

The Geneva County Commission met in regular session on Monday, March 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 Wilks 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; Sheriff, Tony Helms; Revenue Commissioner, Mary Ann Ellison and County Administrator Cindy Williams were also present. The following business was transacted:

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approve Minutes of March 8, 2021. Commissioner Spivey made a motion to approve the minutes of March 8, 2021. Commissioner Brannon seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.
2. Citizens on agenda – Mr. Larry Price and Mr. Lee Chorn were present to discuss drainage issues on County Road 85. They stated this road is 4.7 miles which runs between County Road 9 and County Road 91. There are two businesses and a church on this road. The gentlemen stated there are several places on the road with drainage problems and when there are heavy rains water stands deep in these areas and poses dangerous driving conditions on the road. They are also asking that this road be considered for paving. They understand and appreciate that the road received the rock treatment surfacing a few years ago but given the road has two businesses and a church they believe it should be considered for asphalt paving. Engineer Barfield stated that unfortunately County Road 85 is a local road (not a major road) and therefore not eligible for federal funds for paving roads. Commissioner Brannon explained that in the last fiscal year District 2 and District 3 received benefit of Rebuild Alabama funds for road paving and this fiscal year District 1 and District 4 would be receiving the benefit of Rebuild Alabama funds for road paving. The road being discussed is in District 2, also a local road which would disqualify it from the Rebuild Alabama funds. Mr. Barfield also stated that he was aware of some of the drainage problems on the road but not aware of the

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TOBY L. SEAY, PROBATE JUDGE, GENEVA COUNTY, ALABAMA

other issues. He will have someone from his department go out and assess the areas of concern and address any issues.

3. Proclamations: The Child Advocacy Center sent a proclamation and requested the Commission declare the month of April Child Abuse Prevention Month. Commissioner Spivey made a motion to declare the month of April as Child Abuse Prevention Month and allow Chairman Seay to sign the Proclamation. Commissioner Wilks seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0. Chairman Seay then read the attached proclamation.
4. Bids: None
5. Board Appointments: None

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Board Appointments – None
2. Bids – None
3. Spec Building – Chairman Seay stated installation of the red iron was almost complete. There is a change order to paint the interior red iron white at a cost of \$32,775.00. Attorney Phil Eldridge stated he had sent Mr. Phillip Santora, Engineer on the project, an email with the Attorney General's requirements on change orders. This requires the engineer to furnish a statement that must be signed and put with the change order. Once the statement from the Engineer is received the change order can be signed. Commissioner Wilks made a motion to accept the change order to paint the interior red iron white at a cost of \$32,775.00 and allow Chairman Seay to sign once the Engineer furnishes this statement. Commissioner Brannon seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.
4. Courtroom Renovation – Chairman Seay stated that the project is still on track. Ceiling tiles were installed last week. As of this time there are no delays, however there could be given the shortage of building materials.

REPORTS OF STAFF:

Sheriff: Sheriff Helms provided Chairman Seay with a list of items that need to be declared as surplus to be sold. The auction for these items will be held on site at a date to be determined. Chairman Seay presented the list of vehicles and items to the Commissioners for review. Commissioner Brannon made a motion to declare all items as surplus to be sold at auction and to advertise the auction. Commissioner Spivey seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

He is currently staffed in the Sheriff's Office and the Jail but did have one Correction Officer submit their resignation.

Leaks at the jail have been located and repaired. Commissioner Wilks asked what the population at the jail is at this time. Sheriff Helms responded that this morning the head count was 105.

Sheriff Helms then spoke on the EMA department. He has been assisting with the department in the absence of the EMA Director. S & P Communications has conducted a test on the weather sirens and four, Black, Bellwood, Fadette, and one in Geneva, were

not operational. The siren in Fadette had been turned off at the pole, this is the second time this has occurred. Someone needs to find out why it is being turned off. During the retest, the Coffee Springs siren did not go off so S&P Communications will look at that one.

The radio that is used with the Encoder is an old analog radio that should have already been upgraded to a digital radio. One has been ordered.

In conjunction with the Alabama Department of Public Health there will be a mass vaccination clinic on March 27, 2021 at the Farm Center beginning at 7:00 a.m. There will be 1170 shots available. This will be a drive thru clinic. Citizens must remain in their vehicles and after shot is administered must remain on the premises for fifteen (15) minutes. They have volunteers for the clinic and the Rotary Club and other organizations are helping with food and water for the clinic. Commissioner Brannon told the Sheriff the Hartford Chamber may have some water from a recent event they had. The next vaccination clinic will be held April 17, 2021 to administer the 2nd shot.

County Administrator: Mrs. Williams presented the Commissioners with a proposed Job Description for the EMA Director position. Changes made to the previous job description include that the position will report to the Commission Chairman, a proposed salary increase from the current \$28,000 to \$35,000 and \$47,000 with CLEM Certification; adding duties that the job entails such as timely submitting monthly/weekly reports to the State EMA, seeking grant opportunities, test and maintain all EMA equipment to include running weekly reports on the sirens from the Encoder system and reporting any issues so S & P Communications and conducting a monthly test of the generator, act as the Chairman of the Safety Committee and become Flood Plain certified. Also, a proposed change to the Educational requirements which currently only requires a high school diploma or GED to require two years of college level education which do not have to be on a transcript. Commissioner Wilks made a motion to accept the proposed changes to the EMA job description and, to require that if the applicant does not have all the required courses, they have six months from date of employment, except for the in-person classes which are only offered a couple of times per year, to have them completed and they be a resident of Geneva County. Commissioner Brannon seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0. The position will be advertised for three weeks with a closing date of April 23, 2021.

