

Cleburne County Commission Meeting
Cleburne County, Alabama
June 11, 2012

M I N U T E S

- Regular Commission Meeting The Cleburne County Commission met in regular session on Monday, June 11, 2012, at 4:00 p.m. in the Commission Meeting Room, Room 207 of the County Courthouse, Heflin, Alabama.
- Chairman Ryan Robertson called the meeting to order and open for business.
- Roll Call There were present:
Chairman Ryan Robertson
Commissioner Joel Robinson
Commissioner Emmett Owen
Commissioner Benji Langley
Commissioner Rex Nolen
- There were absent:
None
- Public Comment from Citizens Mr. Kevin R. Turley was in attendance for the meeting to meet and inform the Commission of his interest to serve on the Cleburne County Hospital Board.
- Public Comment from Other Elected Officials Revenue Commissioner Joyce R Fuller reported to the Commission that House Bill #120 will change 2013 collections for disability exemptions, age over 65 and income brackets.
- Awards and Presentations Chairman Ryan Robertson informed the Commission that they received a certificate in appreciation of the generous donation to help the Cleburne County Chamber of Commerce with renovations to prepare for the opening of their new office.
- Commission Discussion The Commission addressed items of the consent agenda from the agenda of today's meeting: a) Approve the Commission meeting minutes of May 2012 as presented; b) Approve the May 2012 check registers; c) Approve to urge both of our Federal and State lawmakers to oppose the proposed actions regarding the Federal Bureau of Land Management leasing publically owned property for the purpose of supporting hydraulic fracturing natural gas exploration; d) Approve to authorize the County Administrator to seek bids for telecommunications system for the Cleburne County Mountain Center location; e) Approve to appoint Ms. Rhonda Heard to the Cleburne County Hospital Board for the position of at-large term previously held by Gary Mayfield whom resigned; approve to appoint Mr. Kevin R Turley to the Calhoun/Cleburne Mental Health Board for the term that expired in July 2010. Mr. Turley will serve through the term of July 2010-2016 and acknowledge the vacancy for the Cleburne County Library Board.
- Resolution # 4409** On a motion by Commissioner Rex Nolen and seconded by Commissioner Emmett Owen, the Commission passed the following resolution:
- Be it resolved by the Cleburne County Commission to approve the following resolutions from the items of the consent agenda from the agenda of today's meeting:
- 4409-1** The Cleburne County Commission hereby resolves to approve the May 2012 minutes as presented,
- 4409-2** The Cleburne County Commission hereby resolves to approve the May 2012 check registers.
- 4409-3** Whereas, hydraulic fracturing refers to a method of extracting natural gas that involves fracturing rock thousands of feet below the surface with a high-pressure mix of sand, water and industrial chemicals in order to reach pockets of natural gas trapped in shale and coal deposits; and
- Whereas, hydraulic fracturing not only has the potential to affect the health and welfare of the people of Cleburne County but also would likely degrade the natural qualities of the Talladega

National Forest, a tremendous natural resource to East-Central Alabama and the nation as a whole due to its pristine wilderness so rich in plant and animal biodiversity; and

Whereas, hydraulic fracturing can create confusions about property valuations and uncertainty regarding mineral rights of adjoining land owners; and

Whereas, millions of gallons of fresh water will be required for each stimulation or fracturing of a gas well, which may occur 20 or more times in the lifetime of a well, and with the resulting wastewater being contaminated with chemicals, and toxic substances from underground shale to include corrosive salts, heavy metals and carcinogens; and

Whereas, the wastewater resulting from the proposed hydraulic fracturing operations has limited disposal options, and wastewater treatment plants are either non-existent or ill equipped to remove such chemicals; and

Whereas, there are documented impacts on the environment and public health from other states where hydraulic fracturing is used, including contamination of drinking water wells, surface waters, and air quality; and

Whereas, many residents of Cleburne County rely on private water wells charged from local groundwater resources; and

Whereas, hydraulic fracturing is a poorly regulated industry due to a 2005 Federal loophole exempting hydraulic fracturing from most Federal environmental regulations including the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act, and the Safe Drinking Water Act; and

Whereas, many areas of Cleburne County have been identified as having geologic shale that contains underground deposits of natural gas.

Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Cleburne County Commission urges both our Federal and State lawmakers to oppose the proposed actions regarding the Federal Bureau of Land Management leasing publically owned property for the purpose of supporting hydraulic fracturing natural gas exploration.

4409-4 Authorization – The Cleburne County Commission hereby authorizes the County Administrator to seek bids on the following equipment:

Telecommunications system for the Cleburne County Mountain Center Location

4409-5 Board Appointments:

Cleburne County Hospital Board – Commission appoints Ms. Rhonda Heard with term ending - April 2013 to the at-large term held previously by Gary Mayfield whom resigned.

Cleburne County Mental Health Board – Commission appoints Mr. Kevin R Turley with term ending - July 2016 to the position previously held by Ms. Pat McKinney.

Commission acknowledges the following vacancies:

Cleburne County Hospital Board

District Four Appointment previously held by Rebecca Forney who has resigned – term ending April 2015

Cleburne County Library Board –

Term ending April 2012 for Wilma Brown.

All members present voted for the resolution and none against. The motion carried.

Commission Discussion

Chairman Ryan Robertson informed the Commission that he received a letter from James Cable, LLC dba Communicom Services Cable Company stating that they have determined, due to an

increase in cost and a decline in customer numbers, they will no longer provide service in the Hollis Community.

Reports from staff were as follows: A) County Administrator Steve Swafford was not present for the meeting; B) County Engineer Shannon Robbins discussed with the Commission updates on current projects and briefed the Commission on the Alabama Department of Transportation Rehabilitation and Improvement Program (ATRIP), Federal Aid funds were not approved for upgrades on County Road #43. C) County Attorney Doug Ghee stated he did not have any new updates to report to the Commission at this time.

There was no further business to come today before the Commission for the meeting.

**Resolution
4410**

On a motion by Commissioner Emmett Owen and seconded by Commissioner Benji Langley, the Commission passed the following resolution:

Be it resolved by the Cleburne County Commission to adjourn the meeting. All members present voted for the resolution and none against. The motion carried.