

The Russell County Commission
Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2020
9:30 A.M. EST

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

The invocation was given by Reverend Tom Peavy, First Presbyterian Church.

Commissioner Chance Corbett led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Lee welcomed elected officials, department heads, media and guests. He also thanked Cable T.V. of East Alabama and The Citizen News for their coverage of the Commission Meeting.

County Administrator LeAnn Horne called roll. Members present were Chair Gentry Lee, Commissioner Carl Currington, Commissioner Peggy Martin, 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chair Lee requested approval of the January 8, 2020 and the January 22, 2020 minutes. Commissioner Martin motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Currington.

County Administrator Horne polled the Commission. The vote was unanimous to approve the January 8, 2020 and the January 22, 2020 minutes.

COMMISSIONERS DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Screws stated: I have a question. We received in our packet a job description for the Sanitation Waste Director, when will we put this out for people to look at and get back? I see it is a draft. When will we finalize this and move forward on to hiring someone?

Chair Lee stated: Commissioner, I think you are supposed to read over this and if you have any deletions or additions and give those to the Administrator and she will include those. I have a question? We have a Board, the Sanitation Board, what is their function? To me if we are going to have a Board it should function as a Board like all our other Boards. We can draw up the job descriptions because we have to make the ultimate hire. They have to advertise and interview candidates and bring it back to us. That is the way a Board operates. If we are not going to do that, then maybe, we don't need a Board. Maybe we can just run it straight out of the Commission Office. I have made one Board Meeting and I didn't realize they didn't set policies or hire Directors, the Commission does that. We can have this at a later discussion. But to answer your question Commissioner, as soon as we get the job description finalized then we will put it out for advertising because I want to get it out as quick as I can.

Commissioner Epps stated: Talking about the Board what is the purpose of the Board?

Commissioner Lee stated: I will have to call on our County Attorney. What is the purpose of the Board?

County Attorney Funderburk stated: The Board was set up to operate the Sanitation System and they do vote. They meet twice a year. They used to meet every month. They do take action on everything that goes on including services rendered. Everything the Sanitation Department does is passed on by them and if it is anything that involves the Commission it is brought to the Commission.

Chair Lee stated: I understand that. Should the Board be involved in searching for a new Director?

County Attorney Funderburk stated: They should make a recommendation. The Commission can operate the Sanitation, but you would be sorry if they did.

Commissioner Corbett stated: Are you the Chair of the Sanitation Board? What I would like to propose is the Commissioners read over what has been presented and get any comments back to Chair Lee so he can present them to the board, and they can get this taken care of. They could actually get this taken care of and get us something we can put out there for a job. Whether the Board or not but all the comments can come back to Chair Lee.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

Revenue Commissioner Naomi Elliott stated: I am here to request the annual Ad Valorem Tax Resolution setting the taxes.

Commissioner Martin motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Corbett. The vote was unanimous to approve the Ad Valorem Tax Resolution.

County Engineer Shawn Blakeney stated: We opened our bids February 6. I have a recommendation for the following bid numbers to whom to award the bids.

Bid Number

001-20 Striping and Marking – Ozark Striping

004A-20 Bituminous Paving Public Works Bid – Robinson Paving Bid was rejected due to 20% increase in price. Only one bid received.

005-20 Grassing – Parker Grassing

006-20 Aluminized Pipe and HDPE Pipe – Aluminized- Harvey/Culvert
HDPE – Thompson Supply

007-20 Aggregate – Columbus Quarry

008-20 Concrete – Harvey Culvert and Foley Products

009-20 Truck Hauling – M&M Trucking

010-20 Motor Grader Blades – Tractor and Equipment and Thompson Cat

011-20 Maltene Based Emulsified Asphalt – Corrective Asphalt Materials

012-20 Crushed Concrete – M&M Trucking

014-20 Fencing – Georgia Fence

Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Martin. The vote was approved to accept all annual bids for the Engineering Department.

County Engineer Shawn Blakeney stated: We have a 2014 Ram 3500 Flatbread truck we found at the state surplus. It is \$24,281 and it is a budgeted item. It has 103,000 miles on it. We have an old Ford which the engine is completely gone. This purchase will replace this truck.

Commissioner Martin motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Corbett. The vote was approved to purchase a 2014 Ram 3500 flatbed from the state surplus.

County Maintenance Director Leon Watson stated: The Maintenance Department is requesting permission to put the Courthouse roof replacement out for bid. A walkthrough with the potential roofing vendors will take place on February 25th. All bids are to be received no later than 11:00 A.M. EST on March 12th in the Commission Office Conference Room. Once all bids have been reviewed, the Maintenance Director will bring them back to the Commission meeting on March 25th at 9:30 A.M. EST to be awarded.

Commissioner Martin motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Corbett. The vote was passed to advertise bids for the Courthouse roof replacement.

Chair Lee stated: The current Election Custodian is requesting to resign.

Probate Judge Harden stated: I have a recommendation Mark Hightower with the Sheriff's Department to replace Rusty Robinson. He is a Russell County resident and he is not related to any Elected Officials.

County Administrator Horne stated: For the record the statue is 114-637.

Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Martin. The vote was approved to appoint Mark Hightower as the Election Custodian.

Commissioner Corbett stated: Mr. Chair, per policy I would like to add something on the agenda under Business. I make a motion we add discussion on the Colton Danielson trip to the NHSCA Nationals. He is a Russell County High School student. I would like to add under Business helping him out with his trip cost.

Chair Lee stated: You have heard the request from Commissioner Corbett. If there is no objection, we can add it. If there is an objection, we cannot add it. I hear none so Commissioner Corbett you may proceed.

Commissioner Corbett stated: We have a student who has advanced to the Nationals and it is very expensive. I spoke with someone in the Chamber annual event last night and they were very excited that Russell County Commission may consider helping Colton's expenses.

Commissioner Corbett stated: I think every one of the Commissioners would want to help support this adventure. At \$945 divided by 7 is \$135. I would like to make a motion that this be divided amongst the Commissioners district money to support this project. If we vote yes, we take it out of their district at a rate of \$135 per district.

Seconded by Commissioner Martin.

Commissioner Screws requested to add to the next Agenda to discuss the amount of money that we want to give to future request.

County Administrator polled the Commission. The vote was passed to take \$135 out of each Commissioners budget item line to help Colton Danielson to go to the Nationals.

County Administrator stated: Requesting the Commission's approval of the Resolution for the Liability Fund extending our coverage for 3 years with the Association of County Commissioners with Alabama.

Commissioner Epps motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Currington. The vote was passed to approve the Resolution of the Liability Fund.

Commissioner Screws stated: I asked for ending balance of our checking accounts for 2018-2019. I would like to ask the Administrator where are we with that?

Chair Lee stated: It is in your office.

Announcements were made.

Chair Lee adjourned the meeting.

Attest: _____

County Administrator

Signed: _____

Chair