

MINUTES, LIMESTONE COUNTY COMMISSION, AUGUST 15, 2018

The Limestone County Commission reconvened the meeting from August 6, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. today at the Washington Street Courthouse Annex, 310 West Washington Street, Athens, AL.

Present: Stanley Hill, Steve Turner, Jason Black, and Ben Harrison. Absent: None. Mark Yarbrough, Chairman presided.

Chairman Yarbrough presented Angie Norwood, founder of Mildred's Angels, with a proclamation for the Laura Crandall Brown foundation proclaiming September 2018 as Gynecological Cancer Awareness Month.

Brian Jones, Limestone County District Attorney, addressed the Commission regarding his letter of request to be included in the upcoming budget. He stated the Limestone County District Attorney's Office is responsible for prosecuting every felony and county misdemeanor that arises within the geographic boundaries of Limestone County, which includes the annexed portions of the Cities of Huntsville, Madison, and Decatur. The District Attorney's Offices around our state are only partially funded by the State of Alabama. The remaining income is generated through court costs, D.A. collections, bail bond fees, asset forfeiture, victim service funds, and worthless check fees. The remaining source of revenue is the Solicitor's Fee. The Solicitor's Fee in Limestone County is governed by ACT 2009-357 which states "all juvenile, traffic, criminal and quasi-criminal cases in the juvenile, district, circuit and municipal courts in Limestone County, a docket fee hereinafter referred to as a solicitor's fee, shall be assessed in every case. The fee, when collected, shall be distributed monthly to the Solicitor's Fund in the county or to the fund that may be hereafter prescribed by law for the solicitor's fee." The Solicitor's Fee is designed to offset the expenses that the District Attorney's Office incurs in prosecuting the felony cases generated by the county agencies and municipalities in that county. Due to a disagreement over the ACT, the Municipal Courts in Huntsville, Madison, and Decatur failed to pay their Solicitor's Fee to the Limestone County District Attorney's Office, and in fact, paid the Solicitor's Fee on every misdemeanor or traffic case generated by each municipality in Limestone County to the District Attorney's Office in Madison County. He told the commissioners he needs at least two more assistant district attorneys to help handle the caseload. He estimated those positions to cost a total of \$132,264. It is the loss of revenue and lack of staff that brought him to requesting \$200,000 for the upcoming fiscal year.

Items were discussed for the August 17, 2018 agenda.

Stanley Hill reported his district is bush hogging, ditching and performing routine maintenance. His district has finished the parking lot at the Veterans Museum and thanked Rogers Group for donating the crusher run for the project.

Steve Turner reported his district has been trimming limbs. He gave praise to how well the herbicide program is working.

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Jason Black thanked Justin Brown and Moses McGuire for their commitment to the herbicide program.

Ben Harrison reported his district replaced a 48" pipe on Coffman Road. He gave an update on the community meeting regarding the Sugar Creek iron bridges and is working on a compromise solution.

Adjourned at 10:30 a.m.