

**EMERGENCY
CULLMAN COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING
April 14, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Chairman Walker called the Commission Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

CALL OF ROLL TO ESTABLISH QUORUM

Meleigh Hitt, Administrative Assistant, called the roll; present were Chairman Kenneth Walker, Commissioner Kerry Watson, Commissioner Garry Marchman, and Emily Johnston, County Attorney. Randall Waldrep, Water Department Head, gave the invocation. Chairman Walker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC /UPDATES

Phyllis Little, EMA director, addressed the Commission and stated she had talked with Fred Speake at the Cullman County Road Department. According to Mr. Speake, 73 roads had been damaged by washed out culverts washing out, and nine bridges required inspection, and one may be a total loss. Ms. Little also stated the Fire Departments and Road Department had already moved debris from the roadways and pushed it to the shoulder. The payment for work and overtime, including parts, materials, and equipment usage, we are looking at just over \$500,000 this far but could be more with further inspection of damage. Ms. Little stated she knew the water department had damages to report, and she had spoken with Cullman Electric Coop, who is one of the qualified filers under a disaster. The Co-op is estimating \$750,000 in damages. They will have about \$300,00 for clean-up due to damaged transformers at Johnsons Crossing. Our local threshold that we have to meet is just over \$300,000, and that has been passed. Even if the County meets the threshold, if the State does not meet its threshold, then this will not help us. The State's threshold is \$7.3 million, and damage that has been reported in Marshall County, it is very likely the State will meet the threshold. Ms. Little stated the County's residential damages are ranging anywhere from major roof damage from trees falling on structures to minor flooding. Six chicken houses in Bremen and Cold Springs area were damaged and destroyed and multiple outbuildings across the County. As of today, the national weather service has verified three tornadoes. They were not able to get into the Bremen area due to fewer employees because of COVID-19 restrictions on Federal employees, but they will use satellites for the rest of the week and try to get verification if a tornado went through the area and the strength of it. The three tornadoes that were confirmed; Johnson Crossing EF1 with peak winds of 100mph, Welti EF0 with peak winds of 80mph, and Walter EF2 with peak winds of 115mph. Ms. Little stated the State recommended we make a declaration just for this storm and not try to fall under the States declaration.

Bryan Cheatwood, County Engineer, stated still areas that are not passable, but most sites are passable but several weeks before completely repaired. Several people had asked the road department about bringing debris to the right-of-way for the County to pick up. Mr. Cheatwood stated he ask that citizens contact the road department beforehand so that the debris can be assessed first. It can only be debris that does not require a special permit.

Randall Waldrep, Water Department Head, addressed the Commission and explained several water mains washed out and a lightning strike hit at the crossroads pump station that caused damage but stated everything had been taken care of and everyone had water. Mr. Waldrep stated he had not been able to put an exact number to the trucks and machines yet but estimated the cost of employees and materials to be about \$7,697 but explained he expected that number to go over \$10,000 once we get the numbers on machinery.

Commissioner Watson stated, "I would like to thank all the personnel that has been out working. Every time we have a crisis, we have some good employees that step up and put in long hours and make proud that you work for us. I thank each of you for what you do."

Commissioner Marchman stated, "I posted some stuff on Facebook mirroring what Commissioner Watson said. I did specify the road department, but I do appreciate the water department. Those guys were out too, and we had some guys out all day yesterday and all night. A lot of hard work went in to getting some people's water back and getting them to be able to get out of their homes. So I do appreciate it also."

NEW BUSINESS

Proclamation of Existence of Local Emergency

Emily Johnston, County Attorney, read aloud the Proclamation of Existence of Local Emergency. Commissioner Marchman made a motion approving the Proclamation of Existence of Local Emergency. Commissioner Watson seconded. Upon a unanimous voice vote, the motion carried.

WORK SESSION

The Commission will hold a Work Session on Tuesday, May 12, 2020, at 8:30 a.m. in the commission conference room.

NEXT REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2020

Chairman Walker announced the next commission meeting would be Tuesday, May 12, 2020, 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 10:10 a.m.

/S/ _____
Kenneth Walker,
Chairman

/S/ _____
Kerry Watson,
Associate Commissioner

/S/ _____
Garry Marchman,
Associate Commissioner