

**CULLMAN COUNTY COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**August 16, 2022**

**CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME GUESTS**

Chairman Clemons called the Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

**CALL OF ROLL TO ESTABLISH QUORUM**

Tiffany Merriman, County Clerk, called the roll; present were Chairman Jeff Clemons, Commissioner Kerry Watson, Commissioner Garry Marchman, County Administrator John Bullard, County Attorney Emily Johnston, and County Engineer Bryan Cheatwood. Clarence Benefield gave the invocation. Facilities and Equipment Manager Shane Bailey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 19, 2022, MEETING, AUGUST 2, 2022, SPECIAL CALLED MEETING, APPROPRIATIONS, EXPENDITURES, PERSONNEL ACTIONS, PAYROLL, AND REQUISITIONS, AND APPROVE ALL JOURNAL ENTRIES TO BE POSTED**

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 19, 2022, meeting, August 2, 2022, Special Called Meeting, appropriations, expenditures, personnel actions, payroll, and requisitions, and approve all journal entries to be posted. Commissioner Marchman seconded, and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS/UPDATES**

Candi Cummings spoke about Harold's Law and the impact it could have on Cullman County.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Recognition: Melodie Parsons, LICSW, for Outstanding Service to the Citizens of Cullman County**

Chairman Clemons "It is truly an honor to have you here tonight".

Commissioner Marchman made a motion to Recognition: Melodie Parsons, LICSW, for Outstanding Service to the Citizens of Cullman County. Commissioner Watson seconded. The vote passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Proclamation: Suicide Prevention Awareness Month**

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve Proclamation: Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. Commissioner Marchman seconded, and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Resolution 2022-63: Adopt the revised Title VI Program for CARTS and authorize Chairman to sign all related paperwork**

Commissioner Marchman made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-63: Adopt the revised Title VI Program for CARTS and authorize Chairman to sign all related paperwork. Commissioner Watson seconded. The vote passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Resolution 2022-64: Authorizing agreement with Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) relating to CARTS with partial funding by the Federal Transit Administration for FY 2023-2025 and authorize Chairman to sign all related paperwork**

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-64: Authorizing agreement with Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) relating to CARTS with partial funding by the Federal Transit Administration for FY 2023-2025 and authorize Chairman to sign all related paperwork. Commissioner Marchman seconded, and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Authorize Chairman to sign Certificate of Compliance with the Beason-Hammon Alabama Taxpayer and Citizen Protection Act for CARTS**

Commissioner Marchman made a motion to Authorize Chairman to sign Certificate of Compliance with the Beason-Hammon Alabama Taxpayer and Citizen Protection Act for CARTS. Commissioner Watson seconded. The vote passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider approval to order seven High Top Transit Vans for CARTS in the amount of \$599,991 with local match funds of \$120,001 and authorize Chairman to sign all related paperwork**

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve to order seven High Top Transit Vans for CARTS in the amount of \$599,991 with local match funds of \$120,001 and authorize Chairman to sign all related paperwork. Commissioner Marchman seconded, and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Resolution 2022-65: Change speed limit to 25 mph on County Road 34**

County Engineer Bryan Cheatwood stated our staff has inspected this road and found several conditions that would warrant deeming 25 mph an appropriate speed limit on this road. I do recommend approval of this resolution.

Commissioner Marchman made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-65: Change speed limit to 25 mph on County Road 34. Commissioner Watson seconded. The vote passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Resolution 2022-66: Apply for state and federal matching funds for airport improvement projects for the Cullman Regional Airport during fiscal year 2023 and authorize Chairman to sign all related paperwork**

Airport Manager Ben Harrison addressed the Commission, and advised this is the next program in our AIP projects. We will know in the next few weeks if that will be the go project or if they will go to the next one, but this is to apply for the grant for state and federal matching funds for that program.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-66: Apply for state and federal matching funds for airport improvement projects for the Cullman Regional Airport during fiscal year 2023 and authorize Chairman to sign all related paperwork. Commissioner Marchman seconded, and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Resolution 2022-67: Modification of per diem meal allowance for County employees traveling in the State of Alabama**

Human Resource Manager Judy Bradford stated this is an update to our current per diem meal allowance. It has been over ten years since the per diem was changed. Currently, it is \$20 for half a day and \$45 for a full day. We want to increase that to \$25 for half a day and \$55 for a full day. This ties to the CPA for that period for the last ten years.

