

The Geneva County Commission met in regular session on Monday, September 26, 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 Fulford 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 September 12, 2022. Commissioner Spivey made a motion to approve the minutes of September 12, 2022. Commissioner Wilks seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.
2. Chairman Seay stated that he had a resolution on the Construction Agreement for the grant at the Industrial Park. The County was awarded a \$1.4 million dollar Access Grant to extend the roadway at the Industrial Park. This is a resolution for the County to enter into an agreement with the State of Alabama for this project. The original resolution that was approved was for the application and this resolution is for the construction. Commissioner Brannon made a motion to approve the resolution on the Construction Agreement with the State of Alabama for the Access Grant to extend the roadway at the Industrial Park and allow Chairman Seay to sign the resolution. Commissioner Fulford seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.
3. Chairman Seay had final resolution from the IAC to allocate American Rescue Plan Funds for the purchase of radios for the Fire Departments. We have received the Sub Award Agreements and all other paperwork which is to be distributed to the fire departments for signature. Commissioner Fulford made a motion to approve the resolution from the IAC to allocate American Rescue Plan Funds for the purchase of radios for the fire departments and to allow Chairman Seay to sign the resolution and enter into agreements with the fire departments. Commissioner Spivey seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

4. Engineer Justin Barfield had a renewal for the fuel hauling bid with Tri-Star Energy. This will be the third year for the bid which will carry on through fiscal year 2023. It is to extend the current terms and conditions on all grades of unleaded gasoline and diesel fuel. It is five cents per gallon to haul gasoline and six cents per gallon to haul diesel fuel. Commissioner Wilks made a motion to approve the bid for Tri-Star Energy. Commissioner Fulford seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.
5. Mrs. Nikki Dyess and Mrs. Amber Thornton with the Geneva County Cattlemen's Association were present to update the Commission on the Calf Show held September 10, 2022 at the Geneva County Farm Center. Mrs. Dyess was very complimentary of the facilities and thanked the Commission for use of the facility. They had seventy (70) head of cattle and fifty (50) participants.
6. Chairman Seay stated the Maintenance Building that burned in November 2021 has still not been replaced. He and Engineer Barfield have been working on plans for the building which originally was not going to house the voting machines again but due to the costs of renovating the old jail it looks like the voting machines will need to be stored in the Maintenance Building for the foreseeable future. With that there will need to be a firewall in the new Maintenance Building and the storage area for the voting machines will require heating and cooling. Commissioner Spivey asked would the bids require that contractors be licensed. Chairman Seay stated yes that would be a requirement. Commissioner Fulford asked was there a reason the machines could not be stored in the current old jail to which the Chairman stated he wasn't certain where they could be stored, and the air and heat would have to be turned back on to the facility and there is a risk of pipes bursting and no one being aware of that. Commissioner Brannon made a motion to allow Chairman Seay to move forward with advertising for bids for the construction of a Maintenance Building. Commissioner Wilks seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.
7. Attorney Phil Eldridge stated he had reviewed the new contract for Assistant Engineer Mike Shirah. It is a five-year contract and is basically the same as the previous contract with the exception that there will no longer be an automatic annual raise, there will only be one when the County employees receive a cost-of-living increase. Also, the automatic renewal clause was removed, which the Supreme Court had ruled was not valid. Commissioner Wilks made a motion to renew the contract for the Assistant Engineer. Commissioner Spivey seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.
8. Solid Waste Director Dawn Smith provided three quotes for adding a bathroom and storage room to the barn at the yard. Good Cents Construction \$19,968.00, Big Creek Inc \$23,500.00 and Total Remodeling \$43,700.00. Commissioner Brannon made a motion to accept the quote from Good Cents Construction. Commissioner Spivey seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**STAFF REPORTS:**

**Sheriff:** Sheriff Helms stated that after six months all outside cameras at the jail have been repaired and placed back.

They are having to run fans in some areas of the jail because the air units are not working properly. Sheriff Helms asked that a decision be made on a maintenance contract on the air system. Chairman Seay stated that Bynum was reviewing and working on a contract. The Drug Task Force agency has told the Sheriff that they have money available for a vehicle purchase for the deputy assigned to Drug Task Force. The catch is that the purchase has to be made by September 30, 2022 from the State Bid List. He believes he has found a vehicle and should be able to make the purchase.

Sheriff Helms asked about rollover internet service. With the recent outage of the internet for a day and a half and the outage several weeks ago it seems to be very unreliable. Chairman Seay stated that he and Administrator Williams have been looking into the matter. The previous administration had discontinued the rollover internet service for some reason but it is apparent that it is needed.

**County Administrator:** Administrator Williams informed the Commissioners she had received notice from Local Government Health Insurance Board that the rates for medical insurance for 2023 will be at an increase of 6.4%.

