

MINUTES, LIMESTONE COUNTY COMMISSION, MARCH 13, 2019

The Limestone County Commission reconvened the meeting from March 4, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. today at the Washington Street Courthouse Annex, 310 West Washington Street, Athens, AL.

Present: Daryl Sammet, Steve Turner, Jason Black, and Ben Harrison. Absent: None. Collin Daly, Chairman presided.

Nancy Robertson, Executive Director of TARACOG and Shannon Keith, with Alta Design gave a presentation about the Singing River Trail. The trail is a partnership between Land Trust of North Alabama, TARACOG and regional Committee of 100. The idea began as business effort and not a governmental initiative. If the trail is implemented it would connect Madison, Limestone and Morgan counties and span about 70 miles. Mrs. Robertson said approximately \$200,000 had been raised for the project, but more funds were needed to finalize the plan. She said the Madison County Commission provided \$20,000, the Morgan County Commission gave \$5,000 and she requested the Commission to consider allocating \$5,000 to the project.

Items were discussed for the March 18, 2019 Commission Meeting.

Marc Massey discussed bid proposals for Monday's agenda. He reported that no bids were received for the concrete and arched pipe bid proposal 2674. A negotiated price had been obtained with Foley Products Company, but prices reflect an increase of 35% to 40% since last year's bid. The vendor said the cost increase was due to steel tariffs and supply and demand. Marc discussed the option of using plastic pipe but expressed concerns. He suggested to do a test project to evaluate before letting a bid for plastic pipe. Commissioner Harrison said he would like to use Gaston Hallow Road as a test project and Commissioner Black said he could also furnish a location to use as a test project. Marc said after bid proposal 2680 for liquid asphalt had been let, a supplier notified him about a 3-year program that includes an asphalt tank. He asked the Commissioners to consider rejecting the liquid asphalt bids received and rebid to include an asphalt tank that would remain with the county after the 3-year period.

Marc Massey discussed the Rebuild Alabama Act. He estimated the county would receive \$1.1 million in the first year and could receive an additional \$240 thousand per year after that. A big part of the legislation is planning for the funds and submitting reports. He said it was imperative that the Commissioners be thinking about future road projects.

Commissioner Sammet thanked Governor Ivey and the state legislators for the passage of the gas tax increase.

Commissioner Turner reported that Wiregrass Construction should be onsite next week to begin the East Limestone turn-lane project.

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Commissioner Black thanked Governor Ivey and the legislators for passage of the gas tax. He said, "It's not something anybody is for. I don't want to pay more at the pump, but the roads we have are in bad shape. If we don't something now, what kind of shape will they be in in five years?"

Commissioner Harrison stated he addressed the House Committee on Transportation, Utilities and Infrastructure. He said, "I wasn't against the gas tax, my comments were, let's look at cost reduction issues."

Chairman Daly thanked Governor Ivey and the local legislative delegation. He said, "They made a hard decision."

Adjourned at 10:49 a.m.