

MINUTES OF THE LEE COUNTY COMMISSION, REG. ADJ. TERM, JULY 26, 2021

EAMC Vice President of Support Operations Bruce Zartman and Patient Experience Manager Kristine Hill appeared to recognize EMA Director Rita Smith and her staff for their partnership over the last year. They especially wanted to publicly thank them for their assistance during the Tuesday Morning Community Vaccine clinic and throughout the pandemic with the drive-thru testing site at HealthPlus, the COVID Infusion Center on campus and the myriad of barricades and other logistical support they have provided. Mr. Zartman presented Ms. Smith with a plaque thanking Ms. Smith and her entire team for their support. Ms. Smith thanked Mr. Zartman and all her staff for their efforts.

Next, Tiffany Gibson-Pitts founder and CEO of Girls STEPS, Inc. made a presentation before the Commission. Ms. Gibson-Pitts stated that the mission of Girls STEPS, Inc. is to inspire girls in grades 3-12 to start thinking outside of the box by exposing them to various culturally enriched activities. Ms. Gibson-Pitts stated it is our belief that if we change our participants' way of thinking, the behavior will follow. Ms. Gibson-Pitts stated they currently hold monthly meetings where they cover a host of topics from college and career to self-esteem. Ms. Gibson-Pitts stated they also are trying to host a variety of programs for boys and young men. Ms. Gibson-Pitts stated they will be hosting a back-to-school bash on August 7 from 10 am – 12 noon and invited the Commission to attend. Commissioner LaGrand stated he is supportive of the program asking support of the Commission as well. Commissioner Ham questioned how the organization is currently being funded. Ms. Gibson-Pitts stated they have a \$20,000 State grant, many community organizations, Harris Funeral Home and Tuskegee University participates. Additionally, Commissioner Ham stated he would attend their ribbon cutting on Wednesday.

Captain Ricardo Burgos-Feliz of Ft. Bragg discussed an upcoming Mission Readiness Exercise being held this week in Lee County. Captain Burgos-Feliz informed the Commission that they would be in Lee County for their team to gain valuable experience on a future mission. Captain Burgos-Feliz stated his deploy throughout the world and work with local government officials to identify obstacles or ideas to recommend options to better utilize resources. He stated his team will be working with county departments. Captain Burgos-Feliz thanked Judge English and the entire Commission for allowing county agencies to work with his team on this mission. Judge English questioned if they have advance knowledge of their deployment. Captain Burgos-Feliz stated his unit's focus is on South America and Central America region.

The Lee County Commission convened in regular adjourned session at the Courthouse in Opelika, Alabama, Monday, July 26, 2021. 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. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by an invocation by

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Commissioner Long. Elected Officials in attendance: Sheriff Jay Jones, Revenue Commissioner Oline Price and Coroner Bill Harris. News media in attendance: Opelika Observer reporter Hannah Lester, Opelika-Auburn News reporter Alex Hosey and WTVM reporter Rico Mitchell.

Copies of the items on the Consent Agenda sent to the Commissioners in their packets included: listing of claims, procurement card transaction listing and minutes of the July 12 meeting. Also, the announcement of seven openings on various boards was made. Commissioner Ham questioned the payment of Dean's Communication for the tower replacement and asked if it is complete. County Administrator Roger Rendleman affirmed stating it has upgraded the signal and clear communication among deputies is successful. Commissioner Ham made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Brown to approve the consent agenda items as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Next, as presented at the last meeting, Mr. Rendleman asked for Commission consideration of a trust administrative services agreement with PFM Asset Management LLC, stating the following actions are necessary to establish the Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust Fund. They are: 1) to adopt the Post-Employment Benefits Trust Agreement between PFM Assets Management LLC ("PFM") as Trust Administrator and Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. ("Wells Fargo") as directed Trustee; 2) to authorize the appropriate officers to execute the necessary documents and agreements to signify its adoption including, but not limited to, an Adoption Agreement and Trust Administrative Services Agreement; 3) to confirm the appointment of Wells Fargo as the Trustee and PFM as the Trust Administrator as of the effective date of the Adoption Agreement; and 4) to recognize and appropriate \$3 Million in designated fund balance established for such purpose. Upon his recommendation, Commissioner Long made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cannon to authorize the execution of the documentation necessary for the establishment of a trust fund for the purpose of funding other post-employment benefits per Title 11, Chapter 104 in the Code of Alabama; appointing Wells Fargo as the Trustee; engaging PFM Asset Management LLC as the trust administrator; and appropriating \$3 Million of designated fund balance for such purpose. The motion carried on a vote of 4-0-1 with Commissioner LaGrand abstaining.

Reverend Joshua Lewis and Christine Ball appeared before the Commission asking the Commission that they be included in the discussion for optimal use in connection to the rescue funds to represent equality for Lee County. Rev. Lewis questioned the timeline asking where the Commission is in the process of allocating or disbursing the funds. Judge English stated there was not a timeline. Rev. Lewis asked that they be allowed to sit down and talk about the allocation of the funds. Judge English stated at this time they are not setting any commitments. Rev. Lewis asked that they be allowed to be involved for equity in the process. Commissioner

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LaGrand said he was in favor of it. Ms. Ball stated they want to have a seat at the table to speak on behalf of the community to inform them of the funds and for the community to have a voice through them, to be sure “our people” are represented.

