

**Cleburne County Commission Meeting Minutes  
Regular Commission Meeting August 26, 2024  
Cleburne County Mountain Center**

**Roll Call**

Present:

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

Absent: Commissioner Emmett Owen

**Comments from Citizens**

**Stephen Faughn – budget request for Extension Office** – Mr. Faughn gives the Commission the Annual Report for the Extension Office which includes the budget. He requests an increase in appropriations to seventy-five cents per person.

Chairman Ryan Robertson asks if he will come back to the budget meeting?

Mr. Faughn states that he will.

Commissioner Laura Cobb thanks Mr. Faughn for his work and suggests the Commissioners check out the Extension office sometime.

**Ric and Sherry Bischoff – CR 482 Road and Bridge** – Mr. Bischoff states that he and his wife moved to Cleburne County 2 ½ years ago. He has never lived on a dirt road before and has some concerns about the general maintenance of the road. He has reached out to the Engineer but wouldn't get an answer. He feels like there needs to be better communication between the Engineer and county residents, regardless of what may be said good or bad in response to a question.

**Comments from Board Members or Officials**

Chairman Ryan Robertson asks for a motion and a second to add the FY25 Budget to New Business Item F so the meeting may be continued.

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

All in Favor

Motion Carries

### **Consent Agenda**

---

The Commission passes the August 2024 Consent Agenda Resolution #5466-1, #5466 3-4. Resolution #5466 – 2 has been moved to New Business Item E.

Action as related to **Resolution #5466-1, #5466 3-4** 2024 Consent Agenda:

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

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

In Opposition: None

Motion Passed

### **Resolution #5466-1**

The Cleburne County Commission hereby resolves to approve the minutes of July15, 2024 as presented.

---

### **Resolution #5466-2**

August 26, 2024, Board Vacancies:

Hospital Board- District 4

Board Appointments: None

### **Resolution #5466-3**

Whereas, Commissioner Laura Cobb wishes to use \$5,500.00 of her discretionary funds;

Whereas, the funds will be used for pea gravel at Fruithurst Elementary School;

Whereas, the Commission finds that this is an appropriate use of discretionary funds for a proper public purpose.

Therefore, the Cleburne County Commission agrees to allow the use of \$5,500.00 of Commissioner Cobb's discretionary fund for this purpose.

### **Resolution #5466-4**

Whereas, Commissioner Emmett Owen wishes to use \$5,000.00 and Commissioner Roger Hill wishes to use \$2,500.00 of discretionary funds for handicap sidewalk work at the Farmer's Market through the Chamber of Commerce;

Whereas, the Commission finds that this is an appropriate use of discretionary funds for a proper public purpose.

Therefore, the Cleburne County Commission agrees to allow the use of \$5,000 of Commissioner Owen's and \$2,500 of Commissioner Hill's discretionary fund for this purpose.

### **New Business:**

---

#### **A. Revenue Commission Expense Account**

Action as related to **Resolution #5467** Revenue Commission Expense Account

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

Commissioner Terry Hendrix states "while I'm not saying that the Revenue Commissioner's efforts should not receive the support of the Commission as a whole, I am concerned that acting only with regard to one position does a disservice to all elected Officials in the County. I make the motion to table the resolution until such time we can do a full audit and perform the salary history of each and every elected Official in the County."

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

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

In Opposition: None

Motion Tabled

### **Resolution #5467**

Whereas, the Revenue Commissioner is requesting the establishment of an Expense Account for her position;

Whereas, this would require a Legislative Act be passed;

Whereas, an example of legislation from another County has been provided and the Revenue Commissioner would like to use the same terms;

Whereas, the example given states that the Expense Account will be for an amount equal to the difference in the salary of the Revenue Commissioner and the salary of the Judge of Probate and payable in equal monthly installments from the General Fund;

Whereas, beginning the next term of office after the effective date of the Act, the salary for the Revenue Commissioner would equal the salary of the Probate Judge, and thereafter would be entitled to the uniform increases in compensation received by other elected officials;

Therefore, the Cleburne County Commission agrees to support the Revenue Commissioner in the attempt to establish the Expense Allowance.

---

## **B. Franchise Agreement - Charter**

Action as related to **Resolution #5468** Franchise Agreement - Charter

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

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

In Opposition: None

Motion Carries

## **Resolution #5468**

Whereas, Spectrum Southeast, LLC, an indirect subsidiary of Charter Communications, Inc., is requesting a Franchise Agreement with the Cleburne County Commission;

Whereas, Charter will be building a fiber broadband project that will connect to 277 households and businesses in and around Ranburne;

Whereas, Charter will need to use the County rights-of-way for the project;

Whereas, Spectrum Southeast, LLC/Charter Communications, Inc. agrees to pay an amount equal to 5% of the gross revenues, for the accounts in the County at large;

Whereas, 5% of gross revenues will be paid for each of the next 20 years;

Therefore, the Cleburne County Commission resolves to accept the agreement and allow its Chairman to sign the agreement on behalf of Cleburne County.

---

### **C. County Transportation Plan**

Action as related to **Resolution #5469** County Transportation Plan

Motion made by Commissioner Terry Hendrix, Seconded by Commissioner Roger Hill

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

In Opposition: None

Motion Carries

**Resolution #5469**

Whereas, the Rebuild Alabama Act requires that an annual Transportation plan be adopted for the next fiscal year by the County Commission no later than August 31; and

Whereas, the County Engineer has provided a list of possible projects with his recommendations for which expenditures are intended to be made in the next fiscal year.