County Engineer: His department bladed roads two days last week and hopefully can get in three days next week if the weather is suitable. He has received all the new Kenworth dump trucks and has the finance paperwork to be signed. In past years he has financed with Bancorp South, but this year Trustmark Bank came in with a lower interest rate. Bancorp South rate is 2.9% and Trustmark Bank rate is 1.5%. Commissioner Spivey made a motion to go with Trustmark Bank for financing the new dump trucks. Commissioner Wilks seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0. The old dump trucks along with two (2) excavators, three (3) John Deere tractors and the old low boy, sold last week at the auction and it looks as if he should clear \$25,000 after paying off old trucks. Installed eleven (11) driveway pipes last week and there are still fifteen (15) in line for installation.

Herbicide spraying began two weeks ago on major roadways; however, the spray truck broke down and is being repaired.

Mr. Barfield presented to the Commissioners a plan to reorganize his department. With the amount of turnover and retirements he is having he cannot see a way to properly staff the current three crews for the County. In 2000 his department had forty-nine (49) positions and forty-four employees. Currently his department has thirty-six positions and twenty-nine (29) employees. Mr. Barfield would like to create a new position of EOIV which would be under the Foreman and run the crew in the absence of the Foreman. At the Shop he has a Low Boy/Welder position that he would like to revamp to a Parts Runner/Mechanic position. Currently there is an Engineering Aide/Custodian position that he would like to change to an Engineering Aide/Intern position in hopes of hiring a college student interested in the Engineering field. With his planned changes it looks as if it would be a yearly cost savings of around \$70,000. Commissioner Fulford asked how we compare to the surrounding counties. Mr. Barfield replied that all counties are struggling to keep employees even paying rates \$2.00 - \$4.00 more per hour than our pay scale. Commissioner Fulford made a motion to table the reorganization of the Road & Bridge department until Engineer Barfield had all he changes completed and the Commissioners had time to review the information. Commissioner Spivey seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

County Attorney: Attorney Eldridge stated that he had received a letter from the Attorney for Mr. Nathan Mathis regarding the proposed subdivision in Slocomb. They are creating a Homeowners Association which will resolve the issues previously discussed.

Two change orders were received from JMR+H for the jail. Change order 19 was a \$25,000 reduction in cost for delays caused by Core Slab and change order 20 was a reduction of \$4,415.00 for deleting the marble thresholds in the showers. The change orders will need to be signed by Mr. Brandon Dillard with the Geneva County Public Building Authority. Commissioner Spivey made a motion to recommend acceptance of both the change orders. Commissioner Brannon seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0. Mr. Eldridge had prepared an agreement for Mrs. Margaret Mixon to work as a contract employee in the EMA Department, however Mrs. Mixon will not be returning at this point due to personal issues. He has the contract ready as soon as Mrs. Mixon can return.

Chairman Seay: Chairman Seay stated that an official designation was required appointing Sheriff Helms as the interim EMA Director until a new Director is hired. Commissioner Fulford made a motion that Sheriff Helms be appointed interim EMA Director until a new EMA Director is hired. Commissioner Wilks seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

The garbage bags for trash clean up have been picked up and will be available in the Commission Office for anyone interested in using them for trash pickup.

The American Rescue Plan (new CARES Act Plan) will be in effect soon. One half of the funds should be received by mid May 2021 and we will have until December 31, 2024 to expend the funds. From the information available currently it looks as if the funds should be spent on infrastructure, water, sewer, broadband, etc.

Revenue Commissioner: Ms. Ellison stated her department is preparing for the yearly tax sale and it is set for April 27, 2021. Advertising will begin this week.

EMA Director:

Solid Waste: Not present.

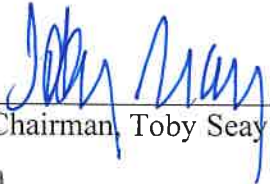
E-911: Mr. Williams stated he would like to send the new radio contract to Attorney Eldridge for review.

Auburn Extension: Mrs. Marks she had contacted Rhoda Stone with the Farmers Market and they plan to use the back under the shed and utilize the arena for the market this year. She also stated that there is a hole in the wall of the hallway that needs attention. It looks as if some repair was attempted but never completed. Agents will be out in the schools for the next two weeks.

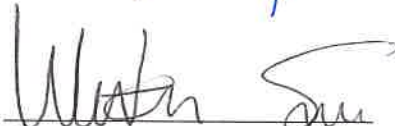
Commissioner's:


Commissioner Spivey made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Brannon seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

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


Chairman, Toby Seay


Cindy Williams
County Administrator


Commissioner Weston Spivey


Commissioner Todd Brannon


Commissioner Bart Wilks


Commissioner Wade Fulford