

**CULLMAN COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING**  
**July 28, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

Chairman Walker called the Commission Meeting to order at 10:00 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, Bryan Cheatwood, County Engineer, and County Attorney Emily Johnston. Commissioner Watson gave the invocation. Chairman Walker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 9, 2020 MEETING AND APPROVE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 22, 2020 EMERGENCY COMMISSION MEETING; APPROVE APPROPRIATIONS, EXPENDITURES, REQUISITIONS AND ALL JOURNAL ENTRIES TO BE POSTED**

Commissioner Marchman made the motion to approve the minutes from the June 9, 2020, Commission Meeting and the minutes from June 22, 2020, Emergency Commission Meeting, approve appropriations, expenditures, personnel actions, payroll, requisitions, and all journal entries to be posted. Commissioner Watson seconded. The motion passed upon a unanimous voice vote.

**PUBLIC /UPDATES**

Phyllis Little, EMA Director, addressed the Commission and stated, "the County currently has four disasters open now. We did receive the declaration for the April 12 & 13 tornadoes. That was for public assistance only, which means it covers our infrastructures. The other declarations we still have open are declaration #4362 March 18, 2020 hail storm. Hopefully, we will be closing that one out in the next couple of months. The last section of the jail is under repair at this time. They saved the jail kitchen for last. Declaration #4546 March 2020 flooding and then declaration #4503 is ongoing from March 29, 2020, COVID-19 declaration. The County has two claims under the CARES act, which runs from March 1, 2020, through December 30, 2020. The first one was for hazard pay, and the 2nd was for supplies and equipment. We have been requested to file some additional paperwork, and all of that has been done. Our COVID-19 cases, as of today, stand at 985 in total. We added 39 since yesterday. We have a total of 9 deaths. On the other hand, our seven-day average is down, so maybe the masks are working. I encourage everyone to wear a mask when you're out, especially in large groups. As far as a tropical update, we do have another tropical depression forming up in the Atlantic. I do not believe it will affect us for a while, but it could affect us eventually. Commissioner Marchman asked whether hazard pay covers all employees. Ms. Little, "All county employees were deemed critical employees, so all employees received hazard pay."

Jon Seagle, Resident of County Road 351, addressed the Commission and stated he was at the meeting to check and see how County Road 351 was coming along and if anything would be done to it this year. Bryan Cheatwood, County Engineer, stated with all the flooding and tornado disaster, it has the road department a couple of months behind, but County Road 351 was on the list to be fixed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Resolution 2020-33: Changing speed limit on County Road 1684 from 35mph to 20mph**

Bryan Cheatwood, County Engineer, addressed the Commission and stated after inspection and survey, the speed needed to be changed due to safety. Commissioner Watson made a motion approving Resolution

2020-33: Changing speed limit on County Road 1684 from 35mph to 20mph. Commissioner Marchman seconded, and the motion passed upon a unanimous voice vote.

**Resolution 2020-34: Changing speed limit on County Road 1762 from 35mph to 20mph**

Bryan Cheatwood, County Engineer, addressed the Commission and stated after inspection and survey, the speed needed to be changed due to safety. Commissioner Marchman made a motion approving Resolution 2020-34: Changing speed limit on County Road 1762 from 35mph to 20mph. Commissioner Watson seconded, and the motion passed upon a unanimous voice vote.

**Public Hearing- CARTS Operations for FY 2021**

Commissioner Watson made a motion to open the public hearing. Commissioner Marchman seconded. Upon a unanimous voice vote, the motion carried. Joyce Echols, Director of CARTS addressed the Commission and stated "This year CARTS is applying for a dual grant; section 5311 Grant and also CARES Act Grant. The total funding is over \$2.9 million, and local matching funds is \$153,640. The CARTS Act is really helping out transportation a lot. The rest of this year, we are finishing out on Federal funding only, and the County is not having to put any more money into it this year. We will be replacing 14 vehicles in 2021 that is part of local funding. Normally CARTS provides 80,000 trips per year for Cullman County residents. We currently are not due to COVID-19, but hopefully, before long, we will be back to providing transportation." Ms. Echols asked if there were any public comments or questions. There were no public comments made. Commissioner Watson made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Marchman seconded. The motion then passed upon a unanimous voice vote.

**Resolution 2020-35: Authorize Local Matching Funds for CARTS FY-2021**

Commissioner Marchman made a motion approving Resolution 2020-35: Authorize Local Matching Funds for CARTS FY-2021 in the amount of \$153,640. Commissioner Watson seconded, and the motion passed upon a unanimous voice vote.

