

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
OF THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION
ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA
September 27, 2016**

The Etowah County Commission met in a regular meeting on the 27th Day of September, 2016. Commissioner Fuller called the meeting to order at 10:20 am. Commissioner Choate led the Prayer and Pledge to the Flag.

CALL OF ROLL TO ESTABLISH A QUORUM: Karen Bates, County Clerk, called the roll to establish a quorum. The following 6 out of 6 Commission members answered to their names and accordingly a quorum was found to be present:

District 1 – Joey Statum
District 2 – Lewis Fuller
District 3- Larry V. Payne

District 4 – Jeff Overstreet
District 5 – Carolyn Parker
District 6 – Tim Choate

NEW BUSINESS: A copy of the approved budget for 2016-2017 has been filed in Attachment Book 8, Page 21.

Upon motion of Commissioner Fuller, with no motion to second, the following item died for lack of second:

To adopt the FY 2016-2017 General Fund Budget (001).

This item died for lack of second.

Upon motion of Commissioner Statum, seconded by Commissioner Overstreet, with Commissioner Statum, Commissioner Fuller, Commissioner Payne, Commissioner Overstreet and Commissioner Choate voting “yes”, and Commissioner Parker ‘opposed’ the following resolution was adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION: That the following item was approved:

To adopt the FY 2016-2017 Gas Tax Fund Budget (111).

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 27th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2016.

Upon motion of Commissioner Overstreet, seconded by Commissioner Statum, with Commissioner Statum, Commissioner Fuller, Commissioner Payne, Commissioner Overstreet and Commissioner Choate voting “yes”, and Commissioner Parker ‘opposed’, the following resolution was adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION: That the following item was approved:

To adopt the FY 2016-2017 Public Building, Road, and Bridge Fund Budget (112).

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 27th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2016.

Upon motion of Commissioner Choate, seconded by Commissioner Statum, with Commissioner Statum, Commissioner Fuller, Commissioner Payne, Commissioner Overstreet and Commissioner Choate voting “yes”, and Commissioner Parker ‘opposed’, the following resolution was adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION: That the following item was approved:

To adopt the FY 2016-2017 Public Highway and Traffic Fund Budget (113).

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 27th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2016.

Upon motion of Commissioner Statum, seconded by Commissioner Overstreet, with Commissioner Statum, Commissioner Fuller, Commissioner Payne, Commissioner Overstreet and Commissioner Choate voting “yes”, and Commissioner Parker ‘opposed’, the following resolution was adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION: That the following item was approved:

To adopt the FY 2016-2017 3-R Gas Tax Fund Budget (117).

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 27th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2016.

Upon motion of Commissioner Statum, seconded by Commissioner Choate, with Commissioner Statum, Commissioner Fuller, Commissioner Payne, Commissioner Overstreet and Commissioner Choate voting “yes”, and Commissioner Parker ‘opposed’, the following resolution was adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION: That the following item was approved:

To adopt the FY 2016-2017 Capital Improvement Fund Budget (116).

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 27th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2016.

Upon motion of Commissioner Statum, seconded by Commissioner Payne, with Commissioner Statum, Commissioner Fuller, Commissioner Payne, Commissioner Overstreet and Commissioner Choate voting “yes”, and Commissioner Parker ‘opposed’, the following resolution was adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION: That the following item was approved:

To adopt the FY 2016-2017 3-R Gas Tax Fund Budget (118).

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 27th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2016.

Upon motion of Commissioner Overstreet, seconded by Commissioner Statum, with Commissioner Statum, Commissioner Fuller, Commissioner Payne, Commissioner Overstreet and Commissioner Choate voting “yes”, and Commissioner Parker ‘opposed’, the following resolution was adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION: That the following item was approved:

To adopt the FY 2016-2017 Mineral Tax Fund Budget (119).

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 27th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2016.

Upon motion of Commissioner Statum, seconded by Commissioner Payne, with Commissioner Statum, Commissioner Fuller, Commissioner Payne, Commissioner Overstreet and Commissioner Choate voting “yes”, and Commissioner Parker ‘opposed’, the following resolution was adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION: That the following item was approved:

To adopt the FY 2016-2017 Re-Appraisal Fund Budget (120).

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 27th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2016.

