

MINUTES, LIMESTONE COUNTY COMMISSION, OCTOBER 21, 2019

The Limestone County Commission met in a regular meeting today, at 10:00 a.m. 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.

Lloyd Davies, 13222 Highway 31, South, thanked the commission for allowing him to speak again about the need to continue funding for the library. He said, "Books always were and always will be part of our history. It will be the past that gets us through the present and will always be what helps us envision our future. It is part of a foundation in which we all build our lives upon. There simply cannot be anything more important than to find funding to continue to preserve this historical site."

Michael Lambert, 112 W. Market Street, addressed the commission about the Stepping-Up resolution on today's agenda. He said, "I realize you were taking up the stepping up resolution regarding reducing mentally ill patients in jail as opposed to getting the help they should receive. There are current officers in place who can do the job that they are purporting to want to do. The court referral officers particularly are aware of program where people can be placed. It would be easy to add mental health facility to their list of duties. It means a savings of money, so we're not sending money out to another organization in creating another bureaucratic step that's not needed." He requested the commission to consider tabling the resolution. Chairman Daly informed Mr. Lambert that the Stepping Up program is through a grant award received by the Mental Health Center of North Central Alabama for \$50,000, at no cost to the county.

Chuck McDonald, 17531 Oakdale Road, addressed the commission on the issue of property taxes. He said, "I see that there's a lot of disparity in the implementation of property tax. My taxes raised about 20%. I went to the appeals board and I got sort of three or four different decisions as related to that. I've talked to a lot of people in the community and they said, well I don't pay property tax. I know that has to do with their income. The only thing I don't understand is the disparity and when you go to get an explanation or an understanding, the only explanation I get is that's what the state book says, but that explanation is an easy cop-out."

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Chuck McDonald.

MOTION was made by Jason Black and seconded by Steve Turner to approve the minutes of October 7 & 15, 2019.

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 Steve Turner and seconded by Daryl Sammet to approve the following claims

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10/01/19	Check # 54834	Void
10/04/19	Check # 54835 – 54899	\$2,545,035.91
10/11/19	Check # 54900 – 54971	<u>\$ 541,742.92</u>
	TOTAL	\$3,086,778.83

with detailed claims of the above being on file for review upon request to the County Administrator.

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

MOTION was made by Jason Black and seconded by Steve Turner to approve the following resolution Stepping Up to Reduce the Number of People with Mental Illnesses in Jails by partnering with Mental Health Center of North Central Alabama.

Resolution of Limestone County Commission

“Stepping Up to Reduce the Number of People with Mental Illnesses in Jails”

WHEREAS, counties routinely provide treatment services to the estimated 2 million people with serious mental illnesses booked into jail each year;

WHEREAS, prevalence rates of serious mental illnesses in jails are three to six times higher than for the general public;

WHEREAS, almost three-quarters of adults with serious mental illnesses in jails have co-occurring substance use disorders;

WHEREAS, adults with mental illnesses tend to stay longer in jail and, upon release, are at a higher risk of recidivism than people without these disorders;

WHEREAS, county jails spend two to three times more on adults with mental illnesses that require interventions compared to those without these treatment needs;

WHEREAS, without the appropriate treatment and services, people with mental illnesses continue to cycle through the criminal justice system, often resulting in tragic outcomes for these individuals and their families;

WHEREAS, Limestone County and all counties take pride in their responsibility to protect and enhance the health, welfare, and safety of its residents in efficient and cost-effective ways;

WHEREAS, Limestone County has partnered with the Mental Health Center of North Alabama to help people stay out of jail by offering mental health and substance use disorder treatment; and

WHEREAS, through Stepping Up, the National Association of Counties, The Council of State Governments Justice Center, and the American Psychiatric Association Foundation are encouraging public, private, and nonprofit partners to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jails.

