

**CULLMAN COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING**  
**February 10, 2015**

**CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

Chairman Walker called the Commission Meeting to order at 10:01 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 and County Attorney Heath Meherg. The invocation was given by Randall Waldrep. Barry Willingham led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 27, 2015 MEETING; APPROVE APPROPRIATIONS, EXPENDITURES, REQUISITIONS AND ALL JOURNAL ENTRIES TO BE POSTED.**

Commissioner Watson made the motion to approve the minutes from the January 27, 2015 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.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Set the tax levy for 2015**

Heath Meherg, County Attorney, stated this is the last year were the Commission will set the annual tax levy unless there is a change in any millage rates. Revenue Commissioner Barry Willingham provided a millage rate schedule of 2014 taxes to be collected in 2015. (See attachment) Commissioner Marchman made a motion to set the 2015 tax levy. Commissioner Watson seconded and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider sending a request to the local delegation for proposed bills for the 2015 legislative session**

Mr. Meherg stated there has been discussion of issues the commission would like the legislative delegation to address in this year's session. There are currently three issues:

- 1) The County would like to be able to expend funds for the hosting of events in our parks which would allow for a "payout" to the event winners. Currently events are sponsored by a private outside source which tends to limit full utilization of the parks.
- 2) Over the past few years, Cullman County has seen a major increase of individuals from out-of-county using services in the courthouse, such as drivers license testing and renewal. This results in an increase wait time of Cullman County citizens and puts an extra burden on staff and as well as security. The commission would like the delegation to consider a "convenience fee" for individuals who live outside the County.
- 3) Currently the County is required to purchase items through competitive bid, state bid list, state surplus property, etc. However, once equipment is turned over to an auctioneer, it cannot be purchased by the County. This deletes an avenue of potential savings in the used equipment market. The Commission would like to see if a program, with safeguards in place, could be formed.

Commissioner Watson made a motion authorizing the County Attorney to draft a letter to the legislative delegation asking them to meet with the Commission to discuss the possibility of legislation for the 2015 session to address concerns mentioned. Commissioner Marchman seconded the motion which passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider authorizing the Chairman to negotiate agreements with AT&T, Teklinks and Sharp Communications for the purchase and installation of new phone system – estimated cost \$185,000**

Ken Walling from the IT Department stated the County has been evaluating the possibility of upgrading the phone system. The agreement with AT&T is from the State Bid List. The hardware from Teklinks is from the North Alabama Purchasing Agreement. The voice-over IP system will put all County phones, including cell phones, under one system. The estimated cost is \$185,000. Commissioner Marchman made a motion authorizing the Chairman to negotiate agreements with AT&T, Teklinks and Sharp Communications for the purchase and installation of new phone system. Commissioner Watson seconded. Upon a unanimous voice vote, the motion passed.

**Consider the purchase of a three-phase power converter for the Smith Lake Pool – Cost \$9,595.50 Specialty Pools**

Doug Davenport, Park Director, stated Smith Lake Park as only a single phase line. The Cullman Electric Co-op has recommended a three-phase be installed at the park. This will enable to pump at the pool to turn the water three times a day so the water quality standards can be met. Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the purchase of a three-phase power converter for the Smith Lake Pool from Specialty Pools at a cost of \$9,595.50. Commissioner Marchman seconded. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider Water Department request to reject and rebid Hwy 278 water main replacement**

Randall Waldrep, Water Department Manager, stated the bids received for the project were in excess of the budget. They plan to scale back the project by about 50% and reduce the cost by approximately \$600,000. The rebid will be March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Commissioner Marchman made a motion to approve the Water Department's request to reject and rebid Hwy 278 water main replacement. Commissioner Watson seconded and the motion was approved on a unanimous voice vote.

