

The DeKalb County Commission met in regular session on March 22, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. in the DeKalb County Commission Chambers (Courthouse Annex). Those present were Ricky Harcrow, President, Ed Nix, Chris Kuykendall and Dewitt Jackson. Those absent were none.

The meeting was called to order by President Harcrow with the announcement of Commissioner Nix's 75th birthday. Jimmy Wright lead the Pledge and Ben Luther delivered the invocation.

It was moved by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Kuykendall, all members voting affirmatively, motion carrying to dispense with the reading of the minutes and to accept them as presented in written format.

Mr. Broyles gave the following Road Department Maintenance Report:

- 1) Patching: Crews are still patching potholes throughout the County. The rainy weather is causing more problems on the County's roads.
 - 2) Paving: Meetings with Crew Leaders over the next couple weeks will determine the roads to be paved during this paving season. He recommended that most all the paving money go toward resurfacing instead of new paving, due to the number of problems with existing paved roads.
 - 3) Building(s): The building crews have been working on the new breakroom building at the Road Department and it is near completion. Also, the Maintenance Shop was damaged by a hail storm a few weeks ago and damaged the roof. There are about 14 major leaks. This will need to be repaired soon.
-
- 4) Personnel (Crew Leader): Mr. Broyles recommended Tony Gorham be promoted to District I Crew Leader to replace Jerry Brown who recently retired.

It was moved by Mr. Nix, seconded by Mr. Kuykendall, all members voting affirmatively, motion carrying to promote Tony Gorham to Crew Leader for District I (G8/8).

- 5) Personnel (Truck Driver): Mr. Broyles also recommended Dustin Fleming to be hired as a Truck Driver in the Road Department for a position posted at the previous meeting.

It was moved by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Kuykendall, all members voting affirmatively to fill the Grade 5 position with Dustin Fleming (G5/3).

- 6) Personnel (Vacant Position): Mr. Broyles requested that the vacant position left by Tony Gorham be posted.

It was moved by Mr. Kuykendall, seconded by Mr. Nix, all members voting affirmatively, motion carrying to post a G5 position in the District I crew for the Road Department.

- 7) Vehicle: Mr. Broyles recommended moving a pickup truck to the Animal Adoption Center to replace the vehicle that was wrecked by DCAAC Director Leslie Johnson. He also requested the Commission to replace that vehicle with a new 4WD Truck since the Road Department has a shortage of 4WD vehicles. The State Bid by Woodson Jones has a base price for a new truck at \$18,468.70.

It was moved by Mr. Nix, seconded by Mr. Jackson, all members voting affirmatively, motion carrying to authorize the purchase of a 4WD pickup truck for use at the Road Department off of State Bid from Woodson Jones to include any needed options.

- 8) Bush Cutters/Boom Mowers: Mr. Broyles notified the Commission that the bushcutter/boom mowers are about 10 years old and need to be replaced. He said he thought they could bring about \$15,000 - \$20,000 each. New Tractors are on the State Bid; however, the boom mowers would need to be bid by the County.

Mr. Kuykendall asked if the County was budgeted for this. Mr. Sharp said we could purchase these over a 4-5 year period if needed.

It was moved by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Kuykendall, all members voting affirmatively, motion carrying to authorize buying tractors off State Bid.

County Engineer Ben Luther requested the Commission to authorize a Material's Testing Proposal for liquid calcium chloride to possibly be used on paving County Roads. This material is used mostly in the Northeast Region of the U.S. due to resistance to cold weather. He and Mr. Broyles want to see if this is a viable option for the problems the County has had with cold weather on County Roads. As far as we know this material has never been used with the base material (chert) that is used in this part of Alabama. The cost to test the material is \$2,600. The vendor is Soil & Materials Engineers.

Mr. Broyles said the material has already been tested and proven on dense grade. This will be a test on chert. Mr. Kuykendall said this would be money well spent.

It was moved by Mr. Kuykendall, seconded by Mr. Nix, all members voting affirmatively, motion carrying to authorize Ben Luther, County Engineer to obtain a testing by Soils and Materials Engineers for \$2600.

Mr. Luther also requested the Commission to approve a resolution for a proposed bridge replacement on CR 24. The Federal Highway Administration has started a new initiative program they are calling "Everyday Counts" and it is designed to identify and deploy innovation aimed at shortening project delivery, enhancing the safety of roads and protecting the environment. One of the programs that is involved is a new type of bridge system that is called a geo-synthetic reinforced sole integrated bridge system.

It is built by putting in a layer of soil or aggregate and then a layer of some type of geosynthetic material or geogrid that is stacked on another block of soil, geogrid and built up to form a wall to use as the abutments. Test sites are being searched for across the State. DeKalb County's name came up because of our soil conditions. Proximity to rock is another aspect. A 40' long pre-cast bridge system is what the Federal Highway Administration is looking for. Mr. Luther said he wanted to find low-volume roads with low-flows to test this on. The bridge on CR 24 meets all the requirements. This project will be approached just like any other Federal Aid Bridge

It was moved by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Kuykendall, all members voting affirmatively, motion carrying to authorize the hire of Zachary Aldridge and Tracie Hamilton as Correction I Officers in the Jail at G5/1.

Mr. Dendy also notified the Commission that he and Nurse Allen Kay had negotiated a discount with the Hospital from 30% up to 50% as a standard rate. Some items will go to as much as 60%. He said Mr. Sharp had been on him pretty hard about the costs and this should provide some savings.

