

The Geneva County Commission met in regular session on Monday, December 13, 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 Spivey 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; EMA Director, Brian Smith; and Revenue Commissioner, Mary Ann Ellison was also present. The following business was transacted:

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approve Minutes of November 22, 2021. Commissioner Brannon made a motion to approve the minutes of November 22, 2021. Commissioner Fulford seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.
2. Board Appointments – Not on agenda but the Chairman received a recommendation of an individual willing to serve in the vacant appointment on the Southeast Alabama Solid Waste Disposal Authority Board. The recommended individual is Mr. Allen Brewer. Commissioner Wilks made a motion to allow a vote on the vacant appointment to the Southeast Alabama Solid Waste Disposal Authority Board and to appoint Mr. Allen Brewer to the Board. Commissioner Fulford seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0
3. Sale of Land at the Industrial Park. Attorney Eldridge stated that a Request for Removal of six acres of land from the Industrial Park had been prepared. A resolution has already been passed removing the land and the thirty-day required waiting period has been met. A resolution has been recorded along with the amendments to the restrictive covenant. He then stated if the Commissions desire was to entertain the sale of six acres on the west side of the Industrial Park that adjoins the current Wiregrass Electric property, a motion would need to be made declaring the land surplus and once that is done another motion to convey the sale to Wiregrass Electric would be required. The cost would be \$5,563.53 per acre, totaling \$33,381.18. This would be exactly what the County has invested in the property which include the initial cost of the land and all improvements to date.

Chairman Seay stated Wiregrass Electric needed land to expand their footprint and the land that could be sold from the Industrial Park adjoins their current property. He added that although we can't discuss the particulars at this time, Wiregrass Electric has a substantial investment in the current Industrial Park project. They have partnered with the County in developing the Industrial Park and the County is grateful for their partnership. The sale of this property would not interfere with any future projects at the Industrial Park. Commissioner Brannon made a motion to declare the six acres from the Industrial Park as surplus. Commissioner Wilks seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0. Commissioner Spivey made a motion to convey the sale of six acres of land from the Industrial Park to Wiregrass Electric for \$33,381.18 and authorize Chairman Seay to sign the deed. Commissioner Brannon seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

Attorney Eldridge stated that after the deed is delivered and the monies are collected, he has a legal notice prepared that must be published in the newspaper and he will give to the Administrator. Chairman Seay stated that he would request an additional motion that the monies received from the sale of land at the Industrial Park be earmarked for deposit in the Economic Development Fund.

Commissioner Wilks made a motion that the monies received from Wiregrass Electric for the purchase of land from the Industrial Park be earmarked for deposit in the Economic Development Fund. Commissioner Fulford seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

4. Subdivision Regulation. Attorney Eldridge stated he believed the regulations have been resolved and are ready to go in to effect January 1, 2022. No further discussion is required for the Subdivision Regulation. Engineer Barfield stated his intention is to send a letter out to all local Surveying companies, Engineering firms and Attorneys giving them notice that some guidelines and requirements have been changed in the Geneva County Subdivision Regulation. Most notably is the frontage lots subdivisions. Chairman Seay also asked Mr. Barfield to send a copy of the new Subdivision Regulation to our website administrator so that it can be placed on the County website.
5. Driveway Pipe Installation. Engineer Barfield stated he queried eleven counties on their policies for installing driveway pipes. Three of the eleven no longer install driveway pipes for citizens and one more county is looking to stop the installation at the first Commission meeting of 2022. Of the remaining eight counties four charge a fee for driveway pipe installation. Currently in Geneva County the property owner comes in and places a pipe size request and they have the option of purchasing the pipe from the County or purchasing from elsewhere, 98% of the time the property owner makes the pipe purchase from the County. The price of pipe is the County's bid price and there is no up charge to the citizen. The Road & Bridge department hauls the pipe to the location and installs at no charge. Four counties do not stockpile pipe and make it the responsibility of the property owner to purchase the pipe from a vendor and have it delivered then the county will go out and install. Pipe prices continue to increase, and most counties are now allowing heavy duty plastic pipe to be installed for driveway pipes. As far as installation goes a dump truck and backhoe or small excavator is used at a cost of around \$1,000.00. Mr. Barfield is suggesting getting out of stockpiling pipe,

allowing the use of exterior heavy duty plastic pipe, and charging the property owner a minimum of one-third the cost of installation. The reasoning behind discontinuing to stockpile is that many driveway pipes may be sold and when the county needs pipe it may need to be reordered and now at a higher rate. There is one company in Dothan that has pipe for sale and several of the County Coop's have pipe. A list could be maintained for suggestion to the property owner of where pipe can be purchased. Engineer Barfield stated he does not want to get out of installing pipes at this time because he feels it is beneficial to the county to ensure the pipes are installed with the drainage issues being addressed prior to installation. Another issue is aggregate for drives to avoid washouts. Property owners can purchase the aggregate lime rock from the County, currently at \$220.00 for ten tons. This amount will normally thoroughly cover a driveway. Commissioner Fulford asked if this affected pipes that are damaged after installation. Mr. Barfield stated that once the pipe is installed the County would maintain it unless the damage is caused by the property owner and the Road & Bridge department would work with the property owner to resolve the issue. Commissioner Brannon asked if 18" was the standard pipe size, to which Mr. Barfield stated yes, 18" is the standard, also 24" is used a lot and there is occasional installation of 36" pipes. Commissioner Brannon also asked about the installation of 60' pipes. Mr. Barfield stated that in the current policy 60' pipe is the maximum the county will install, 30' pipe is standard. Engineer Barfield said that he realizes this is a lot of information for consideration and asked the Commission to consider whether to continue with selling pipe to property owners for installation or requiring property owners to purchase the pipe from a vendor and have the County do the installation or get out of driveway pipe installation and have the property owner contract with a vendor/contractor. He also stated that he would like to see the changes occur in February or March 2022. Commissioner Fulford made a motion to table this discussion until the January 10, 2022, Commission meeting. Commissioner Brannon seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

REPORTS OF STAFF:

Sheriff: The Sheriff stated that his department had 6,194 calls for service last year. Averaging about 530 calls per month or seventeen (17) per day.