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Limestone County Commission does hereby sign on to the Call to Action to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in our county jail, commit to sharing lessons learned with other counties in my state and across the country to support a national initiative and encourage all county officials, employees, and residents to participate in Stepping Up. We resolve to utilize the comprehensive resources available through Stepping Up to:

- ☑ Convene or draw on a diverse team of leaders and decision makers from multiple agencies committed to safely reducing the number of people with mental illnesses in jails;
- ☑ Collect and review prevalence numbers and assess individuals' needs to better identify adults entering jails with mental illnesses and their recidivism risk, and use that baseline information to guide decision making at the system, program, and case levels;
- ☑ Examine treatment and service capacity to determine which programs and services are available in the county for people with mental illnesses and co-occurring substance use disorders, and identify state and local policy and funding barriers to minimizing contact with the justice system and providing treatment and supports in the community;
- ☑ Develop a plan with measurable outcomes that draws on the jail assessment and prevalence data and the examination of available treatment and service capacity, while considering identified barriers;
- ☑ Implement research-based approaches that advance the plan; and
- ☑ Create a process to track progress using data and information systems, and to report on successes.

Adopted this 21st day of October 2019

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 Daryl Sammet and seconded by Ben Harrison to authorize the Chairman to execute the following resolution Providing for Limestone County's Participation in the Severe Weather Preparedness Tax Holiday.

RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR LIMESTONE COUNTY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE "SEVERE WEATHER PREPAREDNESS TAX HOLIDAY" AS AUTHORIZED BY ACT NO. 2012-256

WHEREAS, during its 2012 Regular Session, the Alabama Legislature Enacted Act No. 2012-256, which provides an exemption of the state sales and use tax for certain "covered items" purchased related to severe weather preparedness during the first full weekend of July 2012 and the last full weekend of February in subsequent years; and

WHEREAS, Act No. 2012-256 authorizes the county commission to provide for an exemption of county sales and use taxes for "certain" items covered by the Act during the same time period in which the state sales and use tax exemption is in place, provided a resolution to that effect is adopted at least 30 days prior to the last full weekend of February in subsequent years; and

WHEREAS, the Limestone County Commission has affirmatively voted to grant the exemption of county sales and use taxes on purchases covered by Act No. 2012-256, beginning at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, February 21, 2020, and ends at twelve midnight on Sunday, February 23, 2020; and

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WHEREAS, *Code of Alabama 1975, § 11-51-210(e)* requires that the county commission notify the Alabama Department of Revenue of any new local tax or amendment to an existing local tax levy; and

WHEREAS, the exemption of certain county sales and use taxes for the last full weekend of February 2020 herein adopted by the county commission is an amendment to the county’s sales and use tax levy warranting notice to the Alabama Department of Revenue as provided in *Code of Alabama 1975, § 11-51-210(e)*;

WHEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LIMESTONE COUNTY COMMISSION that it does hereby provide for an exemption of the county sales and use tax on purchases of items covered by Act No. 2012-256 beginning at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, February 21, 2020 and ending at twelve midnight on Sunday, February 23, 2020.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the 21st day of October 2019 meeting of the Limestone County Commission and be immediately forwarded to the Alabama Department of Revenue in compliance with *Code of Alabama 1975, § 11-51-210(e)*.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Limestone County Commission has caused this Resolution to be executed in its name and on its behalf by its Chairman on this the 21st day of October 2019.

Collin Daly, Chairman

Attest: _____
Pam Carter, Administrator

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

Chairman Daly asked for a motion to approve a resolution to Equalize Road and Bridge Funding Among Districts Based on Road Miles. Motion was made by Ben Harrison. Failed for lack of a second motion.