Upon motion of Commissioner Choate, seconded by Commissioner Statum, with Commissioner Statum, Commissioner Fuller, Commissioner Payne, Commissioner Overstreet and Commissioner Choate voting “yes”, and Commissioner Parker ‘opposed’, the following resolution was adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION: That the following item was approved:

To adopt the FY 2016-2017 Rural Transportation Fund Budget (271).

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 27th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2016.

Upon motion of Commissioner Statum, seconded by Commissioner Payne, with Commissioner Statum, Commissioner Fuller, Commissioner Payne, Commissioner Overstreet and Commissioner Choate voting “yes”, and Commissioner Parker ‘opposed’, the following resolution was adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION: That the following item was approved:

To adopt the FY 2016-2017 Senior Nutrition Fund Budget (272).

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 27th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2016.

Upon motion of Commissioner Choate, seconded by Commissioner Overstreet, with Commissioner Statum, Commissioner Fuller, Commissioner Payne, Commissioner Overstreet and Commissioner Choate voting “yes”, and Commissioner Parker ‘opposed’, the following resolution was adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION: That the following item was approved:

To adopt the FY 2016-2017 RSVP Fund Budget (176).

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 27th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2016.

Upon motion of Commissioner Statum, seconded by Commissioner Overstreet, with Commissioner Statum, Commissioner Fuller, Commissioner Payne, Commissioner Overstreet and Commissioner Choate voting “yes”, and Commissioner Parker ‘opposed’, the following resolution was adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION: That the following item was approved:

To adopt the FY 2016-2017 DARE Fund Budget (177).

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 27th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2016.

Upon motion of Commissioner Choate, seconded by Commissioner Statum, with Commissioner Statum, Commissioner Fuller, Commissioner Payne, Commissioner Overstreet and Commissioner Choate voting “yes”, and Commissioner Parker ‘opposed’, the following resolution was adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION: That the following item was approved:

To adopt the FY 2016-2017 Domestic Violence Fund Budget (284).

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 27th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2016.

Upon motion of Commissioner Statum, seconded by Commissioner Payne, with Commissioner Statum, Commissioner Fuller, Commissioner Payne, Commissioner Overstreet and Commissioner Choate voting “yes”, and Commissioner Parker ‘opposed’, the following resolution was adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION: That the following item was approved:

To adopt the FY 2016-2017 DEU Fund Budget (288).

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 27th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2016.

Upon motion of Commissioner Choate, seconded by Commissioner Statum, with Commissioner Statum, Commissioner Fuller, Commissioner Payne, Commissioner Overstreet and Commissioner Choate voting “yes”, and Commissioner Parker ‘opposed’, the following resolution was adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION: That the following item was approved:

To adopt the FY 2016-2017 ICE Fund Budget (195).

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 27th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2016.

Upon motion of Commissioner Statum, seconded by Commissioner Choate, with Commissioner Statum, Commissioner Fuller, Commissioner Payne, Commissioner Overstreet and Commissioner Choate voting “yes”, and Commissioner Parker ‘opposed’, the following resolution was adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION: That the following item was approved:

To adopt the FY 2016-2017 C.O.P.S. Grant (SRO Officers)(281).

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 27th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2016.

REPORTS FROM THE STAFF:

Chief Administrative Officer: No Report.

County Engineer: No Report.

County Attorney: No Report.

Other: No Report.

Commissioner Statum asked the Commission President if we can make a recommendation on Item A to amend it to include a 2½% pay raise for the employees and vote on it again. Sherrie Kelley stated she didn’t think the Commission could vote on an item that had died for lack of a second but she could call Mr. Turnbach for his opinion. He was in litigation and would have to be left a message and return the call.

Commissioner Fuller called for a motion to recess to give Sherrie time to get an answer to the question and to discuss options available so they could come to an agreement and pass the budget. Commissioner Choate made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Overstreet, with all 6 Commissioners in agreement. The Commissioners recessed for an open discussion in the workroom at 10:30 am.

Discussion during recess:

During the recess Commissioner Statum, Commissioner Fuller, Commissioner Payne, Commissioner Overstreet, and Commissioner Choate moved to the work room for the discussion portion; along with the County Clerk, Karen Bates; Deputy Administrator/CFO, Kevin Dollar; CAO, Sherrie Kelley; Sheriff Entrekin and Cyndi Nelson with the Gadsden Times. This was an open meeting and there were a few other people in and out during the discussions.

