

MINUTES OF THE LEE COUNTY COMMISSION, REGULAR MEETING, JULY 25, 2022

The Lee County Commission convened in regular session at the Courthouse in Opelika, Alabama, Monday, July 25, 2022. 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, Ross Morris, Robert Ham, and Richard LaGrand. Absent: Commissioner Gary Long. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by an invocation by Judge English. Elected officials in attendance: Sheriff Jay Jones, Loachapoka Mayor Holder, and Opelika City Council member Erica Norris. News media in attendance: The Observer reporter Hannah Lester, Opelika-Auburn News reporter John West and WTVM reporter Amaya Graham.

Millennium Risk Managers (MRM) President Terry Young spoke to the Commission of his company's ability to potentially save the county money on inmate medical services. Mr. Young stated Commissioner Cannon invited him to speak on the potential savings. Mr. Young stated he met last week with Sheriff Jones and Chief Administrative Officer Holly Leverette discussing the potential savings. Mr. Young stated his business is a claims processor which provides discounted services through a number of providers in the state. Mr. Young stated they have contracts with over 13,000 medical providers in the State, but do not have one with East Alabama Medical Center. He stated MRM is the largest claims processor in the state next to Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Mr. Young stated his company provides service to about 15 Alabama counties. Mr. Young explained the process, whereby the offsite bill goes to MRM, they scrub the bill, comparing rates with their contract, stating on average their fee is about 15% of the amount saved, or can be a flat fee. Mr. Young stated the savings depends on the bill, depends on the patient, and depends on the treatment provided. Mr. Young said even though they do not currently have a contract with EAMC, there are potential savings through his company since they have agreements with other providers. Mr. Young stated a sample contract is included in the packet provided to the Commission.

Human Resources Director Erica Norris presented Benefits and Payroll Coordinator Martecia Rogers with two certifications she recently completed. One, as an Alabama Certified Payroll Specialist and one for an Alabama Certified Risk Management Specialist from the Alabama Association of Public Personnel Administrators. Ms. Norris said Ms. Rogers is one of two certified risk management specialists employed with the county.

Copies of the items on the Consent Agenda sent to the Commissioners in their packets included: listings of claims, a procurement card transactions listing, and minutes of the July 11 meeting. First reading of Dr. Stephen Lock and Wayne Alderman to the East Alabama Health Care Authority Board was made. First reading of Sheriff Jay Jones and Austin Bayles to the Lee County Communications (E911) Board was made. Commissioner Ham made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cannon to approve the consent agenda items as presented. The

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motion carried unanimously.

County Engineer Justin Hardee again presented final plat approval for Creecy Subdivision on Lee Road 140 in District 5. As stated previously, the subdivision meets the minimum requirements of the *Lee County Subdivision and Land Development Regulations*. Mr. Hardee said there is no new infrastructure with the development. Commissioner LaGrand said after talking with the citizens who appeared at the last two meetings and with the developer, he is ready to take action on the item. Commissioner LaGrand made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ham to approve the final plat for Creecy Subdivision as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Chief Administrative Officer Holly Leverette asked the Commission to appoint a representative to the IAC Operations Council. Mrs. Leverette said she has been informed the committee will hold quarterly meetings with the first meeting being held August 11 in Montgomery. Commissioner Cannon made a motion to appoint Judge English as the representative to the IAC Operations Council. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Morris and carried unanimously.

Sheriff Jones discussed the results of Bid #2022-08 for 45 or more Watchguard V300 wearable cameras. Sheriff Jones explained that his department personnel utilize body cameras in the jail and by the school resource officers, but currently patrol deputies only have in-car cameras, which are limited. Sheriff Jones said the Sheriff's Office is the only local agency that does not have this technology, mainly because it is an expensive proposition, and he wants to be sure to get the best equipment for his office. Sheriff Jones stated that two bids were returned, from Axon and Motorola Solutions, but neither vendor met bid specifications. Sheriff Jones recommended the bids be rejected and rebid at a later date. Commissioner Ham made a motion, seconded by Commissioner LaGrand to reject Bid #2022-08 for 45 or more Watchguard V300 wearable cameras and rebid later. The motion carried unanimously.

Sheriff Jones presented two educational reimbursement requests for Deputies Jared Corbett and Vintel Thomas. Sheriff Jones said the courses directly relate to their current positions. Judge English pointed out that Deputy Corbett was slightly injured recently on a mental health call. Commissioner Cannon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ham to approve the two educational reimbursement requests as presented by Sheriff Jones. The motion carried unanimously.

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Judge English stated newly appointed Special Coroner Daniel Sexton requested County Attorney Stan Martin review an agreement for body transport services, which was executed by former Coroner Bill Harris. Judge English said Mr. Martin works at the direction of the Commission and they would have to authorize the request. Commissioner LaGrand made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ham to authorize Mr. Martin review the agreement as requested by Special Coroner Daniel Sexton. The motion carried unanimously.

Judge English presented the results of the six-month evaluation for Mrs. Leverette. Each member completed an eighteen question evaluation form anonymously with a rating scale of 1-5 and then Judge English tallied the results and gave a summary copy to each Commissioner and Mrs. Leverette. Mrs. Leverette provided a response letter to each Commissioner and asked for her letter to be included with her evaluation. Further, Mrs. Leverette said overall she was happy with the evaluation, but strives to do better. Mrs. Leverette said she needs Commission feedback to make improvements and asked each Commissioner to call her or reach out to her with suggestions.

Mrs. Leverette presented the following Resolution concerning a one-time lump sum payment for retirees. Mrs. Leverette said the total cost to fund the one-time payment is \$80,062.00. Commissioner Cannon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Morris to approve the following Resolution to grant the one-time lump sum payment to eligible retirees and beneficiaries of deceased retirees. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION ACT 2022-229

BE IT RESOLVED that the Lee County Commission through its governing authority, elects to come under the provisions of Section 2 of Act 229 of the Regular Session of the 2022 Legislature.

The Lee County Commission agrees to provide all funds necessary to the Employees' Retirement System to cover the cost of the one-time lump sum payment as provided for by this Act for those eligible retirees and beneficiaries of deceased retirees of the Lee County Commission with the aforementioned lump sum payment being paid in October 2022.

Last, Mrs. Leverette asked the Commission to allocate a portion of the revenue replacement funds for the parking lot lighting at both the Beulah and Beauregard Parks. Mrs. Leverette said due to concerns received from citizens and Commissioners about the safety at the parks she recommends approval. Mrs. Leverette said the quote received for the lighting totals \$105,000 noting the project must be bid. Commissioner Ham concurred that lighting is needed at both parks and said it was discussed from the beginning, but funds were limited at that time. Commissioner LaGrand stated he recently discussed the necessity of lighting with

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the Recreation Board. Commissioner Ham made a motion, seconded by Commissioner LaGrand to allocate a portion of the revenue replacement funds for lighting at the Beauregard Park and the Beulah Park. The motion carried unanimously.

Judge English announced the Commission needs to adjourn into executive session on a personnel matter. Judge English said the following need to attend: Attorney Stan Martin, Attorney Robbie Hyde, and Erica Norris. Judge English stated the session is anticipated to last approximately 20-30 minutes and official action may be anticipated following. At approximately 5:44 p.m. Commissioner Ham made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Morris and carried unanimously.

Upon reconvening the Executive Session at 6:30 p.m., Commissioner Cannon made a motion to deny the grievance appeal submitted on July 12, 2022, by Erica Norris. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Morris and carried on a vote of 3-1 with Commissioner LaGrand voting "No".

At approximately 6:30 p.m. Commissioner Cannon made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Morris and carried unanimously.