

**MINUTES, LIMESTONE COUNTY COMMISSION, JANUARY 3, 2022  
WORK SESSION**

The Limestone County Commission reconvened the meeting from December 20, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at the Clinton Street Courthouse Annex, 100 South Clinton Street, Athens, Alabama.

Present: Daryl Sammet, Danny Barksdale, Jason Black and LaDon Townsend. Absent: None. Collin Daly, Chairman, presided.

Ms. Ruby McCartney addressed the Commission regarding proposals for a new recycling center. Ms. McCartney provided the Chairman and the Commissioners with a packet explaining the proposals, and she stated, "We need a commitment from the County Commission and the City of Athens because we are a non-profit, and we simply can't do this alone." In addition to the proposals for a new center there was discussion regarding the issues with inmate labor, being able to retain help and the importance of continuing to evolve the recycling program for the future. Ms. McCartney further stated, "I'm passionate about it, and it's my way to serve the community that I grew up in."

Items were discussed for today's commission meeting agenda.

As to the Memorandum of Agreement by and between the City of Madison and the Limestone County Commission for the resurfacing of Bowers and Segers Roads, Commissioner Black explained that this pertains to what has already been resurfaced and not anything additional. Commissioner Black stated, "I get calls all the time about Segers Road, and there is a portion that did not get paved that we are responsible for and another portion that the City of Huntsville is responsible for and it has not gotten resurfaced. We are just doing the Memorandum of Agreement so the City of Huntsville can use our bid for the work."

The following subdivision was taken off the agenda:

<b>Name</b>	<b>S/D Type</b>	<b>Approval Type</b>	<b>Lots</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Location</b>
Ricketts Farms, Phase II	Major	Final	41	2	North of Pepper Rd.

As to this subdivision, Commissioner Barksdale reported that there is a lady that is having issues with her yard being flooded, and he stated, "Until this problem is rectified, I don't have any intention of supporting an approval." Engineer Marc Massey was absent, but Chairman Daly reported that Engineer Massey was aware of the problem, but the problem was from Phase I. All the Commissioners agreed to remove this from today's meeting agenda.

In regard to the appropriation to the Athens-Limestone Hospital for the Wellness Center's pool, Commissioner Black expressed that he does not have an issue with the appropriation to the Hospital, but his concerns are that Athens-Limestone Hospital simply does not want to keep the pool open.

Commissioner Danny Barksdale expressed that he would not be in support of the \$14,625.00 pool appropriation and it was his understanding that approximately 100 citizens currently use the pool. Commissioner Barksdale stated, "Statistically 50 of these 100 people should live in eastern Limestone County with access to the Madison Wellness Center which the enrollment covers. My understanding is that Sports Med in Athens has a \$25.00 pool membership that is available now. If this appropriation is approved, another concern that I have is that this will set a precedent when various facilities are unable or unwilling to continue services in our county, and where do we draw the line?"

Commissioner LaDon Townsend commented on the amount of people in attendance in support of the keeping the pool open, and Commissioner Townsend stated, "I am going to be in support of it because I have a 93 year old grandmother that doesn't use the pool but if she did, I'd sure be fighting to keep it open because I know there are a lot of people that use it now, and I don't care if it is only 50. I think Huntsville Hospital ought to keep this open for our people in Limestone County. We give them \$500,000.00 a year, and I don't think it is being spent in Limestone County.

Commissioner Daryl Sammet stated, "I feel the same Mr. Chairman, and I don't have any problem putting it on the meeting agenda and just bring it to a vote. I feel like a lot of times health and rehab is a big issue in our county. I appreciate folks that do use this facility, and I hope everything works out."

Chairman Collin Daly stated, "As to the \$250,000.00 for the central heating and air, I have had the discussion with a delegation and that is something that they are looking into. There are groups out there that I believe have an interest in taking over this Wellness Center, and I am trying to give the public an opportunity to see that through. I am worried about the whole future of the Wellness Center, and I don't want this pool to be the tip of the iceberg."

Commissioner Sammet stated, "I want to thank everybody for coming out today, and I want you to know we will do all we can. I am sure this Commission is behind you." Commissioner Sammet also brought up the problem with new residents that move into Limestone County and the problem of them putting items to be disposed of in the ditches. Commissioner Sammet addressed Ruby McCartney and Leigh Patterson, who were both in attendance from the Athens-Limestone Recycling Center, and requested their assistance in coming up with a plan to notify these new residents of the services that are offered and the services that are not offered.

Commissioner Barksdale agreed with Commissioner Sammet and reported that District 2 has a lot of trash dumped. Commissioner Barksdale reported that he has been looking into the junk and debris law and violations of the junk and debris law.

Commissioner Black expressed the need to not delay discussion of the proposed plans for the Recycling Center and that arrangements needed to be made to properly address this issue with the Mayor.

Commissioner Townsend thanked everyone for attending and stated, "We've had these discussions for the last couple of meetings and the people from the pool have shown up every time. It's great to see people you know come together like you all have and fight for something that you want" Commissioner Townsend all discussed the storm that came through on Saturday night and thanked the volunteer fire departments, EMA, Athens Utilities and all of the volunteers that assisted.

Chairman Daly also thanked the volunteer fire departments and stated, "They are out there with us working at night, and they stayed out there with us until midnight for no compensation...nothing. I am proud of the community that we have here. I also want to thank everybody for coming out to support the pool."