

The Geneva County Commission met in regular session on Monday, August 9, 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.

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

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approve Minutes of July 26, 2021. Commissioner Spivey made a motion to approve the minutes of July 26, 2021. Commissioner Fulford seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.
2. Proclamations/Resolutions: Chairman Seay read a resolution for a CDBG Application for Street Improvements. This is making known that Geneva County is intent on applying to the State of Alabama for a PY2021 Community Development Block Grant under the provisions set forth in Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. The total estimated cost of this project is \$450,000.00. The CDBG County Fund grant application will be requesting \$400,000.00 in federal grant assistance and the Commission will have a local cash match of \$50,000.00. This grant is to assist with resurfacing roads in low-income areas. The Bellwood community will have three and one-half miles of road resurfaced through this grant. This was discussed at the July 26, 2021, Commission meeting and all other requirements have been met. Chairman Seay is requesting the Commission allow him to sign the resolution. Commissioner Wilks made a motion to allow Chairman Seay to sign the resolution for a CDBG application for Street Improvements. Commissioner Brannon seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

3. Bids: None
4. Board Appointments: None

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Board Appointments – None
2. Bids – None
3. Spec Building – Chairman Seay stated that the asphalt should be completed today and stonework on the front entrance should be completed by the end of the week, barring any delays. This project should be complete by the end of August.
4. Courtroom Renovation/Old Jail renovation – Chairman Seay recognized Mr. Rufus McNeil, with JMR+H and Mr. Jimmy Greggs with Working Properties II to discuss the Courtroom renovation. Mr. McNeil stated that the juror chairs had been received and the pews had been refinished. They are working on small projects like changing out receptacle covers. The tread for the stairwell and some shoe molding has not been received yet. All items, barring any further material delays should be completed this week. Attorney Eldridge stated that presently the Courtroom renovation is thirty-three (33) days beyond the completion date. Liquidation damages on the Courtroom renovation are \$31.58 per day.

Mr. Jimmy Greggs spoke regarding the old jail dome removal. The domes have been taken down. Removal of the chain link fencing started last week. At present there is not a delivery date on new chain link fencing that will be around the Sallyport. It is Working Properties II intention to have this project complete within six (6) weeks, however there are and could continue to be issues with receiving materials. Attorney Phil Eldridge stated that the Sallyport and parking lot are scheduled to have a completion date of September 24, 2021, per the contract. The liquidation damages on the Sallyport and parking lot are \$66.59 per day. Commissioner Fulford requested that Working Properties II place a road closed sign farther out so citizens would not come down the road and must then find a place to turn around.

REPORTS OF STAFF:

Sheriff: Sheriff Helms stated that currently he is three (3) employees short at the jail. He feels he is fighting a losing battle on the hiring front for Corrections Officers. Every time he gets staffed it is only a matter of days until he loses another employee. Sheriff Helms informed the Commission that he and Attorney Eldridge had applied for and received the tobacco license for the jail. The jail will begin selling tobacco through the Commissary. It is also his intention to place more items on the Commissary list to avoid any outside items coming into the jail. There have been a number of incidents in which outsiders were attempting to pass items to inmates through articles of clothing.

County Administrator: Mrs. Williams informed the Commission she would be attending the IAC reporting meeting in Prattville on Wednesday. She also asked the Commission for a nominee for the ACCA Legislative Committee for the 2021-2022 year. Currently Commissioner Brannon serves on the Committee. Commissioner Brannon stated he has served two years on the Committee and wished to be replaced. Commissioner Wilks stated he would be willing to serve. Commissioner Brannon made a motion that Commissioner Wilks serve on the 2021-2022 ACCA Legislative Committee. Commissioner Fulford seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

County Engineer: Engineer Barfield stated that he is currently short staffed eight (8) employees and today he has eight (8) employees out due to Covid. There is only one employee working from Geneva to the Houston County line. At this point his department is so short staffed they must decide to install drive-way pipes, bush hog or blade roads. He does not have the staffing to provide all services every day. The project with FEMA regarding the three bridges damaged during Hurricane Sally continues to be an issue. At this time FEMA is not willing to work with the County on replacing these bridges with concrete as has been done the past few times. The construction project on County Road 16, the guardrail project between Eunola and Hartford and the stripping on County Road 44 and 85 should be complete in the next few weeks.

Mr. Barfield stated that he had met with the Right of Way Mowing Contractor last week and they should begin mowing next week. They will begin on the east end of the County since they are currently working in Houston County. The focus will be to mow at two-way and four-way intersections where stops and visibility are crucial.

The projects on N. County Road 49 and Goose Hollow Road are scheduled to begin in September.

