

MINUTES OF THE LEE COUNTY COMMISSION, REG. ADJ. TERM, JANUARY 25, 2021

The Lee County Commission convened in regular adjourned session at the Courthouse in Opelika, Alabama, Monday, January 25, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by an invocation by Commissioner Cannon.

During citizens' communication, Commissioner Robert Ham appeared to thank his fellow Commissioners and County Administrator Roger Rendleman. Commissioner Ham stated he was proud to serve with each Commissioner. Commissioner Ham thanked the Commission for their efforts in opposing the rock quarry.

The Chairman declared a quorum and officially opened the meeting with the following members recorded as being present: Judge Bill English, Chairman, and Commissioners Doug Cannon, Sarah Brown, Gary Long, Robert Ham and Richard LaGrand. Elected Officials in attendance: Sheriff Jay Jones, and Revenue Commissioner Oline Price. News media in attendance: Opelika-Auburn News reporter Mike Eads.

County Engineer Justin Hardee recognized Chief Blake Simpkins of the Beulah Volunteer Fire Department and President of the Lee County Firefighters Association to accept the chainsaws on behalf of the seven Volunteer Fire Departments. Mr. Hardee stated due to the pandemic organizing the presentation has taken some time. Mr. Hardee stated he wished to recognize them for what they do stating he is fortunate to have them working with the Highway Department. Mr. Hardee stated the Volunteer Fire Departments respond to emergencies more rapidly than the Highway Department and are able to remove limbs and debris off the roads until the Highway Department can get there to remove them. Mr. Hardee thanked Mr. Simpkins for their continued support.

EMA Director Rita Smith introduced EMA's newest employee Michael Holden to the Commission, who was sworn-in by Judge English. The Commission welcomed Mr. Holden.

Judge English asked the Commissioners who had received their packets prior to the meeting. Two of the five stated they had not, but three received them today. Judge English asked if they wanted to move it up a day to Wednesday which would get the packets out sooner but would cut off the agenda a day earlier. Commissioners Cannon, Brown and Long stated they would prefer the packet to be emailed to them. Commissioner Ham and LaGrand stated they preferred both methods, by email and in the mail.

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Copies of the items on the Consent Agenda sent to the Commissioners in their packets included: listing of claims, p-card transaction listing and minutes of the January 11 meeting. In addition, a list of claims for ratification was placed on each Commissioner's desk prior to the meeting. First reading to reappoint Harry Lazenby to the Beauregard Water Authority Board was made. Commissioner Ham made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Brown to approve the consent agenda items as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Under old business, Commissioner Long made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cannon to approve the following Resolution to reappoint Dick Key to the Smiths Water and Sewer Authority Board. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED, Lee County Commission hereby reappoints Richard "Dick" Key to serve another six-year term on the Smiths Water and Sewer Authority Board from March 1, 2021 to March 1, 2027.

Revenue Commissioner Oline Price presented a request for an abatement extension for V2 Composites, an industry located in Auburn, but outside the city limits. Mrs. Price explained that the company is requesting a six-month extension because equipment ordered prior to the pandemic has not been received. Mrs. Price stated once approved she will draft a letter for the Chairman to sign. Upon the presentation, Commissioner Ham made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Brown to authorize the Chairman to sign the abatement extension agreement once prepared by Revenue Commissioner Oline Price. The motion carried unanimously.

Sheriff Jones presented results of Bid #2021-02 for uniform dry cleaning. Sheriff Jones stated two bids were received and the recommendation is to award the bid to the lowest responsive bidder, Downtown Cleaners. Commissioner Long made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ham to award Bid #2021-02 for uniform dry cleaning to Downtown Cleaners. The motion carried unanimously.

Next, Sheriff Jones presented results of Bid #2021-04 for a portable restroom trailer. Sheriff Jones stated the purchase is not a budgeted item but will be paid 100% by Federal funds. Sheriff Jones recommended the Commission accept the lone bid from Nordic Group for \$28,973.00. Commissioner Long made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ham to accept the lone bid from Nordic Group for \$28,973 for a portable restroom trailer for the Sheriff's Office. The motion carried unanimously.

