do about the defects. Chairman Mitchell stated that this road has been under review even over reviewed, but it would be in compliance of the current resolution. Mr. Thomas then asked the commissioners if we had a policy that covered all the taped signs all over the Courthouse walls and

that it needed to be corrected and also, that if we were going to have the Lady of Justice statue in our Commissioners Meeting Room, we needed to put the scales back on the statue.

Gilbert Parrish, Paradise Drive, Waterloo, Alabama asked the Chairman how much money the county carried over from the road department last year in its budget, to which the Chairman replied that no money was carried over. Chairman Mitchell added that the county had to use some of its reserved money to make up the difference needed to complete the road departments budget.

Billy Sledge asked the commissioners to form a local Cemetery Authority for the county to serve as a guide to help keep all of the 150 or more cemeteries in good shape. He stated he was asking for no money but just the commissioners help to form this authority.

The Chairman asked Mr. Sledge if had names of people to submit for board members. Mr. Sledge stated that he had seven names and felt we needed two people from the west end of the county and two from the east end of the county and two from the city. The Chairman asked Mr. Sledge due to the massive amounts of cemeteries would that be the correct amount of members needed. Mr. Sledge stated that the city had 22 cemeteries and anybody could be on the board. Commissioner Parker stated that he totally agreed something needed to be done with so many cemeteries lost and unattended and he was glad Mr. Sledge was taking an interest in this project. Mr. Sledge stated he did not come to ask the commission for money because he would get the money from volunteers. He also stated he gets calls from people all the time asking where certain cemeteries were located. He said most people will forget to take care of their cemeteries, but with a Cemetery Authority it would help keep that from happening. Commissioner Thornton asked Mr. Sledge if he knew about the books there were available at our public library that discussed our local cemeteries. Mr. Sledge replied that he did and went there often. Commissioner Irons asked Mr. Sledge if he knew where Powell Cemetery was and that he had a family member that had done a lot of research and he might be able to get him some information. Mr. Sledge reiterated that he was not coming to the Commission for money, only to get help to form a Cemetery Authority and stated that we need to honor our dead. He also stated he had promised his father to look after the cemeteries.

Commissioner Fulmer stated she wanted to get back to Mr. Thomas where she felt he may have gotten the fall of 2011 date for the EMA plans from her because she thought she may have mentioned that date. Whereas, Mr. Helms stated that EMA had thought originally it might have a plan in place by last fall but the local disaster did change the time frame, but hopefully the new plan would be completed by April, 2012. Commissioner Fulmer mentioned that a lot of training could be

found online at NEMS and even more at FEMA, but only some was available to authorized personnel. Mr. Pliers stated that all of our responders were current on their training. Mr. Thomas stated that other counties had their EMA plans online and that you could see all their information without having to contact anyone. Commissioner Fulmer also wanted more discussion on the issue of the guard rail for Mr. Thomas.

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

Dewey D. Mitchell, Chairman
Lauderdale County Commission

Rhea Tays Fulmer, Commissioner
District 1

D.C. Thornton, Commissioner
District 1

Fay Parker, Commissioner
District 2

ATTEST:

Larry Irons, Commissioner
District 2

Administrator