After checking on the guidelines, Sherrie Kelley recommended the Commission add an item to the agenda, which had to be approved by all Commissioners present, to amend the General Budget (001) to include the pay raise. Commissioner Choate asked if the raise could be a lesser amount but Kevin Dollar stated that is the minimum raise that could be given to keep the steps, which were set up by the study with Condrey & Associates, as they are. Commissioner Choate discussed the need to have a dialog with the legislature to hopefully free up money for the counties. After discussion, Commissioner Statum requested an item be added to amend the General Budget and give a 2½% raise to the associates. The addition of this item was approved by all Commissioners present.

Commissioner Payne then requested an item be added to remove the appropriation of \$5,000 to purchase software licenses from the Commissioner Budget. All Commissioners present agreed to have the item added to the agenda.

Sheriff Entrekin spoke to the Commissioners during the recess and requested that he be given an additional deputy plus personal protection equipment to give him an added deputy for each shift. All Commissioners present agreed to add the additional deputy plus personal protection equipment to the budget for the General Fund - Sheriff’s Office.

These 3 items, which pertain to the General Fund, were added to the Agenda.

Commissioner Fuller reconvened the meeting at 11:20 a.m. in the Commission Chamber. The Commissioners that were present include: Commissioner Statum, Commissioner Fuller, Commissioner Payne, Commissioner Overstreet, and Commissioner Choate. Commissioner Parker was absent.

Commissioner Fuller asked Sherrie Kelley to read the 3 added items, and he called for a motion on each:

Upon motion of Commissioner Statum, seconded by Commissioner Payne, with all Commissioners voting “yes”, the following resolution was adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION: That the following item was approved:

To adopt the FY 2016-2017 General Fund Budget (001) with a 1-step pay raise for classified employees and a 2½% pay raise for unclassified employees.

During the discussion Commissioner Overstreet stated the deficit went from \$565,000 when they first started discussing the budget and had increased to \$815,000. ‘We can’t keep doing this and keep the county solvent.’

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 27th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2016.

Upon motion of Commissioner Statum, seconded by Commissioner Payne, with Commissioner Statum, Commissioner Payne, and Commissioner Overstreet voting ‘yes’; Commissioner Fuller voted ‘no’; and Commissioner Choate abstaining, the following resolution was adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION: That the following item was approved:

To remove the \$5,000 appropriation for software licenses from the Etowah County Commission Budget.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 27th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2016.

Upon motion of Commissioner Statum, seconded by Commissioner Choate, with all Commissioners voting “yes”, the following resolution was adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION: That the following item was approved:

To add an additional deputy for the Sheriff’s Office including payroll and personal protection equipment to the General Fund Budget, Sheriff’s Office.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 27th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2016.

Commissioner Fuller asked if there were any reports from the staff at this time. There were no reports.

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

DISCUSSION BY COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Statum thanked all the employees and said he agreed with Commissioner Overstreet. ‘We have to make hard decision over the next few months’. He added that we cannot add taxes and fees to raise money and we don’t create the law. The money we have comes from different taxes that sometimes have to be used for specific things. He said he was committed to push for less days / more pay. He things we have to make a consolidated effort to pay more in wages and reduce the vacation package for future employees or give an option.

Commissioner Payne and Commissioner Overstreet did not have anything to add.

Commissioner Choate thanked everyone for the prayers he requested for his stepson and said he was much better.

Commissioner Fuller said Mr. Grant would be inheriting the future issues in dealing with a way to get more money for the county. He said it was going to take the county working with the legislative delegates to make things better. He also thanked Kevin Dollar for his hard work on getting a budget together.

ADJOURN: The Chair then entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Upon motion of Commissioner Choate, seconded by Commissioner Payne, with all other members voting “yes”, the motion was passed. The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 am.

Joey Statum, Commissioner, District 1

Jeff Overstreet, Commissioner, District 4

Lewis H. Fuller, President, Commissioner, District 2

Carolyn Parker, Commissioner, District 5

Larry V. Payne, Commissioner, District 3

Tim N. Choate, Commissioner, District 6