Therefore, the Cleburne County Commission approves the following projects to be included in the Transportation Plan:

Project 1: Bridge Culvert Replacement – CR 65

Project 2: Spot Level, Patch – CR 49

Project 3: JG Treatment, materials only – CR 471

Project 4: JG Treatment, materials only – CR 455

Project 5: JG Treatment, materials only – CR 863

Project 6: Spot Level, Widen, JG Treatment, Traffic Stripe, and RPMs – CR 60

Project 7: Spot Level, Widen, JG Treatment, Traffic Stripe, and RPMs – CR 8

---

#### **D. County Maintenance Bids**

Action as related to **Resolution #5470** County Maintenance Bids

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

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

In Opposition: None

Motion Carries

### **Resolution #5470**

Whereas, the Cleburne County Commission must from time to time seek bids for certain supplies and equipment in order to ensure efficient and effective operation of county initiatives while ensuring all state purchasing laws are abided by.

Therefore, the Cleburne County Commission authorizes the County Engineer to award bids for the following annual maintenance supplies:

-Hot Asphalt Plant Mix – APAC Alabama, Inc.

-Traffic Stripe and Markers – Ozark Striping Company, Inc.

-Stone – Vulcan Materials & Asphalt Company and APAC Alabama, Inc.

- In Place Plant Mix – Vulcan Materials & Asphalt Company and APAC Alabama, Inc.

-Bituminous Treatment – Charles E. Watts

Cold Plant Mix 411A: Advanced Asphalt LLC

Modified Cold Mix: Vulcan Materials & Asphalt Company

-Micro Surfacing – Asphalt Paving Systems

Traffic Signs – Traffic Signs, Inc.

Vehicle Maintenance – Buster Miles Ford

### **E. County Board Appointments**

Action as related to **Resolution #5471** County Board Appointments



Motion made by Commissioner Laura Cobb, Seconded by Commissioner Roger Hill

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

In Opposition: None

Motion Carries

### **Resolution #5471**

August 26, 2024, Board Vacancies: None

Board Resignations:

Library Board District 1 – Meagan Holbrooks

Board Appointments:

Library Board District 1 – Claire Gamble

Hospital Board District 4 – Paul Moore

### **F. FY25 Budget**

Action as related to **Resolution #5472** FY25 Budget

Chairman Ryan Robertson states A motion and a second is not needed at this time since it was added to the Agenda to allow for the continuation of this meeting to discuss the Budget.

County Administrator, Lisa Copeland states she will answer any questions that the Commission may have prior to the continued meeting. She states she will let the Department Heads know the meeting has been continued to discuss the budget.

### **Resolution #5472**

Whereas, it is the responsibility of the Cleburne County Commission to pass a yearly budget for the upcoming fiscal year in a September meeting,

Therefore, after review and deliberation, the Cleburne County Commission hereby adopts the attached fiscal year 2025 budget, Version\_\_\_\_\_.

### **Reports from staff:**

---

- A. The County Administrator, Lisa Copeland states she was asked to give an update on ARPA expenditures and obligations. The IAC puts the annual expenditures, into a report, into the Pro-core system for the annual report. After they put everything in that has been submitted since the last annual report, we are at about 97% on our expenditures for ARPA fund, so we are in good shape. What we need to concentrate on is out of 4 districts, 2 have obligated funds for LATCF for projects. The projects have to be done for them to be fully obligated under maintenance bids.

*Commissioner Terry Hendrix asks if they can be given an update on how much ARPA/LATCF money is left for the districts at the next work session?*

*County Administrator, Lisa Copeland states she will give an update with the exact amount at the work session.*

*Commissioner Terry Hendrix asks if the water board has money left?*  
*County Administrator, Lisa Copeland states they have some left, but most of it is retainage. They still owe the original contractor on their projects which makes up a good amount of it, \$12-\$15,000 left of the \$700,000, still working on an area that had issues in District 3.*

*Commissioner Terry Hendrix asks the County Attorney, Jason Odom if we should write a letter to the Board in case for some reason it is not spent by December 31<sup>st</sup> they're going to lose it.*

*County Attorney, Jason Odom states if you want to write a letter you certainly can do so.*

County Administrator states she spoke with them and they're addressing the need for spending the fund before the deadline.  
Commissioner Terry Hendrix states for Lisa to write a letter on letterhead and send it to the Water department and to Roger.

Commissioner Terry Hendrix asks County Attorney, Jason Odom for an update on the Employee Handbook change?  
County Attorney, Jason Odom states it is still in the works.

Commissioner Terry Hendrix asks the County Administrator, Lisa Copeland if she is still projected to have FY22 Audit done by the end of September?  
County Administrator, Lisa Copeland says that it should be, but depends on Melissia's schedule.

- B. The County Engineer, Lee Estes states he will finish up tar and gravel projects this week and will start bushhogging next week.

Commissioner Terry Hendrix states CR 63 at Hanson Farm has a dead oak tree close to the road, asks the County Engineer to find out if it is on the right of way, if it is not, send a letter to the Owner to have them remove it.  
Commissioner Laura Cobb states pipes are stopped up on CR 65.

- C. The County Attorney, Jason Odom has no updates

---

#### **Discussion Items from the Chairman and Commission:**

---

Action as related to **Resolution #5473**

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

In Support: Commissioners Roger Hill, and Terry Hendrix

In Opposition: None

Motion Passed

**Resolution #5473**

Meeting continued to Tuesday, August 27, 2024 at 4:00 PM to further discuss Resolution #5472 FY25 Budget.

Certified by:

---

Ryan Robertson – Chairman

---

Laura Cobb – District 1

---

Emmett Owen – District 2

---

Terry Hendrix – District 3

---

Roger Hill – District 4