

MINUTES OF THE LEE COUNTY COMMISSION, REG. ADJ. TERM, FEBRUARY 22, 2021

The Lee County Commission convened in regular adjourned session at the Courthouse in Opelika, Alabama, Monday, February 22, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by an invocation by Judge English.

During citizens' communication, Peter Byrd again appeared before the Commission to thank Judge English for the information received from his Public Records Request at the last meeting. Mr. Byrd stated the Commission should have the FY2019 and FY2020 financial statements of East Alabama Health Care Authority since that was a requirement of the Amendment to their Articles of Incorporation in 2015.

Next, Maggie Lawrence appeared to inform the Commission that she is going to continue former Commissioner Johnny Lawrence's legacy of public service. Mrs. Lawrence stated she has a certificate in Basic Public Information Officer training and is currently taking courses for the Master PIO Class. Mrs. Lawrence stated once she has completed the Masters' course she will be one of three in the State of Alabama and one of the two who hold that designation in Lee County, the other one is EMA Director Rita Smith. Mrs. Lawrence stated she wants to work with the Commission to hopefully start a program like the Statewide Crisis Communications Board, of which she is a member.

Next, Commissioner Brown thanked Mrs. Lawrence for her service acknowledging that she has big shoes to fill after filling the position upon the death of Commissioner Lawrence. Commissioner Brown thanked Sheriff Jones and Lieutenant David Mayo for the opportunity to do a ride-along with Lt. Mayo recently. Last, Commissioner Brown stated she had an opportunity to see the new Beulah Park and was impressed with it and for the opportunity it provides to the youth of the area.

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: Revenue Commissioner Oline Price. News media in attendance: Opelika Observer reporter Hannah Lester and WTVM reporter Amaya Graham.

Judge English recognized those in attendance from Beauregard High School in recognition of FFA Week. They included: Agriscience Teacher/FFA Leader Whitney Dyess, Assistant Principal Cynthia Meals, and FFA members Alex Tarnowski, Jewel Thompson and Victoria Thompson. FFA member Jewel Thompson read the following Proclamation to recognize February 20-27, 2021 as FFA Week.

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PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, FFA and agricultural education provide a strong foundation for the youth of America and the future of food, fiber and natural resources systems; and

WHEREAS, FFA promotes premier leadership personal growth and career success among its members; and

WHEREAS, agricultural education and FFA ensure a steady supply of young professionals to meet the growing needs in the science, business and technology of agriculture; and

WHEREAS, the FFA motto – “Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve: - gives direction and purpose to these students who take an active role in succeeding in agricultural education, and

WHEREAS, FFA promotes citizenship, volunteerism, patriotism and cooperation.

THEREFORE, I do hereby designate the week of February 20-27, 2021, as National FFA Week.

Next, EMA Director Rita Smith announced a Reflection and Remembrance Service will be held at noon on March 3, 2021 at the water fountain at the Courthouse square. The service is to remember especially the 23 victims lost in the March 2019 tornadoes Ms. Smith stated the service is open to the public and the media has been invited to attend. Additionally, Ms. Smith stated there will be a service held in Smiths Station that same afternoon.

Copies of the items on the Consent Agenda sent to the Commissioners in their packets included: listing of claims, Blackbaud transaction listing and minutes of the February 8 meeting. Judge English mentioned that all Commissioners received their packets noting that Commissioner Long received his packet Friday. Commissioner Brown made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cannon to approve the consent agenda items as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Under old business, Vikki Reed was not in attendance for the discussion of coronavirus activity at the Auburn Satellite Office, and that item will not be renewed unless she contacts us again.

As presented at the last meeting, Commissioner Ham stated it is time for EMA Director Rita Smith’s one-year evaluation. Commissioner Ham stated he would like Ms. Smith to stay on permanently, not under contract, and grant a 10% increase over her current salary. Commissioner Cannon stated he has known Ms. Smith a long time and under his observation she has done an excellent job for the county. Next, Commissioner LaGrand echoed that sentiment saying Ms. Smith has done an excellent job. Judge English questioned Mr.

