

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION
ETOWAH COUNTY
March 18, 2025**

Commissioner Joey Statum called the Commission Meeting to order on the 18th Day of March, 2025 at 9:00 am and Scott Hassell, Probate Judge, asked the Prayer and led the Pledge to the Flag.

CALL OF ROLL TO ESTABLISH A QUORUM: The following 5 out of 6 Commission members were at the meeting and accordingly a quorum was present:

District 1 – Joey Statum
District 2 – Johnny Grant

District 4 – Tim Ramsey
District 5 – Jeffery Washington
District 6 – Craig Inzer Jr.

Absent - Jamie Grant, District 3

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS:

Dr. Farrah Hayes, Executive Director of the Challenger Learning Center of Northeast Alabama, along with Dr. Martha Lavender, Mrs. Teresa Rhea, and Mr. Tony Smith, came to the meeting today to thank the Commissioners for their continued support, because of their willingness to commit it has opened several doors for them. It allows them to offer services to our school systems that they would not have access to otherwise. Construction has started on the building with a planned opening of January 28, 2026, the 40th Anniversary of the Challenger Explosion. They plan on having virtual activities in classrooms across the county before opening. They have also recently received a \$100,000 grant from Alabama Power and pledges from the commission, Rainbow City, Attalla, Hokes Bluff and Southside. Etowah County is the service area for the Challenger Center but the plan to expand beyond Etowah County to 12 surrounding counties with a focus on STEM Education. They intend to bridge the gaps in teaching, with their hands on Challenger simulator and activities in one part of the building. In the second section of the building the STEM Center with activities that align with the State standards and reinforce what students are learning in school. Specifically reinforcing what is on the ACAP Tests. In April she is aiming to be in all 4th grade classes in Etowah County and Gadsden City Schools. They also plan to offer summer camps of different themes and partner with 21st Century and Etowah County Schools to offer as many after school programs as they can, after opening.

Upon motion of Commissioner Inzer, seconded by Commissioner Washington, 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 recess in order to have a Work Session at 9:22 am.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 18th DAY OF MARCH, 2025.

Upon motion of Commissioner Ramsey, seconded by Commissioner Johnny Grant, 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 call the Etowah County Commission Meeting back to order at 9:35 am.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 18th DAY OF MARCH, 2025.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

Upon motion of Commissioner Washington, seconded by Commissioner Ramsey, with all other members present voting “yes”, the following resolution was passed and adopted:

CONSENT AGENDA:

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(s) dated March 11, 2025 of the Etowah County Commission be, and the same are hereby, approved as written.
- B. The proposed Agenda for March 18, 2025.
- C. To place the following names in the Sheriff’s Office job slot of Detention Deputy, effective March 24, 2025. These are replacements to be paid from the Jail General Fund, at an hourly rate of \$15.36
 - Julian Hannah
 - William Marshall Butler

- Gary Wilson
- Mark McCurry
- Basil Al Thawabieh

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 18th DAY OF MARCH, 2025.

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Commissioner Washington, seconded by Commissioner 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 resolutions were passed and adopted:

To have the second and final reading to reappoint Jim Tillison to the Tillison Bend Water Authority. This appointment will be effective March 1, 2025, and the term will expire on March 1, 2031

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 18th DAY OF MARCH, 2025.

A motion was made by Commissioner Inzer, seconded by Commissioner Johnny Grant, 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 resolutions were passed and adopted:

To have the second and final reading to reappoint Tim Ramsey to the CED Mental Health Board. This appointment will be effective April 1, 2025, and the term will expire on April 1, 2031

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 18th DAY OF MARCH, 2025.

