

The Geneva County Commission met in regular session on Monday, March 9, 2020 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.

Commission Chairman Seay called the roll and the following members were present: Commissioners Todd Brannon, Sandy Hammer, Weston Spivey, and Bart Wilks. The County Attorney, Phil Eldridge; County Engineer, Justin Barfield; Assistant Engineer, Mike Shirah; Sheriff Tony Helms, EMA Director, Eric Johnson, Revenue Commissioner Mary Ann Ellison, Solid Waste Director Dawn Smith; County Administrator Marietta Webster and Assistant County Administrator Cindy Williams were also present. The following business was transacted:

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

NEW BUSINESS:

There was a citizen present wishing to make public comment. Commissioner Spivey made a motion to allow Mr. Himes to speak. Commissioner Wilks seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0. Mr. Himes was present to make comments about the poor condition of his road. He lives on Fern Road in the Fadette area. Mr. Himes stated there are five places where the road has washed out due to the ditches not being cleaned out. Chairman Seay asked if he had called the Road & Bridge department to put in a work order for his road. He stated he has not called to put in a work order but he has called the Road & Bridge department several times to complain about the condition of his road. County Engineer Justin Barfield stated that on February 27, 2020 the Road & Bridge department had put in a call to Mr. Himes. Mr. Himes also stated that he has spoken with Commissioner Spivey several times about his road. Mr. Barfield explained that given the poor weather conditions this winter and the lack of manpower in his department it is difficult to maintain over five hundred miles of dirt roads and the paved road in the county. Mr. Barfield also stated that typically ditches are pulled in the drier months. The Road & Bridge department will check out Fern Road and see if there is resolution to Mr. Himes issues.

1. Approve Minutes of February 24, 2020. Commissioner Wilks made a motion to approve the minutes of February 24, 2020. Commissioner Spivey seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.
2. Proclamations: N/A
3. Bids: N/A

4. Board Appointments: At the Commission meeting on February 24, 2020 two members were voted on for the SARCOA board. The remaining member was not decided on. Commissioner Brannon has since spoken with Mrs. Joann Lindsey and she is not certain at this point if she is going to run for re-election or not. Commissioner Hammer made a motion for Roger Baine to be the elected official on the SARCOA board representing Geneva County. Commissioner Brannon seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Jail Construction: Attorney Phil Eldridge said the furniture purchase for the jail and the high-density storage for the jail was not covered by the construction contract and it will be purchased directly from the manufacturers. A contractor will not be involved in the purchases so it will not fall under the jail sales tax exemption, therefore it will need to be approved as a department purchase for the jail and it will fall under the general sales tax exemption for the county. The purchase will need to be approved and then the budget will have to be amended for the two purchases. Mr. Eldridge has spoken with the audit manager and she stated the purchase would be covered by the one cent sales tax funds since the purchase deals with operating expense for the jail. The cost of the high-density storage is \$17,891.20 and the cost of the furniture package is \$25,453.34. Commissioner Hammer made a motion to approve the purchase of the high-density storage and furniture package for the jail and amend the jail budget accordingly. Commissioner Brannon seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.
2. Mr. Mike Rutland and Ms. Joy Kaplan with JMR+H were present to continue discussion on the Sally Port and the Courtroom renovations. No decision is needed today on either project. Mr. Rutland recommended they do a walk through and discuss all the plans for both projects after the meeting in order not to have to discuss everything twice. All the documents are ready to obtain purchase orders for the furniture. Attorney Eldridge stated that prior to their arrival at the meeting the Commission had approved the purchases of the furniture and high-density storage. He will prepare the letters needed and have Cindy Williams to sign them. Mike Rutland stated they did have the data back on the rain days for the jail project, but it has not been tested against the criteria yet for an update. There was some questions whether or not the Sally Port and the parking area associated with that were extensions to the secured area of the new jail. Mr. Rutland said absolutely they were for the security of the jail and all expenses were related to the jail construction. Commissioner Hammer made a motion to table the discussion on the Sally Port and the Courtroom renovations until a later date. Commissioner Spivey seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

REPORTS OF STAFF:

Sheriff: Has had a donation of equipment for the K-9 unit. It is called a Hot Spot that will alert the Deputy and the Sheriff when the vehicle is too hot and will also allow the officer to open the back door from where he is.

County Administrator: Mrs. Webster stated there is a management discussion portion in the notes of the financials. The auditors have asked her to ask the Commission to do away with that. We are one of the only counties that does this, and it requires extra and duplicate work for the Administrator and the Audit Manager. Chairman Seay said the Commission would need to review the request but if the auditors are requesting it be done away with.

County Engineer: Engineer Justin Barfield needs to advertise for an Equipment Operator II position. Mrs. Williams stated it was already being advertised. Bids are being on March 18, 2020 for Rebuild Alabama projects and they will be opened and awarded at the March 23, 2020 Commission meeting. Attorney Eldridge interjected that he had received an email from Reid Cavnar with Stifel. We have forwarded the 2018 finalized audit to him and he has forwarded the information on to Heyward at the bonding attorneys for them to release to the rating company so the financial portion should be moving forward. The 4 way stop project at County Roads 28 and 49 has been fast tracked and is ready to open. This will not stop accidents but hopefully bit lessen the number of accidents. Bancorp South has forwarded the financing agreement for the new dump trucks. It will be a sixty-month term at 2.93% interest. A resolution is needed to approve the financing for the dump trucks which will be at total of \$580,592.00 with five annual payments of \$126,655.15 and allow the Chairman to sign the resolution and all documents necessary for the lease purchase financing when it is received. Commissioner Wilks made a motion to approve the financing for the dump trucks and allow Chairman Seay to sign the resolution and all documents necessary for the lease purchase financing when it is received. Commission Hammer seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0. Attorney Eldridge stated he had spoken with Lynn Otto the State Auditor and she has stressed that all purchases need to be from vendors on the State Bid List. She said it would be good practice to obtain a printout from the website showing the vendor was on the State Bid List at the time of purchase. The Engineer will obtain this from the State Bid List. Work will continue on County Road 17 and 19 with the cross-drain project.

