

The Geneva County Commission met in regular session on Monday, May 10, 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 Fulford 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; 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 April 27, 2021. Commissioner Spivey made a motion to approve the minutes of April 27, 2021. Commissioner Brannon seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.
2. Proclamations: Denise Hanks with Geneva County DHR was present to discuss Foster Parent Appreciation Month. Commissioner Fulford made a motion to declare this month of May 2021 as Foster Parent Appreciation Month. Commissioner Brannon seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0. Chairman Seay read and signed a proclamation declaring May 2021 as Foster Parent Appreciation Month.
3. Kyle Hovey with the Geneva County Volunteer Firefighters Association was present to discuss and present a plan to the Commission of the needs of the Association. Mr. Hovey spoke of the needs for a new system wide radio upgrade and then deferred the conversation to E911 Director Mr. Jeremy Williams. Mr. Williams stated that as he had conveyed to the Commission at the past few meetings E911 has upgraded their system but is working with all Fire and EMS agencies throughout the County to try and get them to use the same system which will create a better communication system for all involved. The new system will

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Toby L. Seay, Judge, Geneva County, Alabama

have multiple channels which will alleviate first responders talking over each other as with the current systems. This new system will also have GPS tracking which will assist with locating first responders. He continued that Volunteer Fire Departments operate on funding of approximately \$13,000.00 per year outside of any fundraiser they participate in which does not allow for large expenditures. Mr. Williams stated that the E911 system should be fully operational by September 2021 and when they purchased the new system, they purchased 120 additional handhelds in anticipation of all Fire and EMS agencies going to this new system. This way the radios would already be on hand and there would not be any delays. The Fire and EMS agencies would purchase the radios from E911. Mr. Hovey stated that they are approaching the Commission to see if the new American Rescue Plan funds would allow the Commission to assist with the purchase of the new radio system. Commissioner Brannon asked Mr. Hovey if they had approached each city with Fire and EMS services about funding from their American Rescue Plan funds. Mr. Hovey stated that they had not attended any city meetings but were planning on meeting with each city as well. Mr. Hovey continued that the Association would like to have an answer from the Commission by the end of May. The first payment on the new system, if they could go ahead and get it in place would be due in October 2021. Chairman Seay stated we were supposed to get guidance from the ACCA shortly on what is covered under the American Rescue Plan Funds since any commitment would depend on this.

4. Resolutions: TAPS Grant – Chairman Seay stated he had discussed with the Commission at previous meetings regarding the TAPS Grant for sidewalks. He is applying on behalf of the Geneva County Commission for a TAPS Grant to repave the sidewalk in front of the Courthouse. This is a competitive grant that we would be competing for and if awarded the grant we are required to pay for the project and then request an 80% reimbursement from ALDOT. Commissioner Seay is asking the Commission to approve the resolution and authorize him to sign on their behalf. The resolution is from Southern Engineering Solutions which would authorize Southern Engineering Solutions, Inc. to make application to ALDOT for downtown streetscape project. Commissioner Brannon made a motion to accept the resolution from Southern Engineering Solutions and authorize Chairman Seay to sign. Commissioner Spivey seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.
5. Bids: None
6. Board Appointments: None

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Board Appointments – None
2. Bids – None
3. Spec Building – Chairman Seay stated the front of the building is sheeted and should be completed within a few weeks.
4. Courtroom Renovation – Chairman Seay stated that the project on tract to be completed by the end of the month, barring any unforeseen issues.

DEFERRED 4:11:43

REPORTS OF STAFF:

Sheriff: Sheriff Helms stated he has applied for a grant with Wiregrass RC&D for upgrading body cams. This grant in the amount of \$5,600.00 would allow all Deputies to have new body cams and the old body cams can be issued to Corrections Officers for use in the jail. Everything is set for the auction to be held May 20, 2021 at 11:00a.m. The Sheriff will act as auctioneer. It has generated a lot of interest and he hopeful it will be successful. The list of items to be auctioned has already been approved by the Commission and the auction is being advertised.

