

The Geneva County Commission met in regular session on Monday, August 22, 2022, at 9:30 a.m. at the Geneva County Courthouse in Geneva, Alabama.

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.

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; Sheriff, Tony Helms; 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 August 8, 2022. Commissioner Spivey made a motion to approve the minutes of August 8, 2022. Commissioner Wilks seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.
2. Mrs. Niki Dyess and Ms. Amber Thornton were in attendance as Board Members on behalf of the Geneva County Cattlemen's Association to discuss the upcoming Geneva County Calf Show which will be held September 9 & 10, 2022 at the Farm Center. The calf show will be held Saturday and several events and contests will be held Friday night. Mrs. Dyess also noted that the Geneva County Cattlemen's Association increased their membership substantially this past year and Mr. Brandon Dillard, President of the Association will be receiving his red Cattlemen's blazer.
3. Mrs. Emily VanScyoc with Southeast Alabama Regional Planning and Development was present for a new resolution for the CDBG Covid Grant for Geneva County. The original allocation was \$300,000.00. At that time the plan was to divide those funds between all the fire departments in the County and the EMA department. After the initial grant the County applied for recaptured funds which brought the total to \$785,000.00. The additional funds were for Wiregrass Medical Center for purchasing hospital beds and an endoscopy machine. This resolution is to amend the project scope concerning the initial \$300,000.00 going to the fire departments. Samson had intended on using their funds to build a new Rescue facility, however due to rising costs the estimate for the facility came in at

RECORDED IN DEPT. OF REVENUE, ALABAMA, AUGUST 22, 2022, 09:51:59 AM

\$500,000.00 and their set aside from the grant is only \$75,000.00. They are unable to build the facility, so they are asking to amend their request for the money to be used for equipment for their fire and rescue departments. This is just a formal amendment that the Commission must pass since the grant was applied for by the Geneva County Commission. All expenditures must be approved by ADECA. Commissioner Fulford made a motion to adopt the resolution amending the project scope of the CDBG Covid Grant allowing Samson to spend their funds for equipment for their fire and rescue departments. Commissioner Spivey seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

4. Bids were opened for Right of Way Mowing. There was only one bid from Austin Communications in the amount of \$175,000.00 to mow 400 mile of Right of Way. In this year's budget, \$100,000.00 was set aside for this and this bid comes in \$75,000.00 over the budget amount. Mr. Barfield is recommending the bid be rejected. Mr. Barfield stated the Commission is aware of the current staffing situation in his department and he is asking to hire a seasonal work crew as contract laborers that would use the County equipment and fuel to complete the mowing. He would like to hire three (3) to run the tractors and a supervisor. He has one person that has applied for a job at Road & Bridge but doesn't have a CDL that is interested in this position. He is proposing an hourly rate of \$15.00 for the crew and \$20.00 for the supervisor. He has spoken to a retired foreman that is interested in the supervisor position. Mr. Barfield also asked that they work the same schedule as Road & Bridge so that mechanics would be available if needed. The project should last two to three months. Commissioner Fulford asked about current employees and their reaction to these positions since the hourly rate is higher than the starting pay in his department. Mr. Barfield explained that he has offered current employees' overtime over the past month to do mowing and road work but has very little signing up to do so. Commissioner Wilks asked about the plan of attack for mowing if the mowers would be kept together for less signage and movement of signage. Mr. Barfield responded that he would like to have them split up in the beginning due to several hot spot areas that need immediate attention and then the mowers could come together. Commissioner Brannon made a motion to reject the Right of Way Mowing bid from Austin Communications. Commissioner Wilks seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0. Commissioner Spivey made a motion to approve three seasonal workers at a rate of pay of \$15.00 per hour and one supervisor at a rate of pay of \$20.00 per hour for the Road & Bridge department for mowing of right of ways. Commissioner Fulford seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

