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

The Geneva County Commission met in regular session on Monday, June 28, 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.

Commissioner Spivey made a motion to allow Ms. Faith Dillard to speak to the Commission on the Distinguished Young Women of Geneva County program. Commissioner Brannon seconded the motion. Ms. Dillard stated she had recently participated in and was named the Distinguished Young Woman of Geneva County. This program is in somewhat of a pageant format but is a national scholarship program that inspires high school girls to develop their full, individual potential through a fun, transformative experience that culminates in a celebratory showcase of their accomplishments. Participants are rewarded for their academic achievements with scholarships, recognized for their leadership in their school and community, and showcase their personal talents. The program strives to give young women the opportunity to further their education and prepare for a successful future. The Commission congratulated Ms. Dillard on being the reigning Distinguished Young Woman of Geneva County and thanked her for attending.

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 June 14, 2021. Commissioner Fulford made a motion to approve the minutes of June 14, 2021. Commissioner Brannon 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 he was by the site last Friday and the gutters and down spouts were being installed. The City of Hartford has completed work on connecting the water and sewer. The building is almost complete, and work will begin on the store front and parking lot.
4. Courtroom Renovation – Chairman Seay stated that the pews had been completed and placed back in the Court Room. The sound system is installed except for one component, which is expected to arrive soon. The project is nearing its end and the contractor will be going over their punch list and as soon as they are complete the architect will come in and review for their final punch list.

REPORTS OF STAFF:

Sheriff: Sheriff Helms gave Attorney Eldridge the paperwork needed to obtain a Tobacco Permit for the jail. He stated he would be purchasing a used vehicle from Coffee County. The jail is currently over capacity on female inmates.

County Administrator: Mrs. Williams stated that she had received refund checks from the insurance carrier for both Workers Compensation and Liability. The refund on the Workers Compensation was \$11,768.08 and on Liability was \$12,997.44.

The annual wellness screen is scheduled for Wednesday at Road & Bridge from 6 am till 8:30 am and at the Courthouse from 9:00 am till 12:00. The program helps give a wellness discount of \$10.00 per member, if, we have the required participation rate, which equates to a savings of around \$800.00 per month. Last year we had a difficult time getting to the required rate and were down to the last day trying to get employees to have a screen. She asked for department heads to please stress the importance to their employees.

Mrs. Williams reminded the Commissioners of the dates for the ACCA Commission Conference which will be August 23 – August 26, 2021, at Perdido Beach Resort in Orange Beach.

Mrs. Williams also reminded the Commissioners about the WebEx with Mr. Sonny Brasfield with the ACCA on the Investing in Alabama Counties program after lunch today.

County Engineer: Engineer Barfield stated his department had been doing long arm cutting last week.

They currently have eighteen (18) driveway pipes on the installation list.

His department has received an award of \$670,000.00 on the ATRIP II project at County Road 69 and State Road 52. This project would be constructing the intersection improvements (grading, drainage, and pavement), turn lane installation and traffic stripe on State Road 52 at the intersection of County Road 69 for a length of 0.426 miles. The front-end cost to the County for this project could be over \$200,000.

Countywide bush hog bid is being advertised.

Asphalt bid for Goose Hollow Road is being advertised.

The first check from FEMA for work performed from damage during Hurricane Sally has been received. The check was for \$213,000.00.

The department is working on guardrail projects on County Roads 16 and 17.

Mr. Barfield presented the Commissioners with updated Subdivision Regulations for Geneva County. He asked the Commissioners to review and advise of any changes needed.

Mr. Bill Benroth, with the Engineering Department, is retiring Wednesday after thirty-four years of service with the County.

County Attorney: Attorney Eldridge stated that the Administrator had presented to him a contract from Harris Security for the fire alarm inspection at the jail. The contract is a three-year agreement in the amount of \$1,240.00 per year. Mr. Eldridge has reviewed the contract and it is in order. He advised the Commission, if they wish to proceed with the contract, they will need to make a motion to approve the contract and allow Chairman Seay to sign it. Commissioner Spivey made a motion to approve the contract with Harris Security for fire alarm services at the jail. Commissioner Brannon seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

Chairman Seay: Chairman Seay advised the Commission of a meeting he had with the CEO of Wiregrass Hospital last week. The hospital will not be renewing the contract for medical services for the Geneva County Jail due to staffing issues. Mr. Seay stated the Commission has several options to consider for these services. Hiring a full-time RN, contract with a local doctor or contract with an outside medical service provider, such as Southern Health Partners. The hospital did state they would work with the County and provide services until something was in place.