County Attorney: Attorney Eldridge presented a Hold Harmless Agreement for the workers and volunteers with the Geneva County Food Bank. The insurance carrier usually requires this form. He also had a Use Agreement for the Geneva County Food Bank for use of the Farm Center as the distribution site. Mr. Michaels will need to sign individually since it is not incorporated or a non-profit organization. This will be for the use of the rear portion of the Farm Center on the second Tuesday of each month from 12 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. per the minutes from the last meeting. The agreement also states the use will not interfere with other portions of the Farm Center or the front portion occupied by the Geneva County Extension Office. Per the agreement the organization will need to

make certain the facility is left clean and no trash or debris is left behind. All workers and volunteers will need to sign a Hold Harmless Agreement and those forms must be on file at the Commission Office. Should the organization fail to meet the terms of the agreement it will be terminated by the Commission. Commissioner Brannon may have a conflict with this date, but it is not certain at this time about the dates for the Farmers Market that will be held at the Farm Center. Commissioner Spivey made a motion to approve the Hold Harmless Agreement and the Use Agreement with the exception that the dates may require a change. Commissioner Hammer seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

The State Energy Grant for lighting at the Farm Center requires a written Procurement Policy. He has prepared a proposed purchasing policy which was sent to all Commissioners last week for their review. Commissioner Brannon made a motion to accept the Procurement Policy. Commissioner Hammer seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

Received the lawsuit from Beasley Adams filed on behalf of the County regarding prescription drugs that was filed on February 25, 2020. We have ninety days to provide a fact sheet. A proposed one was completed a year ago and will just need to be updated. The deadline is May 25, 2020. A motion is needed to allow Chairman Seay to sign the document once it is completed. Commissioner Hammer made a motion to allow Chairman Seay to sign the lawsuit documents regarding the prescription drug complaint. Commissioner Spivey seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

Chairman Seay: The County's portion of the loan on the spec building for 25% closed on March 5, 2020. Power South has their meeting March 11, 2020 and the loan for the remainder will be approved at that time. After March 11, 2020 should be able to start the bid process for the spec building. He reminded all present to complete their Statement of Economic Interest required by the State. The deadline is April 30, 2020. SEARP&D is managing the grant for the lighting at the Farm Center on the State Energy Grant. They have sent out for bids for the project and hopefully by the next meeting a vendor can be selected for the project.

Revenue Commissioner: Nothing to report.

EMA Director: Eric Johnson stated Coronavirus has been the topic of discussion in his area these past few weeks. He will be meeting with Mr. Brannon from Wiregrass Medical Center and to date we have no known cases in the State of Alabama. Mr. Johnson has spent time with the various city EMS personnel about their contingency plans.

E-911: Mr. Jeremy Williams had a report for 2019 for all the calls for public safety. Per the report the times between 2:00 pm and 10:00 pm are their busiest times. For 911 calls there were a total of 15,438. There were 661,000 calls on their admin system. The Sheriff's office has more calls for the Malvern Fire District than anywhere else in the county. Keep in mind the City of Geneva will have calls that involve the courthouse.

Auburn Extension: Not present.

Solid Waste: Mrs. Dawn Smith was present and reported that collections were up 40% over last year. She had sent out collections notices for old accounts and has received \$26,000.00 on old bills. Her department has an old International Garbage Truck they need to sell. Engineer Barfield suggested listing it on GovDeals. Commissioner Wilks made a motion to list the International Garbage Truck on GovDeals. Commissioner Spivey seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0. Chairman Seay asked about the condition of the other trucks in the fleet. Mrs. Smith stated she has had issues with three trucks lately. There are six trucks in the department including the International. Mr. Barfield suggested her department look at something like his department is doing and lease trucks.

Commissioner Brannon: Nothing to report.

Commissioner Hammer: Nothing to report.

Commissioner Spivey: Nothing to report.

Commissioner Wilks: Nothing to report.

Commissioner Wilks made a motion to recess for the walk through of the Courtroom and Jail. Commissioner Spivey seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

Commissioner Hammer made a motion to resume the Commission meeting. Commissioner Wilks seconded the motion. Chairman Seay called the meeting back to order after the recess for the walk-through of the Courtroom and Jail.

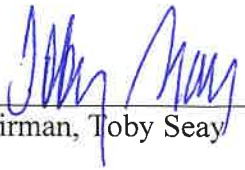
Commissioner Wilks made a motion to accept Option A for the Sally Port for the jail which will be located on the new jail side of the Courthouse. Commissioner Wilks made a motion to accept Option A for the Sally Port project. Commissioner Spivey seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

Commissioner Hammer made a motion to approve the Courtroom renovations with the new alternates. Commissioner Spivey seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

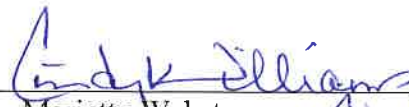
Commissioner Hammer made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Wilks seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

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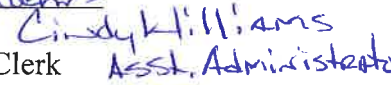
The above constitutes the minutes of the meeting of the Geneva County Commission held on Monday, March 9, 2020.




Chairman, Toby Seay



Marietta Webster
Chief Administrative Clerk


Cindy Williams
Asst. Administrator



Commissioner Weston Spivey



Commissioner Todd Brannon



Commissioner Bart Wilks



Commissioner Hammer