

The Geneva County Commission met in regular session on Monday, July 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 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.

Citizens requesting to make public comment.

Mr. Joe Neal was present to discuss issues with Scott Road in the Malvern area. Attorney Eldridge stated that Mr. Neal should have been placed on the agenda but was placed under public comments and the Commission must make a resolution to add Mr. Neal to the agenda.

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; EMA Director, Brian Smith and County Administrator Cindy Williams were also present. The following business was transacted:

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Commissioner Spivey made a motion to allow Mr. Joe Neal to speak regarding Scott Road in the Malvern area. Commissioner Wilks seconded the motion. Mr. Neal stated he was present to get some answers to questions regarding abatement issues and land ownership of Scott Road. He and one other own property on the portion of Scott Road at the end of the four-lane in Malvern. Engineer Justin Barfield presented a map showing Scott Road to be in the jurisdiction of the Town of Malvern. Mr. Neal stated there are no right of way markers and it really is not a road or a public access road it is his driveway, and he just wants to stop the traffic from going down the road. He has replaced his driveway six times in the last five years. Mr. Barfield explained that Mr. Neal and R G Properties (the other owner of property on that portion of Scott Road would have to petition the Town of Malvern to vacate that section of the road. The County has no say in anything regarding Scott Road.

2. Approve Minutes of June 28, 2021. Commissioner Wilks made a motion to approve the minutes of June 28, 2021. Commissioner Fulford seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.
3. Proclamations: None
4. Bids: None
5. Board Appointments: None
6. American Rescue Plan – Chairman Seay stated that the needs assessment for ACCA was a topic of discussion planned for the work session which will be following the Commission meeting.
7. Subdivision Plan – Chairman Seay stated that the Subdivision Plan was a topic of discussion planned for the work session which will be following the Commission meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Board Appointments – None
2. Bids – None
3. Spec Building – Chairman Seay recognized Mr. Phillip Santora with Northstar Engineering and asked him to update the Commission on the Spec Building. Mr. Santora stated that the Spec Building project should be complete within the next two to three weeks. In the last 45 days the headwalls and retention pond have been completed. There were some difficulties in getting the sewer lines installed but it is now complete. The Spec Building itself is nearing completion, all work remaining is on the entrance. The stone has been received but the backer board and other items needed to complete the entrance have not been received. As soon as the other materials are received the work will be completed on the entrance way. Mr. Santora continued saying that, weather permitting, they should be completing the sidewalk and all concrete this week. Mr. Santora explained that the project was in two bids, the building, and the site work. The Commission asked Attorney Eldridge about the deadline for the completion of the project. Mr. Eldridge stated that the original completion date was February 28, 2021, however the Commission had granted an extension when the wind damage occurred to the building which halted construction and the extension pushed the completion date to May 7, 2021. This was thirty-four rain days and thirty days for wind damage for a total of sixty-four days. Mr. Santora again explained that the project was in two bids, one for the building and one for the site work. The site work had to be stopped due to work on the building which would not allow the site work to be done at the same time. He will examine all the information and prepare a response for the Commission on the time frame of completion based on the rain and wind day delays. He explained that construction of metal buildings is unlike traditional construction in that it is not just rain that delays the work but also winds. Chairman Seay asked Mr. Santora about where the utilities would be tied into the building, and they discussed the placement. Chairman Seay also asked Mr. Santora to call Mr. Matt Parker with the Dothan Chamber to discuss some information he had on the building.

4. Courtroom Renovation – Chairman Seay stated there were a few minor issues that remained, and the project would be complete. Commissioner Wilks asked had the contractor completed their punch list because he saw many issues, especially with the pews that did not look complete. Chairman Seay stated that those are the items being completed. Commissioner Wilks also asked had JMR+H come to inspect. Chairman Seay stated that Mr. Rufus McNeal had been at the Courthouse last week, but he was not certain if a walk-through to examine the punch list had been completed at that time. The Commissioners agreed that after their walk-through they felt many items needed attention. The current state of the project is not acceptable.

REPORTS OF STAFF:

Sheriff: Sheriff Helms stated he was almost at full staff. The jail is down one Correction Officer; however, he does have one employee out on sick leave and is uncertain if they will be able to return and one retiring in two weeks.

Currently they are still having issues with the locks and cameras at the jail. These issues have been reported.

