

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR
3 CHICKASAW TRAIL ABATEMENT
JANUARY 8, 2020 9:30 A.M. EST**

CALL TO ORDER

BUSINESS:

- Land Abatement for 3 Chickasaw Trail

Enforcement Officer Bill Friend provided a brief overview. Commissioners have been provided pictures and all related documents.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- NONE

ADJOURN

The Russell County Commission
Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2020
9:30 A.M. EST

An adjourned meeting of the Russell County Commission was called to order.

The audience recited the Lord's Prayer.

Commissioner Ronnie Reed led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chair Lee stated: Under Public Comments I have Jennifer Davidson with the County Extension Office. Will you come forward?

Jennifer Davidson stated: I just wanted to drop by and give some draft flyers of the Extension programs we have planned for 2020. Jennifer provided a brief overview for the Commissioners and public of the up coming programs.

Chair Lee called Pamela Person to speak.

Pamela Person stated: I am here to talk about Person Loop and the two other side roads that come into junction with Person Loop. We have started trying to make the community look a little better. We have already placed extra lights on the road. We have a petition signed from every individual that pay's taxes on Person Loop and the other two roads. There are 37 people on the petition. We wanted to know if Person Loop has ever been on the list to be paved. We would like for that road and the other two junction roads to be paved and placed on that list.

Commissioner Lee stated: We will take it under advisement, but the County Engineer usually makes those decisions based on a criteria.

Commissioner Screws stated: We will talk to the Engineer during the budget.

Chair Lee thanked Cable T.V. of East Alabama and the Citizen of East Alabama for their coverage of the Commission Meetings. He also welcomed Elected Officials, Department Heads, Media and Guests.

County Administrator LeAnn Horne called roll. Members present were; Chair Gentry Lee, Commissioner Carl Currington, Commissioner Ronnie Reed, Commissioner Cattie Epps, Commissioner Chance Corbett and Commissioner Larry Screws. Also, present was the County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk. A quorum was established. Vice Chair Peggy Martin entered the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chair Lee requested approval of the November 27, 2019 minutes. Commissioner Epps brought to the attention to the Commission that two pages were missing.

Commissioner Lee stated: The minutes November 27, 2019 Commission Minutes will not be approved until the next Commission Meeting. We will move to the December 11, 2019 minutes.

Commissioner Corbett stated: I would like to approve the minutes when they are emailed not the ones that are in the book today. I would like to read them in emails.

Chair Lee stated: That is fine, but there are other Commissioners who want to read them printed so they can see them in black and white. We will bring up the November 27, 2019 meeting minutes at the next meeting when we have the pages that are missing.

Chair Lee asked for a motion for the December 11, 2019 minutes to be approved. Commissioner Corbett moved to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Martin.

County Administrator LeAnn Horne polled the Commission. Commissioner Epps abstained. The vote was approved for the December 11, 2019, Commission Meeting Minutes.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

Chair Lee stated: We have the land abatement for 3 Chickasaw Trail. I know those of you that were here earlier think we have already done this, but we haven't voted on it.

Code Enforcement Officer Bill Friend stated: This morning we had a public hearing referencing property 3 Chickasaw Trail in Ft. Mitchell. At this time, I am requesting the County Commission, by Resolution, declare this property a County nuisance in order to abate the nuisance.

Commissioner Martin motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Corbett. County Administrator LeAnn Horne polled the Commission. The vote was passed by a unanimous vote to abate 3 Chickasaw Trail.

Chair Lee stated: Next on the agenda we have annual bids for the County Engineering Department.

County Engineer Shawn Blakeney stated: It is the time of year we send out the annual bids. I have one correction to add the CFR paving we do every year. I am asking to solicit bids for the following items. They will be sent out today by mail and we will get them back here on February 6, 2020 at 2:30 P.M., EST. in the Commission Chambers.

Bid Number 001-20
Striping and Marking
Bid Number 002-20
Liquid Asphalt
Bid Number 004A-20
Bituminous Paving (Public Works Bid)
Bid Number 005-20
Grassing
Bid Number 006-20
Corrugated Steel and HDPE Pipe
Bid Number 007-20
Aggregate
Bid Number 008-20
Concrete Pipe
Bid Number 009-20

Truck Hauling
 Bid Number 010-20
 Motor grader Blades
 Bid Number 011-20
 Maltene Based Emulsified Asphalt
 Bid Number 012-20
 Crushed Concrete
 Bid Number 014-20
 Fencing

Chair Lee asked is there a motion. Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Currington.

County Administrator LeAnn Horne polled the Commission. The vote was unanimous for Engineering to send out annual bids by mail today.

Chair Lee stated: Next item; Permission to place a historic marker at Ft. Mitchell, Commissioner Corbett.

Commissioner Corbett stated: Thank you Mr. Chair. On Monday night we heard from Ms. Dell McClendon Board Member of the Historic Ft. Mitchell. The request is just a formality to put a historic marker on that site. The location will be chosen by the Historic Commission and at this time I make a motion that the Chair be able to sign the letter, giving permission to put the marker at the Fort site.

