

The Geneva County Commission met in regular session on Monday, June 8, 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 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.

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 County Engineer, Mike Shirah; Sheriff, Tony Helms; EMA Director, Eric Johnson; County Administrator Cindy Williams were also present. The following business was transacted:

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING

#### NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approve Minutes of May 26, 2020. Commissioner Hammer made a motion to approve the minutes of May 26, 2020. Commissioner Spivey seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.
2. Proclamations: None
3. Bids: None
4. Board Appointments: None

#### OLD BUSINESS:

1. Jail Construction. Construction is progressing according to current timeline. Had a meeting last week to tour the jail. The telephone company will be pulling lines in over the next weeks. Also, furniture is scheduled to be delivered by mid to late June.
2. Spec Building. The Commission had previously voted to reject all bids for the Spec Building to be located at the Industrial Park. The project will be re-advertised to be more specific in the entirety of the project in hopes of getting more competitive bids. The new advertisement has been emailed to all Commissioners. The ad will run again for three weeks in the local Geneva Reaper and once in three state-wide papers. Commissioner Hammer made a motion that the new advertisement for the Spec Building project for construction and sitework be run in the Geneva Reaper and three state-wide publications

beginning next week if possible and bids be opened at the July 27, 2020 Commission meeting. Commissioner Brannon seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

**REPORTS OF STAFF:**

**Sheriff:** The Sheriff stated the telephone lines would be run in the next few weeks to the jail. Also, he had spoken to the telephone company about the telephones for the jail and they are on order. The purchase for new telephones was approved at the May 28, 2018 Commission meeting. The Sheriff had a walk through with Todd Medley with Foxhill Information Systems, for the computer needs at the new jail. Additional computers will be required at the new facility. County Attorney Eldridge reminded the Sheriff that per the county purchasing policy and the bid law, computers and hardware purchases require bidding out because it is above \$15,000.00 but software purchases are exempt from the bid law. Purchases cannot be broken out into smaller purchases to skirt the bid law. If all items and vendor is on the State Bid List the County can purchase them off the bid list for the price shown on the State Bid List. The Sheriff is required to have the written documentation to show the purchase was off the State Bid.

Commissioner Wilks made a motion, if Foxhill Information Systems can purchase the computer equipment off the State Bid List, that the Sheriff be allowed to go with them to purchase the new computers for the jail. Commissioner Spivey seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

The Sheriff stated that the nurse working in the jail, on contract with Wiregrass Medical, had resigned. He will be in touch with the hospital to see if they will be providing another nurse to continue the contract.

Sheriff Helms said he had an employee from the jail file a grievance against him due to her termination. He is asking the Commission to approve Attorney Eldridge to represent him in this matter. Commissioner Wilks made a motion to allow County Attorney Eldridge to represent the Sheriff in the grievance hearing filed by Natalie Curry. Commissioner Brannon seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

At a previous meeting he had stated additional radio equipment would be needed for the jail and had a quote from the vendor currently used for all radio equipment, which was below \$15,000.00. At that meeting Attorney Eldridge had advised him he would need three quotes for the equipment. The equipment is Kenwood and there are only two dealers in the Southeast. He had the other dealer come from Montgomery, but they were not interested in quoting.

**County Administrator:** Nothing to report.

**County Engineer:** Engineer Justin Barfield stated he had a meeting last week with the Mayor and Engineer for the City of Hartford on the ATRIPII project. This is to put together a proposal for the project. He is in hopes that the City of Hartford will assist with the cost of the project for relocating the utilities. The County is 100% responsible for the cost of relocating utilities.

The Rebuild Alabama surface treatment project was completed last Monday. Wiregrass Construction is trying to pave but the rains have the project delayed.

There is one dump truck remaining at the Auction house for sale. The two additional trucks purchased have not been delivered yet.

His department is working on a ditch project on County Road 5 which they received a \$3,500.00 grant for from RC&D.

