

The Geneva County Commission met in regular session on Monday, February 22, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. at the Geneva County Courthouse in Geneva, Alabama.

Commission Chairman Toby Seay called the meeting to order and welcomed guests present. Commissioner Brannon opened the meeting with prayer. Chairman Seay led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no elected officials requesting to make public comment.

There were no citizens requesting to make public comment.

Commission Chairman Seay called the roll and the following members were present: Commissioners Weston Spivey, Todd Brannon, Bart Wilks, and Wade Fulford. The County Attorney Phil Eldridge; Engineer, Justin Barfield; Assistant County Engineer, Mike Shirah; and County Administrator Cindy Williams were also present. The following business was transacted:

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approve Minutes of February 22, 2021. Commissioner Spivey made a motion to approve the minutes of February 22, 2021. Commissioner Wilks seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.
2. Proclamations: None
3. Bids: None
4. Board Appointments: None

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Board Appointments – Commissioner Wilks made a motion to reappoint Ms. Jean Turner to the E911 Board. Commissioner Brannon seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0. Commissioner Todd Brannon and County Engineer Justin Barfield currently serve on the Wiregrass RC & D Council and their term ends March 31, 2021. The new term would be April 1, 2021 – April 1, 2023. Commissioner Wilks made a motion to reappoint Commissioner Todd Brannon and County Engineer Justin Barfield to the Wiregrass RC & D Council. Commissioner Fulford seconded the motion. Vote was 3-0. Commissioner Brannon abstained from voting.
2. Bids – None
3. Spec Building – Chairman Seay said he had a message from Mr. Phillip Santora with Northstar Engineering which stated the anchor bolts and steel beams were being put in this week and real progress should begin to be made on the building.

4. Courtroom Renovation – Painting has begun, and materials have been ordered for the Courtroom.

REPORTS OF STAFF:

Sheriff: Not present

County Administrator: Mrs. Williams discussed the CARES Act reimbursements. We received three more reimbursements last week totaling \$176,462.16 for five expenditures. There are still four remaining invoices that have been submitted which total \$25,301.57. These invoices are for the televisions for the Jail requested by Judge Filmore and payroll cost for the Sheriff's office during the Jury selection which was held at the Farm Center due to Covid protocol. Commissioner Brannon asked about the reimbursement for the payroll that the Commission had authorized 100 hours of Emergency Leave to all employees during the Covid pandemic and orders by the Governor to stay home. Mrs. Williams explained that those dollars for payroll had been denied, only the portion that had been paid out while the Courthouse was physically closed would be reimbursed. Administrator Williams also explained to the Commission that currently drug tests for County employees and prospective employees are performed at the hospital at a cost of \$45.00 per test. The Court Referral office will do the test and do more panel testing at a cost of \$25.00 per test. They cannot perform testing for DOT employees, but all other employees could use their service. They can also be used for post-accident testing. In most cases we would have same day results. Commissioner Wilks made a motion to do all drug testing possible for County employees through the Court Referral Office. Commissioner Spivey seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

County Engineer: They have interviewed four EOII applicants and hope to fill a few positions.

ATRIPII project in Hartford is still in progress and they are working with ALDOT and Spectrum.

Work with FEMA on the Hurricane Sally project continues. The paperwork on the three bridges that were washed out is being worked on and is in the Environment study phase. Picked up the new excavator last week from ALDOT in Troy. Has the paperwork ready for the JM Wood Auction on all the equipment deemed surplus to sale. The new dump trucks are scheduled to deliver next month.

Want to bring to the attention of the Commission because he knows call will be coming to the Commissioners as well as to his office regarding the roads. His department has not bladed the past month due to weather. They will be working this Friday and possibly Saturday on blading roads.

They currently have fourteen (14) driveway pipes scheduled for installation and ten (10) that need to be replaced. They also have fifteen (15) that are waiting to be sized and paid for by citizens. It takes one half day per pipe to install. The Commission asked about private companies installing the driveway pipes. Mr. Barfield stated it cost the County \$3,000 - \$4,000 to install a driveway pipe and it would be okay to have private companies install the pipe, however his department would still have to survey and evaluate the drainage.

