

## MINUTES, LIMESTONE COUNTY COMMISSION, NOVEMBER 28, 2018

The Limestone County Commission reconvened the meeting from November 19, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. today at the Washington Street Courthouse Annex, 310 West Washington Street, Athens, AL.

Present: Daryl Sammet, Steve Turner, and Jason Black. Absent: Ben Harrison. Collin Daly, Chairman presided.

Chief Fred Sloss addressed the commissioners requesting the Courthouse Security Deputy, John McCormick, be promoted to sergeant. He is supervising seven employees; six at the courthouse and one at the Clinton Street annex and should be compensated as a supervisor. The promotion would be an increase of .18 per hour.

Danny Barksdale, 14399 Cambridge Lane, came before the commission to hear their comments regarding the rock quarry. Commissioner Turner stated he would make his comments in his report of officers.

Tom Hill, Limestone County Economic Development Director, briefed the commissioners regarding tax abatements to be considered at the December 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. He said the applicants are Tricap Development LLC and MCH2 Holdings LLC. The company has plans to purchase and buy new equipment. The investment will be \$20,860,000. They plan to hire 50 new employees with average wages of \$18.00 per hour. The company is requesting an abatement of sales taxes during construction of \$316,400. School taxes to be paid are \$173,200. They are also requesting a 10-year property tax abatement. The abatement will average \$63,538 each year for a total of \$635,380. New school taxes will be \$48,587 each year and will total \$458,879.

The commissioners discussed closing the county offices on New Year's Eve since New Year's Day happens to fall on Tuesday and is already an approved holiday. Commissioner Black stated he thought it would be a good reward for the employees. Chairman Daly stated that it would be a nice incentive of appreciation since no raises were granted.

Items were discussed for the December 3, 2018 agenda.

Daryl Sammet announced the burial of former commissioner, Wendell Powers, is today at 3:00 p.m. He said that Wendell was an asset for the county and would be sorely missed.

Steve Turner gave an update on the pedestrian crossing signs with embedded LED lights to be installed at the crosswalk from East Limestone High School to TAB's Market. He said it will be a nice improvement to safety. He mentioned problems being created from large amounts of garbage. He informed the commission of being approached by an individual that is interested in purchasing the small piece of property at the corner of Cherry and Jefferson Streets that is owned by the county. He read a typed statement of his response to Danny Barksdale. He said, "I can weight the road, but I can't unfairly target a company that has been legally permitted and is operating

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under the regulations of a different municipality. I have to be a good steward of the county money, not just District 2, but the whole county. I would think that a weight limit I can justify is somewhere around 13 tons. We can't stop quarry trucks from using those roads while allowing other using the same type vehicles to remain using them. I have no intention of weight limiting Newby or Gray. I am doing all I can to make sure the roads stay in a safe condition. I work closely with our engineer and make him aware and ask for his suggestions about repairs that are needed and the proper way to make them. Weight limiting the roads and getting us into a costly lawsuit, that we will lose, is not the right thing to do in my opinion. I do care about the residents affected by the quarry and I care that those heavy trucks are on our roads. I know this quarry isn't what anyone wants. Neither the trucks nor the quarry are going away. Let's make the best out of a bad situation."

Jason Black reported he purchased an arrow sign hazard board as a safety improvement for his district. He said, "The quarry is a business, no different than Polaris, Mazda-Toyota, or any other company that chooses to locate in the county. The commissioners job is to build the roads, repair the roads, and keep the roads safe."

Chairman Daly thanked everyone for coming and was appreciative of all the comments. He told Mr. Barksdale we will work hard to make everything safer and that is what Commissioner Turner and engineering are trying to do.

Items were discussed for the December 3, 2018 agenda.

Adjourned at 10:35 a.m.