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Toby L. Seay, Probate Judge, Geneva County, Alabama  
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The Geneva County Commission met in regular session on Monday, April 12, 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.

Ronnie Davis and Nicki Hamm with Wiregrass Resource Conservation & Development Council were present and allowed to speak about their organization. Mr. Davis stated the organization is a 501(c)(3) and services ten (10) Southeast Alabama counties. The organization provides services focusing on land conservation and management, water management, community development and innovation. The general objective is to meet needs within the community through service, leadership and building relationships. Mr. Davis, Executive Director, presented information on the 2022 Grant program and stated it was open April 1 – June 20, 2021 and if awarded the funds had to be expended by August 1, 2022. The minimum amount of each award is \$3,000.00. This award does not have to be the sole source of income for a project RC&D will partner with others for a larger project. Mr. Davis stated that Geneva County had received two awards in recent years. One to put a central heating and cooling unit in the Chancellor Community Center and the most recent one to put a new roof on the Bellwood Community Center. He asked the Commission to be thinking about possible projects for 2022 that a grant would assist with. Ms. Hamm, Project Coordinator, spoke about the LEAD Wiregrass program with Wiregrass RC&D. She stated the mission of LEAD Wiregrass is to build stronger community by developing leaders who effectively serve and unify the Wiregrass region. They provide a diverse group of emerging community leaders with opportunities to enhance their community knowledge, civic network, and leadership skills. This is a nine (9) month program, which will have classroom instruction, community needs assessment, community project implementation, and field trips. The next class begins on May 15, 2021 and they are asking the Commission for three recommendations for Geneva County.

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; County Engineer, Justin Barfield; Assistant County Engineer, Mike Shirah; Sheriff, Tony Helms; and County Administrator Cindy Williams were also present. The following business was transacted:

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approve Minutes of March 22, 2021. Commissioner Spivey made a motion to approve the minutes of March 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 Brannon made a motion to appoint Mrs. Jean Turner to the Health Care Authority Board. Commissioner Wilks seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0. Mr. Earl Johnson’s term on the Southeast Alabama Regional Solid Waste Disposal Authority ended on April 10, 2021. The Commission voted to table this appointment until next meeting for further consideration.
2. Bids – None
3. Spec Building – Chairman Seay stated they are painting of the red iron currently and then it will be time to install the roof and sides.
4. Courtroom Renovation – Chairman Seay stated that the project is progressing and still on track. There are some materials that they are waiting on but at this point it does not look as if it will delay the total renovation.

REPORTS OF STAFF:

**Sheriff:** Sheriff Helms stated that the cooler for the Coroner had stopped working. The capacitor has blown out and the minimum repair cost is \$2,200.00. That quote is from Michael Mims who currently services the cooler. The Commission asked the Sheriff to get at least two additional quotes on the repair. Sheriff Helms also stated that Mr. Adkinson needs office space. Currently he is storing all records at his home but does not have room to continue this. Chairman Seay stated there is room for the Coroner to have an office inside the old jail and room for him to store all the records. The space is just off the entrance and it can be painted so the Coroner can utilize the space for an office. Sheriff Helms said he should be receiving one more quote for the Jail Management System. This would give him four (4) quotes. He reminded the Commission that the current Jail Management System will no longer be supported as of August 1, 2021. Attorney Phil Eldridge stated that this appears to be custom computer software, which does not require competitive bids. All the new systems will be server based. A few will be housed on the servers of the software company but at least one will require that we purchase our own server. Sheriff Helms stated he believed this could be purchased out of the Jail fund since it is mainly for the use of the jail in booking and tracking inmates.

OFFICE OF THE CLERK  
COUNTY OF GENEVA

Sheriff Helms brought up that he was staffed at the jail, however, in two weeks he is losing five (5) employees. He presented the Commissioners with Correction Officer pay information from the surrounding counties and stated he is certain if an individual desires to be in Corrections they use Geneva County as a training ground so they can apply at other Counties or facilities showing they have experience. He would like the Commission to see what if anything can be done to raise the payrate for Corrections Officers. He also stated he did not understand why the payroll for the jail all could not be funded from the Jail Fund. Administrator Cindy Williams stated she would contact the auditor to get clarification on this. Commissioner Wilks asked for a work session to be set after the April 27, 2021 meeting to review wages and the effects on the budget.

**County Administrator:** Mrs. Williams advised the Commission that the Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday is scheduled for July 16-18, 2021 and asked if it is the desire of the Commission to continue to participate. The Commission unanimously stated they wished to participate in the Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday.

**County Engineer:** Mr. Barfield discussed the annual Free Day at the Landfill. Normally this occurs the weekend before the Geneva River Festival. The River Festival has been cancelled this year so Mr. Barfield is proposing holding the Free Day (weekend) April 30 – May 1, 2021. Commissioner Fulford made a motion to hold Free Day at the Landfill April 30 – May 1, 2021. Commissioner Brannon seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0. Engineer Barfield stated that at the Commission meeting on March 22, 2021 Mr. Larry Price and Mr. Lee Chorn had attended and discussed issues with County Road 85. His department went out to assess the issues and have resolved the drainage issues. Work with FEMA continues for the bridges damaged during Hurricane Sally. Currently have twelve (12) driveway pipes to be installed.