A motion was made by Commissioner Washington, seconded by Commissioner 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 resolutions were passed and adopted:

To approve the Hunting Lease, Liability Waiver, and Indemnity Agreement with the Wesson Lake Hunting Club, and to authorize the CAO to execute the Lease. A copy of this document is in Attachment Book 15, page 014

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 18th DAY OF MARCH, 2025.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ramsey, seconded by Commissioner Inzer, 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 resolutions were passed and adopted:

To approve the agreement with Diversified Computer Services to provide 2 GPS and tracking devices in the Revenue Commissioner’s Office for 36 months, at an upfront cost of \$400, then monthly cost of \$20 per device, and to authorize the CAO to execute the document. A copy of this document is in Attachment Book 15, page 015

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 18th DAY OF MARCH, 2025.

A motion was made by Commissioner Inzer, seconded by Commissioner Johnny Grant, 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 resolutions were passed and adopted:

To declare the following Reappraisal Department Vehicles as surplus:

- 2013 Ford Edge VIN#2FMDK3GC0DBB12438

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 18th DAY OF MARCH, 2025.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ramsey, seconded by Commissioner Johnny Grant, 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 resolutions were passed and adopted:

To approve the Resolution for Project No. ECP 28-208-25, Resurfacing Old US Hwy 411 from Turkey Town to Cherokee CR -20. A copy of this document is in Attachment Book 15, page 016

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 18TH DAY OF MARCH, 2025

A motion was made by Commissioner Ramsey, seconded by Commissioner Statum, 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 resolutions were passed and adopted:

To approve the 2024 Memorandum of Participation with Cavanaugh Macdonald Consulting, LLC for full valuation of Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) for Etowah County. A copy of this document is in Attachment Book 15, page 017

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 18th DAY OF MARCH, 2025.

A motion was made by Commissioner Washington, seconded by Commissioner 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 resolutions were passed and adopted:

To approve an update to the Etowah County Credit Card Purchases Policy and Procedure. A copy of this document is in Attachment Book 15, page 018

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 18th DAY OF MARCH, 2025.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ramsey, seconded by Commissioner Washington, 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 resolutions were passed and adopted:

To approve the addition of six positions (one lieutenant and five detention deputies) to provide for additional staffing due to the increased number of U.S. Marshals Inmates and U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Detainees. These costs will be paid from the General Fund – Federal Inmates Department.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 18th DAY OF MARCH, 2025.

A motion was made by Commissioner Washington, seconded by Commissioner 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 resolutions were passed and adopted:

To approve the First Amendment to the Health Services Agreement dated October 1, 2024 with Detention Care Partners, LLC (formerly Doctors’ Care Physicians, P.C.) due to the increased volume associated with U.S. Marshals Inmates and U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Detainees, and to authorize the CAO to execute the agreement. This agreement is subject to final review, comment, and approval of County Attorney Jim Turnbach. A copy of this document is in Attachment Book 15, page 019

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 18th DAY OF MARCH, 2025.

REPORTS FROM THE STAFF

Chief Administrative Officer
County Engineer
County Attorney
Other

DISCUSSION BY COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Johnny Grant wanted the Sheriff to know how great of a job he is doing. The jail has done a superb job and we’ll do a good job with the immigration and marshal detainees.

Commissioner Ramsey also thanked the Sheriff and his department and all they do. Our community is in better shape because of what they do.

Commissioner Washington thanked everyone for coming today. Etowah County is a special place because we all work together. He thanked our leaders in the courthouse and our staff does an outstanding job.

Commissioner Inzer would like to thank everyone who worked on the case. Judge Day and the Sheriff and his personnel did an outstanding job. Also, he and Robert are working on a grant for the bridge replacement.

Commissioner Statum noted the excellent job the Sheriff and staff are doing for our community, and all of our department heads and staff here at the courthouse.

ADJOURN: The Chair then entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Upon motion from Commissioner Statum, seconded by Commissioner Ramsey, with all other members voting “yes”, the motion was passed. The meeting was adjourned at 9:57 am.

Joey Statum, President, Commissioner, District 1

Tim Ramsey, Commissioner, District 4

Johnny Grant, Commissioner, District 2

Jeffery Washington, Commissioner, District 5

Absent

Jamie Grant, Commissioner, District 3

Craig Inzer, Jr., Commissioner, District 6