

MINUTES, LIMESTONE COUNTY COMMISSION, SEPTEMBER 12, 2018

The Limestone County Commission reconvened the meeting from September 4, 2018 at 9:00 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.

Frank McCollum, Daniel Laurita, Milly Caudle, Emily Clem, Paula Laurita and Debbie Joiner addressed the Commission concerning the proposed cut to the Athens Limestone Public Library in the County's upcoming fiscal year budget. The County's appropriation to the public library has been \$80,000 since fiscal year 2010; however, the Commission proposes to reduce the amount of the appropriation to \$40,000 for FY2019. The library receives \$521,827 in total funding, about 25 percent of which is derived from Southard Trust dividends. The rest comes from the County Commission, Athens City Council, membership fees, state allocations and grants. Mrs. Laurita said if the library's funding is cut, state funding would be cut at a proportionate level. The Commissioners said they would take under consideration their request for level funding.

Stanley Hill reported his district is bush hogging, ditching and patching. His district has finished the walking track at Piney Chapel School. He thanked the supporters of the library for attending. He said the County can't keep spending more than it's taking in, it will have to stop.

Steve Turner reported his district has been trimming limbs. He stated he had received several emails and phone calls regarding the library funding that made it sound like the Commission doesn't care about Limestone County, but we do.

Jason Black expressed that the County is not all gloom and doom. We're just not where we need to be. The Commission might be able to help more in other areas, as District 4 previously did with the site prep and drainage work for the outdoor classroom at the library. He said the County departments did a very good job keeping their budgets lean. The County has received notification that health insurance is increasing 5%. We're doing things that are upsetting to our employees; the County is proposing no merit increases or cost of living and passing on 2.5% retirement contributions to the Tier 1 employees.

Ben Harrison reported his district has finished the Barker Road project. He spoke favorably for level funding the library.

Items were discussed for the September 17, 2018 agenda.

Adjourned at 10:26 a.m.