Currently there are twelve (12) driveway pipes scheduled for installation. Engineer Barfield stated that Houston County just voted to get out of the driveway pipe installation business as of September 1, 2021. He may have to follow what Houston County has done since staffing just doesn't allow for this any longer.

The Road & Bridge Foreman from Holmes County has contacted him regarding patching Holmes County Road 185. Geneva County Road 27 turns into Holmes County Road 185. An area of Holmes County Road 185 just south of the Geneva County line needs patch repair and Holmes County does not have the proper equipment and materials to perform this patch work. Holmes County desires to contract with Geneva County to perform the patch work on Holmes County Road 185. This work will be performed over several Fridays (should take two full and one-half Friday) and will be paid for by Holmes County. Attorney Eldridge stated he had prepared an interlocal agreement for Holmes County that would require Chairman Seay's signature should the Commission vote in favor of the agreement. He also stated that the exact scope of work, should be determined. Commissioner Wilks made a motion to enter into the agreement with Holmes County for work to be performed on Holmes County Road 185 and for Chairman Seay to sign the agreement. Commissioner Brannon seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0. Engineer Barfield stated that it was nearing time to choose the roads for FY2022 for the Federal Aid fund projects. He provided District Three Commissioner Wilks and District

Four Commissioner Fulford with a list of roads for consideration. All roads are not under consideration. Roads must meet the requirements of the program. The roads must be approved at the August 23, 2021, Commission meeting.

The HRRR guardrail project on County Road 1 has been applied for. The last bid on the guardrail project was between \$25,000.00 - \$31,000.00. This bid came in at \$58,000. This is a 90/10 split between the State and the County. The County would be responsible for the ten (10) percent plus anything over the prior estimate. An extension has been requested on the HRRR project in Hartford.

County Attorney: Attorney Eldridge stated that the Commission has discussed a request from Wiregrass Electric to sale them a portion of the Industrial Park. There is a process that must be completed, per State regulations Section 11-23-9. There must be a request from all the owners and industries to remove the acreage from the Industrial Park, an amendment to restricted covenants from all the owners and the Commission, and a public hearing must be held after notice in the newspaper then a resolution must be passed removing the properties from the Industrial Park. After these steps there must be a thirty (30) day waiting period before completing the sale. Chairman Seay will need to sign the request and amendment. Wiregrass Electric would like to square off the west side of the property that joins their property, approximately five (5) acres. A survey can be done by the end of the week. Commissioner Brannon made a motion to allow Chairman Seay to sign all documents. Commissioner Spivey seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

Chairman Seay stated that Attorney Lee Knowles was on the agenda for today's meeting however he is delayed in court and will not be able to attend. Attorney Eldridge had the information and stated that it was regarding the subdivision in the Slocomb area owned by Mr. Nathan Mathis. All drainage, signage and road work in the subdivision will be the responsibility of the Homeowners Association and homeowners. All roads in the subdivision will be private and the responsibility of the Homeowners Association and homeowners. The County will not be responsible for any drainage, signage, or road work in this subdivision. Attorney Eldridge and Engineer Barfield request that all that verbiage be on the platt. This will be recorded property with the State of Alabama.

Attorney Eldridge stated that the next Commission meeting, scheduled for August 23, 2021, is the start date of the Commissioners Conference and it begins at 2:00 p.m. He suggested the Commission move the time of the meeting up or move the meeting date. Commissioner Wilks made a motion to move the start time of the August 23, 2021, Commission meeting to 8:30 a.m. Commissioner Brannon seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

Mr. Eldridge stated that at the July 12, 2021, Commission meeting Mr. Phillip Santora with Northstar Engineering had stated he would report back to the Commission on the rain and weather delay days. To date he has not heard anything back from Mr. Santora.

Chairman Seay: Chairman Seay stated Census Bureau was scheduled to release the new Census information. This should include redistricting for Senate Districts as well as local districts. Meetings on this will begin in September.

Chairman Seay stated there will only be two more meetings to pass the budget for FY2022. Administrator Williams has some information for the Commission today and will have more information at the September 13, 2021, meeting.

Revenue Commissioner: Not present.

EMA Director: Mr. Smith stated there is a drastic increase in the number of positive Covid cases in the County. He stated that there are sites in the County where citizens can obtain the vaccination if they wish to. There is also an at home test that can be purchased at Wal-Mart.

He has the new contract with Everbridge. It is his understanding that this program has not been fully utilized in years past, but he believes it is valuable to citizens for alerts and notifications and would like to continue to use the program. The cost is \$8157.60, and the County splits the cost with the municipalities. Commissioner Brannon made a motion to allow Chairman Seay to sign the contract with Everbridge. Commissioner Spivey seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

Mr. Smith stated he now has 130 hours of the CLEM coursework completed. There is one in-person class that is not being offered at this time due to Covid.