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Mr. Hardee presented a speed limit reduction for Lee Roads 185 & 739 located in District 4. Mr. Hardee stated a citizen approached the Highway Department about decreasing the speed limit on the roads. Mr. Hardee stated the Highway Department conducted a traffic study and recommends the speed limit be reduced from 45 mph on the paved portions and 35 mph on the unpaved portions to 25 mph for both on Lee Roads 185 and 739. Commissioner Ham agreed especially on Lee Road 739. Mr. Hardee stated the Highway Department recommends this as a reasonable and safe maximum speed limit. Commissioner Ham made a motion, seconded by Commissioner LaGrand to reduce the speed limit to 25 on Lee Roads 185 and 739. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hardee presented a speed limit reduction for Lee Road 14 in District 5. Mr. Hardee stated a citizen approached the Highway Department about decreasing the speed limit on Lee Road 14. Mr. Hardee stated the Highway Department conducted a traffic study and recommends the speed limit be reduced from 45 mph to 30 mph on Lee Road 14. Mr. Hardee stated there is a bridge on the road with a design speed of 20 mph and it will be posted accordingly. Mr. Hardee stated the Highway Department recommends this as a reasonable and safe maximum speed limit. Commissioner LaGrand made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cannon to reduce the speed limit on Lee Road 14 from 45 mph to 30 mph and at the bridge 20 mph speed limit as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hardee presented an Adopt-a-Mile application from the 288 Association. They are wishing to adopt Lee Road 288, which is in District 3, and runs from US Highway 280 to Lee Road 289. Commissioner Long made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Brown to authorize the Chairman to sign the application for the 288 Association. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Smith presented a request from Beauregard Volunteer Fire Department to purchase seven pulse oximeters for \$3,782.98 through EMA. Ms. Smith explained the CARES funds are no longer available, but the pulse oximeters can be purchased with FEMA funds which are paid on a 75/25 basis, so the items would be reimbursed for \$2,837.24 with Beauregard Volunteer Fire Department paying the 25% or \$945.74. Judge English asked why the funding needs to go through the Commission if CARES funds are no longer available to us. Ms. Smith stated we are still under a Federal declaration. Ms. Smith stated if FEMA does not reimburse 75% of the cost then Beauregard Volunteer Fire Department would assume the total cost of the purchase. Commissioner Ham made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Brown to approve the agreement with Beauregard Volunteer Fire Department for the purchase of seven pulse oximeters with FEMA funds. The motion carried unanimously.

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Ms. Smith presented results of Bid #2021-03 for nitrile gloves due to the critical demand from healthcare facilities and first responders for gloves during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Ms. Smith stated 14 bids were received, after 9 bids were mailed out. The remainder came from the online posting. Ms. Smith recommended the Commission accept the lowest responsive bid of GK Trading of Warren, New Jersey. Commissioner Cannon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Brown to award Bid #2021-03 for nitrile gloves to GK Trading. The motion carried unanimously.

Governmental Relations/Safety Manager Wendy Swann presented details of an ADECA Community Development Block Grant available through CARES funding. Mrs. Swann stated Lee County has an allocation of \$500,000 to be used for pandemic related projects approved by ADECA through the application process. Mrs. Swann stated currently she is working with Lee-Russell Council of Governments, Lee County EMA and the City of Smiths Station to determine which project(s) would provide the most benefit to the citizens of Lee County. Mrs. Swann stated both the City of Auburn and Opelika have their own projects. Mrs. Swann stated this is only informational and once a decision is made, it will be presented to the Commission for authorization. Mrs. Swann stated no action is needed tonight.

Commissioner Brown thanked Mr. Hardee on the presentation of the chainsaws to the Volunteer Fire Departments since she is aware the project was near and dear to Commissioner Johnny Lawrence.

Commissioner Brown made a motion at approximately 5:30 p.m. to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ham and carried unanimously.