**Resolution 2020-36: Authorize the filing of 5311 Grant Application**

Commissioner Watson made a motion approving Resolution 2020-36: Authorize the filing of 5311 Grant Application. Commissioner Marchman Seconded. Upon a unanimous voice vote, the motion carried.

**Resolution 2020-37: Authorize the filing of the CARES Act Grant Application**

Commissioner Marchman made a motion approving Resolution 2020-37: Authorize the filing of the CARES Act Grant Application. Commissioner Watson seconded, and the motion carried upon a unanimous voice vote.

**Resolution 2020-38: Grant acceptance for the New Canaan Community Shelter**

Tanya Sears from Economic Development addressed the Commission and explained the County received an award from FEMA for the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Competitive Grant for a community shelter in New Canaan next to the Community Center. The grant is a 75/25 grant. The total of the grant is \$100,242, and the County's share is \$25,060. That can be in kind services as well. Mrs. Sears stated we only have until March 2021 to get the shelter completed. There are no other shelters in the New Canaan area. Commissioner Watson made a motion approving Resolution 2020-38: Grant acceptance for the New Canaan Community Shelter. Commissioner Marchman seconded, and the motion passed upon a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider approval of Taxiway Bid at the Cullman Regional Airport**

Ben Harrison, Airport Manager, addressed the Commission and state the Taxiway is the next phase of the FDA Grant. The connector is between taxiway B and the runway. Mr. Harrison stated the grant is 100% Federal Match. Commissioner Marchman made a motion to approve the Taxiway Bid at the Cullman Regional Airport. Commissioner Watson seconded. The motion then passed upon a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider accepting AWOS Contract for the Cullman Regional Airport**

Airport Manager, Ben Harrison, stated the contract for the AWOS (Automatic Weather Observation Station) at the airport would allow the development and design of a new AWOS system. Mr. Harrison stated this was 50/50 Grant with 50% coming from the State, 25% coming from the County, and 25% coming from the City. Commissioner Watson made a motion accepting the AWOC Contract for the Cullman Regional Airport. Commissioner Marchman seconded, and the motion passed upon a unanimous voice vote. 0

**Consider ACCA Legislative Committee Nominee**

Commissioner Watson made a motion to nominate Commission Garry Marchman as the ACCA Legislative Committee Nominee. Commissioner Marchman seconded. Upon a unanimous voice vote, the motion carried.

**Consider ACCA One Voice Session Representative**

Commissioner Watson made a motion to nominate Commissioner Garry Marchman as the representative for the ACCA ONE Voice Session Representative. Commissioner Marchman seconded, and the motion passed upon a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider approval of County Road 1636 to be included in the county maintenance system**

Bryan Cheatwood, County Engineer, stated County Road 1636 met all requirements and standards, and he recommended that the Commission accept County Road 1636 into the maintenance system. Commissioner Marchman made a motion and approved County Road 1636 to be included in the County maintenance system. Commissioner Watson seconded. Upon a unanimous voice vote, the motion carried.

**Consider approval of reimbursement to the Sheriff's Department for expenditures**

Gary Teichmiller, County Administrator, addressed the Commission and explained the Sheriff's office purchased multiple outside storage buildings due to the hail storm, had to replace a boiler, and paid Craft & Associates to repair the stairs inside the jail that were cracked. Mr. Teichmiller recommended the County Reimburse the Sheriff's office \$32,000 for paid expenditures. Commissioner Watson made a motion approving the reimbursement to the Sheriff's Department for expenditures in the amount of \$32,000. Commissioner Marchman seconded. The motion then passed upon a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider employer plan to increase Tier 1 member contribution rates for RSA retirement (as required by adoption of Act 2019-132)**

Judy Bradford, Human Resource Manager, stated the County Commission adopted Resolution 2020-27 on June 9, 2020, that was the resolution to adopt ACT 2019-132, which gives tier 2 employees, tier 1 benefits. Mrs. Bradford explained with that adoption, there is a requirement to have a plan in place to increase tier 1 member contribution rates, and at this time, we recommend the Commission leave the tier 1 employees contribution rates the same at 5% for regular and 6% for a-post. Leave those contributions in place as long as the County is able to make their required employer contributions and then at some time in the future if they want to consider adopting Act 2011-676 that would change those, they could. But for now, the recommendation is to leave tier 1 contributions like they are. Commissioner Marchman made a motion

approving the employer plan to increase Tier 1 member contribution rates for RSA retirement (as required by adoption of Act 2019-132) Commissioner Watson seconded. Upon a unanimous voice vote, the motion carried.

