

MINUTES, LIMESTONE COUNTY COMMISSION, OCTOBER 15, 2019

The Limestone County Commission reconvened the meeting from October 7, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. today for a specially set work session at the Washington Street Courthouse Annex, 310 West Washington Street, Athens, AL.

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

Jane Davis, 16659 Linton Road, spoke about the importance of the library and that it is much more than books. She referenced that Benjamin Franklin along with others founded the first library. She quoted Dale Carnegie, "A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people." She said, "It would be a disservice to our community to cut library funding."

Bill Giguere with Mental Health Center of North Central Alabama briefed the Commission on the proposed Stepping Up resolution. Stepping Up is a national initiative to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jails. The Mental Health Center of North Central Alabama will be the lead organization in bringing The Stepping Up Initiative to north central Alabama. The Stepping Up Initiative of North Central Alabama is targeted for inmates about to be released from the Limestone or Morgan County Jail, for people involved in the local criminal justice system, or people attempting to access mental health service through the emergency departments of Athens Limestone Hospital or Decatur Morgan Hospital. The purpose is to reduce recidivism at local county jails and unnecessary readmissions to local hospital emergency departments for persons with a mental illness or co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorders by connecting them with appropriate community services.

MOTION was made by Jason Black and seconded by Steve Turner to suspend the Rules of Order.

The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There was no discussion. The Administrator called the roll. Jason Black, aye; Steve Turner, aye; Daryl Sammet, aye; and Ben Harrison, aye. Motion carries unanimously.

MOTION was made by Jason Black and seconded by Daryl Sammet to approve the following resolution to cancel the regularly scheduled Work Session for October 16, 2019.

RESOLUTION OF LIMESTONE COUNTY COMMISSION

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Limestone County Commission to cancel the regularly scheduled Work Session for Wednesday, October 16, 2019.

ADOPTED the 15th day of October 2019 at specially set Work Session.

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The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There was no discussion. The Administrator called the roll. Jason Black, aye; Daryl Sammet, aye; Steve Turner, aye; and Ben Harrison, aye. Motion carries unanimously.

Items were discussed for the October 21, 2019 agenda.

Commissioner Sammet thanked Representative Andy Whitt for his efforts to improve travel on Alabama Highway 53. He stated the county engineer had drafted a letter of support from the Commission and asked each commissioner if they would sign.

Commissioner Turner stated the paving crew is in his district and are doing a good job. The first of next week, the paving crew will take time out of his district to complete the milling and resurfacing on East Limestone Road, north of Copeland Road in District 1.

Commissioner Black reported they will be working on Airport Road; which is the transportation route for the rock quarry is coming apart.

Commissioner Harrison reported his district had finished reclaiming Shelton Road, between Union Hill and County Line. He plans to let it set over the winter and chip seal next year. He asked his fellow commissioners for their input on a proposed resolution to equalize road and bridge funding among districts based on road miles. Commissioner Black questioned why the resolution was needed at all. He cited a \$210,000 general fund surplus at the end of fiscal year 2019 that was evenly distributed among the four districts. He questioned the resolution being too restrictive. "If the resolution says to do it then we cannot use elsewhere. What if the county were to be hit by a tornado or an ice storm or if a county building sustained damage?" He said the county should wait until the 2020 census to vote how to fund roads because the county's current population is likely to change. After a heated debate, Commissioner Harrison said the commission needs to act now, that he had suffered eight years with inequitable road funding. He requested the resolution be placed on Monday's agenda and said, you can vote it down if you wish. "I've tried to help all of y'all. This is a logical solution to the problem. I've tried to make it easy for you to pass this."

Adjourned at 10:30 a.m.