Foxhill Systems is attempting to change all email to the same extension of genevacounty.al.gov. The only department not under Foxhill Systems for IT services is the Revenue Department. Chairman Seay asked Revenue Commissioner Mary Ann Ellison if she had any objection to changing her service provider to Foxhill and she stated she is not under contract with her current provider he just works when needed and that she does not have a problem using Foxhill as long as the department can contact them when need arises. Chairman Seay stated with Cyber Security being a hot topic and auditors will begin auditing for Cyber Security he believes it best to have all County departments under the one IT provider. Commissioner Spivey made a motion to consolidate all IT services to Foxhill Systems and for all email extensions to be the same. Commissioner Brannon seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

Reservations have been made for the Commissioners going to the Legislative Conference in December at the Marriott Renaissance in Montgomery for December 7, 2022.

**County Engineer:** Mr. Barfield asked that the Chairman be allowed to sign the Wiregrass RC&D grant paperwork. The County was awarded \$10,000 for ditch work on County Road 21. Commissioner Wilks made a motion to allow Chairman Seay to sign the paperwork for the Wiregrass RC&D grant. Commissioner Fulford seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

Mr. Barfield asked for the Chairman to sign the FY2022 County Rebuild Alabama Contractor Report for the ACCA. This is just a report on the contractors used for paving projects and the amounts paid to each. Commissioner Spivey made a motion to allow Chairman Seay to sign the FY2022 County Rebuild Alabama Contractor Report. Commissioner Fulford seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

They are paving, putting binder down today on the ATRIPII turn lane project in Hartford. They had to lower two water lines that were not on the original plans and per the Contract the County is responsible for all relocation of utilities.

There are no new updates on the FEMA bridge projects.

The department is closing a bridge on Gall Berry Road today due to pilings being exposed. Materials have been ordered for the repair.

The right of way mowing is progressing well. Approximately fifty (50) miles has been completed.

Mr. Barfield stated that at the last meeting Mr. Mike Williams with APHIS was present regarding beaver eradication and he has received the work initiation document for wildlife management. It is for the easement on the right of ways. They are scheduled to have a meeting next week to finalize locations. Commissioner Brannon made a motion to allow Chairman Seay to sign the Work Initiation document for Wildlife Management. Commissioner Fulford seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

At the last meeting he had asked for the incorrect rate of pay for the Right of Way Mowing Supervisor. The approved rate was \$20.00 per hour but the rate discussed with the individual was \$25.00 per hour. Commissioner Wilks made a motion to amend the initial rate of pay for the Right of Way Mowing Supervisor from \$20.00 to \$25.00 and make it retroactive to the start date. Commissioner Spivey seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

They will have a meeting tomorrow for the paving project on County Road 38 and the project should begin Wednesday.

**County Attorney:** Attorney Eldridge stated that he had the final Commissary Service agreement for the Jail with Kimble. They have made the requested changes, and this is the final draft. Commissioner Spivey made a motion to approve the agreement with Kimble for Commissary Services at the Jail and allow Chairman Seay to sign. Commissioner Brannon seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

**Commission Chairman:** Chairman Seay stated that bids there were no bids will be for the TAPPS Grant for the sidewalk project. He has spoke with ALDOT and they recommended it be readvertised since it is Federal funding. It has to advertise for three weeks, and the bids will be opened October 18, 2022.

**Revenue Commissioner:** Ms. Ellison stated that bills will be sent out this week for property taxes and her department is ready to begin tax collections.

**EMA Director:** Mr. Smith stated the current track of the hurricane has it coming in the Big Bend area. There is a slight chance of hurricane force winds and maybe two inches of rain.

He has a contract with Everbridge currently for County wide notifications which expires September 20, 2022. He has received a quote from HyperReach with better service, ease of registration, more user friendly and at less cost but it will not be up and running until October 17, 2022. He is trying to get the schools involved in HyperReach and it would allow everyone to be on the same system for notifications. The current Everbridge information can be ported to HyperReach.

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

**E-911:** Not present.

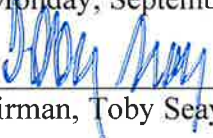
**Auburn Extension:** Not present.


**Commissioner's:** Commissioner Brannon stated that the annual NRCS meeting will be December 13, 2022 at 12:00 p.m. at Ketchum's Restaurant in Hartford. They will update all the projects for the County at that meeting.

**Budget Review** - Administrator Williams distributed a revised budget for the Commission's review. Chairman Seay stated that Mrs. Williams had made the requested changes from the last budget meeting. After review and discussion Commissioner Brannon made a motion to approve the FY2023 budget which includes a 4% cost of living increase for all employees. Commissioner Spivey seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.


Commissioner Brannon 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, September 26, 2022.

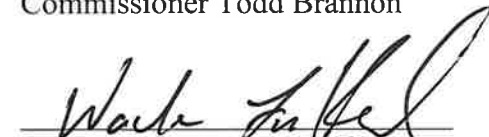
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman, Toby Seay

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Weston Spivey

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Bart Wilks

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