Chair Lee stated: We heard the motion. I think all of us heard the presentation Monday night. This is being paid for by another organization other than the County or the Historical Group. All we are responsible for is the installation which really will not be a whole lot of money. Is there any other discussion?

Commissioner Martin seconded. County Administrator LeAnn Horne polled the Commission. The vote was unanimous for permission to place a historic marker at Fort Mitchell.

Chair Lee stated: Next is the Wiregrass Conference Request. I am going to call on Commissioner Reed to do this. You can come on up Mr. Leroy Davis.

Commissioner Reed stated: I want you to state your request. How much money do you need for your class Leroy?

Leroy Davis stated: \$400, \$240 of it will go to paying the registration for the remainder for the gas going back and forth to the Conference.

Chair Lee stated: I understand this involves several locations in the Wiregrass area. It's more than just one meeting.

Leroy Davis stated: Yes, it will be several meetings and the graduation will be in September 2020.

Chair Lee stated: Commissioners you have heard the request. This is not a budgeted item to just let you know as Ms. Horne stated Monday.

Commissioner Corbett: For the record, this is representing the Russell County area?

Mr. Leroy Davis stated: Representing Russell County on the Wiregrass Board.

Commissioner Epps stated: Mr. Chairman, I move that we accept the recommendation coming from Mr. Davis.

Chair Lee stated: In that motion, remember this is not a budgeted item. We discussed Monday night some Commissioners have some discretionary funds. We said it came out to about \$60 each. Commissioner is that part of your motion that each

Commissioner contributes \$60 out of their discretionary funds for projects this year. You don't have to write a personal check.

Commissioner Epps stated: I thought that was a discussion about the \$60. I didn't know whether we made the decision to do it. I asked the Administrator on Monday night did we have any discretionary money for events such as this?

Commissioner Lee stated: And she said we didn't.

Commissioner Epps stated: No, she didn't tell me she didn't. She said she would check and see my understanding was she was not sure. If that's what we need or want to do, then of course, I will make that a part of my motion. Commissioner Corbett seconded.

Commissioner Lee stated: We have a motion and a second. Is there any more discussion?

County Administrator stated: I stated: it wasn't budgeted and recommend the Commission Discretionary Fund.

Commissioner Reed stated: Mr. Chairman, this amount of money here. Is that what it is about \$400 or so?

Commissioner Lee stated: \$400 is what Leroy Davis asked for to attend the Conference.

Commissioner Reed stated: No extra money? Since we represent Leroy, we need to get some type of receipt or document when he is putting gas in his car. He has to go all over.

Commissioner Corbett stated: That is what the money is for per Leroy.

Commissioner Reed stated: This money is for just mostly for tuition and stuff for the class, right?

Chair Lee stated: I understand that part of it is what we normally do not handle it this way. Since we are appropriating these funds now, he does need to bring receipts back so we will have it for the gas and tuition to put with the expense check. We will need them for the auditors.

Commissioner Corbett stated: Just for the Math Teacher's in the audience, this is \$420.

Chair Lee stated: Any other discussion? Call the question.

County Administrator LeAnn Horne polled the Commission. The vote was unanimous.

County Administrator LeAnn Horne stated: The 2020 Severe Weather Preparedness Tax Holiday is scheduled for February 21-23. A resolution is required by the State submit date is by January 22nd. At this time, I am requesting the Commission to prepare the Resolution for the tax holiday. The Chairman is required to sign.

Commissioner Lee stated: You have heard the request from the Administrator. The documentation in your packets.

Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve.

Commissioner Lee stated: We have a motion to approve. This is for radio's, weather radio's, batteries, generators things you will need during severe weather. On these three days, if you purchase these type items you will not be charged County or State sales tax. I don't know about the City.

Commissioner Martin stated: I motion to approve.

County Administrator LeAnn Horne polled the Commission. The vote was unanimous to approve the 2020 Severe Weather Preparedness Tax Holiday Resolution.

County Administrator LeAnn Horne stated: The next item is the County Depositories. An updated listing was provided to you this morning for the two new accounts that I discussed. The two new funds needed to be opened are for the Rebuild Alabama and the Federal Aid Exchange Fund. Those are the new Engineering funds approved through the Legislature. Commissioner Screws, at this time I do not have your total for each bank account. Kelly is making copies of all those statements.

Commissioner Screws stated: For both years, 2018 and 2019.

Commissioner Lee stated: Ending balance correct?

Commissioner Screws stated: That is correct for the year.

County Administrator stated: At this time, I am requesting your approval and authorization to open the two new accounts. We discussed Phenix Girard Bank on Monday evening. I am not sure if that is the pleasure of the Commission at this time; however, that is my recommendation to the Commission Phenix Girard Bank.

Commissioner Reed stated: Mr. Chairman, I noticed that we used to do business with Region's Bank. I noticed we have so many accounts with Phenix Girard Bank. I think we should spread some of this money around the Community not just Phenix Girard Bank. Let's see about doing something with Region's Bank. We need to spread it around. Looking over the record we've got about 5, 6, 7 accounts with Phenix Girard Bank. I don't see anything with Region's Bank. Once upon a time we did have accounts with Region's Bank.

Commissioner Lee stated: Are you making that as a motion?

