

The Geneva County Commission met in regular session on Monday, July 11, 2022, at 9:30 a.m. at the Geneva County Courthouse in Geneva, Alabama.

Commissioner Todd Brannon called the meeting to order and welcomed guests present. Commissioner Wilks opened the meeting with prayer. Commissioner Brannon 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.

Commissioner Brannon called the roll, and the following members were present: Commissioners Weston Spivey, 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; Solid Waste Director, Dawn Smith and County Administrator, Cindy Williams was also present. The following business was transacted:

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approve Minutes of June 27, 2022. Commissioner Spivey made a motion to approve the minutes of June 27, 2022. Commissioner Wilks seconded the motion. Vote was 3-0.
2. Mr. Tracy Hall with Safe Harbor Health (Better Benefits for Alabama) presented to the Commission a Total Wellness Program plan that he says would be beneficial for both the County and the employees. He stated it would bring measurable financial results to the County through savings on payroll FICA taxes and to the employee because the plan is a pre-tax section 125 eligible plan and the reimbursements received for qualified medical services are tax exempt. Reimbursements are automatically processed and levelized in each paycheck, and employees can fund new employee benefits with little to no change in their take home pay. Employees receive a wellness program benefit in their gross pay that allows them to purchase insurance plans at no additional cost to them, essentially making the insurance free to the employee. The Commission thanked Mr. Hall and explained that they would review the provided information and advise Administrator Williams of their decision.
3. Administrator Williams told the Commission that Sheriff Helms, Jail Administrator James Kelly, Chairman Seay, Personnel Director Tracie Jordan, and herself had interviewed candidates for the Jail Nurse position last Thursday and were recommending Ms. Marion Clemmons to fill the position. Ms. Clemmons

RECORDED IN OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT, GENEVA COUNTY, ALABAMA
10:06:00 AM 07/26/2022

was a helicopter pilot in the service, is currently a nurse at Wiregrass Medical Center, has worked at three nursing homes and a hospital previously and in a Correctional Facility. She is in the Sheriff's Reserves and Posse and has worked in the jail. The current nurse had previously submitted her resignation and will be leaving the end of the month. Commissioner Spivey made a motion to offer the Jail Nurse position to Ms. Marion Clemmons. Commissioner Spivey seconded the motion. Vote was 3-0. Administrator Williams then asked the Commission about the pay rate. The current nurse makes an annual salary of \$58,240.00 (\$28.00 per hour) and Mrs. Williams does not believe Ms. Clemmons will come for any less. Commissioner Wilks made a motion to keep the Jail Nurse pay rate at \$58,240.00 annually. Commissioner Spivey seconded the motion. Vote was 3-0.

4. Attorney Eldridge stated that Administrator Williams had provided him with a resolution for a CDBG Application for Street Improvements in the Bellwood Community. The project will be \$474,667.00 in federal grant assistance with a match from the County in the amount of \$52,745.00. The resolution requires a vote of the Commission. Commissioner Wilks made a motion to pass the resolution for CDBG Application for Street Improvements in the Bellwood Community and allow Chairman Seay to sign the resolution. Commissioner Spivey seconded the motion. Vote was 3-0. Commissioner Wilks made a motion that the County match should not exceed \$52,745.00. Commissioner Fulford seconded the motion. Vote was 3-0.
5. Bids/Quotes: Attorney Phil Eldridge opened bids for the Jail Commissary. Stacey Williams Company bid was 42% commission rate of inmate commissary and 50% on lobby kiosk cash fees and twenty-five cents on all outgoing email messages. Kimble Foods bid was 45.5% commission on inmate commissary. Keefe Commissary Network bid was 30% commission on inmate commissary and Tiger Correctional Services bid was 35% on inmate commissary. A representative present for Stacey Williams Company stated that their overall commission rate for the past six months has been 46.47% when you include kiosk cash fees and email message fees. After discussion and review there is still some confusion on which bid should be accepted. Commissioner Fulford made a motion to allow Attorney Eldridge, Chairman Seay, and Sheriff Helms to review the bids from Stacey Williams Company and Kimble Foods to make certain the bid procedures and specifications are met, and the correct bid is accepted, and that the Chairman should determine which bid is the highest responsible bid. Commissioner Wilks seconded the motion. Vote was 3-0.

Sheriff: Sheriff Helms explained that his department continues to have vehicle issues. Currently they are replacing an engine in a vehicle. The Sheriff said that the Commission had approved a fingerprint machine for his department three (3) years ago, but he has been unable to obtain one. Montgomery County has a used machine that they will let him use but it will require a payment to Dataworks of \$2,500.00 for the license and software to be transferred from Montgomery County to Geneva County. Commissioner Wilks made a motion to allow the Sheriff to accept the used fingerprint machine from Montgomery County and pay Dataworks

\$2,500.00 for the conversion from the Jail budget. Commissioner Spivey seconded the motion. Vote was 3-0.