County Administrator: Mrs. Williams was not present but had given information to the Chairman regarding the insurance company visit. It was a good visit and the main concern to the insurance company was the number of total claims over the last five years is high. Most claims are currently closed but the reserves assigned are high. Work needs to be done to bring down the number of overall claims. They visited the Jail and Road & Bridge department. Their intent is to return next week to complete the visit to the remaining departments. They will send their letter regarding the visit and any recommendations after the first of the year.

County Engineer: Engineer Barfield stated he has one new employee starting work today and one that had submitted his resignation but has withdrawn it, so he is down five (5) employees. He is currently advertising for Equipment Operator II and III.

The ATRIP II Committee is meeting today in Montgomery. He applied for an additional \$350,000 to complete the ATRIP II project in Hartford. Additional monies were needed due to the increase in construction cost.

He spoke with the striping contractor last week about the striping on County Roads 8 and 49. He was told it would be after the first of the year before they will be able to begin work.

He has the J M Wood agreement to sell three dump trucks and one longarm boom cutter next year. Last year we agreed to do a three-year agreement with them for a reduced commission of 6%. This agreement would include three (3) Kenworth Dump Trucks and one (1) John Deere boom cutter.

The net guarantee for the dump trucks is the same price that we paid for them. The sale will be March 22, 2022. Commissioner Brannon made a motion to allow Chairman Seay to sign the agreement to sell three dump trucks and one boom cutter through J M Wood next year. Commissioner Wilks seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

Mr. Barfield stated he also had a dirt pit agreement for the Alabama Department of Transportation with Revels Pit. This is just a carry over agreement that is already in effect. ALDOT pays an additional ten cent per yard for material. Commissioner Wilks made a motion to allow Chairman Seay to sign the dirt pit agreement for the Alabama Department of Transportation with Revels Pit. Commissioner Spivey seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

The department has completed two (2) of the thirty (30) FEMA projects.

They worked last Friday to complete some long arm cutting.

Commissioner Wilks asked about the project on the Broxson Road. Mr. Barfield stated he had ordered six hundred tons to put on the yard for the project. They did not have the number 5 stone so it will be crusher run.

Chairman Seay told the Commission that on the J M Wood sale the County has a gross financial guarantee of \$526,000 and they will then take a six (6) % commission.

County Attorney: Attorney Eldridge stated that at the last meeting the Commission did a resolution to vacate a portion of Ausley Road. When E911 went out to readdress the property they discovered that the road was described in the Petition to Vacate presented to the County as Ausley Road north of County Road 45, but it is actually Ausley Road north of County Road 43. The property owner's attorney is preparing a new Petition to present to the County. It will require another public hearing which will need to be published in the newspaper. Based on the number of days the hearing would need to be held at the February 14, 2022, Commission meeting. Mr. Eldridge will contact the property owner's attorney and have him get the notice to the newspaper for publication.

Commission Chairman: Chairman Seay stated that there was an invitation to attend the Southeast Alabama Regional Planning Development Commission meeting with State and local officials to recognize recent community and economic development in

Geneva County. The meeting will be held on December 16, 2021, at 2:00 at the Courthouse.

The Chairman has received an updated itemized request for ARPA funding from the City of Hartford and Slocomb. He will pass these along to the IAC for their recommendation of approving these requests.

The Chairman reminded the Commission of the new temporary hours of operation for the Courthouse beginning January 3, 2022. The State Driver's License department should notify him tomorrow of what date they will be here for driver's license exams. He has a meeting scheduled with the District and Circuit Judges this week to see if they have reached any decisions on whether they will be closed on Friday. The DA Office is already closed on Friday. The VA Office stated they will be closed to the public on Friday. Once finalized he will give notice to the public and the Sheriff for his planning purposes.

EMA Director: Mr. Smith had nothing to present.

Revenue Commissioner: Ms. Ellison stated that her department is \$138,000.00 away from having half of the property taxes collected. Property owners have until January 3, 2022, to make a timely payment of property taxes.

Solid Waste Director: Mrs. Smith was not present

E-911: Mr. Williams was not present.

Auburn Extension: Not present but sent word that they are still in the planning process for 2022. Their offices will be closed from December 20, 2021 - January 2, 2022.

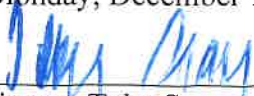
Commissioner's: Commissioner Fulford stated on behalf of the Commission that they were planning on cooking lunch Thursday, December 16th, for all County employees from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Farm Center. The Commission wanted to let all employees know they are thinking of them and appreciate all they do.

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

STATE OF ALABAMA
COUNTY OF GENEVA

REGULAR SESSION
December 13, 2021

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




Chairman, Toby Seay



Commissioner Weston Spivey



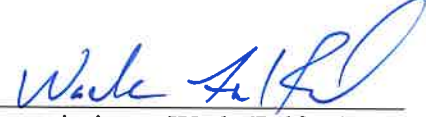
Commissioner Bart Wilks



Cindy Williams
County Administrator



Commissioner Todd Brannon



Commissioner Wade Fulford

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