

**Cleburne County Commission Meeting Minutes
Regular Commission Meeting November 20, 2023
Cleburne County Mountain Center**

Roll Call

Present:

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

Absent: None

Comments from Citizens

Chairman Ryan Robertson addressed the Commission with the request to add Jake Matthews to the agenda of today's meeting to speak to the Commission.

Action as related to Resolutions #5402

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

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

In Opposition: None

Motion Passed

Resolution #5402

The Cleburne County Commission hereby resolves to approve to allow Mr. Jake Matthews to speak to the Commission at today's meeting.

Jimmy Ogle: Mr. Ogle states he represents a group of people who want to assume the New Hopewell School Building to save the heritage of the building. He states they will form a 501C. He states he would like to keep the property as is, or maybe enhance it and allow for reunions, etc...

Jake Matthews: Mr. Matthews states he was contacted by TV reporter about the Limestone Quarry that is to be built on Hwy 431. He states he is worried about the effects on the air and water, as well as the added traffic in a dangerous curve. He asks the Commission to hold a public hearing about this matter. He states he has contacted ADEM and was told it was up to the Director's Discretion which is why he asking the Commissioners for help.

Richard Pollard: Mr. Pollard states he would like to purchase the New Hopewell Springs building and move it to a 38 acre property.

Commissioner Emmett Owen suggests for Mr. Pollard to reach out to Mr. Ogle and maybe they can work together.

Mr. Pollard agrees.

Consent Agenda

The Commission passes the November 2023 Consent Agenda Resolution #5404 1-7.

Action as related to **Resolution #5404 1-7** 2023 Consent Agenda:

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

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

In Opposition: None

Motion Passed

Resolution #5404-1

The Cleburne County Commission hereby resolves to approve the minutes of October 16, 2023 and November 3, 2023

as presented.

Resolution #5404-2

Board Vacancies:

Hospital Board- District 2

Board Appointments:

Mike Pollard- District 3

Resolution #5404-3

Whereas, the Cleburne County Coroner has been searching for a used vehicle:

Whereas, the Coroner has located an Expedition, for \$14,325, through the State of Alabama Surplus Lot;

Whereas, the Coroner currently has an ambulance and a Suburban that he would like to surplus;

Whereas, any Purchase Order In excess of \$10,000 must be approved by the Cleburne County Commission;

Therefore, the Cleburne County Commission approves the surplus of the ambulance and suburban, the purchase order for the Expedition, and an increase in the Coroner's Budget for the purchase.

Resolution #5404-4

Whereas, the Alabama Department of Transportation offers agreements with Counties, to allow for the first opportunity to purchase ALDOT surplus equipment;

Whereas, the Cleburne County Commission wishes to have this option when purchasing used equipment;

Therefore, the Cleburne County Commission agrees to allow its Chairman and Engineer to sign an agreement with ALDOT, to this affect.

Resolution #5404-5

Whereas, the Commissioner Roger Hill informed the Commission that the Convenience Center in District 4 needs to be painted;

Whereas, the County Engineer suggested that the supplies expense be taken out of the \$1 host fee received by contractual agreement with the County's garbage collection company;

Whereas, this revenue is a part of the general fund;

Therefore, the Cleburne County Commission agrees to spend up to \$1,000 for paint, out of the general fund, for painting of the District 4 Convenience Center.

Resolution #5404-6

Whereas, there is a need for traffic cones for use by Volunteer Fire Departments in District 1 and District 3;

Whereas, Commissioner Laura Cobb would like to use a portion of her discretionary fund to purchase 4 cones at the approximate cost of \$40;

Whereas, Commissioner Terry Hendrix would like to use a portion of his discretionary fund to purchase 8 cones at the approximate cost of \$80;

Therefore, the Cleburne County Commission agrees to the expenditure of these discretionary funds.

Resolution #5404-7

Whereas, Alabama Code, Section 11-4-41 defines the requirements for selecting a qualified public depository each year; and

Whereas, the County Administrator has received proposals in sufficient form to be able to determine that Metro Bank of Heflin, AL offers the most competitive benefits and the highest rate of interest on daily balances of bank deposits.

Therefore, the County Commission authorizes the County Administrator to notify Metro Bank of the County's acceptance of the proposal, and to work with Metro Bank to provide such information as needed to renew and/or continue services at the newly stated rates.

Chairman Ryan Robertson asks for a motion and second to approve to add the following item to New Business of today's meeting:

Item G – ABC License Approval

Action as related to **Resolution #5405**

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

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

In Opposition: None

Motion Carries

Resolution #5405

The Cleburne County Commission hereby resolves to approve to add New Business Item G to the Agenda.

New Business:

A. Inmate Housing Agreement - Heflin

Action as related to **Resolution #5406** Inmate Housing Agreement - Heflin

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

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

In Opposition: Commissioner Terry Hendrix

Motion Carries

Resolution #5406

Whereas, the Cleburne County Commission has received an updated version of an inmate housing agreement for the City of Heflin;

Whereas, the County Attorney met with the City Attorney and the Sheriffs for those entities, to come to this agreement;

Whereas, the Cleburne County Commission is aware that the changes, from previous agreements, include a reduction from \$32 per day for City Inmates to \$15 per day;

Whereas, the Cleburne County Commission is also aware that the changes, from previous agreements, include the County assuming the cost of medical expenses for the City Inmates;

Therefore, the Cleburne County Commission accepts the terms of the agreement and authorizes its Chairman to sign the agreement on behalf of the Commission.

B. Inmate Housing Agreement - Ranburne

Action as related to **Resolution #5407** Inmate Housing Agreement - Ranburne

Motion made by Commissioner Roger Hill

Motion Dies for Lack of Second

Resolution #5407

Whereas, the inmate housing agreement has been updated for the City of Heflin:

Therefore, the Cleburne County Commission agrees to offer the same agreement to the Town of Ranburne.

