

The Geneva County Commission met in regular session on Monday, February 8, 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; EMA Director, Eric Johnson and County Administrator Cindy Williams were also present. The following business was transacted:

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING

#### NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approve Minutes of January 25, 2021. Commissioner Wilks made a motion to approve the minutes of January 25, 2021. Commissioner Spivey seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.
2. Proclamations: None
3. Bids: None
4. Board Appointments: None

#### OLD BUSINESS:

1. Board Appointments – Commissioner Brannon made a motion to reappoint Ms. Cindy Campbell to the Southeast Alabama Emergency Medical Services Council. Commissioner Wilks seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0. Commissioner Wilks made a motion to reappoint Mr. Rufus Kervin to the Wiregrass Mental Health Board. Commissioner Spivey seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0. Commissioner Spivey made a motion to reappoint Mr. Don White to the E911 Board. Commissioner Wilks seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0. Chairman Seay asked to table the reappoint of Ms. Jean Turner to the E911 Board until he could reach out to her to see if she is still interested in serving on the Board. Commissioner Wilks made a motion to table the reappointment of Ms. Jean Turner to the E911 Board. Commissioner Brannon seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.
2. Bids – None

3. Spec Building – Chairman Seay has been in contact with the Engineer and construction is progressing on the building.
4. Courtroom Renovation – There will be a meeting with JMR+H on February 10, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. They will have color schemes for the Courtroom for presentation. All Commissioners are welcome to attend.

**REPORTS OF STAFF:**

**Sheriff:** Not present

**County Administrator:** Nothing to report.

**County Engineer:** Engineer Justin Barfield stated that he has three openings for Equipment Operator II and has one employee that is out on medical leave and not expected to return to work in the immediate future. He has been working closely with the Personnel Department and has four applications for the EOII position.

ATRIPII project in Hartford is progressing and he has been in touch with CenturyLink and Spectrum regarding the utilities portion of the project.

The office modification is progressing and waiting on paint for project to be complete. Work with FEMA on the Hurricane Sally project continues.

The weather has halted the parking lot project at the Courthouse Annex. When the temperatures are higher and there is not rain the project will be completed.

Mr. Barfield discussed his yearly report for FY2020. His department saw a decrease in work orders of approximately 1/3 in FY2020 vs FY2019. This is due in large part to the new system of pre-vetting the situation before a work order is created for the project.

They did 82 driveway installs last year and expect that number to increase due to housing builds in the east end of the County. The department did one full bushhog cutting in the County and an extra round of herbicide spraying. Hurricane Sally deterred blading roads for several weeks.

It is time for the yearly sale of leased dump trucks. Deanco Auction and JM Wood Auctions are the two that he has dealt with over the years. He has six (6) one-year old Kenworth Dump Trucks on lease. He is also asking the Commission to declare two (2) 2007 Mack Dump Trucks and two (2) used small excavators as surplus to be sold. JM Wood has the best offer of \$1,051,000.00 for the six (6) Kenworth Dump Trucks. The sale will be in March. Attorney Eldridge asked if JM Wood would send us a written agreement and Mr. Barfield stated they would. Commissioner Wilks made a motion to declare the six (6) Kenworth Dump Trucks, two (2) 2007 Mack Dump Trucks and two (2) small excavators as surplus to be sold. Commissioner Spivey seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0. Commissioner Spivey made a motion to go with Option B from JM Wood for the sale of surplus equipment after a review by Attorney Eldridge and authorize Chairman Seay to sign the agreement. Commissioner Fulford seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

There is a planned subdivision on Highway 103N in Slocomb that does not comply with State or local subdivision regulations. The subdivision would be accessed by one private road and there are thirteen (13) lots. It is the understanding of Mr. Barfield that the lots have already been sold. Mr. Barfield has contacted the property owner and Attorney

Eldridge has drafted a letter based on the Alabama subdivision law and County regulations which was sent to the Commissioners last week for their review. The Commission will need to approve and authorize Attorney Eldridge to send the letter. Other parties such as mappers, surveyors, lawyers, etc., should also be apprised of the subdivision laws and regulations by the Engineer. The Alabama subdivision regulation law requires that a platt of the subdivision should be submitted to the Commission for approval and a permit should be issued by the Commission if it complies with the law and subdivision regulations of the County before any development by the owner. The Engineer advised the surveyor of these requirements last year when he began work on this subdivision. Commissioner Spivey made a motion to allow Attorney Eldridge to mail the letter to the property owner. Commissioner Brannon seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

**County Attorney:** Attorney Eldridge stated he had received several billings from Administrator Cindy Williams from JMR+H for the Courtroom renovation and Sally Port. A few of the bills are for fees charged on the initial bid that was not accepted by the Commission due to the gross underestimate of cost. Attorney Eldridge suggested the Commission get JMR+H to come to the next meeting to address these invoices before they are paid.

**Chairman Seay:** Chairman Seay stated that the three (3) local bills previously discussed are ready to be approved for advertising. There is one for the Sheriff's Department regarding a fee for process service on out of State papers. Also, regarding this one there had been discussion from the Sheriff stating Dale County could charge for all service of documents in State and out of State. Legislative reference said Dale County has a constitutional amendment allowing them to place additional court cost by local law and Geneva County does not. An amendment would have to be drawn up and placed on the ballot for a vote by the people. The second bill is regarding mental health which would allow police officers to take an individual into custody and have them evaluated to see if their condition was drug related or a mental health issue. The third bill is a local bill which removes the County from Amendment 759 which states the County is not allowed to build buildings and to continue economic development under amendment 772. Amendment 772 would allow the County to build buildings without having to go to the extra time and expense it took to proceed with building the current Spec Building. Commissioner Wilks made a motion to use the language in the synopsis but not in the bill on the Amendment 772. Commissioner Spivey seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0. Commissioner Fulford made a motion to allow advertising of the three (3) local bills. Commissioner Brannon seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0. Commissioner Brannon asked about the Sheriff's question regarding a local bill for the sale of guns from his department. Chairman Seay stated a local bill was not needed. Any licensed gun dealer could buy and sale guns if they purchased a license from a City in the County. The Sheriff has discussed the sale of vehicles from his department. The Commission would need a complete list of the vehicles and items from the old jail so that they could be declared surplus before they can be sold. Chairman Seay will contact Sheriff Helms so they can meet and do a walk-through of the old jail to obtain a complete inventory.

**Revenue Commissioner:** Not present

**EMA Director:** Mr. Johnson reported that there had been two wrecks this past week involving diesel spills. He had been onsite with the Haz Mat team and ALDOT for both. There will be a new tier of individuals that can receive the Covid vaccination beginning today and that is individuals 65+ and essential workers such as grocery store employees and educators.

**Solid Waste:** Not present.


**E-911:** Following the meeting today Mr. Williams will be presenting a demonstration of the new radio system to be used by E911.


**Auburn Extension:**

**Commissioner's:**

Commissioner Wilks made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Fulford seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

The above constitutes the minutes of the meeting of the Geneva County Commission held on Monday, February 8, 2021.

  
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Chairman, Toby Seay

  
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Cindy Williams  
County Administrator

  
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Commissioner Weston Spivey

  
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Commissioner Todd Brannon

  
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Commissioner Bart Wilks

  
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Commissioner Wade Fulford