Bids were opened August 17, 2022 for the paving project for FY2022 Transportation Plan. Two bids were received. The first bid from Wiregrass Construction Company was for \$1,892,454.00 and the second bid was from MidSouth Paving for \$2,288,921.00. The Engineer stated that in 2020 the average cost of paving one mile was \$119,000, last year the average cost was \$150,000.00 and now this year the average cost is \$200,000.00. That is an increase of 60% in two years. He anticipates more increases which greatly diminishes the County's buying power for paving projects. The first year the Commission approved

borrowing \$3,000,000.00 to begin the paving projects. The scope for this project is to notch out two feet on the outside of each road to get rid of the deteriorated roadway then lay down an inch of general leveling and finally an inch of final wearing surface. The Engineer, Assistant Engineer and Administrator have all been looking at his funds to see what he may have available for the project which looks like \$900,000.00. That leaves a deficit of \$1,000,000.00. He has spoken to Wiregrass Construction to see what cost saving measures could be done. They believe instead of notching out two feet on the outside one foot could be done which could free up \$200,000.00 bringing it down to \$1,692,454.00. This was really the only cost saving measure without changing the scope of the paving project. Commissioner Fulford asked if some work like grading the roads could be performed in house which could save \$50,000.00 or more. Engineer Barfield stated that could be done but it would be tying up at least two motor graders from the dirt roads and he is not certain if the small offset is worth that. For future paving projects the mileage will have to be decreased to make it fit in the budget. Commissioner Fulford made a motion to accept the paving bid from Wiregrass Construction and do one foot notch on the outside instead of two feet.

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

5. The FY2023 Transportation Plan was presented by Engineer Barfield. Next years plan will be for Districts 1 and 3. Between the Engineer and Commissioners he has a plan for 7.43 miles for next year at an estimated cost of \$1,300,000.00. In District 1 they are looking at County Road 48 which is 1.5 miles and 1.2 miles on County Road 49 initiating from where it stopped at County Road 60 working north to try and complete the corridor from Highway 52 to the Florida line. In District 3 they are looking at County Road 99 from State Road 85 to County Road 22. Depending on what treatment Commissioner Wilks desires it could be all that area or half. Plant mix, double and triple surface would all be in the bid. Commissioner Wilks made a motion to approve the FY2023 Transportation Plan. Commissioner Spivey seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Attorney Eldridge stated that he had provided a copy of the proposed gun policy to all the Commissioners at the last meeting and to the Sheriff who was not in attendance. The new permit law does not take effect until January 1, 2023. The Sheriff and his deputies were excluded from the gun policy. Mr. Eldridge said he had changed the effective date on the policy to January 1, 2023. There are some differences in the old and new law which would affect employees carrying guns on their person or in their vehicles. Sheriff Helms recommended instead of only exempting his department to exempt all law enforcement officers that may be on the grounds. Mr. Eldridge will continue to work on this policy, to be addressed closer to January 1, 2023.

**Sheriff:** Sheriff Helms stated they are continuing to gather items for the auction. They have notified individuals with vehicles at the impound yard to come forward and claim their property or it will be sold at the next auction.

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Sheriff Helms stated he just had word that there was an ADECA grant he could apply for that would assist with equipment purchases. It is due by August 31<sup>st</sup>. He is asking if he can gather all the information needed can he be allowed to apply and have the Chairman sign the application. Commissioner Fulford made a motion to allow Sheriff Helms to apply for the ADECA grant and allow Chairman Seay to sign. Commissioner Wilks seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

**County Administrator:** Administrator Williams asked the Commission about the retiree lump sum payment. The decision is due by September 1, 2022. We have participated in this in the past. They do this every three or four years. It is a total cost of \$28,590 which can be paid as a lump sum or add a percentage to the FY2024 retirement rates. Commissioner Fulford made a motion to participate in the retiree lump sum payment. Commissioner Spivey seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

**County Engineer:** Mr. Barfield stated that since the last meeting they have hired one new Equipment Operator II and he started work today. He has a zoom meeting scheduled with FEMA on August 29, 2022 regarding the bridge on Line Road. The Corp of Engineers has determined there could be some protected mussels in the stream. The other two bridges are moving forward. They are continuing to work on the plans at the Industrial Park. Driveway pipe installation has four (4) in the que. Engineer Barfield stated that all bridges must be inspected per federal guidelines. Currently Assistant Engineer Mike Shirah is the only certified bridge inspector. He does have an employee that is working on his certification but the process it is a three-years, and he has two more years before completion. He also has another employee that will begin his certification process soon. The department retained a retired employee that was the bridge inspector as a contract employee. The current contract employee has requested an increase in pay from \$18.75 an hour to \$22.50 an hour. Several years ago, he had obtained a quote from a private firm to do the bridge inspections and it came in at \$65,000.00 and he is certain that price has increased. Mr. Barfield needs the current contract employee or a private firm for the next two years until he can get one employee certified as a bridge inspector. A plan was enacted years ago to inspect bridges all year long. A certain number is inspected each month. The current employee does not work a certain number of hours each month. Commissioner Spivey made a motion to approve the increase of pay for the contract bridge inspector to \$22.50 per hour beginning August 1, 2022. Commissioner Brannon seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0. Mr. Barfield stated he was speaking on Mr. Kyle Hovey's request to vacate a road since he was unable to attend today to speak. The road he is asking to be vacated is Knight Road, a dead-end road off Bethesda Road. There once was a house on the road and basically it was a long driveway. The house is no longer there and there are only two property owners on the road, Mr. Hovey and Mr. Nathan Mathis. Attorney Eldridge advised that the Engineer or Commissioner Spivey speak with Mr. Mathis about the request to see if he would sign to vacate the road. Mr. Eldridge stated that even if Mr. Mathis will not sign Mr. Hovey can request the road be vacated through his part of land.

