

RECORDED IN OFFICE BK 1126 PG 315, 09/28/2021 02:12:25 PM
TOBY L. SEAY, PROBATE JUDGE, GENEVA COUNTY, ALABAMA

The Geneva County Commission met in regular session on Monday, September 13, 2021, at 8:30 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.

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; and County Administrator Cindy Williams were also present. The following business was transacted:

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approve Minutes of August 23, 2021. Commissioner Fulford made a motion to approve the minutes of August 23, 2021. Commissioner Spivey seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.
2. Proclamations/Resolutions: None
3. Bids: None
4. Board Appointments: Commissioner Spivey made a motion to appoint Mr. Neil Strickland to the CCAP Board. Commissioner Brannon seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0. Ms. Karinne Simmons, CEO of CCAP was present and thanked Commissioner Spivey for his service on the Board and thanked the Commission for the new appointment of Mr. Strickland. She discussed the functions of the organization and stated that they had CARES Act money available to assist with rent and deposits for individuals in need of assistance. There is also indigent assistance, a foster grandparent program, food and nutrition programs, toys for tots' program and assistance for homeless with lodging expenses. Commissioner Brannon made a motion to reappoint Mr. Greg Ward and Mr. David Hall to the E911 Board. Commissioner Spivey seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

5. Mr. James Cambron and his wife were present to discuss an issue they had on County Road 49. In June Mrs. Cambron hit a pothole and bent her rim. Mr. Cambron had presented the information to the Commission Office and an insurance claim was filed and denied by the insurance company. They are present today to ask the Commission to pay for the damages in the amount of \$189.00. This road has been under construction for several months and work had been done in preparation of paving to be done later. Mrs. Cambron stated she did not see any signage on the roadway warning of any dangers. A cross drain had been installed and the drain backfilled and covered with gravel and signage was on the roadway warning of a bump in the road and a plaque on the sign with a reduced rate of speed. The Cambron's were allowed to speak and discuss their unhappiness with the insurance company's decision. Attorney Eldridge stated that all claims are reported to the insurance carrier, and they normally investigate it and based on this either pay or deny the claim. It would set a dangerous precedent to start paying claims after they were investigated and denied by the insurance company.
6. Mrs. Shelby Danley and Mr. Barry Gillespie with The Greater Geneva Area Chamber of Commerce were present to discuss a new Community Outreach program beginning October 1, 2021. The Chamber will hold a press conference on October 1, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. The goal is for businesses, organizations, and citizens to unite to make this area a better place to live, work, shop, and play. Create a branded identity with a positive image using a three-facet program of social services, economic development, and activities/events. They have partnered with 211 in Dothan to offer services and volunteer opportunities to our area and so far, ten services have been added for citizens in the area. The Chamber is also requesting the Commission add an appropriation to the annual budget for the Chamber of Commerce.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Board Appointments – None
2. Bids – None
3. Spec Building – Chairman Seay stated that the awning is almost complete. A walk through is scheduled for Thursday morning prior to the jail walk through. Once the walk through is complete and all items repaired according to the final punch list it can be advertised for four (4) weeks in the newspaper.
4. Courtroom Renovation/Old Jail renovation – The list of items that need to be addressed is being completed. Once these items have been successfully completed the project must be advertised for thirty days before it can be closed. The construction phase on the old jail is just getting underway.

REPORTS OF STAFF:

Sheriff: Sheriff Helms stated that the Coroner needs aluminum racks for the cooler for storage of bodies. He has checked on some and the cost is \$2,000.00 per rack. Also, an alarm is needed for the cooler in case the temperature is not correct. Preferably a visual alarm.

County Administrator: Mrs. Williams stated that the Robin McGriff with the Farmer's Market has requested to keep the Farmers Market open through November 13, 2021, due to the Senior Citizens having vouchers for produce through that date. Commissioner Wilks made a motion to allow the Farmers Market to stay open through November 13, 2021. Commissioner Spivey seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

Mrs. Williams discussed the purchase order procedures and asked for assistance from all department heads in reiterating to their departments that purchase orders are to be obtained prior to a purchase being made and all information is required at the time a purchase order is issued. Attorney Eldridge included that all this is part of the purchasing policy, and the policy has been issued to all departments. Chairman Seay also stated that at the last audit review this was one thing the auditors mentioned.

Mrs. Williams informed the Commissioners of an Investing with Alabama Counties meeting on October 28, 2021, in Ozark at the Ag Plex at 12:30 p.m. and at 6:00 p.m. that evening is also the ACCA district meeting at Hoppergrass Restaurant in Ozark.

