

The DeKalb County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday February 14, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. in the DeKalb County Activities Building (Courthouse Annex). Those present were President Ricky Harcrow, Shane Wootten, Terry Harris, Ron Saferite, and Lester Black.

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

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

DeKalb County E-Center

Prior to moving forward with the agenda, President Harcrow introduced Ms. Diana Goss, Executive Director of The DeKalb County Entrepreneurial Center (E-Center). Ms. Goss thanked the Commission for the opportunity to speak and stated that the E-Center's Mission is to encourage, empower, mentor, educate, and provide services and training to all who desire to succeed in their career and life. The E-Centers' mission statement champions innovation through a collaboration of community effort for the benefit of DeKalb County's small businesses. The Commission thanked Ms. Goss for her work for DeKalb County's Entrepreneurs.

Road Department

Update—Mr. Broyles stated that crews are continuing to patch potholes and trying to get started on roads that are on this year's paving/resurfacing list. The new bridge construction on CR 422 Southwest of Fyffe is now completed and open to traffic.

Personnel

Mr. Broyles requested approval to hire Drake Casey to fill an open position in the Unit Crew (left by Clay Varner who is transferring to the RPT Dept) and stated that he still has one full-time position to fill in District 3.

Mr. Wootten made a motion to honor the request. Mr. Harris seconded the motion. All members vot affirmatively, motion carried.

Engineer

Traffic Stripe Proposals—Mr. Luther stated that a request for proposals were recently sent out for striping on CR's 56, 106 & 177. One proposal was received from J.C. Cheek contracting for a total amount of \$17,780 for all three roads. Mr. Luther made the recommendation to accept the proposal and award the contract to J.C. Cheek.

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

Damage Claim—Mr. Luther presented a damage claim from Mr. Wiley Hatfield stating damage to his vehicle from a brushcutter slinging a projectile that busted out the rear window of his vehicle and requested approval to forward the claim to CRS for final disposition.

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

Sheriff's Office

Sheriff's Office Personnel—Sheriff Welden requested the Commission's approval for the following transfers and promotions:

- Transfer Kizzy Jones—from Assistant Chief Jail Administrator to Sheriff's Office Compliance Clerk (replaces Nina Haney vacant position, retired).

- Promote Tracie Hamilton—from Jail Financial Clerk to Assistant Chief Jail Administrator (replaces Kizzy Jones, transferred to Sheriff’s Office).
- Promote Valerie Williams—from Executive Administrative Assistant to Jail Financial Clerk (replaces Tracie Hamilton).
- Promote Christina Cronnon – from Correctional Officer to Executive Administrative Assistant.
- Promote Wendi Wright – Sheriff’s Office Clerk to Deputy Chief Clerk (replaces Nina Haney’s position as Deputy Chief Clerk).

Mr. Saferite made a motion to approve. Seconded by Black. All members voting affirmatively, Motion carried.

Jail Personnel—Sheriff Welden requested approval to hire Jessica Johnson as corrections officer and asked the Commission to accept the resignation of Mitchell Smith who quit without notice on February 10th.

Mr. Black made a motion to approve the new hire and resignation. Mr. Wootten seconded the motion. All members voting affirmatively, motion carried to approve the request..

Training—Sheriff Welden requested approval for the following employees to attend training:

- Chief Seth Cagle and Deputy Chief Tracie Hamilton to attend ACCA training March 1-2 in Prattville.
- Tracie Hamilton, Melissa Mason and Kizzy Jones to attend Alabama Jail Association training April 22 – April 27 in Orange Beach.

Mr. Wootten made a motion to approve the request. Mr. Saferite seconded the motion. All members voting affirmatively, motion carried.

Jail Addition Update—County Administrator Matt Sharp addressed the audience concerning the status and future plans of the addition to the county jail. Mr. Sharp made the recommendation to move forward and award the Bid for an addition to the County Jail to Limestone Building Group from Hartselle, Alabama for \$4,805,480.00.