MOTION was made by Jason Black and seconded by Daryl Sammet to authorize the Chairman to execute the following agreement by and between the City of Madison and Limestone County Regarding the Maintenance of a Bridge Located on Morris Road.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
BY AND BETWEEN

THE CITY OF MADISON, ALABAMA, AND LIMESTONE COUNTY, ALABAMA,
REGARDING THE MAINTENANCE OF
A BRIDGE LOCATED ON MORRIS ROAD

This Memorandum of Agreement is entered into by and between the City of Madison, Alabama (“City”) and Limestone County, Alabama (“County”), and shall be effective as of the date this Agreement is executed by the parties hereto. In the event the authorized signatures are affixed on different dates, the latter date of execution shall be the effective date.

WHEREAS, Morris Road lies within the jurisdiction of both the City and County; and

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WHEREAS, the newly constructed Morris Road Bridge (“Bridge”), which is depicted on Exhibit A, sits next to a new subdivision that is located wholly within the City of Madison; and

WHEREAS, the Bridge is located partially within the City of Madison and partially within Limestone County and adjacent to the new subdivision shown on Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, both parties have a common interest in the maintenance of the Bridge; and

WHEREAS, Section 11-102-1 and those following of the *Code of Alabama* set forth that counties and municipalities may contract with each other for the joint exercise of any power or service that either entity could exercise individually, which powers and services include the maintenance of roads and bridges lying within both jurisdictions as is the purpose of this Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE PARTIES, INTENDING TO BE LEGALLY BOUND HEREBY, MEMORIALIZE THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS AGREEMENT AS FOLLOWS:

1. The City shall complete an inspection of the Bridge and shall provide the findings and results of same to the County within ten (10) days of its receipt of them, including any determination of the City that the Bridge should be certified as completed and safe for travel.
2. Within thirty (30) days of receiving the findings, results, and determinations from the City, the County shall review same and either notify the City of any objections or disagreements with them, or, if none, its agreement with them and that the City may certify the Bridge is safe for travel under applicable rules and regulations.
3. Upon such certification by the City it shall assume all obligations for the maintenance and upkeep of the Bridge, which shall include accepting the Bridge into the City’s bridge maintenance program, and which maintenance and upkeep shall be performed regularly in accordance with City policies and regulations, subject to the City’s road and infrastructure maintenance budget.
4. The term of this Agreement shall be three years from its effective date and may be renewed for additional term(s) thereafter as then allowed by law.

**City of Madison, Alabama,
a municipal corporation**

**Paul Finley, Mayor
City of Madison**

Date: _____

ATTEST:

By: _____

Date: _____

Limestone County, Alabama

**Collin Daly, Chairman
Limestone County Commission**

Date: _____

ATTEST:

By: _____

Date: _____

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The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. Commissioner Black said that the bridge was built by a contractor at no cost to the City of Madison or Limestone County. The agreement is to take over the maintenance of the bridge. County Engineer Marc Massey said, "The City of Madison is going to take the maintenance, it was originally a Limestone County bridge, so this will be us transferring that over to the City of Madison and they will take ownership". The Administrator called the roll. Jason Black, aye; Daryl Sammet, aye; Steve Turner, aye; and Ben Harrison, aye. Motion carries unanimously.

MOTION was made by Ben Harrison and seconded by Jason Black to approve two board appointments for Department of Human Resources, with terms ending October 1, 2025: Melanie Maples and Patricia King.

The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. Commissioner Harrison said that he appreciates the people from the community that are willing to devote their time and service to these boards. It's very important to have proper oversight and I appreciate their willingness to serve. The Administrator called the roll. Ben Harrison, aye; Jason Black, aye; Daryl Sammet, aye; and Steve Turner, aye. Motion carries unanimously.

MOTION was made by Steve Turner and seconded by Jason Black to award the following bid proposal to the lowest responsible bidder meeting specifications as follows:

Proposal No.	Item	Awarded to	Amount
2706	Sanitary Supplies County Commission (Nov. 4, 2019 – Nov. 3, 2020)	American Paper & Twine	\$2,078.72 over all 20% off catalog

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

MOTION was made by Steve Turner and seconded by Daryl Sammet to approve to transfer Tracy Shehorn to Jail Clerk/Secretary, effective October 21, 2019.

