

**CULLMAN COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING**  
**September 28, 2017**

**CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

Chairman Walker called the Commission Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**CALL OF ROLL TO ESTABLISH QUORUM**

The County Clerk called the roll; present were Chairman Kenneth Walker, Commissioner Kerry Watson, Commissioner Garry Marchman, County Administrator Gary Teichmiller and County Attorney Chad Floyd. The invocation was given by John Freeman. Randall Waldrep led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 12, 2017 MEETING; APPROVE APPROPRIATIONS, EXPENDITURES, REQUISITIONS AND ALL JOURNAL ENTRIES TO BE POSTED**

Commissioner Watson made the motion to approve the minutes from the September 12, 2017 Commission Meeting; approve appropriations, expenditures, payroll, requisitions and all journal entries to be posted. Commissioner Marchman seconded the motion which passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Resolution 2017-34 – Retiree One-time Lump Sum Payment to be paid in December 2017 – Tabled 9-12-2017**

Judy Bradford, Human Resource Manager, explained the Alabama Legislature passed an act in the last session giving cities and counties the option to pay retirees and eligible beneficiaries a one-time lump sum payment. The payment will be \$2,000 for each month of service or a minimum of \$300 for those who retired prior to May 1, 2017. There are 178 county retirees and beneficiaries. The cost to the County will be \$88,988. Commissioner Marchman made a motion to approve the resolution for the payment. Commissioner Watson abstained due to being a county retiree. Chairman Walker seconded and the motion passed on an “aye” vote by Commissioner Marchman and Chairman Walker.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Resolution 2017-35 – Agreement with Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) relating to CARTS with partial funding by the Federal Transit Administration for Fiscal Years 2018, 2019, and 2020**

Joyce Echols, CARTS Director, stated the agreement is done every three years with ALDOT for the continuation of the CARTS program in Cullman County. It does not involve any funds, but continues Cullman County's involvement in Section 5311 Grant program. Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the resolution for the agreement with ALDOT for funding for FY-18 through FY-20. Commissioner Marchman seconded and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Authorize the Chairman to sign the North Alabama Highway Safety Office grant for the Sheriff's Office for FY 2018**

Deputy Timothy Kerber from the Sheriff's Department explained the Sheriff receives this \$2,000 grant annually for salaries and overtime reimbursement. Commissioner Marchman made a motion to authorize the Chairman to sign the North Alabama Highway Safety Office grant for the Sheriff's Office for FY 2018. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion which passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider granting American Proteins a Sales Tax Exemption Extension through January 31, 2018**

Commissioner Watson made a motion to grant American Proteins a sales tax exemption extension through January 31, 2018 due to unforeseen problems in completing an electrical room project. Commissioner Marchman seconded the motion and it passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider a petition to vacate County Road 121 signed by all of the abutting landowners**

Chad Floyd, County Attorney, stated the County has received a request from the Hollis and Dean families for the vacating of County Road 121. They are the only property owners involved. He request the County set a public hearing date for November 14<sup>th</sup>, which will allow time for necessary advertising and notification to the utility companies. Commissioner Marchman made a motion to set the hearing date for the consideration of vacating County Road 121 for November 14<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Watson seconded. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider a request from the Industrial Development Board of the City of Cullman to vacate a portion of County Road 1601**

Chad Floyd, County Attorney, explained Yutaka is wanting to extend County Road 1601 from the cul-de-sac to their facility to better manage truck traffic entering the plant. The City Industrial Development Board has requested the County vacate this section of County Road 1601 to facilitate the construction. No other property owners are involved. He requested a public hearing date of November 14<sup>th</sup> in order to give time for advertising and utility notification. Commissioner Watson made a motion to set the hearing date to consider the vacating of a portion of County Road 1601. Commissioner Marchman seconded and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Authorize the Chairman to sign a resolution ratifying the merger between the Huntsville-Madison County Mental Health Board, Inc. d/b/a WellStone Behavioral Health and the Cullman Area Mental Health Authority, Inc.**

Chad Floyd, County Attorney, stated Cullman Area Mental Health Authority is merging with Huntsville-Madison County Mental Health to become WellStone Behavioral Health. Corporate offices will be in Huntsville, but all services in Cullman will remain the same. Commissioner Marchman made a motion to ratify the merger between the Huntsville-Madison County Mental Health Board, Inc. d/b/a WellStone Behavioral Health and the Cullman Area Mental Health Authority, Inc. Commissioner Watson seconded. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider adoption of a separate pay plan for the Cullman County Sheriff's Department and authorize the County Administrator and Human Resource Manager to reclassify positions and update the pay plan when required**

