

The Russell County Commission
Russell County Commission Chambers
Meeting Minutes May 13, 2020
9:30 A.M. EDT

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

Chairman Lee welcomed everyone for their attendance.

The invocation was given by Commissioner Peggy Martin.

Commissioner Peggy Martin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Chairman Lee stated: We have had one item added late to the Agenda which was emergency item concerning the Ambulance Contract. At this time, we need to vote on the May 13, 2020 Agenda.

Commissioner Martin motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Reed.

County Administrator LeAnn Horne polled the Commission. The vote was unanimous to approve the May 13, 2020 Agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairman Lee requested approval of the March 11, 2020 minutes.

Commissioner Epps motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Martin. The vote was unanimous to approve the March 11, 2020 minutes.

Chairman Lee requested approval of the March 17, 2020 called emergency meeting.

Commissioner Epps motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Corbett.

County Administrator LeAnn Horned polled the Commission. Commissioner Lee voted, yes; Commissioner Martin abstained; Commissioner Reed, abstained; Commissioner Epps voted yes; Commissioner Corbett voted, yes; Commissioner Screws voted yes.

The minutes from the March 17, 2020 Commission minutes were approved by majority vote.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

Maintenance Director Leon Watson stated: We had a walk through for the Courthouse roof replacement on February 25, 2020. We received the bids back on March 24, 2020. Two of the contractors that had a walk through did not bid on the project because of the stipulations of completion. We had one competent bid from Malone Roofing, Metal Walls Maintenance at what we projected the price at \$128,900. I estimated between \$125,000 and \$130,000. I am asking the Commission to approve this contractor to install a new Courthouse roof.

Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Martin.

County Administrator LeAnn Horne stated: I wanted to check with the County Attorney Funderburk if Leon had an opportunity to review the terms and conditions in the contract with him? If not, can we request him and negotiate with the contractor if necessary?

County Attorney Funderburk stated: I haven't seen the contract yet, if you get it to me I will review it today. Leon just presented it to me before the meeting started.

Chairman Lee stated: We have a motion and a second. Let's vote on it pending what the County Attorney's findings and recommendations. Hopefully, everything will be fine and to go ahead with the roof replacement because we need to get this done.

Chairman Lee stated: The motion is to approve the bid to replace the Courthouse roof depending on the approval from the County Attorney saying that the Contract is in order.

Commissioner Martin stated: It would go to the Malone Roofing, Metal Walls and Maintenance?

County Administrator LeAnn Horne polled the Commission. The vote was unanimous to approve the Courthouse roof Contract.

Director of Building Inspections Bubba Roberts stated: Hatchechubbee Fire Department has requested that we be relieved of a building permit fee to build an additional fire station or rather it's going to house a tanker truck on the old Rutherford Fire Department property that was deeded to them from J. D. Upshaw. It lies on County Road 4, west of Mt. Zion Road.

Chairman Lee stated: If I am correct the State Law does allow this to be done?

County Administrator LeAnn Horne stated: I placed a copy of the law in your packets.

County Attorney Funderburk stated: Yes, that is correct.

Commissioner Screws motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Corbett and Commissioner Martin.

County Administrator LeAnn Horne polled the Commission. The vote was unanimous to waive the permit fees for the Hatchechubbee Fire Department to add an additional fire department or store their tanker truck.

County Engineer Shawn Blakeney stated: I gave everyone a bid tabulation sheet for our annual asphalt public works bid. This is a bid that we rejected on February 12, 2020 due to one bid coming in and thinking it was too high. We rebid it with D & J and East Alabama. I want to award the bid to East Alabama Paving. On our annual resurfacing and wearing surfacing they were \$7 a ton less than what the other two bids were. We are paving around 20 miles this year and that \$7 is a savings of \$130,000 to \$150,000 by rebidding it out and awarding it to East Alabama Paving.

Commissioner Screws motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Epps.

Commissioner Corbett stated: I did get a letter about this from the previous contractor that put in the bid. I just wanted to make sure and ask the County Attorney on the record, if we are following the rules as we need to by approving this? The contractor complained in writing in a letter that he did not think his price was too high.

County Attorney Funderburk stated: We are okay because of the bid rejection. I just need to make sure I got the letter.

County Administrator LeAnn Horne polled the Commission. The vote was unanimous to award the Engineering Department's annual asphalt bid to East Alabama Paving.

Coroner Arthur Sumbry stated: I am asking for approval from the Commission to approve court ordered cremations for Clifford C. Elliott, Jr., and James Myers. The payment will be made to Colonial Funeral Home to not exceed \$400 each.

Commissioner Martin made a motion to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Reed.

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

Sheriff Heath Taylor stated: We have an annual contract with CARE Ambulance that is due to be extended. The Ambulance Committee has met as well and brought in the representative with CARE to do a six-month extension. Within that six months we intend to bid that contract. It will probably go out sometime in July. We are probably in the time frame that we are going to be having to pay a little something to an ambulance service whether it's CARE or whoever else that bids on it. We hope that is not the case. They do know that we provide two stations for them and they do recognize that as a substance of pay towards them. I do not know if that is going to cover going forward. I

would ask the Commission to approve the six-month extension and give us an opportunity to bid it sometime in July.

Commissioner Martin motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Reed.

Chairman Lee stated: What this does is extends the current contract for six-months and at that time we will probably rebid.

County Administrator LeAnn Horne stated: I want to request the Commission to approve for just the Chair to sign rather than seven due to COVID-19.

Chairman Lee stated: Commissioner Martin and Commissioner Reed in your motion do you authorize the Chair to sign?

Commissioner Martin stated: "yes"; Commissioner Reed stated; "yes".

County Administrator LeAnn Horne polled the Commission. The vote was unanimous to extend the current contract with CARE Ambulance for six-months; rebid in July, and the Chairman of the Commission sign.

County Administrator LeAnn Horne stated: I would like to go back to the Courthouse roof bid. Are they going to be handling the advertisement if needed under public works Leon?

Maintenance Director Leon Watson stated: I can find out and get that answer to you.

Chair Lee stated: If they don't, please let us know so we can make sure it is in there. I'm glad you asked.

Chair Lee stated: I would like to especially thank all our employees. They have really been working during these times to keep the County running. We have not had anyone miss any services. Everyone has come together and kept services available to our citizens. Although in some cases limited but still available.

Commissioner Corbett stated: I do want to piggyback on that appreciation. It is very nice to know the critical services, sanitation and even the services they are doing here at the Courthouse are still continuing. It was brought up on one of our County Coordination calls for us as Commissioners to consider some type stipend or hazardous duty type stipend for the employees that has come to work. I would like us to discuss that or think about that. The County to the north of us, Lee County did that. I would like to see if we could study that.

Commissioner Reed motioned to adjourn.

No objections.

Chairman Lee adjourned the meeting.

Attest: _____

County Administrator

Signed: _____

Chair