

**MINUTES, LIMESTONE COUNTY COMMISSION, JULY 20, 2020
WORK SESSION**

The Limestone County Commission reconvened the meeting from July 6, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. today at the Clinton Street Courthouse Annex, 100 South Clinton Street, Athens, Alabama.

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

Debbie Wilson and Tina Cook with the Family Resource Center requested a budget appropriation for FY21 in the amount of \$20,000 plus utilities.

Lynn Hart with Keep Athens-Limestone Beautiful requested a budget appropriation for FY21 in the amount of \$10,000 plus \$25,000 for the Hazardous Household Waste program.

Andrea Turner with Athens-Limestone Tourism presented a Marketing Plan for 2020-2021. She said, "Athens-Limestone County Tourism Association, along with the 10 hotels at Exit 351 are working with Athens Parks & Recreation Department to help promote "Sports Tourism" at the new Athens Recreation Center. After researching our local North Alabama area, we found our surrounding counties are involved in Sports Alabama and have seen a significant increase in their ROI's from this investment. It is our collective decision; Athens-Limestone Tourism, Hoteliers of the 351-Exit and Athens Parks and Recreation Department to apply for a membership through SPORTS Alabama. Agritourism is a form of commercial enterprise that links agricultural production and/or processing with tourism in order to attract visitors onto a farm, ranch or other agricultural business for the purposes of entertaining and/or educating the visitors and generating income for the farm, ranch, or business owner. Our plan is to develop an ecosystem of potential agritourism businesses across the county then market them in Limestone county Agritourism campaign. Part of these marketing efforts will come in the form of offering FAM tours to various travel agents, writers, etc. that promote agritourism destinations. These tours would involve a one night stay in a local hotel, a tour of the other hotel visits to attractions like 1818 Farms and Belle Chevre, tours on our various trails, a tour through our new Cotton Gin and tours of the communities throughout our county. We are planning to join Sweet Grown Alabama Association to help further these marketing efforts."

Chris Anderson and Laura Poe with Athens-Limestone Public Library requested a budget appropriation for FY21 in the amount of \$100,000.

Michelle Williamson, Limestone County Community Relations Coordinator, briefed the Commission about an opportunity for the County to apply as a Sub-Recipient Agency of EMA for a Homeland Security Grant that has no match. She said, "If award the grant, it will give the county the capability to have a 360-degree view of the exterior grounds of the Clinton Street Annex and the Courthouse. The video feed from the cameras will be accessible to courthouse security and dispatch with the sheriff's office. The stored video feed will be available for law enforcement in the event of an incident. Also, if

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awarded this grant, the county Information Technology Department and the Maintenance Department will be handling the installation of the cameras as an in-kind contribution. The maximum amount of the grant is \$50,000.”

Items were discussed for the July 20, 2020 Commission Meeting.

Chairman Collin Daly thanked everyone for attending and said the budget request would be taken under consideration.