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Rendleman if the position is classified. Mr. Rendleman affirmed it was. Commissioner LaGrand asked Commissioner Ham if his statement was in the form of a motion, Commissioner Ham affirmed it and Commissioner LaGrand seconded the motion to affirm Ms. Smith as Lee County EMA Director along with granting a 10% salary increase for completion of her one-year evaluation period. Upon vote of the Commission, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Rendleman stated the item to move daily operations of the Appraisal Department to the Revenue Commissioner was presented at the last meeting. Mr. Rendleman recommended the Commission proceed with the action as outlined in Code §40-7-62. Mr. Rendleman stated the effective date will be March 1, 2021 and Revenue Commissioner Oline Price will receive additional compensation of \$1,200/per month for running the department. Commissioner LaGrand stated March 1 is just around the corner and questioned if Mrs. Price has any specific changes to the work plan. Mrs. Price stated first order of business is to hire a new Chief Appraiser but at this time she has no plans to change the office procedures currently in place. Upon this presentation, Commissioner Brown made a motion to approve the following effective March 1, 2021: 1) to shift day-to-day oversight of the Appraisal Department to the Lee County Revenue Commissioner; 2) to adopt the attached additional policies as measures for the County Commission's responsibilities under Sections 40-7-62, 40-7-66 and 40-7-67, and; 3) to increase the Revenue Commissioner's compensation by \$1,200 per month.

The following policies shall be in effect as long as the Revenue Commissioner supervises the day-to-day operations of the Appraisal Department. Policies below will be in addition to any other County Commission policies in effect:

- All appraised property values shall be initially determined and entered into the information systems by the professional staff in the appraisal department.
- Any changes shall be recorded by identifying who made the change and the reasoning for such change.
- The Chief Administrative Officer, or other designee of the County Commission, shall review the records and the document changes from time to time.
- Upon completion of the Board of Equalization process, decisions regarding addressing appeals made to the circuit court shall be determined by the Revenue Commissioner and the Chief Administrative Officer.
- Any issues and/or disputes not resolved between the Revenue Commissioner and Chief Administrative Officer will be heard by the County Commission.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Long and carried on a vote of 4-0-1 with Commissioner LaGrand abstaining.

As presented to the Commission at the last meeting, Mr. Rendleman discussed the employee advancement program for entry level positions. Mr. Rendleman stated the implementation date would be June 5, 2021 since there are details and implementation steps that

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need finalizing. Mr. Rendleman stated this is one of the final two concepts that came from the Evergreen Pay and Classification study. The positions with both a Level 1 and a Level II range assignments are the positions that are up for Commission consideration for the Advancement Program designation. The title changes and position with the grade in orange are those positions that need adjustments to achieve the program's goal and to maintain equity within the classification plan. Mr. Rendleman stated the only one with significance is within the Sheriff's Department. Upon his recommendations, Commissioner Brown made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cannon to approve the Advancement Program, to adopt the positions as identified, and approve the seven pay range assignments effective June 5, 2021. The motion carried unanimously.

Under new business, Judge English asked the Commission for first reading of the names of two individuals as their nominees to the Lee County Planning Commission. The following were named:

Chairman – Kevin Flanagan
District 1 – Tom Kelly and Murray Neighbors
District 2 – Ross Morris and Joe Stokes
District 3 – Jason Flowers and Adam Littleton
District 4 – Danielle Ritch and Will Neighbors
District 5 – Christine Berry-Bradshaw and one other name to come soon

Judge English presented the Annual Levy of Alcoholic Beverages for FY2021-2022 and stated there were no changes in the county fees, since currently they are at the maximum rate. Commissioner Brown made a motion to approve the following Resolution to set the Annual Levy of Alcoholic Beverages for FY2021-2022. The motion was seconded by Commissioner LaGrand and carried unanimously.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Lee County Commission that the County license levies for the sale of liquor, beer and wine for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2021 to be set in the following amounts:

010 Lounge Retail Liquor – Class I	\$150.00
011 Lounge Retail Liquor – Class II (Package)	150.00
020 Restaurant Retail Liquor	150.00
031 Club Liquor – Class I	150.00
032 Club Liquor – Class II	375.00
040 Retail Beer – (On or Off Premises)	75.00
050 Retail Beer - (Off Premises Only)	75.00
060 Retail Table Wine – (On or Off Premises)	75.00
070 Retail Table Wine – (Off Premises Only)	75.00
080 Liquor Wholesale	500.00

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090 Wholesale Beer Only	275.00
100 Wholesale Table Wine Only – 14.9% or Less	275.00
110 Wholesale Table Wine & Beer Combined	375.00
120 Warehouse License	100.00
130 Additional Warehouse – Wine, Beer or Both	100.00
140 Special Events Retail	75.00
150 Special Retail License – 30 Days or Less	100.00
160 Special Retail – More than 30 Days	250.00
170 Retail Common Carrier	150.00
200 Manufacturer	500.00
210 Importer	250.00
220 Brewpub	500.00
230 International Motor Speedway	3,000.00

Judge English noted the next Agenda item concerning the Charter Communications Agreement needs to be carried forward and thanked County Attorney Stan Martin for the reminder that the proposed changes have not been incorporated yet.