Trying to get projects complete between all the rain but is has been a challenge.

Anticipate beginning herbicide spraying next week. Attempting to delay bush hogging by spraying but the rain has the grass and weeds growing rapidly. He stated he does have money in his budget for contract labor for this service if needed.

**County Attorney:** Attorney Eldridge stated he had received the Attorney General opinion regarding the use of the excess 1% Sales Tax for the jail to be used by Road & Bridge. According to the opinion some money may be used to purchase equipment, however the equipment purchased must be used for the project specified. County Attorney Eldridge read the pertinent parts of the opinion. The Engineer would be required to develop a plan every physical year to designate how the money is to be spent. Documentation would be required similar to RRR work.

Mr. Eldridge has received a response on the U.S. Bank audit requirements. Mr. Heyward Hosch has communicated to U.S. Bank that he cannot find any language in the contract which shows a deadline for furnishing this information. U. S. Bank agrees there is none and would like a report each month updating where the State is on the audit. Mr. Heyward Hosch is drafting an amendment to the lease that will require when the audit information is furnished by the State Auditors for approval it be forwarded to U. S. Bank attorney.

Bear Brothers has furnished all insurance information requested and it has been forwarded to U. S. Bank by Cindy Williams.

**Chairman Seay:** Chairman Seay reminded the Commissioners about the Work Session today following the Commission meeting, to review the new proposed handbook and the salary study done by Jacksonville State University.

At the continued Commission meeting on Friday May 26, the Commission had voted to have look at having two dumpsters instead of all the garbage cans with the Solid Waste Department. The lowest bid came from MDI. The contract has been reviewed and approved by County Attorney Phil Eldridge. The contract will be for one year with an option to extend to two years for two dumpsters, one 8 cubic yard and one 6 cubic yard, with a weekly pick-up at a cost of \$180.00 per month. This will be a cost savings for the county of approximately \$4,000.00. Commissioner Hammer made a motion to approve the contract with MDI for two dumpsters and allow Chairman Seay to sign the contract. Commissioner Wilks seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

Chairman Seay stated he was still in process of obtaining quotes for the metal building to be located by the Maintenance Shop behind the Courthouse.

**Revenue Commissioner:** Not present.

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**EMA Director:** Eric Johnson stated information regarding hurricane preparedness began being issued last week. This hurricane season is forecasted to be very active. We have had 46 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and there are currently sixteen active cases.

**Solid Waste:** Not present.

**E-911:** Mr. Williams stated that Geneva County actually only has 40 cases of COVID-19. Six cases of the 46 reported for Geneva County are actually for Coffee County. After today there will only be nine active cases of COVID-19 in the county.

**Auburn Extension:** The first Farmers Market was held at the Farm Center on Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>. It was scheduled to be open until 1:00 p.m., however they were sold out by 11:00 a.m. They did not have the participation from vendors they were hoping for. Going forward the hopes are to have the Farmers Market on Tuesday and Saturday every week.

**Commissioner Brannon:** Nothing to report.

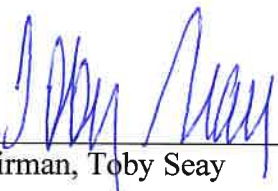
**Commissioner Hammer:** Nothing to report.

**Commissioner Spivey:** Nothing to report.

**Commissioner Wilks:** Commended the Sheriff for the clean-up work being done around the boat ramps by the Roadside Deputy and inmates.

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

The above constitutes the minutes of the meeting of the Geneva County Commission held on Monday, June 8, 2020.

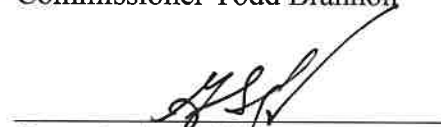
  
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Chairman, Toby Seay

  
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Cindy Williams  
County Administrator

  
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Commissioner Weston Spivey

  
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Commissioner Todd Brannon

  
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Commissioner Bart Wilks

  
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Commissioner Hammer