Commissioner Reed stated: I am just saying you want me to make a motion? I don't see any problem because we used to have our accounts payable to Region's Bank over the years.

Commissioner Corbett stated: Mr. Chair, I just want to comment. Because this is not something, we've given to the public to look at. There are three different bank's that we have account's listed on the sheet. I don't want it to appear that we are only keeping with one. I don't have a problem with any of the banks. I just want to mention we are spreading these account and funds around the local Community.

County Administrator LeAnn Horne stated: Due to the volume of checks issued, the majority of our local banks will work with the County on fees, check charges and etc. in an effort to save payers plus, Governmental banking statements provides for such an exemption. However, some financial institutions rules and regulations will not allow for them to wave a fee such as a monthly bank account fee/charge. Or, if there is an account correction needed due to a coding error they should resolve. It takes personal sometimes because some banks have to wait for Corporate to approve out of County or State.

Commissioner Lee stated: I still haven't heard a motion as to which banks we put these accounts in. I personally preference Phenix Girard even though I bank with Region's.

Commissioner Screws stated: Mr. Chair, let me suggest that we ask the Administrator to check with Region's Bank and bring it back to the Commission rather than make it a motion. See what all the ends and outs it would take to establish an account with Region's Bank.

Commissioner Corbett stated: Mr. Chairman, I have one more comment. Administrator Horne, obviously, I think what you were trying to say and didn't want to say is have you

had problem's with Region's in the past. Okay, I make a motion we deal with Phenix Girard Bank.

Commissioner Lee stated: You heard a motion from Commissioner Corbett that we use Phenix Girard Bank for these two accounts. Is there a second.

Commissioner Currington seconded.

Chair Lee stated: Is there any more discussion?

County Administrator LeAnn Horne stated: I might add, I do give all local banks opportunities when we have CD's, I do send those out for rate quotes. In fact, I talked to Mr. Tinkler with Regions. He is very interested in providing the County a rate quote. As far as the day to day checking account; there are some things that are just not at the local authority level.

Commissioner Screws stated: Mr. Chairman, we are making to what now?

Chair Lee stated: These two new accounts with Phenix Girard.

Commissioner Screws stated: Okay, I am looking at other banks on here too. Are we just doing one with Phenix Girard?

Commissioner Lee stated: The motion was to do both of them with Phenix Girard and it's seconded. Is there any other discussion or questions?

Commissioner Reed stated: Mr. Chair, one more question. I know that we got about several different accounts with Phenix Girard Bank. How come we can't spread it around a little bit?

Chair Lee stated: We can but the motion right now is to use Phenix Girard Bank. I haven't counted to see.

Commissioner Corbett stated: I made the motion. For the record I do not have any accounts at Phenix Girard Bank. We have three different banks the accounts spread around. I made the motion to quit the conversation and let's move on. They are a local bank with local banks. It appears that the Administrator has had very good luck with them and that is the reason I made the motion based on her recommendation and for no other reason.

Commissioner Lee stated: Thank you, Commissioner Epps.

Commissioner Epps stated: I was going to say we go ahead call for a vote for the simple reasons I am sure there is a reason that we are not using a bank, I think the Administrator alluded to that fact. If we are trying to save money and we don't want to spend money, so I think we should go ahead, because I am a little familiar with that business part of the bank as well. I think we should just go ahead and call for the vote.

Commissioner Screws stated: Do we know what the reason is?

Chair Lee stated: If you want to go into Executive Session, we can.

Commissioner Screws stated: I think we need to know before we vote.

Commissioner Corbett stated: Call for the vote. We will see how the vote is.

Chair Lee stated: We have a proper motion and a proper second so the next step after the discussion is to dispose of that motion. We either got to vote it up; or, down before we decide on something else.

Commissioner Screws stated: Just for the record, I don't have a problem with voting for it, but in the discussion, you can ask what you would like.

Chair Lee stated: Some things we don't need to talk about up here.

Commissioner Screws stated: I agree with that.

Chair Lee stated: Call for the question.

County Administrator Horne was recording the votes then Commissioner Martin stated: she had a question. I have an account there. I just want to be legal. Is that a conflict?

Chair Lee stated: I have accounts at all of them. It's not going to make any difference.

County Administrator completed calling for the votes of the Commission as follows. Chair Lee, District 1 voted yes, Commissioner Currington, District 2 voted yes, Commissioner Martin, District 3 voted yes, Commissioner Reed, District 4 voted no, Commissioner Epps, District 5 voted yes, Commissioner Corbett, District 6 voted yes, Commissioner Screws, District 7 voted no. There were 5 votes yes and 2 votes no. The motion carried to open accounts with Phenix Girard Bank for the new funds to be set up for Rebuild Alabama and Federal Aid Exchange.

Commissioner Epps stated: I do think we do need to answer the question in Executive Session.

Chair Lee stated: For our next meeting, we can add to the Agenda Executive Session; or you can talk with the Administrator one on one as she suggested, and she can tell you. Then, if you think we need to talk about it as a group we can have an Executive Session, let's do it that way.

Announcements were made.

The meeting was adjourned.

Attest: _____

Signed: _____