Chairman Seay told the Commission that the current AutoMARK voting machines are outdated and are being required to be replaced. There is HAVA grant money available (Help America Vote Act) in the amount of \$31,816.34. The cost to replace the machines is \$91,112.50 less the trade in allowance of \$28,612.50 which would leave a balance of \$62,500.00. Once the HAVA money is expended the remaining cost to replace the machines will come from a grant through the Secretary of State's Office. Therefore, there will be no expense to the County for replacing the AutoMARK voting machines. Commissioner Brannon made a motion to replace the AutoMARK voting machines. Commissioner Spivey seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

Chairman Seay stated he had received a letter from the Office of Management and Budget regarding there was an effort to raise the Metropolitan Statistical Area population from 50,000 to 100,000. This would greatly affect our entire area. Through this we have been able to get at least one paved road project. If the population number is raised it would eliminate that funding. They are asking the Commission to write a letter to their

Senator and Congressman to stop this motion. Commissioner Wilks made a motion to allow Chairman Seay to draft a letter to our Senator and Congressman asking them to vote to stop the motion to raise the population number on the Metropolitan Statistical Area. Commissioner Fulford seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

Mr. Seay said he has received a letter from Mr. Brad Kimbro with Wiregrass Electric about possibly purchasing some acreage in the Industrial Park that joins their property. Wiregrass Electric is needing to expand their footprint and may be interested in purchasing ten or so acres. If the Commission is interested in this it would also require obtaining the consent from the current residents in the Industrial Park. Attorney Eldridge stated it would also require an amendment for a restrictive covenant and de-annex Wiregrass Electric from the Industrial Park.

Chairman Seay said work was almost complete on the office in the old jail for the Coroner. Darryl Stewart with Darryl's Refrigeration & Air Conditioning has been out working on the freezer so it should be ready soon also.

Charter Net has called and sent some information and would like to come and do a presentation for a broadband build out for Geneva County. There is a federal grant available to them, but they just need to partner with the County to qualify for the grant to provide broadband services to more rural areas in the County.

Revenue Commissioner: Ms. Ellison was present but had no new information to report.

EMA Director: Mr. Smith was not present.

Solid Waste: Director Smith was not present.

E-911: Mr. Jeremy Williams stated that the City of Hartford has voted to approve joining in on the software project. Geneva sill has not decided to join but they have a workshop scheduled before their next Council meeting and he will attend to share information and share that all other municipalities and the County have partnered with E911 for the new software. Should Geneva opt not to join it would increase the cost by approximately \$9,000.00 to be divided by the participating agencies, and the yearly maintenance fee would increase by \$600.00.

Auburn Extension: Ms. Marks stated that all agents will be out in the county this week. The Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting for the Farmers Market was held Saturday. There will be a Grass Roots meeting on Thursday, July 22, 2021.

Commissioner's: Commissioner Brannon stated the AFAS State agency has had a hog ratification project going on in the County for the past few weeks and the Soil & Water Conservation Office also has projects going on in the County. These departments have asked about temporary storage at the Road & Bridge department for utility vehicles and equipment for a month or so until these projects are complete. Commissioner Brannon has already spoken to Mr. Barfield about using a part of the Road & Bridge yard for this and Mr. Barfield has stated he can make space available. Chairman Seay asked how much equipment and if it could be stored in the maintenance building behind the Courthouse. Commissioner Brannon stated he would speak with the agencies to see

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COUNTY OF GENEVA

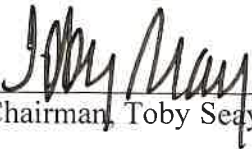
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which site would be better suited for their needs. Commissioner Fulford made a motion to allow these agencies to store their equipment at either site. Commissioner Wilks seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.


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

The above constitutes the minutes of the meeting of the Geneva County Commission held on Monday, June 28, 2021.


Chairman Toby Seay


Cindy Williams
County Administrator


Commissioner Weston Spivey


Commissioner Todd Brannon


Commissioner Bart Wilks


Commissioner Wade Fulford