Sheriff Helms stated that he would like the Commission to consider purchasing AEDs for all patrol cars and two for the Courthouse from the ARPA funds. If that is not possible, he would like for them to consider the purchase in next years budget. The cost for per AED device is \$1,475.00.

County Administrator: Mrs. Williams stated that Commissioner Wilks is currently serving as the Legislative Committee Representative, and it is time to appoint a representative for 2022-2023. After discussion, the Commission asked to vote on a representative at the next meeting.

Mrs. Williams stated that at the September 27, 2021 Commission meeting it had been voted on to have the County offices at Courthouse on a four-day work week on a temporary trial for a six-month period beginning January 1, 2022, The six month trial is over and a decision needs to be made on whether to extend the trial period, revert to the old hours or make the new hours permanent. Commissioner Spivey made a motion to make the change to the four-day work week, Monday through Thursday 7:00 am to 6:00 pm permanent. Commissioner Wilks seconded the motion. Vote was 2-1. Mrs. Williams then asked about the Holiday Pay for employees. Currently holidays are paid at eight hours. After discussion Commissioner Spivey made a motion to table the Holiday Pay. Commissioner Wilks seconded the motion. Vote was 3-0.

County Engineer: The Engineer stated that the ATRIPHI project in Hartford is still scheduled to begin July 18, 2022.

Mr. Barfield is continuing to work with Ms. Emily VanScyoc with Southeast Alabama Regional Planning and Development on the street paving project in Bellwood.

The department will do spot spraying with Herbicide and do some spot right of way mowing.

Mr. Barfield addressed budget concerns for equipment and presented the Commissioners with his equipment requests for FY2023.

Driveway pipe installation is current.

Surveying is continuing at the Industrial Park.

The cross-drain project on County Road 10 is still in progress.

Commissioner Fulford stated that there were several roads in his district that needed stripping. Engineer Barfield said that the stripping truck had been repaired and they could discuss which roads Commissioner Fulford was referring to and he would have his department look at them. Commissioner Fulford also inquired about the long arm cutting.

County Attorney: Attorney Eldridge stated that the last meeting the Coroner had asked for a pay increase and is providing the Commissioners with a copy of the 2021 Code of Alabama, Title 45 – Local Laws, Chapter 31 – Geneva County, Article 6 – Coroner, Section 45-31-60 - Compensation. The law states that commencing on June 1, 2009, the Coroner of Geneva County shall receive an annual salary of \$9,600.00 payable in monthly installments. The Coroners pay also falls under the October 1, 2008 Omnibus Pay Act, Section 11-2A-4 which makes the Coroner eligible for Cost of Living raises like all other elected officials. Currently the Coroners pay is \$11,672.40. Attorney Eldridge

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also stated that he had obtained information from Administrator Williams and according to her she gave the Coroner a Cost-of-Living increase for FY2022. Mr. Eldridge stated that the Commission cannot increase the pay of the Coroner, it would require legislative action.

Commission Chairman: Chairman Seay is attending the Probate conference.

EMA Director: Mr. Smith had nothing to report

Revenue Commissioner: Ms. Ellison had nothing to report.

Solid Waste Director: Mrs. Smith stated that she had previously requested a bathroom be added to the Solid Waste building at the yard. She had obtained quotes last year and two of the companies that quoted will honor the quotes they provided. She is obtaining one more quote. She also stated that she had been told she could not use the septic tank there because it is used when washing trucks and would require a lot of pumping out throughout the year. Engineer Barfield told her he believes there is another septic tank already installed but he will check to make certain. Commissioner Spivey requested that all bidders for electrical and plumbing, and HVAC be licensed. Attorney Eldridge advised Mrs. Smith that she should contact IAC with her request, that we may not be able to obtain local quotes if ARPA funds are used for the project.

Mrs. Smith stated that the Commission may need to consider an increase in the Garbage fee due to increases being implemented by the Southeast Alabama Solid Waste Authority for dumping fees. She said that her calculations are showing without any other cost increase concerns, such as truck repairs, tires, fuel, etc., the fee should be increased a minimum of \$1.70 per month.

E-911: Not present.

Auburn Extension: Not present.

Commissioner's: Nothing further to add.

Commissioner Wilks made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Fulford seconded the motion. Vote was 3-0.

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**STATE OF ALABAMA
COUNTY OF GENEVA**

**REGULAR SESSION
July 11, 2022**

The above constitutes the minutes of the meeting of the Geneva County Commission held on Monday, July 11, 2022.


Chairman, Toby Seay



Commissioner Weston Spivey



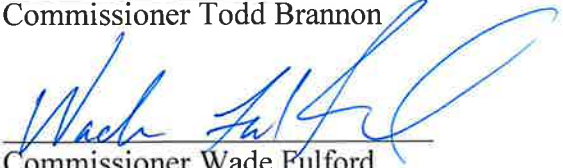
Commissioner Bart Wilks



Cindy Williams
County Administrator



Commissioner Todd Brannon



Commissioner Wade Fulford

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