C. Change in Rate paid to Sheriff for Feeding Inmates

Action as related to **Resolution #5408** Change in Rate paid to Sheriff for Feeding Inmates

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

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

In Opposition: None

Motion Passed

Resolution #5408

November 20, 2023

Whereas, the Cleburne County Sheriff has explained that the cost of feeding inmates has increased;

Whereas, the Sheriff has requested an increase in the amount he receives, out of the City Inmate Housing Fees collected by the County, for feeding of the Inmates;

Therefore, the Cleburne County Commission agrees to provide the Sheriff with an amount of \$15 per day for City Inmates.

D. Inmate Phone Money

Action as related to **Resolution #5409** Inmate Phone Money

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

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

In Opposition: None

Motion Carries

Resolution #5409

Whereas, the Cleburne County Commission currently receives revenue from the use of pay phones at the jail;

Whereas, the Sheriff has requested that the funds be retained by the Sheriff's department, going forward;

Therefore, the Cleburne County Commission agrees to allow these funds to go into the Sheriff's Department Fund.

E. Accept ADEM Grant

Action as related to **Resolution #5410** Accept ADEM Grant

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

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

In Opposition: None

Motion Carries

Resolution #5410

Whereas, the County Engineer has been informed by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, that a grant for Stormwater Crossdrain Replacement, has been awarded to the County;

Therefore, the Cleburne County Commission authorizes its Chairman to sign on behalf of the County to accept the grant.

F. Refund ARPA from General Fund

Action as related to **Resolution #5411** Refund ARPA from General Fund

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

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

In Opposition: None

Motion Carries

Resolution #5411

Whereas, the Cleburne County Commission, as a part of its decisions on the use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds, set aside \$300,000 for items still being discussed;

Whereas, decisions on those expenditures added up to \$324,142.54;

Therefore, the Cleburne County Commission agrees to the refunding of the ARPA Account, the amount of \$24,142.54, from the General Fund.

G. ABC License Approval

Action as related to **Resolution #5412** ABC License Approval

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

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

In Opposition: None

Motion Carries

Resolution #5412

Whereas, having received notification from the State of Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control Board of an Alcohol License being requested (Confirmation number 20231023152629840) by Hope L. Williams of Caldonia LLC 13236 Hwy 78, Fruithurst, Alabama; and

Whereas, no apparent violation of the County's criteria is evident and the application received from the Board appears in order; and

Therefore, the Cleburne County Commission approves an alcohol license for the said location.

Commissioner Terry Hendrix asks to make a Motion to add to the Agenda the vacation of a portion of CR 402.

Item H – Vacate a portion of CR 402

Action as related to **Resolution #5414** Vacation of a portion of CR 402

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

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

In Opposition: None

Motion Carries

Resolution #5414

The Cleburne County Commission hereby resolves to approve to add New Business Item H to the Agenda.

H. Vacate a Portion of CR 402

Action as related to **Resolution #5414** Vacate a Portion of CR 402

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

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

In Opposition: None

Motion Carries

Resolution #5414

Whereas, the Cleburne County Commission intends to vacate a portion of CR 402. CR 402 shall be vacated from Lat 33.750899, Long-85.481284 East approximately 2260 feet to Lat 33.752260, Long – 85.474839; and

Whereas, the Commission held a public hearing regarding the intent during its regularly scheduled meeting on November 20, 2023; and

Whereas, the names of all land owners whose properties abut the roads to be vacated are as follows: Steven Hunt; and

Therefore, the Commission hereby resolves to vacate a portion of CR 402. CR 402 shall be vacated from Lat 33.750899, Long-85.481284 East approximately 2260 feet to Lat 33.752260, Long – 85.474839

Furthermore, the Commission tasks the County Engineer with conducting the publishing and filing of said vacation as required by law and delegates the authority required to draw this issue to closure including implementing whatever means necessary to invest or reinvest the abutting landowners with title to the vacated portions of the road.

Reports from staff:

- A. The County Administrator, Lisa Copeland informs the Commission she has been involved in negotiations with JSU about their contract with us. She states she wants the Commission to be aware of ½ way houses coming to the City of Heflin. She reminds the Commission of the Annual Legislative Conference taking place next week. She states the Commission office will close at 12:00 on Wednesday, November 22nd in observance of Thanksgiving.
- B. County Engineer Lee Estes has no updates
- C. County Attorney Jason Odom has no updates

Old Business:

Action as related to **Resolution #5415**

Dies for Lack of Motion

Resolution #5415

Whereas, the Cleburne County Commission has continuously had difficulty in hiring employees for the Engineer's Department;

Whereas, in an effort to make the jobs more attractive to potential employees, the Commission asked the Engineer to work with the Human Resource Officer to make a plan that would increase certain positions by approximately \$2 per hour;

Whereas, the current pay scale has been utilized to make these increases in the form of "step-raises";

Whereas, there are 19 employee positions eligible for the increase, and would amount to an increase of \$86,630 to the Engineer's Departmental salary budget;

Therefore, the Cleburne County Commission agrees to task the Human Resource Officer with implementing these increases and agrees to apply the increases to the Engineer's Departmental Salary Budget lines, effective with pay period

_____.

Discussion Items from the Chairman and Commission:

Action as related to **Resolution #5416**

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

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

In Opposition: None

Motion Passed

Resolution #5416

Meeting adjourned.

Certified by:

Ryan Robertson – Chairman

Laura Cobb – District 1

Emmett Owen – District 2

Terry Hendrix – District 3

Roger Hill – District 4