

## MINUTES, LIMESTONE COUNTY COMMISSION, SEPTEMBER 11, 2019

The Limestone County Commission reconvened the meeting from September 3, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. today at the Washington Street Courthouse Annex, 310 West Washington Street, Athens, AL.

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

Frank McCollum, treasurer of the Athens-Limestone County Public Library foundation board, addressed the Commission concerning their FY 2019 – 2020 appropriation from the County Commission. He stated that every dollar not received by the county would mean an equal amount of funding lost by the state. He also told commissioners that when the county's population surpasses 100,000 people, which could happen with the next census count, the library would have to hire additional staff to accommodate a growing patronage. In comparing the Athens-Limestone County Public Library to libraries in Lauderdale and Cullman counties, Mr. McCollum said the local library ranks last in terms of county funding. Commissioner Harrison explained that the Lauderdale County Commission provides \$100,000 to the public library in Florence and \$115,000 to be divided between three libraries in the county. Commissioner Turner said he had questioned library officials yesterday about their sources of funding. They receive some from grants. One of the library's primary source of revenue stems from the Southard Trust, and Turner asked library officials how much money is in the trust. They did not have an answer at the work session. Mr. McCollum explained the trust is invested in three different ways but told Commissioner Turner it is "a substantial amount of money. The intent has been to never draw from the principle, but we do draw from it". He explained the library still owes \$480,000 on a line of credit to turn the old Kroger building into the new public library.

County Engineer Marc Massey gave an update on the new milling machine. Crews have been working on Lentzville Road in District 4. There was an extensive discussion about the need for more trucks, to keep up with the milling machine.

Chairman Daly and County Attorney Mark Maclin explained there may be a deed and contract agreement on the agenda Monday for the Event Center with the Veteran's Museum. If it isn't ready for action on Monday, then it can be moved to the next meeting.

Items were discussed for the September 16, 2019 agenda.

Commissioner Sammet thanked the folks from the library for coming today. He thanked Marc Massey for work with the milling machine and the paving crew. He stated there shouldn't be a problem with combining the use of trucks from the districts, on paving projects with the milling machine.

Commissioner Turner briefed the commission about his conversation with two school board members, to use their digital billboards with a message about the census. At the board meeting they gave full support to use the billboards and possibly use their "all-

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call” system to make an announcement. He thanked the school board for their support. Also, Laura from the Athens-Limestone Public Library wants to work with them on the census.

Commissioner Harrison gave an update of the Lentzville Road and Lydia Corey Road projects.

Commissioner Harrison introduced and explained three resolutions to be added to the agenda to vote on Monday:

1. Resolution of the Limestone County Commission to equalize road and bridge funding among districts based on road miles. This establishes the equalization fund and sets the district with the highest road funding per mile as the standard, which is currently District 2. Revenue directed to the fund would be distributed to the other three districts based on the percent of total miles of the three districts. After the three districts have reached the standard, all funds in excess will be distributed to all four districts based on percent of road miles in each district.

2. Resolution asking the local legislation to redistribute the current TVA in-lieu-of-taxes that currently goes to Huntsville Hospital to the equalization fund.

3. Resolution directing all funds received from the Simplified Seller’s Use Tax (SSUT) in excess of \$500,000 to the equalization fund.

Chairman Daly stated his issue is that Commissioner Harrison is comparing us to Lauderdale County, which has a unit system. If we’re going to look at other counties, we need to look at the surrounding counties with district systems, and compare apples to apples.

Chairman Daly discussed opening the farmer’s market on Saturdays, until the end of November, and adding this to the agenda for Monday.

Chairman Daly thanked the people from the library for coming. He said to remember that today is 9-11.

Adjourned at 11:21 a.m.