Mr. Barfield stated he would like to commend the employees in the Engineering Department. Every six years the State Maintenance department comes to inspect bridges and his department passed with flying colors. Our area was fortunate over the weekend with the weather concerns. The weather did not get as bad as forecast. They did have call outs on four (4) trees down. Mr. Barfield has received the financing paperwork from Trustmark for the eight (8) dump trucks that will need to be signed. This needs to be reviewed by Attorney Eldridge. Commissioner Wilks made a motion to allow Chairman Seay to sign the lease purchase and other documents with Trustmark for the dump trucks, after they are reviewed by the Attorney. Commissioner Brannon seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

Engineer Barfield distributed information to the Commissioners on the reorganization plans for his department that was discussed at the last Commission meeting. The reorganization is being done to improve efficiency and retain employees. His plan is to create a new position of Operations Manager, which will be an exempt position. Change the job description on the current Foreman position to include more duties, change the job title to Superintendent, change this position back to classified and create a new pay scale. There will be three (3) Superintendent positions, one for each area and the construction crew. Revise the job description and pay scale on the current Foreman position to include added supervision and duties since now there will be only two areas and not three, this position will be an EOIII with added responsibilities. Currently there

is an Engineering Aide/Custodian position that he would like to revise to an Engineering Aide-Intern in hopes of getting a college student looking to go into Governmental Engineering. Also, there is an Equipment Hauler/Welder position in the Shop that he would like to eliminate and create a Parts Runner/Mechanic position.

Attorney Eldridge stated if the Commission approves these changes, per the Personnel Handbook, they will need to approve this in three motions. Based on the recommendation of the Personnel Director and Department Head Commissioner Spivey made a motion to create the Operations Manager position and revise and substantially change the Superintendent position, and Foreman position and the Engineering Aide/Custodian with a new job description, job grad and pay scale for each position pursuant to paragraph I.A. of the Compensation and Benefits on page 19 of the Geneva County Personnel Handbook. Commissioner Brannon seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

Commissioner Wilks made a motion to eliminate and not fund one (1) Foreman position, one (1) EOIII position, one (1) EOII position, one (1) EAII position. Commissioner Brannon seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0

Commissioner Spivey made a motion to approve the reorganization chart for the Road & Bridge Department. Commissioner Fulford seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

Commissioner Fulford made a motion that all the changes for the Road & Bridge Department become effective May 9, 2021. Commissioner Wilks seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

**County Attorney:** Attorney Eldridge stated that there has been a legal issue which has arisen and asks the Commission to go into Executive Session at the end of the Commission meeting to discuss with him a controversy where litigation is eminently likely if the Commission pursues a proposed course of action. Attorney Phil Eldridge stated he is a practicing Alabama attorney and this matter fits into this category that warrants an Executive Session.

**Chairman Seay:** Chairman Seay stated that there had been a pre-bid meeting on April 1 for the dome removal, Sally port and paving project. There will be a meeting with ALDOT regarding Ball Street in Slocomb on April 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. Bids will be open for the dome removal, Sally port and paving project at 2:00 p.m. April 15, 2021.

**Revenue Commissioner:** Not present.

**EMA Director:**

**Solid Waste:** Not present.

**E-911:** Mr. Williams, sent via email, that April 11-17, 2021 is National Public Safety Workers

**Auburn Extension:** Mrs. Marks stated their agents have been in schools teaching the nutrition programs. They will be working with the Food Bank distribution this week and give out recipes to the citizens for the groceries they are being given through by Food

Bank. They had a Peanut Butter drive through the County schools, and it will be donated to the Food Bank. They had a chick program and had four turned in and these will compete in the area show through 4-H. The agents will be teaching a program along with Mrs. Niki Dyess with the Geneva County Schools Career Coach on Reality Check – Your Money, Your Life.

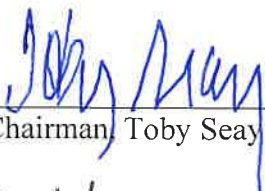
**Commissioner's:** Commissioner Wilks made a motion to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Brannon seconded the motion. The following vote was recorded: Commissioner Wilks voted Yes, Commissioner Brannon voted Yes, Commissioner Spivey voted Yes, and Commissioner Fulford voted Yes. The Chairman stated the Commission will reconvene in approximately thirty minutes.


Commissioner Brannon made a motion to reconvene the regular Commission meeting. Commissioner Spivey seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0. Chairman Seay called roll, all Commissioners were present and able to conduct business.

Commissioner Brannon made a motion to allow Attorney Eldridge to settle the matter up to the limit mentioned in the Executive Session. Commissioner Wilks seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.


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, April 12, 2021.

  
Chairman, Toby Seay

  
Cindy Williams  
County Administrator

  
Commissioner Weston Spivey

  
Commissioner Todd Brannon

  
Commissioner Bart Wilks

  
Commissioner Wade Fulford

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