

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION
ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA
August 4th, 2020**

The Etowah County Commission met in a regular meeting on the 4th Day of August, 2020. Commissioner Jeffery Washington called the meeting to order at 10:00 am and Craig Inzer led in the Prayer and the Pledge to the Flag.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS AND OTHERS: Superintendent of Gadsden City Schools, Tony Reddick, spoke to the Commissioners concerning some of the issues they were facing in getting ready to return to school during the COVID-19 Pandemic. He thanked the Commissioners for having him and said he had collaborated with other school systems in the State in making his decision for a virtual opening. He thanked the Commissioners for their support in providing dozens of masks for the teachers.

They plan to open remotely at first so they can train the students on remote learning (due to COVID number going up and many teachers having lost parents or loved ones as a result of the virus). Many people were opposed to his plan because they believed children were not affected and the safety of the children is everyone's main concern. Many are also concerned the children could get sick (without symptoms themselves) and bring it home to other family members that may be more vulnerable. He said we can make up for lost instruction but cannot make up for loss of life.

They will start remotely with a 'to-be-determined' date for when they will begin in-person learning. They will let the teachers get comfortable and feel safe before the kids return. They have always had an option for virtual school (student led) but the remote school will be led by teachers. They have sanitizers, ionizers for the air conditioners, sprayers and foggers, as well as requiring teachers to wear masks or face shields. They are going to try to get the children to wear masks. The teachers will be in their classrooms by themselves and they are still trying to decide if they will allow the teachers to bring their own children to work with them. He said we can't change the 'fear-factor'. If the cases start dropping, they may go back to in-person teaching sooner. They are keeping up with the statistics and want to get kids back as soon as safely possible. On August 17th, Etowah County and Attalla School Systems are bringing their kids back to in-person teaching but there are many systems around the State that are changing to remote learning.

Gadsden City has enough Chromebooks to start school and also have some ordered that are currently on backlog. Dr. Reddick said he had heard teachers saying 'it will be as if they have 2 jobs' if they have to teach remotely and also face-to-face. Everyone wants a normal start back-to-school and some are planning football but no school. He doesn't see how they will be able to have a football season this year. He said you can't have herd immunity without a vaccine. Parents are also concerned about the lack of childcare if the kids are not able to go to school.

CALL OF ROLL TO ESTABLISH A QUORUM: The following 4 out of 6 Commission members were at the meeting and accordingly a quorum was present:

District 2 – Johnny Grant
District 4 – Tim Ramsey

District 5 – Jeffery Washington
District 6 – Craig Inzer

Absent: Joey Statum – District 1
Larry V. Payne - District 3

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS: None.

CONSENT AGENDA: Upon motion of Commissioner Craig Inzer, seconded by Commissioner Tim Ramsey, with all other members present voting "yes", the following resolution was passed and adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION: That the following items on the Consent Agenda were approved as presented:

CONSENT AGENDA: All items designated as "Consent" are considered to be routine and non-controversial and will be approved by one motion. No separate discussion of these items will be permitted unless a Commissioner so requests. If so, such item(s) will revert to New Business.

- A. That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting dated July 21st, 2020, of the Etowah County Commission be, and the same are hereby approved as written.
- B. The Proposed Agenda for August 4th, 2020.
- C. Reported Financial Transactions. A copy of the Purchasing Charges for June 17th through July 15th, 2020, has been filed in Attachment Book 11, Page 46.
- D. To place the name of Bobby Honeycutt, in the Sheriff's Office job slot of Detention Deputy, effective July 27th, 2020. This is a replacement to be paid from the Jail Fund, at an hourly rate of \$12.60.

- E. To place the name of Ashanti Coleman, in the Sheriff's Office job slot of Detention Deputy, effective July 27th, 2020. This is a replacement to be paid from the ICE Fund, at an hourly rate of \$12.60.
- F. To approve the request of Lora Weaver, Rural Transportation Director, to transfer Petra Fair to the Temporary Transportation Coordinator, effective retroactively to March 2nd, 2020 through July 17th, 2020, to be paid from the General Fund, Rural Transportation Department, at an hourly rate of \$12.00. (This is a Temporary Retroactive Promotion to fill in for the Unclassified Position of Transportation Coordinator who is on leave of absence.).
- G. To approve the request of Kevin Dollar, Deputy Administrator/CFO, to make the following Budget Amendments for Election Expenses Funding related to COVID-19 at provided by the Secretary of State's Office for the July 14th, 2020 Primary Run-Off Election:

Increase:	Absentee Election Managers Fees (001.51910-184) (3/10/2020-5/19/2020)	\$6,125
	Election Workers Fees (001.51910-175)	\$4,775
	Contract Services (001.51910-185)	\$1,875
	Miscellaneous Supplies (001.51910-219)	<u>\$10,490</u>
Increase:	State Share - Elections (Revenue) (001.40000.44230-810)	\$23,265