0
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74
75
76
77
78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87
88
89
90
91
92
93
94
95
96
97
98
99
100

Engineer Justin Barfield stated that he has been attempting to revamp the organization of his department. With the loss of several long-term key employees and the inability to hire new employees he feels this is necessary. He has studied his organizational charts from 2000 to current and it varies greatly. He currently has thirty-nine (39) positions in his department which is ten less than his department had in 2000. Under his proposed new plan, he would have one (1) Superintendent and two (2) Foreman. He would like to create a new position of Equipment Operator IV which would be the right hand to the Foreman. The pay scale for this position would be what is currently the Foreman pay scale. Additionally, he would like to have the starting pay for the Foreman pay scale be that of the current Superintendent and create a new pay rate for the Superintendent. He is proposing to change from three (3) district crews to two (2) crews, East and West with the dividing line being the river in Geneva. Mr. Barfield is requesting to work with Administrator Cindy Williams and Personnel Director Tracie Jordan to create the new pay scales and see what difference the proposed changes will make to his current payroll budget for FY2021. Engineer Barfield is asking the Commission to study this information during the coming weeks and work with him on coming up with a solution to the organization of his department. The Commission agreed for Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Jordan to work with Mr. Barfield on the pay scales.

County Attorney: Attorney Eldridge stated that a few meetings back the Commission did not have any objections to a Company installing a cell tower in Hartford on a historical site. He has received from Administrator Williams a notice from the FCC regarding the Section 106 filing notice. He asked the Commission if they had any objections to the filing. The tower is to be installed in the City limits of Hartford. The Commission had no objections to the Section 106 filing.

At the last meeting the Commission approved moving forward with three local bills. One bill dealt with a constitutional amendment removing Geneva County's name from two local amendments dealing with economic development. This would allow the County to come under the State constitutional amendment of economic development. It appeared in the synopsis of the bill that Geneva County continue under State amendment number 772 of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901 which relates to economic development. We wanted that statement not only in the synopsis but in the bill itself. Representative Sorrells wanted the attorney to call Legislative Reference regarding this. Attorney Eldridge called and Legislative Reference stated that if that is placed in the bill then it would not be a vote only by the citizens of Geneva County but would have to be voted on state-wide. They had to have a decision that day and Mr. Eldridge told them he felt confident the Commission did not want it voted on state-wide but just by the citizens of Geneva County. Representative Sorrells was going to drop that bill Tuesday to be introduced. The Commission confirmed his decision in that they wanted the bill voted on only by the citizens of Geneva County.

Chairman Seay: Chairman Seay stated that he had been in contact with Mr. Mike Rutland with JMR+H and they will be attending the next meeting to discuss the removal of the old Jail domes.

The Sheriff and Chairman Seay will be working on compiling an inventory list that can be presented to the Commission to approve as surplus so it can be sold. Once the

Commission has approved the surplus it has to advertise for three weeks before a sale can take place.

Two of the three local bills are currently being advertised. They must be advertised two weeks. Representative Sorrells had communicated with Chairman Seay that the House should get those bills up for approval before the recess.

Revenue Commissioner: Not present

EMA Director: Not present. Called and stated he was assisting a family whose house had burned this morning.

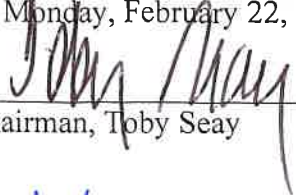
Solid Waste: Not present.

E-911: Mr. Williams stated that his office had a lightning strike during the bad weather last week.


Auburn Extension: Not present but sent word that they are working on the Ground Water Festival for the fourth and fifth grades. An herbicide training class will be in Hartford on March 17, 2021. Extension agents are working in the schools again.

Commissioner's: Commissioner Fulford requested that a few citizens be allowed to speak. Commissioner Brannon made a motion to allow citizens Ryan McKenzie and Gavin Dunn to speak. Commissioner Wilks seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0. The citizens were there to discuss the condition of Harvest Time road. There are many issues with this road including trees in the ditch bank that are blocking the drainage, and culverts that are stopped up or broken. There is one acre on this road that the County owns due to FEMA from many years ago. There is a section of the road that the County does not maintain because it was abandoned. Due to the condition of the road the property owners on this road feel they are being denied access to their property. Mr. McKenzie has allowed owners to use his property to access their property. There are eight (8) landowners on the road and all but one, agree to try and find resolution to the problem. Attorney Eldridge asked if Mr. McKenzie's deed referenced the road. Mr. McKenzie stated he believed it did, but he would get that information. Engineer Justin Barfield stated he was aware of the issues with the road and vowed to work with the citizens to find reasonable resolution to the situation. The Commission requested the County Engineer and Attorney look at the status of the road.

The above constitutes the minutes of the meeting of the Geneva County Commission held on Monday, February 22, 2021.



Chairman, Toby Seay



Cindy Williams
County Administrator



Commissioner Weston Spivey



Commissioner Todd Brannon



Commissioner Bart Wilks



Commissioner Wade Fulford