

The Geneva County Commission met in regular session on Monday, July 26, 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. The County Attorney Phil Eldridge; County Engineer, Justin Barfield; Assistant County Engineer, Mike Shirah; Sheriff, Tony Helms; EMA Director, Brian Smith; Revenue Commissioner, Mary Ann Ellison and County Administrator Cindy Williams were also present. The following business was transacted:

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approve Minutes of July 12, 2021. Commissioner Wilks made a motion to approve the minutes of June 28, 2021. Commissioner Spivey seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.
2. Proclamations: None
3. Bids: Bids for Right of Way Mowing on Paved Roads were opened on July 21, 2021. Only one bid was received. The bid was from Gulf Breeze Landscaping, LLC from Gautier, MS. The specs are for right of way mowing of paved roads in Geneva County totaling 400 miles. The bid is \$221.00 per mile for a total cost of \$88,400.00. Engineer Barfield explained to the Commission that given the current staffing for his department to do the mowing it would require all other road work be halted. He also stated that RRR money could be used to pay for mowing. Gulf Breeze Landscaping, LLC can begin mowing August 16, 2021. Commissioner Spivey made a motion to accept the bid from Gulf Breeze Landscaping, LLC in the amount of \$88,400.00 for right of way mowing on paved roads. Commissioner Brannon seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.
Bids for Hot Asphalt Plant Mix were opened on July 21, 2021. Engineer Barfield explained this bid is for resurfacing N. County Road 49 to State Highway 52 and

Goosehollow Road from County Road 65 to State Highway 27. The project would be nine (9) miles of resurfacing, striping and right of way work. Attorney Eldridge asked which bid, was the low bid and the Engineer stated Wiregrass Construction was the lowest responsive bid. Commissioner Spivey made a motion to accept the low bid for Hot Asphalt Plant Mix from Wiregrass Construction. Commissioner Wilks seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

4. Board Appointments: Commissioner Fulford stated that Ms. Kim Lowery, has resigned her position on the DHR Board. Her term does not end until August 14, 2023. Commissioner Fulford made a motion to appoint Ms. Karen Logan to the DHR Board, replacing Ms. Kim Lowery. Commissioner Wilks seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Board Appointments – None
2. Bids – None
3. Spec Building – Chairman Seay stated that he had visited the Spec Building site, and work is being done on the entrance way. They need a few days of dry weather to begin paving on the parking lot.
4. Courtroom Renovation – Chairman Seay stated there had been an OAC meeting last week. There are several small punch list items remaining. Commissioner Wilks asked if the pews were on that punch list and Chairman Seay stated they were. Once these punch list items are completed there will be another walk through to ensure all items are complete.

REPORTS OF STAFF:

Sheriff: Sheriff Helms stated he had attended the Sheriff's Conference last week and had spoken with five (5) vendors on inmate medical services. He expects to be hearing from them regarding quotes on the healthcare contract for the jail.

There are still minor issues in the jail. The main reoccurring one being the camera system. It has been reported again.

There is a rise in Covid again and he stated the Commission may want to consider having temperature checks at the Courthouse entrance again and a mask mandate.

His department needs PPE due to the rise in Covid. He is hopeful that it may be purchased with the American Rescue Plan funds. EMA Director Smith stated he had some he had received he could share.

County Administrator: Mrs. Williams stated that there had been an issue at the Farm Center recently with overbooking or double booking. The Cattlemen's Association does not call to reserve the Farm Center and we had someone booked for the night of the

Cattlemen's meeting. Commissioner Brannon stated he would contact someone with the Cattlemen's Association.

Administrator Williams reminded the Commissioners about the IAC meeting in Montgomery at the RSA Activity Center, July 29th from 10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Mrs. Williams stated that when Mrs. Tracie Jordan had been hired for the Payroll/Personnel/Assistant Administrator position she had been hired as a classified employee. The Commission had voted to make the position exempt, however the pay for the position was not addressed. Attorney Eldridge stated the Personnel Handbook lists the Payroll/Personnel Director/Assistant Administrator position as an exempt position and that when Mrs. Williams held the position it had been made exempt but only while she held the position. When, Mrs. Jordan was hired, the position had reverted to a classified position. Attorney Eldridge explained to the Commission that they could make Mrs. Jordan's position the exempt salaried position it was when Mrs. Williams held the position with the same job description and job grade since Mrs. Jordan is performing these duties already. Mrs. Williams is asking the Commission to place Mrs. Jordan at exempt pay back to her anniversary date of June 22, 2021. Commissioner Spivey made a motion to make Mrs. Jordan's position for the Payroll/Personnel/Assistant Administrator at exempt pay effective June 22, 2021. Commissioner Brannon seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

County Engineer: Engineer Barfield stated all motor graders are out blading dirt roads. It is hopeful that they will be able to get in several days of blading before the rains begin again. Blading is behind due to the amount of rain. They will be working Friday's and possibly Saturday's, weather permitting, to try and get all roads bladed.

Regarding Road & Bridge personnel he has thirty-five (35) positions and only twenty-seven employees. Most of those positions are EOII positions that he has been unable to fill for over a year. Basically, he has three employees on each crew and when you take out the motor graders, he is unable to get caught up on the workload.