**County Attorney:** Attorney Eldridge stated that at the last meeting the Commission directed him to send a letter to Stacy Williams Company regarding their protest of the jail commissary services bid award. The letter was sent to Stacy Williams Company, but he has not heard anything from them.

Mr. Eldridge gave the Commissioners a proposed resolution for Kyleigh Farms under Amendment 772 for their review and also a notice that will go in the newspaper this week which was authorized by motion at the last meeting. The public hearing will be held at the September 12, 2022 Commission meeting. This is a resolution stating that it would serve a valid and sufficient public purpose.

**Commission Chairman:** Chairman Seay stated that on Tuesday, September 13, 2022, at 10:00 am, bids will be opened for the TAPPS Grant for the sidewalk project. He received an update from Mr. Matt Parker from the Dothan/Houston County Chamber of Commerce this morning on the project at the Industrial Park. He has received the final update agreement on the incentives which he should have signed by this Thursday. After signing it will be directed to the Department of Commerce and then to the Governor's Office.

**Revenue Commissioner:** Ms. Ellison did not have anything to report.

**EMA Director:** Mr. Smith stated that he and Deputy Bruner had picked up a 1000-gallon potable water tank to be used during emergency situations. Mr. Smith distributed to the Commission information on an upcoming informational class in Dothan that will be on how ICS, EOC others work together during large scale events. He is working on the Everbridge renewal and trying to see if there are other products out there that may be better than what is currently being used. He would like a product that would work for the County, Cities and School Boards for mass notification.

**Solid Waste Director:** Mrs. Smith was not present.

**E-911:** Not present.

**Auburn Extension:** Not present.

**Commissioner's:** Commissioner Spivey asked if the other Commissioners would be willing to come up with a County logo for a polo shirt that could be used for wearing to meetings and conference events.

Commissioner Wilks stated that the Bellwood Fire Department has requested the County donate them a vehicle and he explained that was not an option, but we may have a vehicle they could purchase at a reasonable price. He had spoken with the Sheriff, and he has another 2010 Tahoe that he will be willing to sell to them. Commissioner Wilks made a motion to allow Chairman Seay to obtain a value on the vehicle and present it to the Bellwood Fire Department to see if they are interested in purchasing the vehicle.

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

Commissioner Fulford thanked the Road & Bridge department for coming out at 4:00 Thursday afternoon to repair a road in his district.

**Budget Review** - Administrator Williams distributed a revised budget for the Commission's review. Chairman Seay stated that he and Mrs. Williams had worked on the budget and made all the changes discussed at the last meeting. Chairman Seay stated that our most valuable asset and largest budget expenditure is employees, and he realizes the Commission desires to help the employees as much as possible. With that in mind he and Mrs. Williams have gone over the budget again and feel the max raise is 4.5%. At that, all departments must be aware that they will have to adhere to the budget and stay on top of all expenditures. We have accounted for all revenues and budgeted accordingly. Sheriff Helms and Engineer Barfield both stated getting applicants and maintaining employees is their biggest problem and even giving a 20% raise on the current pay scale will not be competitive with other counties and private employers. Commissioner Wilks stated that the Legislature is looking at eliminating tax on food which could affect our revenue. Chairman Seay asked the Commission to review and compare the two budgets received and prepare any questions for discussion at the next meeting.