- H. To approve the request of Kevin Dollar, Deputy Administrator/CFO, to make the following Budget Amendments for the first reimbursement from the State CARES Act Reimbursement:

General Fund:

Increase:	Miscellaneous Supplies (001.51990-219)	\$584
	Miscellaneous Tools & Equipment (001.51995-214)	\$4,324
	Cleaning Supplies (001.51995-216)	\$7,355
	Miscellaneous Supplies (001.52400-219)	\$254
	Subscriptions (001.51100-409)	<u>\$309</u>
	State Grant (Revenue) (001.40000.44360-810)	<u>\$12,826</u>

Gasoline Tax Fund:

Increase:	Cleaning Supplies (111.53100-216)	<u>\$351</u>
	State Grant (Revenue) (111.40000.44360-810)	<u>\$351</u>

- I. To approve the request of Kevin Dollar, Deputy Administrator/CFO, to make the following Budget Amendments related to the OJP Grant:

Increase:	Maintenance Department	
	Cleaning Supplies (001.51995.216)	\$56
	Equipment<Threshold (001.51995-471)	\$4,124
	District Attorney's Office	
	Equipment<Threshold (001.51260-471)	\$14,313
	Sheriff's Office	
	Miscellaneous Supplies (001.52100-219)	\$655
	Equipment<Threshold (001.52100-471)	\$11,173
	Jail	
	Miscellaneous Supplies (001.52200-219)	\$8,382
	Equipment<Threshold (001.52200-471)	<u>\$19,305</u>
	Law Enforcement Grant (Revenue) (001.40000.44720-830)	<u>\$58,008</u>

- J. To have the Second Reading and Final Approval to reappoint Nanda Patel to the Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourist Association Board of Directors for a two year term.

- K. To approve the request of Lora Weaver, Rural Transportation Director, to declare the following as surplus:

2010 Ford StarCraft Bus VIN# 1FDEE3FL1ADB02505

- L. To renew the Praeses Contract and to authorize the CAO to execute the Agreement. A copy of the Agreement has been filed in Attachment Book 11, Page 047.

- M. To approve the Inmate Communication Agreement with Securus Technologies, LLC., and to authorize the CAO to execute the document. A copy of the Agreement has been filed in Attachment Book 11, Page 048.

- N. To approve the request from Melissa Lett, Purchasing Accountant, to let bids for Plastic Roadway Pipe.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 4th DAY OF AUGUST, 2020.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Upon motion of Commissioner Tim Ramsey, seconded by Commissioner Craig Inzer, with all other members voting “yes”, the following resolution was adopted:

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

To approve the First Reading to reappoint Deborah Gaither to the Etowah County Communications District Board for a four year term.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 4th DAY OF AUGUST, 2020.

Upon motion of Commissioner Tim Ramsey, seconded by Commissioner Craig Inzer, with all other members voting “yes”, the following resolution was adopted:

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

To approve the First Reading to appoint Jonathon Horton to the Etowah County Communications District Board for a four year term to replace Wally Burns (term expires in August).

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 4th DAY OF AUGUST, 2020.

Upon motion of Commissioner Tim Ramsey, seconded by Commissioner Craig Inzer, with all other members voting “yes”, the following resolution was adopted:

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

To approve the designation of Rapha Ministries Treatment Center serves a public purpose and is eligible to receive public funds.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 4th DAY OF AUGUST, 2020.

REPORTS FROM THE STAFF:

Chief Administrative Officer: No Report.

County Engineer: No Report.

County Attorney: No Report.

Other: No Report.

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

DISCUSSION BY COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Ramsey thanked Tony Reddick for being here today and said he respected his decision about his plans for Gadsden City Schools but added that others have choices to make based on their circumstances. In his area, broadband is not available and those Superintendents and Principals are making the choices they have to make.

Commissioner Inzer thanked Tony Reddick and said it was a tough decision to make, trying to figure out what’s best for everyone. He had sent masks for teachers and they were getting dividers in one classroom. He said he doesn’t have an answer regarding the differences between the City and County Schools (with distance & broadband) but hopefully everyone will stay safe. He also thanked Advanced Disposal on the quarterly clean-up (containers being placed at Whorton Bend Volunteer Fire Dept). He said they were doing a good job and helping the community.

Commissioner Washington said we are dealing with a situation we don’t understand concerning this disease and people have to make decisions that are not popular with everyone. He said he understands with the City and County, different decisions need to be made based on their different circumstances. He thanked Mr. Reddick for coming and sharing his insight with the Commission. He thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

ADJOURN: The Chair then entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Upon motion of Commissioner Craig Inzer, seconded by Commissioner Johnny Grant, with all other members voting “yes”, the motion was passed. The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.

ABSENT

Joey Statum, Commissioner, District 1

Tim Ramsey, Commissioner, District 4

Johnny Grant, Commissioner, District 2

Jeffery Washington, President, Commissioner, District 5

ABSENT

Larry V. Payne, Commissioner, District 3

Craig Inzer, Jr., Commissioner, District 6