Currently there are three (3) disturbances in the Atlantic which are projected to enter the Gulf of Mexico. The first is Tropical Storm Fred and has a projected path directly for our area. There are several telephone lines in the Emergency Operations Center, however he has found none are operable. The telephone company has been notified and should be out to research the problem. Someone with Foxhill Systems did come out last week to do other work and discovered that there is one old line that can be discontinued which would result in a cost savings.

The radio in his vehicle will not be operational when the new system comes online later this year. A new mobile radio will be required for his vehicle.

The new generator should be in this week. The old generator is operational.

He is working with two (2) other Counties on the Hazard Mitigation grant.

Solid Waste: Director Smith was not present.

E-911: Mr. Jeremy Williams was not present.

Auburn Extension: Ms. Marks stated the agents were looking forward to the upcoming school year and being back at the schools in person, however, due to the number of new cases of Covid they will not be in schools at this time. She provided Commissioners with tickets for the County Agents Kitchen Breakfast during the Commissioners Conference.

Commissioner's: Commissioner Wilks asked if Covid protocols needed to be put in place for the Courthouse again. Limiting access to the Courthouse, temperature checks for citizens entering and social distancing. Chairman Seay stated that we could begin temperature checks again if that is the wish of the Commission. Attorney Eldridge stated that he had seen at other locations a machine that automatically takes the temperature of entrants so that someone was not required to manually take every temperature. Chairman Seay stated that the Courthouse did not have one but that the Circuit Clerk's Office has

one and he would discuss with the Circuit Clerk about using it. Social distancing markers remain on the floors and the signage could be placed around again regarding face masks are recommended.

Commissioner Brannon 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, August 9, 2021.

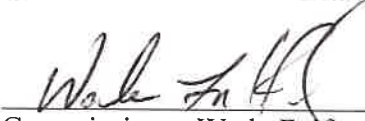

Chairman, Toby Seay


Cindy Williams
County Administrator


Commissioner Weston Spivey


Commissioner Todd Brannon


Commissioner Bart Wilks


Commissioner Wade Fulford

GENEVA COUNTY COMMISSION, ALABAMA
CDBG APPLICATION FOR STREET IMPROVEMENTS
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 8921

OFFREC 1122 110

WHEREAS, the Geneva County Commission is hereby making known its intention to apply to the State of Alabama for a PY 2021 Community Development Block Grant under the provisions set forth in Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974; and,

WHEREAS, the request for Community Development Block Grant assistance adheres to the guidelines as set forth in the State of Alabama's Community Development Block Grant Final Statement, as well as, the provisions set forth in Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as revised; and,

WHEREAS, this legislative body of Geneva County, Alabama recognizes Toby Seay, Chairman, as the appropriate County official authorized to act on behalf of the County in such dealings; and

WHEREAS, this body acknowledges that the Chairman's signature shall be binding upon the Geneva County Commission and Geneva County in such matters; and,

WHEREAS, the Geneva County Commission understands that the total estimated cost associated with the proposed street improvements in CDBG eligible areas within Geneva County being applied for is **\$450,000**, therefore,

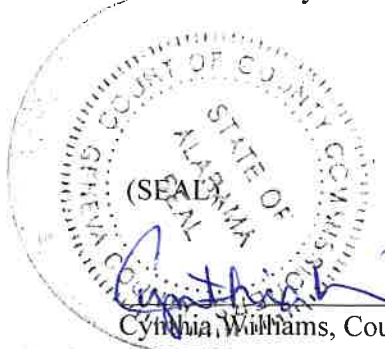
BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Geneva County Commission, that the Commission approves the submission of the PY 2021 CDBG County Fund grant application requesting **\$400,000** in federal grant assistance; and that this legislative body of Geneva County hereby authorizes Toby Seay, Chairman, to act as the appropriate County Official on behalf of the County in dealings with the State of Alabama and to sign any and all necessary application papers for the PY 2021 Community Development Block Grant as well as any necessary contracts and other agreements relative to the implementation of the proposed project should funding approval be secured.

BE IT FURTHER HEREBY RESOLVED by the Geneva County Commission that the Commission commits the sum of **\$50,000** in local cash matching funds to be used as Geneva County's match obligation in conjunction with this request for PY 2021 CDBG funds for the purpose of bringing the proposed project to fruition.

This resolution is hereby passed and approved by the Geneva County Commission in official session on this the 9th day of August, 2021.



Toby Seay, Chairman




Cynthia Williams, County Administrator