

The Geneva County Commission met in regular session on Monday, March 14, 2022, 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. County Attorney, Phil Eldridge; County Engineer, Justin Barfield; Assistant County Engineer, Mike Shirah; Revenue Commissioner, Mary Ann Ellison; EMA Director, Brian Smith and County Administrator, Cindy Williams was also present. The following business was transacted:

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approve Minutes of February 28, 2022. Commissioner Spivey made a motion to approve the minutes of February 28, 2022. Commissioner Wilks seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.
2. Proclamation/Resolution: Chairman Seay read a proclamation from the Child Advocacy Center declaring April as Child Abuse Prevention month. Commissioner Brannon made a motion to accept the petition to vacate Elijah Road. Commission Fulford seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.
3. Board Appointments: Chairman Seay stated that he had received a letter from Mr. Randall Meeks resigning his seat on the Southeast Alabama Regional Planning & Development Revolving Loan Fund Administrative Board effective immediately. Chairman Seay said that Mr. Richard Sanders from BankPlus was willing to fill the seat. Commissioner Wilks made a motion for Mr. Richard Sanders to fill the seat on the Southeast Alabama Regional Planning & Development Revolving Loan Fund Administrative Board. Commissioner Spivey seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.
4. Bids/Quotes: Attorney Eldridge stated that one bid had been received for the Lime Rock and Crushed Concrete Bid. The bid is from Johnston Trucking, LLC. Bid price for Lime Rock (Crush and Run) is \$24.00 per ton. Bid for Crushed Concrete – RCB (Recycled Concrete Base) is \$28.00 per ton and #41 Stone is \$30.00 per ton. Bid is to include delivery, including furnishing and hauling. Commissioner

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

Fulford made a motion to accept the bid from Johnston Trucking, LLC for Lime Rock and Crushed Concrete. Commissioner Wilks seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

5. Mr. Daniel Thomas with the Black Volunteer Fire Department was present to thank the Commission for their annual support of the Volunteer Fire Departments and for asking the departments for a listing of priority requests should there be available money from the American Rescue Plan Funds. The Chairman and Commissioners thanked Mr. Thomas for attending today and for his willingness to serve on the Volunteer Fire Department. Chairman Seay stated that he had received the request from the Black Volunteer Fire Department, and it has been submitted along with all other requests to the IAC for vetting.
6. Personnel Handbook updates. Administrator Cindy Williams told the Commissioners that the corrections Attorney Eldridge has advised of at the last meeting had been changed. The only changes noted were and added sentence to the Nepotism and Personal Relationship policies regarding direct supervision of a relative and adding consecutive days of absenteeism to the Bereavement policy. The new policies will be sent out to all departments to be distributed to all employees and added to the handbook. Commissioner Brannon made a motion to adopt the new policies for the Personnel Handbook effective immediately. Commissioner Fulford seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS:
None

REPORTS OF STAFF:

Sheriff: Nothing to report.

County Administrator: Mrs. Williams stated the Mrs. Rhonda Stone had called and said the Farmers Market would begin Saturday May 7th. They will be open on Saturday's from 8:00 a.m. til 12:00 p.m.

Mrs. Williams advised all elected officials and department heads that if they had not done so they were required to complete the 2021 Statement of Economic Interest. It must be completed online by April 30, 2022.

County Engineer: Engineer Barfield introduced two students from Houston Academy who are shadowing him this week. Mr. Barfield stated that we are three weeks out from the new driveway pipe policy taking effect and distributed to the Commissioners a listing of driveway pipe vendors and an Approved Driveway Pipe Specs. All driveways will have a minimum pipe length of 30' and a maximum pipe length of 60'. All pipes must meet the current specifications of the Alabama Department of Transportation. Pipe can be High Density Polypropylene, Aluminized Corrugated Metal, Galvanized Corrugate Metal or Reinforced Concrete.

Currently there are fourteen (14) driveway pipe scheduled for installation.

OFFREC 1148 312

The ATRIP II project in Hartford is scheduled to LET March 25, 2022. The last time the bid came in at \$711,000.00. For there to be no out of pocket expense to the County the bid must be under \$780,000.00.

FEMA project work continues, and the department is down to six remaining projects to have all damage from Hurricane Sally completed, not including the three bridges that remain out.

All paperwork has been received regarding the termination of use for Hatcher Pit. They will no longer be getting dirt from the pit and there should not be any more payments to Hatcher Pit.

Currently he has one Motor Grader Operator out for medical reasons. It should be at least six to eight more weeks before he can return.

All items that were on the list from the insurance visit in December have been corrected. Since the last Commission meeting fourteen (14) driveway pipes have been installed. All equipment that Mr. Barfield had planned to have in the Spring Auction at JM Wood has been delivered to the auction site.

The department has begun herbicide spraying.

Mr. Barfield explained to the Commission that rising fuel costs will have a negative impact on his department not only on the actual cost of fuel for the department but on the revenue the department receives from the Gas Tax. The more the cost of fuel rises the less people travel which will decrease the revenue.

County Attorney: Attorney Eldridge stated that the financing agreement from Trustmark Bank for financing the Sheriff's new vehicles had been received. The total financed is \$136,148.00, the interest rate is 2.89% with three annual payments of \$48,030.64 beginning March 9, 2023. A motion is needed to approve the lease purchase agreement and allowing the Chairman to sign and to sign all financing documents. Commissioner Fulford made a motion to approve lease purchase agreement from Trustmark bank to finance the new vehicles for the Sheriff's department and allow Chairman Seay to sign all documents. Commissioner Wilks seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

Attorney Eldridge stated that the next scheduled Commission meeting is March 28, 2022, however that date needs to be changed for two reasons, one that the Chairman and at least one Commissioner will be out of town and the other that there is a public meeting scheduled for March 24, 2022 so the two can be combined. According to Alabama Code Section 11-3-8 a motion is required to change the date of the scheduled Commission meeting. Commissioner Wilks made a motion to change the March 28, 2022 Commission meeting to March 24, 2022. Commissioner Brannon seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0. Mr. Eldridge stated notice should be sent to all local news media, who have requested notice, of the changed meeting date, and it also must be posted on the Courthouse bulletin board.