Mr. Dendy stated that Chief Deputy Michael Edmondson couldn't be at the meeting today, so he requested that Keith Murphree be hired as a PT Deputy to fill the position vacated by Stanna Guice when she moved into her FT position.

It was moved by Mr. Kuykendall, seconded by Mr. Nix, all members voting affirmatively, motion carrying to authorize the hire of Keith Murphree as part-time deputy (G8/1).

EMA Director Mike Leath announced a Safe Room Grant Kickoff at the Fyffe Town Hall on March 14th at 1:00. Also, at that meeting, it will be officially announced that the County is receiving a \$140,000 grant for seven (7) outdoor Warning Sirens. The municipalities have agreed to pay the 25% match.

After several years, the Safe Room Grants have been released. He requested the Commission to authorize procedures to obtain/bid these Safe Room Grants.

It was moved by Mr. Nix, seconded by Mr. Jackson, all members voting affirmatively, motion carrying to authorize procedures on the Safe Room grants.

Revenue Commissioner Martha Ogle requested the Commission to hire Sheryl Holcomb as a Real Property Appraiser I to fill the vacancy left by Amanda Slaten.

It was moved by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Nix, all members voting affirmatively, motion carrying to hire Cheryl Holcomb as Real Property Appraiser.

Mr. Jackson recommended Ed Burke for another term on the County 911 Board.

It was moved by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Nix, all members voting affirmatively, motion carrying to re-appoint Ed Burke to the 911 Board.

Mr. Sharp notified the Commission that Park Board Member Gene Galloway had sent a letter requesting that Oliver Reeves be hired to replace William Lanier as an employee at the Park Board.

It was moved by Mr. Nix, seconded by Mr. Jackson, all members voting affirmatively, motion carrying to hire Mr. Oliver Reeves at High Falls Park.

Mr. Sharp requested on behalf of COA/RPT Director June Brewer for herself and Glenda Crumley to attend the Alabama RTAP Annual Spring meeting April 26-30 in Mobile.

It was moved by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Kuykendall, all members voting affirmatively, motion carrying to authorize travel for June Brewer and Glenda Crumley to attend the AL RTAP Meeting in Mobile.

Mr. Sharp addressed the Commission and requested that the pay grade of Leslie Johnson, Animal Adoption Center Director and Jeromy Hughes, Adoption Liason be upgraded. Ms. Johnson was initially hired at a G6A prior to the opening of the Center with the possibility of an upgrade after the Center opened. The Center has been opened for over a year and is running very well. Mr. Sharp recommended that the pay grade for the Animal Adoption Center Director be a G8 and that Leslie Johnson be moved to a G8/1. He also noted that Jeromy Hughes had been an inmate in the County Jail when he first began working in the Center, then he moved to Work Release, then PT and then to FT at minimum wage. He has since been moved to G4 and Mr. Sharp recommended a G5 for this position, and that Jeromy Hughes be moved to G5/1.

Mr. Harcrow noted that Mr. Hughes has received all of his certifications and that the Animal Adoption Center runs off of the TVA funds attributed to it as well as donations and other revenues.

It was moved by Mr. Kuykendall, seconded by Mr. Nix, all members voting affirmatively, motion carrying to authorize the pay grade change for Leslie Johnson to G8/1 and Jeromy Hughes to G5/1.

Mr. Sharp read a claim from Brenda Combs Kelly that was brought over by an employee of Attorney Dana Grimes. The Claim was as follows:

“Please be advised that I hereby make a claim against DeKalb County Commission, DeKalb County Sheriff’s Department for personal injuries arising out of an incident on or about September 15th. I was the driver of a vehicle being driven at the intersections of Love Road and Main Street which is at the top of the mountain on 35. The vehicle was travelling through an intersection when suddenly I was hit by a truck on the driver’s side. Injuries caused a broken hip and broken pelvis. I have Doctor expenses of nearly \$13,000.” She also had towing expenses of \$300 and she’s claiming \$100,000 for permanent physical injuries. All this occurred in the City Limits of Rainsville.

Mr. Sharp requested the Commission to send this Claim to the County’s insurance carrier.

It was moved by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Kuykendall, all members voting affirmatively, motion carrying to forward the above damage claim to Meadowbrook/ASI for final disposition.

A Mr. Ron Howard addressed the Commission concerning a Prescription Drug Discount Card that was accepted by 59,000 pharmacies throughout the United States and included all major chains such as Wal-Mart, Walgreens, Rite-Aid, CVS, etc. He mentioned that several Counties, including Mobile, Geneva and Elmore Counties were signing agreements with the County to provide these cards free-of-charge to County residents. The card also covered 60,000 drugs and actually pays royalties back to the County for each drug purchased through the card. It would cost nothing for the County to participate.

Mr. Mauney asked how it would affect local Pharmacies. Mr. Howard said most local pharmacies participate in the network that creates the discount. Mr. Harcrow thanked Mr. Howard for attending the meeting and said more research would be done by the County before a decision was made.

Mr. Harcrow noted that April was DeKalb County Clean-Up Month and Clayborn Simpson notified him that dumpsters would be placed in strategic locations throughout the County during the month of April.

It was moved by Mr. Jackson, without objection so ordered to adjourn.

Ricky Harcrow, President

Ed Nix, Commissioner District II

Chris Kuykendall, Commissioner District III

Dewitt Jackson, Commissioner District IV