Commissioner Marchman made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-67: Modification of per diem meal allowance for County employees traveling in the State of Alabama. Commissioner Watson seconded. The vote passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider the renewal of employee/retiree health insurance with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama. Cullman County maintains a self-insured policy that is administered by Blue Cross. No change in funding levels for FY 2023 and authorize Chairman to sign all related paperwork**

Human Resource Manager Judy Bradford addressed the Commission and advised this is the annual renewal of Blue Cross Blue Shield administrative contract. We are self-insured, and we pay them a fee to administer our claims. There is no change in fees, and we are going to maintain level funding for 2023.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the renewal of employee/retiree health insurance with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama. Cullman County maintains a self-insured policy that is administered by Blue Cross. No change in funding levels for FY 2023 and authorize Chairman to sign all related paperwork. Commissioner Marchman seconded, and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider the renewal of stop-loss insurance with UnityRe, Inc./Gerber Life Insurance Company. No change in rates for FY 2023 and authorize Chairman to sign all related paperwork**

Human Resource Manager Judy Bradford stated this goes along with the type of plan we have because we are self-funded, then we need to protect ourselves from any catastrophic claims that might come up. So, we maintain a stop loss insurance policy that would kick in and pay large catastrophic claims. Our current stop-loss insurance is UnityRe, Inc, and we are going to request to renew with them. No change in the rates for 2023.

Commissioner Marchman made a motion to approve the renewal of stop-loss insurance with UnityRe, Inc./Gerber Life Insurance Company. No change in rates for FY 2023 and authorize Chairman to sign all related paperwork. Commissioner Watson seconded. The vote passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider the renewal of Life, Short Term Disability, Long Term Disability, and Critical Illness Insurance with Mutual of Omaha. No change in rates for FY 2023 and authorize Chairman to sign all related paperwork**

Human Resource Manager Judy Bradford, this is the renewal of benefits that the county pays for life, short-term disability, long-term disability, and critical illness for employees. There is no change in fees for 2023.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the renewal of Life, Short Term Disability, Long Term Disability, and Critical Illness Insurance with Mutual of Omaha. No change in rates for FY 2023 and authorize Chairman to sign all related paperwork. Commissioner Marchman seconded, and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider the addition of AirMedCare to our benefits package effective 10/1/2022 for all active Cullman County employees eligible for employee benefits. Expected costs to be \$55/per person annually or \$27,500 for 500 employees and authorize Chairman to sign all related paperwork**

Human Resource Manager Judy Bradford stated this would be a new benefit for our employees. AirMedCare would cover all employees that are eligible and their family members who reside in their homes. We currently have Blue Cross Blue Shield air ambulance service, but it's an 80/20 split. Commissioner Marchman made a motion to approve the addition of AirMedCare to our benefits package effective 10/1/2022 for all active Cullman County employees eligible for employee benefits. Expected costs to be \$55/per person annually or \$27,500 for 500 employees and authorize Chairman to sign all related paperwork. Commissioner Watson seconded. The vote passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider changing our current vision provider from Canopy Southland to VSP, to be administered by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama, effective 1/1/2023. This would be an enhanced vision plan with better benefits and ease of use. The reduced administrative effort would offset the increased cost of approximately \$12,000 by having only one provider for the administration of the county health plan, including medical, dental, vision, and prescription drugs.**

Human Resource Manager Judy Bradford explained that currently, we have our vision through Southland; they switched from Superior Vision and created their network called Canopy. There have been some issues with that changeover. It has not been well accepted yet. They just put it in place the

first of July. We want to switch over to VSP; this is the Blue Cross Blue Shield partnered vision care, and that would be all our health plans under Blue Cross Blue Shield. This switch would make it a lot easier to administer. VSP is also the largest one in the country.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve changing our current vision provider from Canopy Southland to VSP, to be administered by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama effective 1/1/2023. This would be an enhanced vision plan with better benefits and ease of use. Increased cost of approximately \$12,000 would be offset by reduced administrative effort by having only one provider for the administration of the county health plan, including medical, dental, vision, and prescription drugs. Commissioner Marchman seconded, and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider approval for Facilities and Equipment Manager Shane Bailey to increase purchase allowance from \$15,000 up to \$20,000 for vehicles and/or equipment that comply with State Bid Law and budget approval**

County Administrator John Bullard stated this would just increase the allowance amount as long as it complies with bid law and is budgeted. He would be able to purchase the equipment without having to wait to bring it to a commission meeting. Fast purchasing is needed due to supply chain issues and the availability of equipment and/or vehicles. This would make it much more feasible for him to complete his job.

Commissioner Marchman made a motion to approve Facilities and Equipment Manager Shane Bailey to increase purchase allowance from \$15,000 up to \$20,000 for vehicles and/or equipment that comply with State Bid Law and budget approval. Commissioner Watson seconded. The vote passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider renovating Clarkson Covered Cabin by Strada (excluding AC unit) in the amount of \$47,890- pending ADECA approval to be paid from the facilities budget**

Facilities and Equipment Manager Shane Bailey addressed the Commission and explained how this renovation would allow us to increase the value and protect some of our assets that have been outdated over the years. Hopefully, these renovations will allow us to possibly rent out the cabin and generate some revenue for our parks.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve renovating Clarkson Covered Cabin by Strada (excluding AC unit) in the amount of \$47,890- pending ADECA approval to be paid from the facilities budget. Commissioner Marchman seconded, and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider the purchase of two split air conditioning units for the Board of Education Building not to exceed \$7,000 each from Omni Partners Cooperative**

Facilities and Equipment Manager Shane Bailey, these units are on top of the Board of Education building, and some of them are close to 30 years old. This will allow us to purchase these at 30% - 40% savings and replace them before they go out.

