

The Geneva County Commission met in regular session on Monday, May 24, 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 Spivey 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; County 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 May 10, 2021. Commissioner Brannon made a motion to approve the minutes of May 10, 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 – None
2. Bids – None
3. Spec Building – Chairman Seay stated most of the walls were up. Roofing has begun but was halted due to windy conditions but should begin again this week.
4. Courtroom Renovation – Chairman Seay stated that the project is still on track and should be completed on time, barring any unforeseen issues.

5. EMA Director Selection: Commissioner Spivey made a motion to hire Mr. Brian Smith as the new EMA Director. Commissioner Fulford seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0. Chairman Seay stated he would contact Mr. Smith and advise him that he had been selected to fill the vacant position. Commissioner Wilks pointed out that the decision was challenging due to the number of qualified applicants. The Commission took their time to review and discuss the qualities of all applicants and decide based upon which applicant would be the best fit for Geneva County.

REPORTS OF STAFF:

Sheriff: Sheriff Helms provided three quotes for converting the old jail freezer to a cooler for the Coroner.

| | |
|---|------------|
| Michael Mims | \$1,826.00 |
| Darryl's Refrigeration & Air Conditioning Service | \$2,880.00 |
| Wiregrass Commercial Service | \$7,500.00 |

Sheriff Helms also stated that he had spoken with the Coroner and he had suggested the cooler have some type of alarm installed. It could be an audible alarm or one that is attached to the Sheriff's Department or to the Coroner. After the Commissioners had a chance to review the quotes, Commissioner Spivey stated to protect Geneva County, the individual or company chosen for the job should have a State refrigeration license. Commissioner Spivey stated that the low quote did not maintain a State license. Commissioner Wilks made a motion to accept the quote from Darryl's Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Service in the amount of \$2,880.00 for converting the old jail freezer to a cooler and to add an alarm to the cooler. Commissioner Spivey seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

Sheriff Helms also stated that the camera system was out at the jail again. This has been an ongoing issue and they have dealt with the installer many times on the camera system. The Sheriff reiterated his discussion on the Jail Management System and the fact that his support ends in August on the current system. Mr. Jeremy Williams with E911 stated that the cities of Samson and Slocomb have agreed to come on board with the new system through E911. At best if the decision were made today, it would be sixteen (16) to eighteen (18) weeks before the new system would be ready for operation. Mr. Williams stated he has a meeting tomorrow on the matter and then has meetings with the cities of Geneva and Hartford about going with the Central Square system through E911. He is confident that all cities will participate in the Central Square system, but all cities did not have to be on board to move forward with the Jail Management System piece. E911 will be purchasing the entire system and the contract would be with E911. Mr. Williams also stated that it most likely would require that a server be placed in the Jail or Courthouse. Attorney Eldridge asked Mr. Williams if this is considered custom software and Mr. Williams stated it is custom software and it would be specifically customized to the requirements and needs of the Sheriff's department and Jail. Commissioner Wilks made a motion to move forward with the Central Square Jail Management System through E911. Commissioner Fulford seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

Sheriff Helms stated that currently the Jail sells snuff through the Commissary but not cigarettes. Family members of the inmates are constantly bringing cigarettes to the inmates. If the jail could sell cigarettes through the Commissary, it would increase the income from the Commissary greatly. It would require licensure through the State to sale tobacco. Attorney Phil Eldridge stated that the Commission would have to apply, it would require a trip to Dothan and the license process is extensive. He will gather all the information and details and have it for the next Commission meeting.

County Administrator: Mrs. Williams stated that she had attended the Administrators Conference and sat through a session on the American Rescue Plan. With all the information provided, Mrs. Williams asked the Commission to consider participating with the ACCA in the IAC (Investing in Alabama Counties) program. Through this program the ACCA will provide guidance to the counties to utilize the funding from the American Rescue Plan to the fullest and ensure compliance with both the federal and state requirements. The ACCA's role will be to provide the assistance and support to effectively administer, manage and complete the programs the county wishes to pursue with the use of the American Rescue Plan funds. Currently the ACCA has stated there will be an 8% fee for participating but are also reviewing this cost to see if there can be a reduction. If the Commission does not want to partner with the ACCA there will still be costs involved for attorney and accountant fees and other costs. Commissioner Seay added that he supports joining with the ACCA and believes it would benefit the county in utilizing all the funds from the American Rescue Plan. Commissioner Brannon made a motion to participate in the ACCA program, Investing in Alabama Counties. Commissioner Spivey seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

County Engineer: Engineer Barfield stated the Landfill was closed today due to the absence of the Landfill Operator.

His department had eleven (11) driveway pipes to be installed, of which two-thirds of them will be located in the east end of the county.

Spraying can hopefully begin back this week.

He stated they will most likely need to bid out the bushhogging due to a shortage of employees.

The project on North County Road 49 will begin this week. They will also be shutting down a portion of Goose Hollow Road to work on that project. The paving on these projects should begin in late July or early August.

The survey on White Oak bridge has been completed.

On the ATRIPPII project there was an issue with some of the moving of fiber work which needed to be done by Spectrum. This project is in conjunction with the City of Hartford at a cost of \$23,000.00. Commissioner Brannon and Mayor Strickland have worked together to lower the cost on this project.

County Attorney: Attorney Eldridge stated E911 Director, Jeremy Williams had forwarded the Geneva County E911 Public Safety Radio System Interlocal agreement for review. The agreement would have an initial invoice date in October 2021 of \$3,600.00, and \$3,600 each year thereafter. It will be a five (5) year contract expiring in October 2026. The agreement will have a bi-annual beginning January 2023. Commissioner

Spivey made a motion to approve the E911 Public Safety agreement. Commissioner Fulford seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

The contract on the Sally Port has been signed and all bonds and insurance have been received. The notice to proceed has been issued. Work on the project should begin May 27, 2021.

Chairman Seay: Chairman Seay stated he was moving forward with the TAPS grant the Commission had voted on for the sidewalk project.

Chairman Seay noted the Commission's vote on the new EMA Director and read highlights from Mr. Brian Smith's resume.

Revenue Commissioner: Ms. Ellison stated the legal valuation notices will publish in the newspaper for two weeks. Valuation notices will be mailed out soon. The final settlement documents should be ready next meeting. Abstract is done in August for projected revenue.

EMA Director:

Solid Waste: Not present.

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

Auburn Extension: Ms. Marks stated that all agents are completing their programs in schools for this year. There will be a pressure canning workshop coming up soon and citizens can register online. There will be a cotton and soybean workshop on June 3, 2021. The Farmers Market will open on Saturday, June 5, 2021, at the Farm Center.

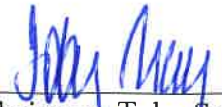
Commissioner's: Commissioner Fulford stated he had several calls about road wash outs in his District and asked Engineer Barfield to have his department check them out.

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

STATE OF ALABAMA
COUNTY OF GENEVA

REGULAR SESSION
May 24, 2021

The above constitutes the minutes of the meeting of the Geneva County Commission held on Monday, May 24, 2021.




Chairman, Toby Seay



Cindy Williams
County Administrator




Commissioner Weston Spivey



Commissioner Todd Brannon



Commissioner Bart Wilks



Commissioner Wade Fulford

OFFREC 1112 401