Judge English informed the Commissioners that these next two items are not required to go through our typical board appointment policy of announcement, 30 days, 1st and 2nd reading, etc. because they can only be filled by County Commissioners. He stated Commissioner Brown has agreed to serve on the Lee-Russell Council of Governments Board of Directors to fill the slot previously held by Commissioner Lawrence. Commissioner Long made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ham to appoint Commissioner Brown to the Lee-Russell Council of Governments Board of Directors. The motion carried unanimously.

Judge English stated Commissioner Cannon has agreed to serve on the Auburn University Airport Advisory Board to fill a vacancy previously held by Commissioner Lawrence. Judge English stated he feels it offers some unique benefits since Commissioner Cannon is a pilot and has a close relationship with Senator Tuberville. Commissioner LaGrand made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Brown to appoint Commissioner Cannon to the Auburn University Airport Advisory Board. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hardee discussed the proposals from two architectural firms for the design of a central maintenance shop and engineering building to be located on the 35 acres the Commission purchased in 2014 at the corner of Williamson Avenue and Society Hill Road. Mr. Hardee stated he needs no action tonight but will bring it forward at the next meeting for Commission consideration. Mr. Hardee stated two proposal were received for the design of the

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project, one from 2WR+Partners and one from JRW and Associates. Mr. Hardee stated he and Mr. Rendleman will address any concerns of the Commission. Commissioner Long questioned whether or not the architect firm is supplying the civil plans. Mr. Rendleman stated that is a billable cost and is not provided by the firm.

Next, Mr. Hardee presented final plat approval for Deerfield Oaks Subdivision located in District 5. Mr. Hardee stated construction of Deerfield Oaks Subdivision has been completed in accordance with the approved plans and meets the minimum requirements of the *Lee County Subdivision and Land Development Regulations*. Mr. Hardee stated the proposed subdivision is located adjacent to Lee Road 39. The development consists of 22 lots and approximately 0.275 miles of roadway. Commissioner LaGrand made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ham to approve the final plat for Deerfield Oaks Subdivision as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Next, Mr. Hardee presented for Commission approval the preliminary plat for Mill Creek Landings Subdivision. Mr. Hardee stated preliminary plat has been reviewed and meets the minimum requirements of the *Lee County Subdivision and Land Development Regulations*. Mr. Hardee stated the proposed subdivision is located adjacent to Lee Road 334 and Lee Road 340. The adjacent property owner(s) were notified of the development by letters sent out February 9, 2021. Commissioner Ham made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Long to grant the preliminary plat approval for Mill Creek Landings Subdivision as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hardee presented the results of Bid #LCP41-SRPM-21 for the 2021 striping and pavement markers on various public roads in the county. Mr. Hardee stated one response was received for \$319,789.30 from Hornsby Striping Company, Inc. of Tuskegee, Alabama. Mr. Hardee stated upon review, our experience with the contractor, and because there is a shortage of contractors that perform this type of work, the Highway Department recommends the Commission award the project to Hornsby Striping Company, Inc. Commissioner Ham questioned the number of miles it covers. Mr. Hardee stated it is 153 total miles. Judge English commented that the work is performed around the county and is on about a 3 to 4 year cycle covering approximately 600 miles. Mr. Hardee concurred. Commissioner Cannon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Brown to accept the bid of \$319,789.30 from Hornsby Striping Company, Inc. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Smith presented the results of Bid #2021-05 and #2021-06 for radios and equipment installation on a 2021 Chevrolet Tahoe and a 2021 Ford F250. Ms. Smith stated upon review of the bids the recommendation is to reject the bids to possibly rebid with the Lee County Sheriff's

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Office for better pricing. Commissioner Brown made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Long to reject the bids received on Bids #2021-05 and #2021-06 for radios and equipment installation. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Cannon made a motion at approximately 5:33 p.m. to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Long and carried unanimously.