

The Geneva County Commission met in regular session on Monday, January 25, 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.

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; Engineer, Justin Barfield; Assistant County Engineer, Mike Shirah; and County Administrator Cindy Williams were also present. The following business was transacted:

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approve Minutes of January 11, 2021. Commissioner Spivey made a motion to approve the minutes of January 11, 2021. Commissioner Wilks seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.
2. Proclamations: None
3. Bids: None
4. Board Appointments: None

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Board Appointments – Cindy Campbell’s appointment to the Southeast Alabama Emergency Medical Services Council is expiring February 11, 2021. Commissioner Brannon stated he would speak with Ms. Campbell to see if she is interested in remaining on the Council. Commissioner Wilks made a motion to table the appointment until Ms. Campbell could be reached to see if she was still interested in the appointment. Commissioner Fulford seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.
2. Bids – None
3. Spec Building – Mr. Phillip Santora with Northstar Engineering was present to discuss the Spec Building. Mr. Santora stated that the crews were back on site and steel was being put up again. Also work on the concrete was in process. If things stay on schedule the project should be complete mid to late April.

4. Courtroom Renovation – Renovation is continuing the project. JMR+H will bring in décor choices, color schemes and wood finishes, once the demolition is complete. Chairman Seay will notify the Commissioners when JMR+H will be at the Courthouse. Commissioner Wilks questioned about the start date for the Sally Port Renovation. Chairman Seay stated Mr. Cahill with JMR+H had reviewed the drawings and had begun on the modifications and they should have something within the next 30 - 45 days. It will be reviewed with the Commission prior to advertising the project.
5. Step Raises – After reviewing the pay information on step raises provided by Administrator Cindy Williams, the issue still is not resolved, and the Commission would like to study more on the topic. Commissioner Spivey made a motion to table the discussion of step raises until a later date after the Commission has had time to thoroughly gather information. Commissioner Brannon seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

REPORTS OF STAFF:

Sheriff: Not present

County Administrator: Nothing to report.

County Engineer: Engineer Justin Barfield stated that $\frac{3}{4}$ of the Engineering Office has been out due to Covid.

His department has three openings for Equipment Operator II. The Personnel Department is advertising for the positions and will be contacting the Career Center to advertise the positions as well.

The office modification is progressing and hopefully will be completed very soon.

Mr. Barfield reminded the Commission that the new hours of Operation for the Landfill begin February 1, 2021. Those hours for the Landfill Operator will be 6:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. and the Landfill will be open to the public 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Work with FEMA on the Hurricane Sally project is moving forward. Checks for major road damage should be sent out in March.

The parking lot project at the Courthouse Annex has progressed and the emulsion seal coat is all that is remaining to be completed.

Mr. Barfield stated he had a request from the Mayor of Black for red reflection strips for the stop sign posts in the town. He said that reflective strips are not required, however the Mayor would like to have them for the signs within the town limits where they have traffic control. Commissioner Brannon made a motion to allow the Road & Bridge Department to place reflective strips on the stop sign posts in the Town limit of Black. Commissioner Spivey seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

There has been an ongoing issue on Blalock Road. The Road & Bridge department has received numerous calls from homeowners and traveling citizens on the road regarding the business that operates on this road. The business that operates on this road causes issues with the road and the right of way. Mr. Barfield let the Commission know that he is issuing a letter to the business owner explaining the policy in place of encroaching on a

public right of way and they have ten days to respond. Attorney Eldridge then stated that if the business owner doesn't respond to Mr. Barfield's letter that he will send a letter. If there is still no response or corrective action legal action would proceed.

Mr. Barfield stated that work was being done in District 3 tearing out a bridge and replacing with a new pipe.

Mr. Barfield has seen on the ALDOT surplus list a John Deere 130 excavator with 1500 hours for \$71,500. He is requesting to sale two older excavators and purchase this excavator. He stated he should be able to sale the two older excavators for \$30,000 each to go toward the purchase of the newer excavator. Commissioner Wilks made a motion approve making the John Deere 120 excavator and the Volvo 140 excavator surplus to be sold and to approve the purchase of the newer John Deere 130 excavator. Commissioner Brannon seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

County Attorney: Attorney Eldridge stated he had a resolution on the Rails to Trails project. This resolution is to amend the certificate of incorporation of granting authority to amend a Capital Improvement Cooperative District called the Rails to Trails Cooperative District. This project would eventually create a Trail from Andalusia to Geneva on the old Railroad bed. This amended Cooperative District would include the cities of Andalusia, Opp, Samford, Babbie, Kinston, Samson and Geneva and Coffee, Covington, and Geneva Counties. Chairman Seay said that joining the Cooperative at this point would only mean that the County had a seat at the table for discussions and there would be no monetary investment. Each member would have one director and one vote except Andalusia which would have two directors and two votes. Covington County members would have 6 votes, Geneva County 3 votes and Coffee County 2 votes. Attorney Eldridge pointed out that Covington County could always out vote Coffee and Geneva County. Mr. Eldridge read Articles 7 & 8 to the Commission. In Geneva County the cities of Samson and Geneva would benefit the most since it could generate income from sales tax for their General Fund. Mr. Eldridge has spoken with Scott Farmer from Southeast Alabama Regional Planning and Development and the City of Samson will be discussing this at their Council meeting this week and the Geneva Council will be discussing this at their next meeting. When this project was first introduced the main issues of concern were maintenance on the trail and the Highway Department was not on board with the project. The County would be responsible for maintaining the portions of the trail that are in the County. Maintenance on the Trail would have to be funded through the General Fund. Mr. Eldridge read from the last paragraph of page 2 of Mr. Farmer's email from January 21, 2021 on the funding obligation of the members. The main initial expense would be to purchase the corridor. Commissioner Spivey made a motion to adopt the resolution granting authority to amend a Capital Improvement Cooperative District for the Rails to Trail Cooperative District. Commissioner Brannon seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0. Commissioner Wilks made a motion to appoint Chairman Seay as the Director for Geneva County on the Rails to Trails Cooperative District. Commissioner Spivey seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

Chairman Seay: Chairman Seay stated that the county had been awarded an RC&D grant in the amount of \$3,000.00 for the Bellwood Community building. The roof needs to be replaced and the Chairman has a quote for \$3,500.00. Commissioner Wilks made a

motion to replace the roof on the Bellwood Community building using the \$3,000.00 RC&D grant and \$500.00 from the County. Commissioner Spivey seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

Revenue Commissioner: Not present

EMA Director: Not present

Solid Waste: Not present.

E-911: The E911 board has voted to fund a new operating system. Mr. Williams will hopefully be able to demonstrate the new system for the Commission at the next meeting.

Auburn Extension: Not present.

Commissioner's: Commissioner Fulford stated that he had inspected the Lytle Community Center and it needed new doors. Chairman Seay said he would have Maintenance Director Sam Turner investigate that issue. Mr. Fulford also said there were some road stripping issues and highway shoulder problems caused by heavy farm equipment in his district. Engineer Barfield asked him to call Mrs. Joy Aplin at the Road & Bridge department and give her a list of the roads. A crew would look into the concerns and correct any problems found.

Commissioner Wilks 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, January 25, 2021.

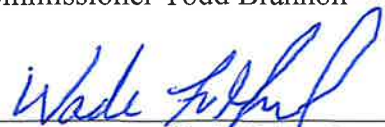

Chairman Toby Seay


Cindy Williams
County Administrator


Commissioner Weston Spivey


Commissioner Todd Brannon


Commissioner Bart Wilks


Commissioner Wade Fulford