

The DeKalb County Commission met in regular session (with minimal attendance due to COVID-19 Social Distancing Restrictions) on Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. in the DeKalb County Activities Building (Courthouse Annex). Those present were President Ricky Harcrow, Shane Wootten and Lester Black. Absent was Chris Kuykendall.

The meeting was called to order by President Harcrow with Mr. Harcrow delivering the invocation and Mr. Wootten leading the Pledge.

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

Road Department

Update—Mr. Broyles stated that due to the cold weather work has been a little slow. Patch trucks have been running every day as well as hand patching, but are unable to do little else. He also stated that most of the trucks that are to be sold at the March 16th Auction have been detailed with eleven trucks already transported to the auction site.

Engineering

FY21 County Transportation Bid Tabulation/Bituminous Surface Treatment—Mr. Luther stated that the FY21 County Transportation bids for Bituminous Surface Treatments were opened on January 20th. Charles E. Watts, Inc presented the only bid in the amount of \$1,385,918.31. Mr. Luther made the recommendation to award the Bituminous Surface Treatment Bid to Charles E. Watts, Inc.

Mr. Black made a motion to accept the recommendation. Mr. Harris Seconded the Motion. All members voting affirmatively, motion carried.

Sheriff/Jail

Personnel—Chief Deputy Gregg asked for the Commission's approval to promote Sergeant Willie Underwood to Lieutenant (no pay change) and promote Deputy Jerry Fortner to Sergeant (G8A) to fill positions vacated in the past weeks.

Mr. Wootten made a motion to approve. Mr. Black seconded the motion. All members voting affirmatively for the following promotions. Sergeant Willie Underwood to Lieutenant and Deputy Jerry Fortner to Sergeant.

Training—Chief Deputy Gregg requested permission for officer Priscilla Padgett to attend Child Homicide Investigations class in Nashville in March.

Mr. Wootten made a motion to approve. Mr. Black seconded the motion. All members voting affirmatively to honor the request.

FOP Lodge—Mr. Jim Chambers, president of FOP Lodge 37, presented a lease agreement between FOP Lodge 37 and DeKalb County to take over the Lodge, Firing Range and Law Enforcement Training Facility which has previously been held by the City of Fort Payne. Mr. Chambers requested the Commission’s approval giving President Harcrow and Mr. Sharp authority to sign the lease to be effective March 1, 2021.

Mr. Wootten made a motion to approve. Mr. Black seconded the Motion. All members voting affirmatively giving President Harcrow and Mr. Sharp authority to sign a lease agreement between FOP Lodge 37 and the DeKalb County Commission (Lease filed in Commission Office).

EMA

Bid—Message Boards—On behalf of Mr. Clifton, Mr. Sharp asked the Commission to accept a bid from K & K Systems, Inc. for two Message Boards in the amount of \$11,599.00 (100% grant funded).

Mr. Black made a motion to honor the request. Seconded by Mr. Wootten. All members voting affirmatively, motion carried.

Board Appointment-Blake Fire Dept.

Mr. Black made the recommendation and motion to approve the reappointment of Mr. Terry Parker to the Board of the Blake Fire Department for a term of six years expiring in 2027. Mr. Wootten Seconded the motion. All members voting affirmatively, motion carried.

Board Appointment—DeKalb-Jackson Water Supply District

Mr. Wootten made the recommendation and motion to approve the reappointment of Mr. Gregg Harris to the DeKalb-Jackson Water Supply District for a term of 4 years expiring March 2025. Mr. Black seconded the motion. All members voting affirmatively, motion carried.

Board Appointment—911

On behalf of Commissioner Kuykendall, Mr. Sharp asked the Commission to approve Mr. Kuykendall’s recommendation to reappointment of Mr. Jimmy Carter as 911 Board Member for a term of 4 years expiring March 2025. Mr. Wootten made a motion to approve. Mr. Black seconded the motion. All members voting affirmatively, motion carried.

Covid-19 Leave Policy

Mr. Sharp stated that in the past months the CARES Act has allowed the County to pay, and be

reimbursed by the Cares Act for time lost by employees who have tested positive to Covid-19 or have been quarantined due exposure. The Cares Act reimbursement policy ended on December 30, 2020.

Due to the fact that the pandemic is not over, Mr. Sharp made a recommendation for the Commission to continue authorizing “Administrative Leave” through September 30, 2021 to employees who are exposed and under quarantine, or who test positive for Covid-19. The policy will be reevaluated with the FY2021-22 Budget.

Mr. Wootten made a motion to accept Mr. Sharps recommendation of the Covid-19 Policy. Mr. Black seconded the motion. All members voting affirmatively, motion carried.

Health Insurance Wellness Policy

County Administrator, Matt Sharp addressed the Commission concerning the Health Insurance Wellness Program and presented a Wellness Policy which requires all employees participate in the wellness screenings each year due to Local Government Health Insurance rate increases.

The Policy is as follows:

1. Continue the \$100 incentives to employees that do the wellness screenings.
2. Add the difference in the standard and the preferred rate for employees that fail to obtain a wellness screening by the deadline of October 31, 2021—implemented in January 2022.
3. Suspend the County’s supplement for family coverage for those employees who fail to obtain a wellness screening by the deadline of October 31, 2021—implemented in January 2022.
4. This is an employee driven program, so if the required 80% of employees fail to do the wellness screening, then the additional costs charged by the Local Gov’t Health Insurance Board will be passed along to all employees.

Mr. Wootten, made a motion, seconded by Mr. Black to adopt the above Health Insurance Wellness Policy changes.

President Harcrow notified the audience that the next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 and asked for a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Wootten made a motion to adjourn. The President declared no objections and ordered the meeting adjourned.

Ricky Harcrow, President

Shane Wootten, Commissioner District I

Terry Harris, Commissioner District II

ABSENT

Chris Kuykendall, Commissioner District III

Lester Black, Commissioner District IV