Commissioner Marchman made a motion to approve the purchase of two split air conditioning units for the Board of Education Building not to exceed \$7,000 each from Omni Partners Cooperative. Commissioner Watson seconded. The vote passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider the installation of GPS in County vehicles from Sourcewell Contract in the amount of \$17.45 per vehicle per month**

Facilities and Equipment Manager Shane Bailey stated these would run through the Verizon program. They will work off of any cell tower that is in the county. It will give us more accountability for our take-home vehicles, and it offers a maintenance program. Hopefully, we will have some fuel savings.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the installation of GPS in County vehicles from Sourcewell Contract in the amount of \$17.45 per vehicle per month. Commissioner Marchman seconded, and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider approval of Lease Agreement for 24 months with Enterprise for seven (7) 2022 RAM 1500 Tradesman 4x4 Crew Cab trucks for Animal Control and Road Department \$43,696.00 each**

Facilities and Equipment Manager Shane Bailey, this goes along with the fleet vehicle program we instituted last year. There is seven total, one is a replacement vehicle for the damaged one. Even with the price increase per vehicle, it is a little over \$100 a month increase in our budget.

Commissioner Marchman asked Shane if he could sell these vehicles. Are we not under contract to keep them for a long period of time?

Facilities and Equipment Manager Shane Bailey advised we can sell them after a year and retain the equity.

Commissioner Marchman made a motion to approve the Lease Agreement for 24 months with Enterprise for seven (7) 2022 RAM 1500 Tradesman 4x4 Crew Cab trucks for Animal Control and Road Department \$43,696.00 each. Commissioner Watson seconded. The vote passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider the installation of porch piers for stabilization (Porch A) from Deep South Construction Pros for the Water Department in the amount of \$9,600**

Facilities and Equipment Manager Shane Bailey, explained this would be the South Porch on our Water Department Building. All three porches have shown some decay and sinking in the ground. This porch is separated from the building, so this will allow us to get it attached back to the building. We will monitor the other two.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the installation of porch piers for stabilization (Porch A) from Deep South Construction Pros for the Water Department in the amount of \$9,600.

Commissioner Marchman seconded, and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider approval of the FY 2023 County Transportation Plan per requirements of the Rebuild Alabama Funds**

County Engineer Bryan Cheatwood addressed the Commission and stated we are proposing to spend \$814,000 of County Rebuild Alabama funds and the Federal Way Exchange funds on each of County Road 1807 and County Road 813. We will be posting this plan in detail on our county website. I do recommend approval of the County Transportation Plan.

Commissioner Marchman, you said federal aid exchange funds?

County Engineer Bryan Cheatwood, yes, it is the state funds that we are using instead of the federal aid.

Commissioner Marchman, it is in place of?

County Engineer Bryan Cheatwood, yes.

Chairman Clemons, you said County Road 1807 and 813?

County Engineer Bryan Cheatwood, yes, sir.

Commissioner Marchman made a motion to approve the FY 2023 County Transportation Plan per requirements of the Rebuild Alabama Funds. Commissioner Watson seconded. The vote passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider recommendation by the Sanitation Department for new Sanitation rate schedule an annual increase by CPI effective October 1, 2022**

Sanitation Director James Rollo, advised that we have been working on this with the Solid Waste Authority and the Commission. Sanitation has not had an increase in rates since 2012. We are losing money every year to keep our vehicles replaced and do what we need to do to service the county. We

need to go up \$3.00 monthly for regular pickup, and the senior rate would stay the same. Additional cans would remain \$7.00. This is based on the CPI increase that we have been charged for the last ten years for landfill. We need to get on a CPI (consumer price index) schedule, which would give us an increase every year, and then we wouldn't have to wait ten years to go up a lot at one time. Commissioner Marchman agreed with Director Rollo that we are operating at a deficit, which is the key to all of this. We are in the hole right now, so we must go up on rates to at least level out. Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the recommendation by the Sanitation Department for new Sanitation rate schedule and annual increase by CPI effective October 1, 2022. Commissioner Marchman seconded, and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider the surplus of the following items from Stoney Lonesome OHV Park to be auctioned on GovDeals:**

- Eight HMMWV tires
- two sets of HMMWV tops and doors

Commissioner Marchman made a motion to approve the surplus of the following items from Stoney Lonesome OHV Park to be auctioned on GovDeals: Eight HMMWV tires and two sets of HMMWV tops and doors. Commissioner Watson seconded. The vote passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider the surplus of the following items from the Probate Office to be scrapped:**