**Ratify the opening of a new account at Merchants Bank for CARTS Escrow as requested by ALDOT which will consist of deposits from Contact Transport Revenue and Advertising Revenue**

Joyce Echols, CARTS Director, explained to the Commission this is a requirement of the CARES Act for CARTS to be reimbursed through CARES; there has to be a separate bank account. Commissioner Watson made a motion ratifying the opening of a new account at Merchants Bank for CARTS Escrow as requested by ALDOT, which will consist of deposits from Contact Transport Revenue and Advertising Revenue. Commissioner Marchman seconded, and the motion passed upon a unanimous voice vote.

**Ratify insolvents, errors, and taxes in litigation for 2019 and uncollected insolvents and taxes in litigation for previous years for the Revenue Office**

Commissioner Marchman made a motion ratifying insolvents, errors, and taxes in litigation for 2019 and uncollected insolvents and taxes in litigation for previous years for the Revenue Office. Commissioner Watson seconded. The motion then passed upon a unanimous voice vote.

**Chairman to appoint Cliff Harris to the Health Care Authority Board to fill the unexpired term of Stephen Donaldson. Term set to expire June 30, 2021**

Commissioner Watson made a motion authorizing Chairman to appoint Cliff Harris to the Health Care Authority Board to fill the unexpired term of Stephen Donaldson. Term set to expire June 30, 2021. Commissioner Marchman seconded, and the motion carried upon a unanimous voice vote.

**Proposed plat for Clear Creek Cove. A minor subdivision containing 7 lots located off of County Road 813**

County Engineer, Bryan Cheatwood, addressed the Commission and stated the proposed subdivision plat for Clear Creek Cove met all requirements for a minor subdivision, and it was his recommendation to approve the plat.

**Mike Whitlock**, an adjacent landowner, stated to the Commission, "I own a poultry farm, and my poultry houses are right beside where the subdivision is going in. I am concerned about at night when lights go out in the poultry houses, and then headlights shine in, and it freaks the birds out, I am going to have problems. If it is just seven houses right on the front and that's it, then no problem because my houses are further back." Chairman Walker stated, the only thing the Commission was approving is the seven lots on the front. Commissioner Watson explained, if they wanted to add more lots, then they would have to request to change the plat, and the adjacent landowners would be notified the same way again as this time. Mr. Whitlock stated he was fine with them approving the front seven lots.

Commissioner Marchman made a motion approving the plat for Clear Creek Cove. A minor subdivision containing seven lots located off of County Road 813. Commissioner Watson seconded. Upon a unanimous voice vote, the motion carried.

**Bid No. 1313- Extension- Aggregate to Blount Springs Material & Madison Material**

Bryan Cheatwood, County Engineer, recommended extending the Aggregate bid to Blount Springs Material & Madison. Commissioner Watson made a motion to extend bid no. 1313 for aggregate to Blount Springs Material & Madison Material. Commissioner Marchman seconded, and the motion passed upon a unanimous voice vote.

**Bid No. 1326- Gas & Diesel**

County Engineer, Bryan Cheatwood, stated he recommended awarding the bid to B & B Petroleum. Commissioner Marchman made a motion awarding bid no. 1326 for gas and diesel to B & B. Commissioner Watson seconded. The motion then passed upon a unanimous voice vote.

**Bid No. 1327- Placement of Surface Treatments to various county roads**

Bryan Cheatwood, County Engineer, stated he recommended awarding the bid to both Charles Watts, INC., and Wheeler Contracting, LLC, based on availability. Commissioner Marchman made a motion awarding bid no. 1327 for placement of surface treatments to various county roads to both Charles Watts, INC., and Wheeler Contracting, LLC. Commissioner Watson seconded. Upon a unanimous voice vote, the motion carried.

**WORK SESSION**

The Commission will hold a Work Session on August 11, 2020, at 8:30 a.m. in the commission meeting room.

**NEXT REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2020**

Chairman Walker announced the next commission meeting would be Tuesday, August 11, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. in the commission meeting room.

**ADJOURN THE MEETING**

Commissioner Watson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Marchman seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:21 a.m.

/S/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Kenneth Walker,  
Chairman

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

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