

Cleburne County Commission Meeting Minutes
Regular Commission Meeting June 15, 2021
Cleburne County Mountain Center

Roll Call

Present:

Chairman Ryan Robertson
Commissioner Laura Cobb
Commissioner Emmett Owen
Commissioner Terry Hendrix
Commissioner Roger Hill

Absent:

None

Comments from Citizens

Dr. Christy Hiett

Dr. Hiett expresses her concerns to the Commission about the landfill and the dangers it can cause to the county and its residents. She presents the Commission with correspondence from ADEM to the County.

Melanie Taylor Spalding

Ms. Spalding expresses her concerns on what the spraying of herbicides is doing to all the rare and unique plants in Cleburne County. She believes the spraying is killing the very thing that draws thousands of tourists to our County. She believes the County needs an effective right-of-way plan, and she volunteers her time to develop a plan that is tailored to our County. She asks that the Commission consider using a dye that will show citizens exactly where the chemicals are located.

Kaycee Cavender

Ms. Cavender expresses her concerns on spraying. She complains that the Commission did not give the citizens any warning to prepare. She believes the program has lack of oversight, and she asks the Commission to do their due diligence in going forward.

Consent Agenda

The Commission passes the June 2021 Consent Agenda including:

Action as related to **Resolution #5130- 1-5 & 7-8** June 2021 Consent Agenda:

Motion made by Commissioner Terry Hendrix, Seconded by Commissioner Laura Cobb

In Support: Commissioners Laura Cobb, Emmett Owen, Roger Hill, and Terry Hendrix

In Opposition: None

Motion Passed

Resolution #5130-1

The Cleburne County Commission hereby resolves to approve the minutes of:

May 18, 2021

as presented.

Resolution #5130-2

The Cleburne County Commission recognizes the following board appointment statuses as of this meeting:

Vacancies:

Hospital Board

Chris Davis

Resolution #5130-3

Whereas, the Commission has previously passed a Continuity of Operations Plan for the duration of the State of Emergency declared as a result of the COVID-19 situation or until the June meeting, whichever comes first; and

Whereas, we have reached the June meeting and the State of Emergency is still active.

Therefore, the Cleburne County Commission extends the Continuity of Operations Plan for the duration of the State of Emergency, or the Commission's July meeting, whichever comes first.

Resolution #5130-4

Whereas, the ACCA Legislative Committee consists of 67 members, granting each county an equal voice on Association legislative efforts; and

Whereas, it's time for the county to select its representative for the 2021-2022 ACCA Legislative Committee; and

Whereas, the ACCA by-laws require a county to submit the name of its chosen representative only after approval by a majority vote of the Commission.

Therefore, the Cleburne County Commission appoints Commissioner Terry Hendrix to serve on the 2021-2022 ACCA Legislative Committee.

Resolution #5130-5

Whereas, the Cleburne County Commission has asked to approve all purchase orders over \$5,000.

Therefore, the Cleburne County Commission hereby approves the following requests:

Cleburne County Engineer
Sunbelt Alabama

\$13,000

Resolution #5130-7

Whereas, the FY20 audit has met the requirements of a federal audit; and

Whereas, the fee for the federal audit is \$19,176.

Therefore, the Cleburne County Commission approves the invoice and authorizes the County Administrator to increase the Administrative Budget for said expenditure.

Resolution #5130-8

Whereas, the Cleburne County Commission is authorized to declare property as surplus when said property is deemed to be of no further use or value to the County; and

Whereas, the County has identified the following items which have been deemed to be of no further use to the County:

- (18) Automark machines

Therefore, the Cleburne County Commission declares the equipment to be surplus property, and authorizes the Probate Judge to oversee the disposition processes.

New Business:

A. Allocate Funds

Action as related to **Resolution #5131** Allocate Funds

Motion made by Commissioner Terry Hendrix, Seconded by Commissioner Emmett Owen

In Support: Commissioners Terry Hendrix, Emmett Owen, and Roger Hill

In Opposition: Commissioner Laura Cobb

Motion Passed

Commissioner Hendrix would like to allocate the funds to surface on CR533 and CR43 to CR49 off of HWY46

Resolution #5131

Whereas, the Cleburne County Commission successfully finished FY20 with a carryover of funds greater than anticipated during the budgeting process; and

Whereas, revenues during FY21 have increased beyond the anticipated revenues.