Judge English discussed the designation of a county license inspector. Judge English stated years ago the County Commission appointed “Neal Hall, Lee County Engineer” as the county license inspector referenced in Section 1-4 of the Lee County Subdivision Regulations so he could serve as the citation/enforcement officer for the subdivision regulations. Judge English stated the planning commission legislation references enforcement as well. Judge English asked the Commission to consider designating either “Justin Hardee, Lee County Engineer” or, to be more efficient, to just designate the Lee County Engineer as the county license inspector so it runs with the office. Commissioner Brown made a motion, seconded by Commissioner LaGrand to appoint the Lee County Engineer as the county license inspector. The motion carried unanimously.

Revenue Commissioner Oline Price presented for Commission consideration authorization to contract for new motor vehicle software. Mrs. Price stated her office has outgrown the current system and needs to upgrade. Mrs. Price stated the software is more connected to the State system and is more integrated. Judge English questioned if their tag data will be hosted on our server or their server, since he has talked to them about his business license software. Mrs. Price stated they told her the information is “in the cloud”, but stated it is as secure as can be. Commissioner Long questioned if the data is backed up daily. Mrs. Price stated she has been told that it is backed up daily along with 33 other counties. Commissioner Brown questioned the timeframe of the transition and if it is budgeted. Mrs. Price stated it would begin October 1 with training being held in September. Mrs. Price stated she has the funds to purchase the software from the MLI fund. Commissioner Ham made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Brown authorizing the contract for new motor vehicle software. The motion carried unanimously.

Next, Mrs. Price requested an increase in mail fees due to the rising cost of postage, stating it has been a while since her office has increased the mail fee. Mrs. Price stated the design has changed and in January everyone will get new tags, so plates will be mailed. Mrs. Price asked that the Commission to increase motor vehicle license mail fee from \$2.00 to \$3.00 and add a \$2.00 mail fee on mobile home decals. Commissioner LaGrand questioned if plates will be issued for mobile homes. Mrs. Price stated no, they will still be issued a decal. Mrs. Price stated hopefully the fee can be reduced to \$2.00 at some point in the future. Commissioner Ham made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cannon to increase the motor vehicle license mail fee to \$3.00 and add a \$2.00 mail fee for mobile home decals. The motion carried unanimously.

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Mr. Rendleman requested the Commission to set five budget work sessions. Mr. Rendleman suggested the following dates: August 9 and 30 and September 13 after the regularly scheduled meetings and also at 5:00 p.m. on September 14 and 15, if necessary. Commissioner LaGrand questioned if it normally only requires three meetings. Mr. Rendleman stated typically, but he suggests additional dates if case they are needed. Commissioner Brown questioned who normally attends the work sessions. Mr. Rendleman stated the Commission and the department heads, and those outside agencies the Commission wishes to hear from. Commissioner Ham stated he will be out of town on August 30 and would request moving it to Thursday, September 2. Commissioner Long questioned if it could be moved from September 2 to Monday, September 6. Commissioner Brown questioned if the work sessions could be held prior to the meetings, for the staff. Mr. Rendleman stated the staff should be used to it after 20 years. After discussion, Commissioner Cannon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner LaGrand to set budget work sessions following the regularly scheduled meetings on August 9 and September 13 and at 5:00 p.m. on September 6. Additionally, if necessary, at 5:00 p.m. on September 14 and 15. The motion carried unanimously. After it was mentioned that September 6 is Labor Day, Commissioner Ham made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Long, to change the September 6 date to Tuesday, September 7, which passed unanimously.

EMA Director Rita Smith stated several citizens had reached out to Commissioner Cannon concerning weather related issues since they have no outdoor warning sirens in their area. Ms. Smith stated her office looked in the matter and recommended equipping approximately 75 households with All-Hazard radios and batteries, not to exceed \$2,500. Ms. Smith explained this option is much cheaper and more efficient than spending \$35,000 for an outdoor siren. Commissioner Cannon stated after riding in an area in Loachapoka there is about a 5-mile stretch where there is no cell service. Commissioner Ham applauded Commissioner Cannon stating the community has learned how important it is to have proper warning since the tornadoes in Beauregard. Judge English questioned what funds will be utilized for the purchase. Mr. Rendleman stated the contingency fund. Ms. Smith stated this area of Loachapoka does not have internet access and many are disadvantaged economically. Commissioner Brown questioned if there are other areas in the county in the same situation. Ms. Smith stated any Commissioner can ask and their department will look to see if other areas will qualify too. Commissioner Cannon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner LaGrand to purchase 75 All-Hazard radios along with batteries, not to exceed \$2,500, for the public safety for those residences who qualify in low to moderate income in the Loachapoka area using the Contingent Fund. The motion carried unanimously.

Last, Sheriff Jay Jones presented an ABC license application for Happy Hour. Sheriff Jones noted that the application was presented at the meeting on April 12, but only included lounge retail liquor-Class II (package). Sheriff Jones stated the license application presented includes tobacco. Commissioner Long made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ham to

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approve the following Resolution for Happy Hour. The motion carried unanimously.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Lee County Commission hereby approves the lounge retail liquor and tobacco license for Happy Hour Cigar Wine Spirits located at 2319 Pierce Road, Suite 4 and 5, Phenix City, Alabama.

Commissioner Long at approximately 6:17 p.m. made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ham and the motion carried unanimously.