Judy Bradford, Human Resource Manager, stated currently all county employees are under one pay plan. It is becoming the norm for counties to have a separate pay structure for the Sheriff's Department. The proposed pay plan will be structured similar to the County's current pay plan for all employees. There will be nine grades with twenty steps per grade. There will be a 12% variance between grade and 3.14% between steps which is identical the current pay plan. This plan will give the Sheriff more control over his department. Positions at the department still need to be slotted before the plan can be implemented. Commissioner Watson made a motion to adopt a separate pay plan for the Sheriff's Department and authorize the County Administrator and Human Resource Manager to reclassify positions and update the pay plan when required. Commissioner Marchman seconded. Upon a unanimous voice vote, the motion carried.

**Authorize the Chairman to sign a renewal contract with HCC for Stop Loss Employee Health Insurance – annual premium \$322,309**

Judy Bradford, HR Manager, stated HHC currently has the County's contract for re-insurance. Cullman County is self-insured. With the implementation of the Affordable Health Care Act, there are no cap for payouts. This re-insurance covers catastrophic health expense. Expenses over \$100,000 per individual will be covered under the stop loss coverage. The County has had several large claims this past year. That along with a review of the employee health history, the insurer expects additional large claims this next year. The result is a 9% increase in the annual premium. Commissioner Marchman made a motion to authorize the Chairman to sign a renewal contract with HCC for Stop Loss Employee Health Insurance with an annual premium \$322,309. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion which passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider \$1,000 appropriation to the Future Foundation, Inc. of Wallace State Community College scholarship fund**

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve a \$1,000 appropriation to the Future Foundation, Inc. for the Wallace State Community College scholarship fund. Commissioner Marchman seconded. Upon a unanimous voice vote, the motion passed.

**Consider a request for \$1,250 support for the *Farm Ya'll Festival***

Commissioner Marchman made a motion to approve the request for \$1,250 for the *Farm Ya'll Festival*. Commissioner Watson seconded. On a unanimous voice vote, the motion carried.

**Consider approval of generator maintenance contract with Richard Electric Co., Inc. for various department generators - \$1,850 annually**

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the contract with Richard Electric Co., Inc. for generator maintenance at an annual cost of \$1,850. Commissioner Marchman seconded and upon a unanimous voice vote, the motion carried.

**Chairman Walker to reappoint James R. "Jimmy" Knight to the Duck River Reservoir Oversight Board for a three (3) year term expiring 9-11-2020**

Commissioner Marchman made a motion to reappoint James R. "Jimmy" Knight to the Duck River Reservoir Oversight Board for a three (3) year term expiring 9-11-2020. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion which passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Commissioner Watson to appoint Brenda Scott to the Library Board of Trustees, replacing Dan Scott, for a four (4) year term expiring 9-30-2021**

Commissioner Watson made a motion to appoint Brenda Scott to the Library Board of Trustees, replacing Dan Scott, for a four (4) year term expiring 9-30-2021. Commissioner Marchman seconded and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Chairman Walker to appoint Wells Turner to the E-911 Board of Commissioners to fill the unexpired term of Steve Griffith; term expiring 9-1-2019**

Commissioner Marchman made a motion to appoint Wells Turner to the E-911 Board of Commissioners to fill the unexpired term of Steve Griffith for a term expiring 9-1-2019. Commissioner Watson seconded. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Chairman Walker to reappoint Kenneth Nail to the E-911 Board of Commissioners for a four (4) year term expiring 9-1-2021**

Commissioner Watson made a motion to reappoint Kenneth Nail to the E-911 Board of Commissioners for a four (4) year term expiring 9-1-2021. Commissioner Marchman seconded and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Commissioner Watson to reappoint J.L. Parker to the E-911 Board of Commissioners for a four (4) year term expiring 9-1-2021**

Commissioner Watson made a motion to reappoint J.L. Parker to the E-911 Board of Commissioners for a four (4) year term expiring 9-1-2021. Commissioner Marchman seconded the motion which passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider final settlement payment to ALDOT for Clarkson Bridge Restoration project; HCBPP-STPTE-2200(211); in the amount of \$20,553.94**

John Lang, County Engineer, stated the Clarkson Bridge Restoration project has been a 10-15 year process. The County has received the final bill for project overages. Money has been set aside waited for the final bill from the State. Commissioner Marchman made a motion to approve payment to ALDOT in the amount of \$20,553.94 for final settlement. Commissioner Watson seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider proposed plat for Long Branch Estates Subdivision, Phase 1, located in District 2 on County Road 71**