Attorney Eldridge stated he needs a motion of notice for the public meeting regarding the lease and sale of the Spec building according to Amendment 772 (c) (2) of the Alabama Constitution. Commissioner Brannon made a motion to publish notice of a public meeting regarding the lease and sale of the Spec Building at the Industrial Park, to be

held Thursday, March 24, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. in the Commission Courtroom.

Commissioner Wilks seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

Mr. Eldridge said that the judge in the Opioid case had required that a new fact sheet be completed. He has obtained all the information except the number of deaths from overdose which he is waiting on from the Sheriff. He asked the Sheriff the status of the requested information and the Sheriff replied he was waiting on the Coroner. Mr. Eldridge stressed that he needed the information because the deadline for filing is April 1, 2022.

Commission Chairman: Chairman Seay stated that all requests have been received from the Volunteer Fire departments for assistance from the American Rescue Plan and have been forwarded to the IAC for vetting.

JMR+H was an approved company used by the IAC for electrical and plumbing projects. They were onsite February 14, 2022 and conducted studies of the Farm Center and Courthouse for plumbing and electrical needs. The information has been submitted to the IAC. Chairman Seay is asking the Commission if they desire to use JMR+H for the projects. The County has worked with JMR+H on several projects in the past.

Commissioner Brannon made a motion to use JMR+H for the projects under the American Rescue Plan at the Farm Center and Courthouse. Commissioner Spivey seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

The application deadline for an additional Industrial Access Grant is April 9, 2022. A meeting is scheduled next week with ALDOT. The grant is up to \$550,000.00. The grant could be used to complete the access to the new Spec Building at the Industrial Park. Engineer Barfield went over the plan with the Commission showing the projected access.

EMA Director: Mr. Smith had nothing to report. Chairman Seay told the Commission that Mr. Smith had completed his last class and is one step closer to having his CLEM certification. Mr. Smith then stated that he had all his paperwork ready to submit to the State Office today.

Revenue Commissioner: Ms. Ellison stated the first publication of the tax sale will be in the newspaper this Wednesday. There are 218 properties with unpaid tax bills. The property tax sale is scheduled for April 19, 2022.

Solid Waste Director: Mrs. Smith was not present.

E-911: Mr. Williams stated that he had a meeting with the Sheriff and all police chiefs last Tuesday regarding the new RMS system. The system should be operational in the next few months.

Auburn Extension: Ms. Marks was present and gave an update on the Extension Office. She has been working on grants for extension programs. The other agents are out in the schools. There is a Cattlemen's meeting Tuesday night at Ketchum's Restaurant in Hartford.

Commissioner's: Commissioners had nothing additional to report.

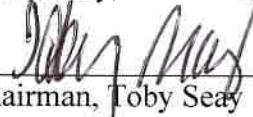
Chairman Seay stated that we had a guest, Ms. Jennifer Braden with The Educational Opportunity Center, that was inadvertently left off the agenda. She did all she was supposed to but was not on the agenda. He asked for a motion to allow Ms. Braden to speak. Commissioner Brannon made a motion to allow Ms. Braden to speak.

Commissioner Spivey seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

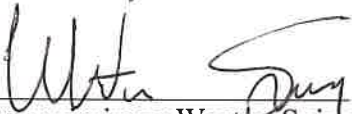
Ms. Braden with The Educational Opportunity Centers was present to discuss the program which provides free counseling and information on college admissions to qualified adults who want to enter or continue a program of postsecondary education. They offer assistance with FAFSA completion, financial and economic literacy, tutoring, career exploration, college access, student debt management and goal setting and planning. Anyone 19 years of age or older, a US citizen, permanent resident or eligible non-citizen and resides in one of the four counties served are eligible to apply. The program serves residents who reside in Coffee, Dale, Geneva, and Houston counties. It is housed at Enterprise State Community College.

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, March 14, 2022.




Chairman, Toby Seay



Commissioner Weston Spivey



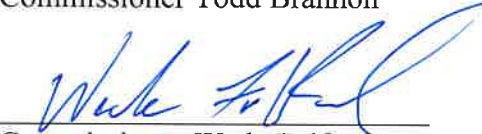
Commissioner Bart Wilks



Cindy Williams
County Administrator



Commissioner Todd Brannon



Commissioner Wade Fulford

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, everyone in the State of Alabama has a role to play in promoting the social and emotional well-being of children and families in our communities; and

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect are serious problems affecting every segment of our community, and finding solutions requires input and action from everyone; and

WHEREAS, child abuse can have long-term psychological, emotional, and physical effects that have lasting consequences for victims of abuse; and

WHEREAS, the most important thing we can do to help children thrive is to support families before they reach a crisis; and

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention activities and training succeed because of the partnerships created between child welfare professionals, education, health, community, faith-based organizations, businesses, law enforcement agencies, and families; and

WHEREAS, we must all work together to increase awareness about child abuse and create safe and healthy environments for children where they can live with supportive families and engaged communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Toby Seay, do hereby proclaim

APRIL 2022 as CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH and urge all citizens to recognize this month by dedicating ourselves to the task of improving the quality of life for all children and families.