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

MOTION was made by Jason Black and seconded by Daryl Sammet to approve Family Medical Leave for Sabrina Bates, beginning October 22, 2019 until October 30, 2019.

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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.

MOTION was made by Ben Harrison and seconded by Jason Black to approve the following merit increases, which are included in the base pay and cost of living pay as listed below.

Name	Position	Effective Date
Patsy Appleton	Council on Aging Van Driver	10/01/19
Sabrina Bates	Council on Aging Asst. Director	10/20/19
Billy Boldin	Equipment Operator III	10/19/19
Richard Clanton	Deputy	10/15/19
Stephen Croley	Patrol Lieutenant	10/02/19
Jeremiah Durden	Investigator	10/13/19
Eddie Gilbert	Emergency Management Officer	10/10/19
Emily Lewter	Deputy	10/28/19
William Lindsey	Council on Aging Van Driver	10/01/19
John McCormick	Sergeant	10/16/19
Bryan Robinson	Equipment Operator III	10/03/19
Michael Stinnett	Patrol Lieutenant	10/17/19
Julian T. Tyler	Corrections Officer	10/26/19
Steve Usery	HVAC Technician	10/02/19

The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. Commissioner Harrison said, this is the first time we have given a cost of living or merit increase in two years. We restored the merit increases this fiscal year. The Administrator called the roll. Ben Harrison, aye; Jason Black, aye; Daryl Sammet, aye; and Steve Turner, aye. Motion carries unanimously.

Commissioner Sammet said, "There was an article in the newspaper about the unit system. I think there's not a Commissioner up there that would agree that if it was a better way, we would definitely go for it. I've talked to commissioners across the state, I think 17 are district and 50 are unit. I've talked to some that it didn't work. I think we've got a good system, it needs some tweaking. I'm anxious to see what rebuild Alabama is going to do for us. I know they've committed \$185,000 a district for the first year. That's going to help tremendously. It'll make a big difference in the county and if we manage it right, I know that we can make a difference. I'm just a little leery of the unit system."

Commissioner Turner reported the paving crew continues to work in his district but will move to District 1 to do the milling project on East Limestone Road. The paving crew should be finished this week with the District 1 project, if weather allows.

Commissioner Black reported his district is bush hogging two of their main roads and patching potholes.

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Commissioner Harrison reported his district finished a portion of Shelton Road and would be ready for chip seal next paving season. He is planning repairs on Sugar Creek Estates Road, which is a dead-end road. He put millings from the Lydia Corey Road repairs on the hill portion of the bypass road where people can get up and down. He anticipates the road being closed two days for repairs. He talked about the analysis he did on the unit system several years ago. He is open to a reanalysis but is kind of leery of the unit system, stating a lot of the residents want a commission they can go to and beat on and complain to. He talked about the road equalization proposal, the new gas tax, and ways to get more money for roads. He said, "I've identified almost 1.2 million dollars that we could use from new and existing revenue sources that could just take from the general fund and use toward roads. I would suggest since the proposal for equalization of road miles failed, we all put our heads together and see how we can utilize some of that money and I'm open to all suggestions. Like I've said before, we need to address this issue because the gas tax, while it helps and I'm grateful for the revenue, I firmly believe that we can use existing revenues. I believe that Limestone County residents deserve better roads but without raising taxes. So, I suggest that we look at the money we have available prioritize in our departments and find some way if my suggestion is not acceptable, then we find some way of getting more money from our general revenues into the road system."

Chairman Daly thanked the three people that spoke today. He thanked Mental Health for the grant, citing mental health issues are a big problem in our jail. He said no district has enough money for the roads. He said, "With the unit system, I am up to looking into anything." He thanked everyone for attending.

Recessed at 10:29 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 30, 2019, at the Washington Street Courthouse Annex, 310 West Washington Street, Athens, Alabama.