Keith Creel, Engineering Assistant, stated the plat consist of seven lots and meets the regulations for a minor subdivision. Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the plat for Long Branch Estates Subdivision, Phase 1, located in District 2 on County Road 71. Commissioner Marchman seconded the motion which passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider bond extension for Stillhouse Point Subdivision, located in District 2 off County Road 71**

Keith Creel, Engineering Assistant, stated the roads in the subdivision will be maintained as private roads, but the County wants in insure the roads are completed and built to standard. This will help to protect the property owners. The developer has asked for a one (1) year extension and the paperwork has been received from the bond company. Commissioner Marchman made a motion to approve the bond extension for Stillhouse Point Subdivision, located in District 2 off County Road 71. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion and it passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Bid No. 1248 – Extension – Motor Oil – Hagger Oil & Stewart Supply**

John Lang, County Engineer, stated a mutual agreement has been reached for a one (1) year extension of the motor oil bid. Commissioner Watson made a motion to extend the County’s bid for motor oil with Hagger Oil and Stewart Supply. Commissioner Marchman seconded and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider Sheriff Office request for reimbursement for emergency purchase of new Domestic Hot Water Storage Tank in the amount of \$18,000**

Gary Teichmiller, County Administrator, explained the equipment supplies hot water for the jail and the replacement needed to be done before the Commission could authorize it in today’s meeting. The Sheriff has paid for the tank out of his discretionary funds and is now requesting reimbursement. Commissioner Marchman made a motion to approve the reimbursement to the Sheriff for the emergency purchase of new domestic hot water storage tank in the amount of \$18,000. Commissioner Watson seconded and on a unanimous voice vote, the motion passed.

**Consider the purchase of a trackhoe for the Water Department from HGAC Buy – Cost \$157,685**

Randall Waldrep, Water Department Manager, stated the purchase of the trackhoe is in the Water Department’s budget for this year. Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the \$157,685 purchase of a trackhoe for the Water Department from HGAC Buy. Commissioner Marchman seconded. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider the purchase of a Massey Ferguson sidearm tractor from ALDOT Surplus – Cost \$72,730**

John Lang, County Engineer, stated the four sidearm tractors at the road department have a high number of running hours and maintenance is a continual issue. The sidearm from ALDOT has about 500 hours, is in good condition and the cost is about half that of a new tractor. Commissioner Marchman made a motion to approve the purchase of a Massey Ferguson sidearm tractor from ALDOT Surplus for \$72,730. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion which passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider repairs to the air conditioning system at the Cullman Caring for Kids facility by Alabama Electrical Contractors - \$8,855.00**

Gary Teichmiller, County Administrator, reported the air conditioning at Cullman Caring for Kids needs to be repaired as the temperatures in the food storage area have reached almost 100°. Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the expenditure of \$8,855 for repairs to the air conditioning system at the Cullman Caring for Kids facility by Alabama Electrical Contractors. Commissioner Marchman seconded the motion and it passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider surplus from the Sheriff’s Department of the following vehicles:**

2008 Dodge Charger VIN # 2B3K143H48H285907 Donate Good Hope Fire & Rescue

2010 Dodge Charger VIN # 2B3AA4CTXAH182089 Donate Town South Vinemont

Commissioner Marchman made a motion to approve the surplus and donation of the listed vehicles from the Sheriff’s Department. Commissioner Watson seconded and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider approval of the FY-2018 Budget for Cullman County; General Fund \$21.5 million; Total County Budget \$54.2 million**

Gary Teichmiller, County Administrator, stated the budget for 2018 is 2.6% higher than last year due to 1) higher health care cost; 2) a one-step raise for all employees which amounts to a 3.14%; and 3) the one-time lump sum payment to retirees. The Total Budget for FY-2018 is \$54.2 million with the General Fund Budget \$21.5 million. Commissioner Marchman stated the budget could be adjusted during the year if necessary and he made a motion to approve the budget as presented. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion which passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**WORK SESSION**

The Commission will hold a Work Session on Tuesday, October 17, 2017 at 8:30 a.m. in the commission conference room.

**NEXT REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING OCTOBER 17, 2017**

Chairman Walker announced the next commission meeting will be Tuesday, October 17, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. in the commission meeting room.

**ADJOURN THE MEETING**

Commissioner Marchman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Watson seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Kenneth Walker,  
Chairman

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Kerry Watson,  
Associate Commissioner

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Garry Marchman,  
Associate Commissioner