Previously a permanent RN position at the jail had been discussed and Mrs. Williams provided the Commissioners with a job description for the position. After review Commissioner Wilks made a motion that a permanent exempt RN position be created for the jail, with the Commission hiring and firing since it is an exempt position and to accept the job description provided. Commissioner Spivey seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

County Engineer: Engineer Barfield stated, regarding the couple that was present to complain about County Road 49 and the damage to their vehicle, that signage was present on that road and there had been a considerable amount of rain that could have caused some settling of the dirt and gravel but not the extent that it could have caused a rim to be bent if traveling at the posted speed. County crews were present the next workday morning to look at the area in question and signage was present on the road. He currently has four (4) EOII positions open and no applications.

The contracted right of way mowing should begin again tomorrow. The crew is halfway completed with the right of way mowing of the County.

The Rebuild Alabama projects for 2021 are beginning tomorrow morning on County Road 49 and then will move to Goose hollow Road.

Prep work on County Road 8 has begun and the drainage issue at Chinaberry and Goose hollow has been completed.

County Attorney: Attorney Eldridge stated that the company installing the new Sheriff and Jail software are installing a microwave on the tower to connect the Sheriff's Office and Jail to E911 and he would recommend a use agreement with the company that this is it's only use, and it should not be for any other use. Also, our IT person should approve any additions connected to our service. Commissioner Brannon made a motion to prepare a use agreement between the parties. Commissioner Fulford seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

Chairman Seay: Chairman Seay stated that he received a traffic enforcement grant (grant to work overtime for traffic) through ADECA that needs to be signed by the

Chairman. Commissioner Wilks made a motion to allow Chairman Seay to sign the ADECA traffic enforcement grant. Commissioner Fulford seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

Revenue Commissioner: Not present

EMA Director: Not present.

Solid Waste: Not present.

E-911: Mr. Jeremy Williams stated he is continuing to work on the Central Square software, and it should be installed by the last week of October. Attorney Eldridge asked if the deputies will be able to file reports through this software and Mr. Williams stated yes and the RMS would also feed to the State. Attorney Eldridge stated he believes the Commission could use the ARPA funding for this project. Mr. Williams also stated the CAD mobiles could be obtained using the ARPA funding.

Auburn Extension: Ms. Marks stated that she is assisting Ms. Lisa Harris, District Director for Choc Pea Watershed Management Authority with a workshop, Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Farm Center, concerning programs to assist with managing pastureland, crops, woodland, and other natural resources. There is a Grain Bin Simulator and Rescue Training program, September 21, 2021, from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the Wiregrass Research Station in Headland. There will be a Forestry & Fish Fry (generating income from your forestland) workshop at the extension office, Tuesday, September 28, 2021, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

The 4-H Agent is in schools working on leadership council program.

The Nutrition Agents are in schools teaching nutrition education.

Commissioner's: None of the Commissioners had anything further to add.

Administrator Williams provided the Commissioners with a proposed budget for FY2022. The Commissioners reviewed the budget and discussion began.

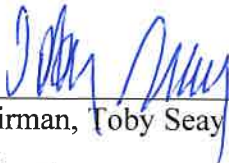
Sheriff Helms stated that his department needs new vehicles. He has several that have over 150,000 miles and a few with over 200,000 miles. The Commissioners asked about the vehicles in his department, how many he had and what all employees had vehicles. Sheriff Helms provided a vehicle listing for the Commissioners. Sheriff Helms has spoken with Stivers Ford, and they have several trucks in stock at a cost of \$34,000 each. This pricing does not cover the cost of outfitting it as a police vehicle. The Commission asked the Sheriff to check into the lease program like he did a few years ago and see what the payments would be on leasing two, three or four vehicles.

The Sheriff also asked for two new Mobile Command Units. The current Mobile Command Unit is a refurbished 1970's bread truck. He has found some that are enclosed trailers that would require a truck to pull. He believes these could fall under the ARPA funding guidelines.


The Commission will take everything under advisement and continue to review the budget in preparation of passing a budget at the September 27, 2021, meeting.

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

The above constitutes the minutes of the meeting of the Geneva County Commission held on Monday, September 13, 2021.



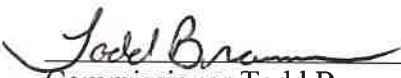
Chairman, Toby Seay



Cindy Williams
County Administrator



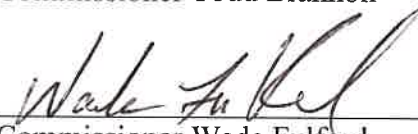
Commissioner Weston Spivey



Commissioner Todd Brannon



Commissioner Bart Wilks



Commissioner Wade Fulford