Therefore, the Cleburne County Commission wishes to allocate the amount of \$450,000 from the General Fund to cover the following expenditure:

Furthermore, the Cleburne County Commission authorizes the County Administrator to make transfers and budget adjustments as necessary to accommodate the expenditure(s).

Commissioner Cobb has concerns about CR35 not being a top priority and that District 1 has only been given \$160,000 for roads this budget year. She asks that the Commission consider revisiting it, rather than the roads Commissioner Hendrix has proposed.

Commissioner Hendrix calls for the vote.

B. Authorized signature

Action as related to **Resolution #5132** Authorized signature

Motion made by Commissioner Terry Hendrix, Seconded by Commissioner Emmett Owen

In Support: Commissioners Laura Cobb, Emmett Owen, Roger Hill, and Terry Hendrix

In Opposition: None

Motion Passed

Resolution #5132

Whereas, the Cleburne County Commission wishes to appoint a signer for the acceptance and/or transfer of County property to include deeds and titles.

Therefore, the Cleburne County Commission authorizes that the Chairman is the only acceptable signature for said circumstances.

C. Pay Study

Action as related to **Resolution #5133** Pay Study

Motion made by Commissioner Terry Hendrix, Seconded by Commissioner Laura Cobb

Commissioner Hendrix does not believe he has enough information to decide at this time, since this was not discussed at the Work Session. He believes a job study would be useless at this time due to the job climate.

Commissioner Owen agrees. He wants to discuss this at the Work Session.

Commissioner Cobb reminds the Commission that this has been discussed for two years, and she is concerned that the Jail is having a turnover rate and no applicants.

Motion made by Commissioner Terry Hendrix to table until next meeting, Seconded by Commissioner Owen

In Support: Commissioners Laura Cobb, Emmett Owen, Roger Hill, and Terry Hendrix

In Opposition: None

Motion passed to table

Resolution #5133

Whereas, the Cleburne County Human Resource Officer has made the Commission aware of the extreme increase in the employee turnover rate; and

Whereas, she has requested quotes from various agencies for a pay study to be done on every position in the County; and

Whereas, the Cleburne County Commission has reviewed the incoming quotes, and are of the opinion that the services will be beneficial in maintaining and retaining adequate staff.

Therefore, the Cleburne County Commission allocates an amount not to exceed \$30,000 and authorizes the Chairman to sign the necessary agreements to begin the process.

Furthermore, the Cleburne County Commission authorizes the County Administrator to make necessary budget adjustments for said expenditure.

Commissioners Hendrix and Owen believe it is not the right time to do a pay study since there have been applications turned in over the past weeks.

Commissioner Cobb is concerned due to the high turnover rate with the Jail and Engineer Department.

Commissioner Owen believes it can be figured out in-house instead of spending money for a pay study that might not be accurate.

D. Transfer Vehicle

Action as related to **Resolution #5134** Transfer Vehicle

Motion made by Commissioner Emmett Owen, Seconded by Commissioner Laura Cobb

In Support: Commissioners Laura Cobb, Emmett Owen, Roger Hill, and Terry Hendrix

In Opposition:

Motion Passed

Resolution #5134

Whereas, the Cleburne County Revenue Commissioner is no longer using the 2011 Dodge Dakota with VIN 1D7RW3GK3BS564401; and

Whereas, the Maintenance Department has requested that the vehicle be transferred to them.

Therefore, the Cleburne County Commission transfers said vehicle to the Maintenance Department.

Furthermore, should the time come when the vehicle is no longer of use to the County, it will be sold with all proceeds returning to the Revenue Commissioner for appropriate disbursement.

E. Public Transportation Program

Action as related to **Resolution #5135** Public Transportation Program

Motion made by Commissioner Terry Hendrix, Seconded by Commissioner Emmett Owen

Commissioner Hendrix says this is not the amount discussed at the Work Session. County Administrator Kim Brown reminds the Commission that she had previously sent an email explaining the discrepancy. The actual amount needed is \$1,761 because the Cares Act funds will cover the remaining amount; however, the grant project manager had asked that the Commission consider leaving the larger balance, so the program does not get lost when the Cares Act funds are no longer available.