Sheriff Helms also stated that Mr. Jeremy Williams with E911 had more information regarding the new software that was going to be required for the Jail Management System. Mr. Williams then took over the conversation and presented information to the Commission on a cost breakdown for the system. Mr. Williams stated that just like the new radio upgrade he was attempting to get the County and all Cities on the same software system so it could be uniform throughout the County. By everyone being on the same system it would save a lot of time and effort for all involved and the sharing of information would be invaluable. The total cost for this new software program would be \$245,187.65 which would be shared by Geneva County E911, Geneva County Sheriff's Office, Geneva County Jail, Geneva Police Department, Hartford Police Department, Samson Police Department and Slocomb Police Department. The cost of this software would be split between two payments, one due at contract signing and the second due after the software is live. Attorney Eldridge asked Mr. Williams if this amount included training to which Mr. Williams responded, yes. The Commission will review the information provided and work toward a decision.

County Administrator: Advised the Commission she would be attending the Administrators Conference later this week.

County Engineer: Attending the Engineers Conference.

County Attorney: Attorney Eldridge stated he had received from Administrator Williams an email from the Administrative Office of Courts for local Act 2021-324, which is for the Sheriff's service fee for serving documents out of state. He also stated that the Commission had to set the fee for this service. And he had prepared a Resolution and Order. Commissioner Brannon made a motion to adopt the resolution and order setting the service fee for the Sheriffs Office to serve documents out of state at \$100.00 and that this resolution and order be attached to the minutes. Commissioner Spivey seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

Mr. Eldridge stated he had notified Mr. Jeff Cahill with JMR+H that the Commission had awarded the bid for the Sally Port and parking lot to Working Properties II. They will now work on the contract and make certain bonding insurance is in place.

Chairman Seay: Chairman Seay stated he and Engineer Justin Barfield had met with Emily VanScyoc with Southeast Regional Planning & Development to discuss the grant, which required no matching funds, for paving a road in a low-income area. They have identified areas in Bellwood and Sellersville that could qualify for the grant. Chairman

Seay and Engineer Justin Barfield will continue to pursue this grant on behalf of the Commission.

Chairman Seay also stated the Wiregrass Economic Development Board has been working with a National Economic Development Magazine and photos of the Geneva County Industrial Park will be in the Alabama spotlight section of the magazine with up to a 350-word description.

Chairman Seay asked the Commission if they were prepared to select for the EMA Director position. Commissioner Wilks made a motion to delay the selection due to some pending information on a few applicants. Commissioner Spivey seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

Revenue Commissioner: Ms. Ellison stated that the annual tax sale went well. They did have to carry over to the next day due to one parcel but outside of that there were no other issues.

EMA Director: Sheriff Helms stated that during the storm last week the power source for the siren in Bellwood had been cut and he has been in contact with S & P Communication on the matter. Sheriff Helms stated he regarding the weather event on Saturday and thanked the Road & Bridge department for their work on clean up.

Solid Waste: Not present.

E-911: Mr. Williams has already provided information during the meeting.

Auburn Extension: Not present but sent word of the happenings in the department.

Commissioner's: Commissioners thanked all involved in the recent weather events. Commissioner Wilks stated that he had received a call from a concerned citizen regarding speeding in a neighborhood in the Eunola area. Mr. Wilks stated that he had spoken to Engineer Barfield on the matter. Commissioner Wilks made a motion to allow Engineer Barfield to adapt a traffic calming policy in the Eunola community. Commissioner Spivey seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

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


STATE OF ALABAMA
COUNTY OF GENEVA

REGULAR SESSION
May 10, 2021


The above constitutes the minutes of the meeting of the Geneva County Commission held on Monday, May 10, 2021.




Chairman, Toby Seay



Cindy Williams
County Administrator



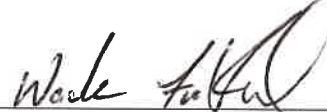
Commissioner Weston Spivey



Commissioner Todd Brannon



Commissioner Bart Wilks



Commissioner Wade Fulford

OFFERED 11:11 AM

FOSTER PARENT APPRECIATION PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Geneva County's foster parents are remarkable people – they open their hearts and homes to some of our most vulnerable children; and

WHEREAS, foster parents provide the safety, love and nurturing that every child deserves, at a time when that child needs them most. While foster parents can face enormous challenges, the rewards of helping a child make it worthwhile and can positively impact both the child and the foster family for a lifetime; and