Chairman Seay stated that all costs have been received for the ARPA projects and presented the Commissioners with a copy of all the requests and costs. This is just for review, and he has listed several options in hopes that all requests could be granted. Commissioner Spivey stated he did not understand or agree with the amount recommended to be spent at the Farm Center. Commissioner Brannon stated that the roof leaks at the Farm Center and the majority of the repair cost was to repair the roof. We will have critical infrastructure needs at the Farm Center and Courthouse that if not addressed now will require addressing in the next few years. We have the opportunity to make the repairs now using ARPA funds and not have to make the expenditure from the General Fund. Chairman Seay stated that the cost on the Courthouse included the complete demo and remodeling of the old jail for use as a Commission Chamber, other offices and storage. He asked them to include cost on just the demo which would free up funds. Each municipality had requested an ambulance and funds for water and sewer projects. He has spoken to IAC about providing funds to municipalities and they are working on a plan to provide a mileage rate for ambulance services provided in the County. They will include a cap at whatever the Commission would desire. Commissioner Fulford asked if some of the funds could be used to put rock on the worst dirt roads or at least the worst spots on the road. He had inquired how much rock could be purchased for \$500,000.00 and the Engineer had told him approximately fifteen (15) miles, which is not a lot, but it could possibly repair the worst spots. Commissioner Spivey agreed with Commissioner Fulford that roads should be a topic of conversation for expenditure of the ARPA funds.


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

**STATE OF ALABAMA  
COUNTY OF GENEVA**


**REGULAR SESSION  
August 22, 2022**

The above constitutes the minutes of the meeting of the Geneva County Commission held on Monday, August 22, 2022.

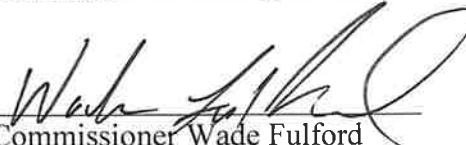
  
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Chairman Toby Seay

  
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Commissioner Weston Spivey

  
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Commissioner Bart Wilks

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Cindy Williams  
County Administrator

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Todd Brannon

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Wade Fulford

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# FY 2023 County Transportation Plan

## Geneva County



Date Approved by the Geneva County Commission: August 22, 2022

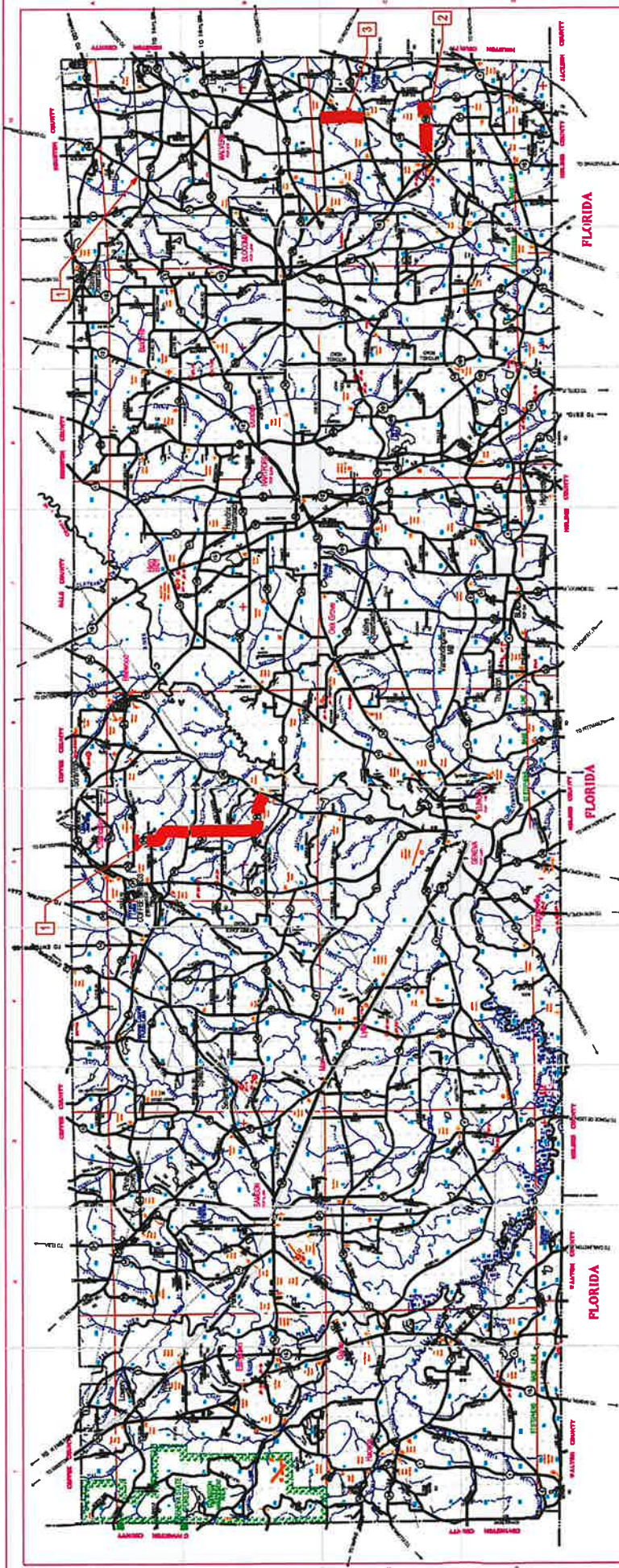
Date Amended by the Geneva County Commission:

Map Index	Project No.	Road Name/Number	Begin		End		Project Details			Total Project Estimated Cost	Estimated Amount Planned To Be Utilized Under Competitive Bid	Estimated Amount Planned To Be Utilized Under Public Works	County Rebuild Alabama Funds or Federal Aid Exchange Funds (List fund type separately for projects involving both CRAFs and FAEFs)	CRAF Amount	FAEF Amount	
			Lat.	Long.	Lat.	Long.	Road Improvement Project	Bridge Improvement Project	Project Length (miles)							Description of Work
Estimated Beginning Balance																
Estimated Current Year Annual Revenue																
1	GCP 31-02-22	CR-99	31.1165	85.8413	31.1708	85.8629	X		4.66			Resurfacing and Traffic Striping/Marking from SR-85 to CR-22	\$725,600.00		\$725,600.00	CRAF
2	GCP 31-03-22	CR-48	31.0480	85.5323	31.0496	85.5067	X		1.52			Resurfacing and Traffic Striping/Marking from CR-49 to CR-81	\$253,800.00		\$253,800.00	FAEF
3	GCP 31-04-22	CR-49	31.0744	85.5153	31.0926	85.5152	X		1.25			Resurfacing and Traffic Striping/Marking from CR-60 to CR-28	\$282,800.00		\$282,800.00	FAEF
*	2022 Bond Payment															
Totals/Page Totals			Total Miles Addressed by CTP (Total Mileage Does Not Include Bridge Projects)					7.43	Total CTP Estimated Costs	\$1,262,200.00	\$0.00	\$1,262,200.00	Total CRAF/FAEF Remaining Estimated	\$401.11	\$0.00	

Note: Any amendments to the CTP shall follow the same guidelines and procedures as the original approval process.

Remarks \* A maximum of one-half of each annual CRAF revenue will be applied to the Bond payment. The remaining CRAF & FAEF balance (if any) will be carried over for future projects.





ROUTE	SECTION	PROJECT	EST. COST	STATUS	DATE
1	...	...	...	...	...
2	...	...	...	...	...
3	...	...	...	...	...

# GENEVA COUNTY ALABAMA + FY 2023 COUNTY TRANSPORTATION PLAN



RESOLUTION NO 2022-822

GENEVA COUNTY CDBG-COVID 19 PROJECT NO. CV-NC-20-004  
FORMAL AMENDMENT

**WHEREAS,** the Geneva County Commission received a Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) Grant (CV-NC-20-004) to be utilized to prevent, prepare for, and/or respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and other infectious diseases in Geneva County; and,

**WHEREAS,** the Geneva County Commission has been awarded \$785,000 under the CARES Act; and,

**WHEREAS,** the Geneva County Commission wishes to amend the approved project scope by removing the construction of a new rescue facility in the city of Samson from the approved project scope and adding the purchase of personal protective equipment to assist the Samson Rescue Department.

**THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** by the Geneva County Commission, that the county formally amends the Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) Grant to be utilized to prevent, prepare for, and/or respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and other infectious diseases in Geneva County.

The above and foregoing Resolution is adopted and approved on this the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of August, 2022, by the Geneva County Commission.



Cindy Williams  
Cindy Williams, County Administrator

Toby L. Seay  
Toby L. Seay, Chairman

Todd Braum  
Commissioner

Bar  
Commissioner

Walter  
Commissioner

Wale  
Commissioner