Commissioner Terry Hendrix makes motion to amend amount to \$1,761
Seconded by Commissioner Emmett Owen

In Support: Commissioners Laura Cobb, Emmett Owen, Roger Hill, and Terry Hendrix

In Opposition: None

Amended motion passed

Resolution #5135

Whereas, the Cleburne County Commission recognizes the need for a public transportation program; and

Whereas, the Cleburne County Commission is recognized as a member of the Cleburne County Transportation Steering Committee; and

Whereas, the Cleburne County Commission recognizes that the requirements to obtain Section 5311 funds from the Alabama Department of Transportation includes a local match of 50% for operating expenses and 20% for administration and capital expenses; and

Whereas, the Cleburne County Commission recognizes that the local match will be a shared cost with other participating municipalities being responsible for providing an appropriate allocation of local non-federal funds to secure the operating of Section 5311 Nonurbanized Area Public Transportation Program.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Cleburne County Commission hereby commits the amount of \$1,761 as local non-federal match for capital,

administrative, and operations expenditures under Section 5311 Nonurbanized Area Public Transportation Program during Fiscal Year 2022.

Be it further resolved that the Commission Chairman is authorized to execute an agreement with the East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission for provision of transit services in Cleburne County and that the Chairman is also authorized to execute any certifications and assurance required in conjunction with the program.

Reports from staff:

- A.** County Administrator Kim Brown informs the Commission that she is applying for an Energy Grant for \$40,000 that is due in July. She has asked Commissioner Owen and Maintenance Worker Fred Cain to submit projects for the grant application.

Commissioner Hendrix asks about the manufactured homes regulations

County Administrator Kim Brown states she has completed the draft and it has been forwarded to the County Attorney for review.

- B.** County Engineer Lee Estes asks for a P.O request approval for CR18 bridge (Cane Creek) in the amount of \$44,000 to the The Bridge Builders of Alabama.

Commissioner Hendrix makes motion to add to New Business, Seconded by Commissioner Owen. All in support.

F. P.O Request

Action as related to **Resolution #5136** P.O. Request

Motion made by Commissioner Terry Hendrix, Seconded by Commissioner Emmett Owen

In Support: Commissioners Laura Cobb, Emmett Owen, Roger Hill, and Terry Hendrix

In Opposition: None

Motion Passed

Resolution #5136

Approve Purchase Order amount of \$44,000 to The Bridge Builders of Alabama to work on CR18 Bridge (Cane Creek).

Commissioner Owen asks about CR71

County Engineer Lee Estes states CR71 project is after CR81 Bridge project which is waiting on equipment that is expected to be delivered this week.

Commissioner Cobb has concerns about Edwardsville Bridge needing to be closed until it can get replaced.

She makes a motion to add to New Business for her to use \$2,600 of her Discretionary funds for gravel for a partial road to bypass the bridge.

Seconded by Commissioner Terry Hendrix.

G. Discretionary Funds

Action as related to **Resolution #5137** Discretionary Funds

Motion made by Commissioner Lara Cobb, Seconded by Commissioner Terry Hendrix

In Support: Commissioners Laura Cobb, Emmett Owen, Roger Hill, and Terry Hendrix

In Opposition: None

Motion Passed

Resolution #5137

Commissioner Cobb allocates \$2,600 of her discretionary funds to adding a partial gravel road.

Commissioner Cobb makes a motion to add no spraying in District 1 until further research is done.

Motion dies for lack of second.

C. County Attorney Jason Odom has no updates.

Chairman Ryan Robertson has some concerns that the meeting procedures have become lax. He discusses the procedures for public speakers, and he asks County Attorney Jason Odom to advise on setting the agenda and adding to New Business later.

County Attorney Jason Odom advises that the Work Session is the agenda setting meeting, and any new business to be added later will need to be approved by the Commission at the Commission meeting.

Old Business:

There is no Old Business to attend to this meeting.

Action as related to **Resolution #5138**

Motion made by Commissioner Emmett Owen, Seconded by Commissioner Roger Hill

In Support: Commissioners Laura Cobb, Emmett Owen, Roger Hill, and Terry Hendrix

In Opposition: None

Motion Passed

Resolution #5138

Meeting Adjourned.

Certified by:

Ryan Robertson – Chairman

Laura Cobb – District 1

Emmett Owen – District 2

Terry Hendrix – District 3

Roger Hill – District 4