WHEREAS, foster parents help children whose families are in crisis, playing a vital role in helping children and families reconnect. They work tirelessly to assist with the child's safe return to their parents' care. Foster parents can help children heal from the painful wounds of abuse and neglect, prepare them for a healthy future, and keep children safe while building strong families; and

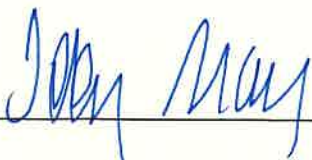
WHEREAS; foster care placement is the last option considered when reasonable efforts to protect a child in their own home have been exhausted. Geneva County benefits from the selfless dedication and daily service provided by foster parents. Their contributions to our children and youth are incalculable and irreplaceable; and

WHEREAS, this month especially, we express our gratitude and respect to the many Geneva County foster parents, family members, volunteers, mentors, child welfare professionals, and other community members throughout the county who make such a meaningful difference in the lives of the children and youth in foster care.

WHEREAS the Geneva County Commissioner encourage all Geneva County residents to recognize and celebrate the achievements of foster parents in their communities and to consider whether they can participate in this program that cares for the most vulnerable members of our society when they need it most.

We, The Geneva County Commission, do hereby proclaim the month of May as Foster Parent Appreciation Month.

Dated in the County Commission Meeting on this 10th day of May, 2021



Honorable Toby Seay, Geneva County Commission Chairman

RESOLUTION

NO. 51021

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SOUTHERN ENGINEERING SOLUTIONS, INC.
TO MAKE APPLICATION TO ALDOT FOR
DOWNTOWN STREETScape PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the County Commission of the County of Geneva, Alabama, has duly assembled at a regular meeting with a quorum present; and

WHEREAS, the County Commission determined at this meeting that the County of Geneva, Alabama will participate in the FY 2022 Transportation Alternatives Program;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Commission of the County of Geneva, Alabama as follows:

1. That the Chairman of the Geneva County Commission is hereby authorized to sign any and all documents that are necessary for participation in the Transportation Alternatives Program.
2. That the County Commission hereby commits to fund the County's twenty percent (20%) cost share for participation in this program.

ADOPTED this 10th day of May 2021.



 Toby Seay, Chairman

ATTEST:



 Cindy Williams, Chief Administrative Clerk

STATE OF ALABAMA

GENEVA COUNTY

RESOLUTION AND ORDER

WHEREAS, local Act 2021-324 was recently enacted by the Alabama Legislature relating to Geneva County and establishing a service of process fee for the service or attempted service of certain documents from a court outside of the state by the Geneva County Sheriff's Office; providing for the collection and distribution of the fees; and establishing the Geneva County Sheriff's Service of Process Fee Fund for the disposition of service of process fees; and

WHEREAS, Section 2(a) of Act 2021-324 provides as follows:

"Section 2. (a) In addition to all other charges, fees, and costs of court, a service of process fee not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100) shall be collected for service or attempted service of process on each document requiring personal service of process by the sheriff for matters pending or to be commenced in a court outside of the State of Alabama. The exact amount of the fee shall be set by the county commission." (Emphasis added)

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED by the Geneva County Commission, pursuant Section 2(a) of Act 2021-324, that the service of process fee provided by said Act be and the same is hereby set at \$ 100.00 .

Commissioner Brannon moved that the foregoing resolution be adopted and spread upon the minutes of this meeting, which motion was seconded by Commissioner Spivey, and upon the motion being put to vote, the following vote was recorded:

YEAS:

NAYS:

Commissioners:

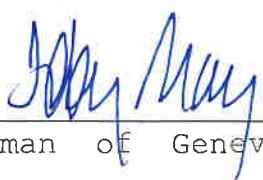
- Weston Spivey
- Todd Brannon
- Bart Wilks
- Wade Fulford

The chairman thereupon announced that the motion for adoption has been unanimously carried.

STATE OF ALABAMA

GENEVA COUNTY

I, Toby L. Seay, Chairman of the Geneva County Commission, hereby certify that the above is a true, correct and exact copy of a Resolution duly and legally adopted by the Geneva County Commission, at a meeting on the 10th day of May, 2021.



Chairman of Geneva County Commission