Sheriff Helms stated that a press release has been issued by the State Attorney General regarding the American Rescue Plan funds. This release is acknowledging the authorization to provide law enforcement agencies with a portion of the funds to combat gun violence exacerbated by the pandemic and to invest in technology and equipment to respond to the rise in gun violence resulting from the pandemic. Sheriff Helms stated the new software and radio program that was being discussed should fall under this category of acceptable expenditures in the American Rescue Plan funding.

Sheriff Helms advised the Commission that he would be attending the Sheriff's Conference next week and was in hopes to contact medical providers to obtain quotes for medical services for the Jail.

County Administrator: Mrs. Williams stated that she had provided all Commissioners with an agenda for the Commissioners Conference in August, but that Attorney Eldridge had told her the agenda did not match what he had received in an email. She will investigate this and provide an update if necessary. Room reservations have been made for all Commissioners and if they see they are going to be unable to attend please let her know so she can cancel the reservation so we will not be billed for the room.

County Engineer: Engineer Barfield stated he had a new employee starting work today. They currently have eight (8) driveway pipes on the installation list.

Long arm cutting is continuing.

His department has not been able to blade dirt roads in the past few weeks due to the amount of rainfall.

Work has begun on the project on County Road 85 and Ball Street.

They have a pre-bid meeting scheduled for Wednesday on the bush hogging bid. So far, he has only had one entity express interest. Regardless of what the outcome of the bid process is, bushhogging will need to begin by August 1, 2021.

County Attorney: Attorney Eldridge stated that he had compiled the information for the tobacco permit and called the office to schedule an appointment. When he called, they have moved the process from the Dothan office to an office in Andalusia and now the process has gone from a one-page checklist to a fifteen (15) page checklist with a full-blown application. Mr. Eldridge will continue gathering all the required documentation and get with Sheriff Helms if there is any more documentation required of him.

Chairman Seay: Chairman Seay asked the Commission for permission to apply for an energy audit grant for the Courthouse and Farm Center. There will be no cost to the County. This would simply be an audit to see if there could be a potential to apply for a grant to assist with improvements to the energy infrastructure of these two facilities. Commissioner Spivey made a motion to allow Chairman Seay to apply for an energy audit grant. Commissioner Brannon seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0. Chairman Seay stated the American Rescue Plan funds could be used to scan and digitize all records in the Probate Office. This would enable to the public to travel access all records without having to travel to the Courthouse to conduct in person document research. The contract is with Syscon, the current provider of record documentation for the Probate Office, in the amount of \$123,820.00. The contract includes a cancellation clause which states if the American Rescue Plan does not allow this expenditure the contract would be cancelled, and the County would owe nothing. Commissioner Brannon made a motion to allow Chairman Seay to sign the contract for scanning records for the Probate Office. Commissioner Fulford seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

Revenue Commissioner: Ms. Ellison was not present.

EMA Director: Mr. Smith stated he had been conducting testing on the equipment in the EMA Office and there will be updates needed on equipment. He will compile a list of needs to present to the Commission. Mr. Smith has been working with Everbridge on the web-based program and there are numerous functions not currently being utilized by the County. He is training on the program in hopes of utilizing the program to the fullest.

Solid Waste: Director Smith was not present.


E-911: Mr. Jeremy Williams was not present but had given Sheriff Helms information to present. There is a meeting with Central Square this week regarding the new software. The Sheriff stated as a reminder that the current software would not be supported after mid-August, and they have been given a time frame of up to sixteen (16) weeks before the new software will be up and running. Sheriff Helms met with the City of Geneva and is in hopes that they will join the new software project.

Auburn Extension: Ms. Marks was not present but sent a reminder that the Grass Roots meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 22, 2021.


Commissioner's: Commissioner Spivey thanked Mr. Barfield and his department for assisting him with several calls he had over the past few weeks regarding roads.

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

The above constitutes the minutes of the meeting of the Geneva County Commission held on Monday, July 12, 2021.



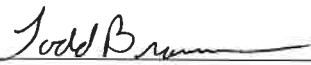
Chairman, Toby Seay



Cindy Williams
County Administrator




Commissioner Weston Spivey



Commissioner Todd Brannon



Commissioner Bart Wilks



Commissioner Wade Fulford