

The Russell County Commission
Meeting Minutes
March 22nd, 2017
9:30 A.M. EST

An adjourned meeting of the Russell County Commission was called to order, by Vice Chair Larry Screws.

The invocation was given by Alan Griffith, Pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Lee.

A public comment was made by the Attorney for the Russell County Water and Sewer Authority; Rick Chancey who discussed a recent meeting between the Sewer Authority, Administrator Horne and County Attorney Funderburk. Maps, surveys and financial information were provided at the meeting as well as discussion of future plans for county sewer.

Vice Chair Screws thanked the Cable T.V. of East Alabama and the Citizen of East Alabama for their coverage of the Commission meeting. He also welcomed elected officials, department heads, media and guests.

Attorney Chancey thanked Administrator Horne and Attorney Funderburk for meeting with the Sewer Authority and asked the Commissioners to contact them if they have questions.

The Commission roll was called. Members present were: Gentry Lee, Ronnie Reed, Cattie Epps, Chance Corbett and Larry Screws. Commissioners Currington and Martin were absent due to other meetings. Also present was the Attorney Kenneth Funderburk, and Assistant County Administrator Vickie Perry, who kept the minutes.

A quorum was established.

Vice Chair Screws requested a motion to approve the March 8th, 2017 meeting minutes. Commissioner Epps motioned to approve the minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Judge Michael Bellamy gave an update for the Judicial Courts, which are running and functioning properly. He discussed a \$40,000 appropriation given by The Commission for the Indigent Defense Fund. That committee is working well. One attorney who had a contract, Julius Hunter, has become a Columbus Judge. Judge Bellamy stated that he is returning \$11,666.68 that was not used of the appropriation.

Judge Bellamy suggested using the money to toward an additional bed at the Juvenile Lock –up. He stated he has been discussing with the Sheriff and the Family Court Judge a juvenile detention center in Russell County. He also suggested the Commission to assist the Sheriff in creating an overnight facility at the jail for juveniles.

This would save the Sheriff, time and money in transporting juvenile to the closest facility, which is Opelika.

He stated the courts are trying to do depositions as soon as possible to help the Sheriff to keep the count at the jail down. The courts dispose of cases early to send people to the State Penitentiary, to Community Corrections, probation “supervised or unsupervised” to keep them out of the County Jail.

Judge Bellamy thanked the Commission for their support.

EMA Director Bob Franklin presented employees David Martin and Samantha Cato with certifications they earned. Ms. Cato received her Basic Level Certification in Emergency Management, which 200 hours of required training and an additional 100 hours of optional training. David Martin received his Advanced Level Certification which took 700 hours of core classes and 300 optional hours of training.

Russell County also received Preparedness Program of the year for a medium sized county. Mr. Martin was challenged to make more use of the County’s fire and storm trailer. He developed a program and fliers and sent all the information out to every school; in the county. Over the last couple of years 4000 kids have received training. The program was submitted to the state’s competition and won.

Bob Franklin also received his Master Certification which required 5 years of working in a government emergency management office, 10 years working in emergency response. He also completed 424.75 of 350 required hours of emergency response training. In addition to the advanced level certification, this is 1000 hours that must be maintained for 5 years and 6 years of service and participation in the conferences. This year Mr. Franklin was also elected as 2nd Vice President of the Alabama Association of Emergency Managers.

Special Enforcement Officer Bill Friend announced that Greg Smith and Gary Martin received 3 certificates from the International Association of Electrical Inspectors for completing 14 hours of training.

County Engineer Shawn Blakeney discussed a road widening project for Hwy 165 from Uchee Creek up, north of the railroad tracks making this area three lanes with a center turning lane. The cost estimate for the project is \$7,000 for the preliminary engineering and a cost estimate. Commissioner Epps motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Corbett and Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Blakeney requested a budget amendment as follows:

Gasoline Fund

DECREASE	111 53100 561	CONSTRUCTION EQUIP	\$2,000.00
INCREASE	111 53100 156	MEDICAL/DENTAL	\$2,000.00
		TOTAL	\$2,000.00

The transfer is to cover the county paying for all current employee medical cards that were not placed in this year's budget. The cards are for CDL drivers, who are required to have physicals every 2 years and carry medical cards. Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.

County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk provided a MOU for the Ladonia Youth League. Parks and Recreation Director Bill Taylor requested approval for the MOU to attach to the Ladonia League Agreement.

The MOU concerns the use of the concession stand which had been misused by the leagues. At the last Commission meeting it was approved to let bids for running the concession stand. April 8th is the opening of ball season at the Ladonia Complex, and continues until June. There is not enough time to acquire and open the bids. Therefore, the Ladonia Youth League agrees to operate the concession stand only for this baseball season and to maintain the same in good condition. The League will follow all health laws and follow to the highest degree. Joey Knight who is president of the Ladonia Youth League will be solely responsible for any and all health violation as well as all rules established for the operations of the concession stand by the County. The league will be responsible to return the concession stand and County equipment to the County in the condition they were in on the date the memorandum is executed. Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve the MOU and authorize the Vice Chair and Assistant Administrator to sign the documents. Seconded by Commissioner Lee. The vote was unanimous.

Announcements were made.

Commissioner Lee motioned to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.