**Resolution 2015-14 – Authorize the Chairman to execute deed conveying right-of-way of County Road 497 to the City of Cullman**

Heath Meherg, County Attorney, stated the road is located in the Dialsdale subdivision and is surrounded by property already inside the City of Cullman. The City wants to put sewer in the area. This is an unrecorded plat with a prescriptive right-of-way. The County will execute a deed conveying County Road 497 to the City of Cullman. Commissioner Watson made a motion authorizing the execution of a deed conveying right-of-way of County Road 497 to the City of Cullman. Commissioner Marchman seconded. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider quotes for fence at Road Department**

Jon Brunner, County Engineer, stated he has received three quotes for labor and material and one for material only for a fence where the old prison camp was torn down. He recommended going with the material only quote from Stephens Pipe & Steel and having the road department install the fence. Commissioner Marchman made a motion to approve the purchase of fencing to be installed by the road department. Commissioner Watson seconded. Upon a unanimous voice vote, the motion carried.

**Consider establishing an account for the acceptance of private donations for the building of a new animal shelter**

Commissioner Marchman stated there has been some public interest in building a new animal shelter through private donations. Tim McKoy, Director of Animal Control, wants to look into the possibility of private funding. The monies will be set aside for the sole purpose of a new shelter. If funds cannot be raised, the money will be returned to the contributors. Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve an account be set up for the purposed collection of donation for a new animal shelter. Commissioner Marchman seconded the motion which passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Approve the Coroner appoint of a Deputy Coroner and compensation**

Mr. Meherg stated the new coroner wants to appoint Jason Doyle as deputy coroner to serve when he is unavailable. The compensation is \$20 per day on call and \$25 per response. Mr. Doyle will need to take the oath of office, have it recorded in the Probate Office and obtain the required bond. Commissioner Marchman made a motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Doyle as Deputy Coroner contingent on his oath of office and bond. Commissioner Watson seconded and upon a unanimous voice vote, the motion carried.

**Commissioner Watson to re-appoint Dr. James Thomas to the Industrial Development Authority for a six (6) year term to expire 1-19-2021**

Commissioner Watson made a motion to re-appoint Dr. James Thomas to the Industrial Development Authority for a six (6) year term to expire 1-19-2021. Commissioner Marchman seconded. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Commissioner Marchman to appoint Jerry Wooten to the Industrial Development Authority for a six (6) year term to expire 1-19-2021**

Commissioner Marchman made a motion to appoint Jerry Wooten to the Industrial Development Authority for a six (6) year term to expire 1-19-2021 replacing Jacob Mullins. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion and upon a unanimous voice vote, the motion passed.

**Chairman Walker to re-appoint Stephen Parker to the Industrial Development Authority for a six (6) year term to expire 1-19-2021**

Commissioner Watson made a motion to re-appoint Stephen Parker to the Industrial Development Authority for a six (6) year term to expire 1-19-2021. Commissioner Marchman seconded. Upon a unanimous voice vote, the motion carried.

**Chairman Walker to appoint Jonathan Smith to the Public Building Authority Board for a term to expire November 2019**

Commissioner Marchman made a motion for Chairman Walker's appointment of Jonathan Smith to the Public Building Authority Board for a term to expire November 2019 replacing Glenn Gaines. Commissioner Watson seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

**Commissioner Watson to appoint Wes Warren to the Public Building Authority for a term to expire November 2017**

Commissioner Watson made a motion to appoint Wes Warren to the Public Building Authority for a term to expire November 2017 replacing Bobby Bowden. Commissioner Marchman seconded the motion which passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Consider the purchase of 10.12 acres adjacent to the OHV Park from Craig McDugal - tabled 12-23-2014**

Commissioner Marchman made a motion to not approve the purchase of the land for the OHV Park. Commissioner Watson seconded. Upon a unanimous voice vote, the purchase of 10.12 acres adjacent to the OHV Park from Craig McDugal was not approved.

**Consider the City of Cullman's request to convey County Road 497, County Line Road – tabled 1-27-2015**

Mr. Meherg explained it was decided the conveyance should be handled in a resolution. This was done in *Item F* of this meeting. Commissioner Watson made a motion to remove this item and clear it from the agenda. Commissioner Marchman seconded. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**WORK SESSION**

The Commission will hold a Work Session on Tuesday, February 24, 2015, at 8:30 a.m. in the commission conference room.

**NEXT REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING FEBRUARY 24, 2015**

Chairman Walker announced the next commission meeting will be Tuesday, February 24, 2015 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 the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

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

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

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