- Canon Image Runner 4035 (Serial # HPR13729)
- Canon Image Runner C250 (Serial # QNT00507)

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the surplus of the following items from the Probate Office to be scrapped: Canon Image Runner 4035 (Serial # HPR13729) and Canon Image Runner C250 (Serial # QNT00507). Commissioner Marchman seconded, and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider the surplus of the following CARTS Buses to be transferred to other 5311 Agencies:**

- 2013 Star Craft Ford E450 (Vin # 1FDFE4FSXDDA75651)
- 2013 Star Craft Ford E450 (Vin # 1FDFE4FS9DDA75625)
- 2013 Star Craft Ford E450 (Vin # 1FDFE4FS9DDA75642)
- 2013 Star Craft Ford E450 (Vin # 1FDFE4FS9DDA85703)
- 2013 Star Craft Ford E450 (Vin # 1FDFE4FS6DDA85710)
- 2013 Star Craft Ford E450 (Vin # 1FDFE4FS7DDA93332)
- 2013 Star Craft Ford E450 (Vin # 1FDFE1FS8DDA93274)

Commissioner Marchman made a motion to approve the surplus of the following CARTS Buses to be transferred to other 5311 Agencies: 7 2013 StarCraft Ford E450 (Vin # 1FDFE4FSXDDA75651), (Vin # 1FDFE4FS9DDA75625), (Vin # 1FDFE4FS9DDA75642), (Vin # 1FDFE4FS9DDA85703), (Vin # 1FDFE4FS6DDA85710), (Vin # 1FDFE4FS7DDA93332), and (Vin # 1FDFE1FS8DDA93274). Commissioner Watson seconded. The vote passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Proposed plat JMBL INC. subdivision. A minor subdivision containing 2 Lots located at Warehouse Discount Grocery Property 5788 Hwy 157**

County Engineer Bryan Cheatwood stated this is a minor subdivision. It has met our current subdivision regulations. I do recommend the approval of this plat.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the Proposed plat JMBL INC. subdivision. A minor subdivision containing 2 Lots located at Warehouse Discount Grocery Property 5788 Hwy 157.

Commissioner Marchman seconded, and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Award Bid # 1405 for Rail Track Construction Project for Sportsman Lake Park to SDAC Rail Services in the amount of \$58,142.72**

Commissioner Marchman made a motion to Award Bid # 1405 for Rail Track Construction Project for Sportsman Lake Park to SDAC Rail Services in the amount of \$58,142.72. Commissioner Watson seconded. The vote passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Bid # 1407 for Pest Control to American Pest Control in the amount of \$16,224 annually**

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve Bid # 1407 for Pest Control to American Pest Control in the amount of \$16,224 annually. Commissioner Marchman seconded, and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Bid # 1408 for Service for the Sheriff's Office and other County Departments to the sole bidder- BERCO INC DBA Havoline Xpress Lube**

Commissioner Marchman made a motion to approve Bid # 1408 for Service for the Sheriff's Office and other County Departments to the sole bidder- BERCO INC DBA Havoline Xpress Lube. Commissioner Watson seconded. The vote passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Request from Attorney for Executive Session under Section 7 of Act No. 2005-40**

County Attorney Emily Johnston stated Chairman, I have drafted a letter advising that an executive session is necessary and proper to protect confidential information. The Code Section applicable is found in Alabama Code 36-25A-7(a)(3). I am an attorney licensed to practice law in Alabama, and the executive session will be to discuss pending or threatened litigation. I respectfully recommend and request that a motion for an executive session be considered at this time. I estimate it will be approximately 20 minutes and that we will reconvene around that time. I will be the only other person in the executive session.

Commissioner Marchman made a motion to approve the request from Attorney for Executive Session under Section 7 of Act No. 2005-40. Commissioner Watson seconded. The vote passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**WORK SESSION**

Chairman Clemons announced the next Commission Work Session will be Tuesday, September 20, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. in the Commission Meeting Room.

**NEXT REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2022, AT 6:00 p.m. IN THE COMMISSION MEETING ROOM**

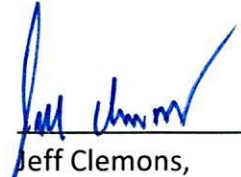
Chairman Clemons announced the next Commission Meeting will be Tuesday, September 20, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in the Commission Meeting Room

**ADJOURN THE MEETING**

Commissioner Marchman made a motion to Adjourn. Commissioner Watson seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Attest:

  
Tiffany Merriman,  
County Clerk

  
Jeff Clemons,  
Chairman

  
Kerry Watson,  
Associate Commissioner

  
Garry Marchman,  
Associate Commissioner