They did perform some right of way mowing last Thursday and Friday since they could not blade roads due to rain.

ATRIPII project, September is the deadline on the two-year project. A letter has been sent requesting an extension.

The FEMA project on the three bridges damaged during Hurricane Sally has hit a roadblock. They are in the process of working with FEMA on the issues.

Currently have six (6) driveway pipe installations booked.

Mr. Barfield stated that he and Attorney Eldridge had discussed the subdivision regulations. He will continue to work on this to finalize the plan. Mr. Eldridge stated that they added a one-time exclusion for the sale of lots less than 3 acres with 50' frontage on County roads. It should be published to attorneys, real estate agents and surveyors. Mr. Barfield said also, they should take into consideration adding stipulations about two (2) 50' driveways side by side. Another County comparable to ours is Chambers County and they follow the state subdivision guidelines. Mr. Barfield is of the opinion it would be in the best interest of the County to do this as well.

The FY2021 Rebuild Alabama Plan requires that you provide information on money spent with contractors throughout the year. Mr. Barfield has this information ready which must be signed by the Commission and sent to the ACCA and the State.

Commissioner Wilks made a motion to allow Chairman Seay to sign the FY2021 Rebuild Alabama information document. Commissioner Fulford seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

County Attorney: Attorney Eldridge stated that Chairman Seay had requested Administrator Williams reach out to other Counties to inquire about how they handle inmate medical. Houston County had sent over explanations and copies of their contracts with various medical providers. Mrs. Williams had provided a spreadsheet of the medical expenses for the jail for the last three years. In FY2019 the total expenses for inmate medical were \$186,063.02, in FY2020 the expenses totaled \$364,094.89 and in FY2021 to date the total is \$276,841.18. Expenses are expected to be around \$350,000.00 for FY2021. These expenses are for all inmate medical services which would include the contract for nursing services with Wiregrass Medical Center, ambulance, ER, hospital, pharmacy, dental. Mr. Eldridge had called Houston County and spoke with the Assistant Administrator Mrs. Stephanie Chandler regarding how they handle the inmate medical. In Houston County they employ a Physicians Assistant and four (4) LPN's. They also have a Doctor, Pharmacist and Psychologist on contract that make visits several times during the month. By having the Physicians Assistant and the Doctor they can purchase all medication wholesale. Mrs. Chandler also explained that only she and the Physicians Assistant were allowed to deal with any medical provider. Most of the time they can negotiate Medicare rates for services provided. Houston County has had this in place going on approximately eighteen (18) months and it has resulted in a cost savings of approximately \$1,200,000.00. Chairman Seay stated that he has been contacting local doctors to see if one may be interested in contracting with the County to provide medical services. Sheriff Helms also stated that he had contacted five (5) medical service contractors at the Sheriff's Conference and was waiting on quotes. He also stated that they are now requiring the Cities to take their arrests, if they require medical attention, to the hospital prior to booking them in the jail. This makes the city responsible for any medical bills prior to the inmate being booked in the County Jail. Attorney Eldridge stated in his opinion by having a medical professional (Doctor or Physicians Assistant) on duty it would alleviate a lot of the ER visits and save the County money.

Mr. Eldridge stated that he and Sheriff Helms had an appointment in Andalusia, Friday at 11:00 a.m. regarding the Tobacco Permit for the jail.

Chairman Seay: Chairman Seay stated there would be a public meeting tonight at 5:30 p.m. at the Bellwood Community Center regarding the CDBG grant on paving streets in low-income areas. There are 3.6 miles of roads under consideration.

Revenue Commissioner: Ms. Ellison stated that she had given the FY2022 estimated Abstract to Administrator Williams.

EMA Director: Mr. Smith stated he had brought back PPE from his conference and stated he could share with the Sheriff's office.

Mr. Smith also shared with the Commission that he plans to have a meeting with all the County fire chiefs to devise a plan that would bring cohesion on a site when an

emergency occurs. Currently the various fire departments have different plans in place and when more than one department shows up at an emergency, they all operate differently, which can cause confusion.

The Emergency Operations Center at the EMA Office has several issues that need to be addressed. Currently no phone lines are operational in the room and there are some obsolete computers that need to be destroyed.

Solid Waste: Director Smith was not present.

E-911: Mr. Jeremy Williams stated they had a kick-off call for the new software. The software should be operational in October.

Auburn Extension: Ms. Marks stated the agents are preparing for the new school year. They had their Needs Assessment meeting last Thursday.

Commissioner's: Commissioner Spivey thanked the Sheriff's department for assisting him on a call he had last week.


Commissioner Fulford stated he had a call from a citizen requesting a road to be closed. Attorney Eldridge stated there is a process that begins with the citizen filing a petition with the Commission for a road to be closed.

Commissioner Spivey 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, July 26, 2021.




Chairman, Toby Seay



Cindy Williams
County Administrator



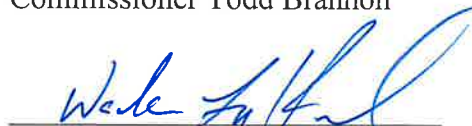
Commissioner Weston Spivey



Commissioner Todd Brannon



Commissioner Bart Wilks



Commissioner Wade Fulford