The Commission first opened bids for an addition to the empty quadrant of the main part of the jail where the recreation yard currently is. This bid was opened on November 23, 2021 as follows:

<u>BID - NOVEMBER 23, 2021</u>		
	<u>Concrete Cells</u>	<u>Steel Cells</u>
Limestone Building Group	\$6,807,000 (base bid);	\$6,199,000 (base bid)
Alternates	<u>475,000</u>	<u>475,000</u>
Total (Limestone)	\$7,282,000	\$6,674,000
P&C Construction	\$6,101,600 (base bid)	\$5,736,600 (base bid)
Alternates	<u>433,325</u>	<u>433,325</u>
Total (P&C)	\$6,534,925	\$6,169,925
Carmon Construction	\$5,897,844 (base bid)	\$5,457,844 (base bid)
Alternates	<u>445,000</u>	<u>445,000</u>
Total (Carmon)	\$6,342,844	\$5,902,844

The Commission rejected these bids and asked the architect to redraw a simpler design on the site of the current Jail Domes using steel cells. These bids were opened on November 29, 2022 as follows:

BID – NOVEMBER 29, 2022

Martin & Coby	\$5,594,000
Alternates	<u>510,773</u>
Total (M&C)	\$6,104,773
Limestone Building Group	\$5,100,000
Alternates	<u>490,000</u>
Total (Limestone)	\$5,590,000
Kyser Construction -	Did not bid

These bids were far more than expected as well. Mr. Sharp noted that the original design of the jail was estimated to be \$300 - \$350/sq ft. The original bid exceeded \$600/sq ft as did the current bid. The total original estimates were approximately \$3,500,000 (including architect costs). Mr. Sharp noted that there was just less than \$3,000,000 left in the bond issue that paid for road construction and the jail (architect fees being approximately \$500,000).

After the current bid was opened, the architect has been negotiating with the low bidder (Limestone Building Group) on some value-engineering (VE) items to lower the costs. One major change was reducing the size by approximately 20%. After further negotiation, Limestone reduced their costs through VE by \$780,520 for a new bid price of \$4,809,480

Mr. Sharp and Sheriff Welden recommended moving forward with the project – stating that the new addition would replace the “temporary” jail domes which were originally constructed at the site of old jail in 2001, then moved to the site of the new jail in 2006.

Each Commissioner spoke concerning the cost and concerns of spending money on an addition to the jail. After discussion, President Harcrow asked for approval for himself and Mr. Sharp to sign the necessary documents to proceed.

Mr. Wootten made a motion to proceed. Mr. Saferite seconded the motion. All members voting affirmatively, motion carried giving Mr. Harcrow and Mr. Sharp authority to sign any necessary documents.

RPT Personnel—On behalf of Ms. McCamy, Mr. Sharp requested approval to hire Ruth Horridge as a PT substitute driver and transfer Clay Varner from the Road Department as a FT driver.

Mr. Saferite made a motion to approve the request. Mr. Harris seconded the motion. All members voting affirmatively, motion carried.

911 Board Appointment—President Harcrow notified the Commission that Scot Westbrook and Anthony Clifton’s term on the 911 Board expires in March. Also, Thomas Ridgeway has resigned from the 911 Board and he thanked them for their time and service as Board Members. A recommendation was made by Commissioner Harris (District 3) to appoint Geraldine Mayor Chuck Ables and Mr. Jeff Buttram to fill the two vacant District 2 positions, Commissioner Black (District 4) made a recommendation to appoint Sheriff Welden to fill the vacant District 4 position.

Mr. Black made a motion to accept the recommendations and to approve the appointments. Mr. Harris seconded the motion. All members voting affirmatively, motion carried appointing Mayor Chuck Ables, Mr. Jeff Buttram and Sheriff Nick Welden to the 911 Board. (Note: Mayor Ables and Sheriff Welden’s term on the Board will run through March 2027. Mr. Buttram will finish the term of Mr. Ridgeway which runs through March 2024).

Blake Fire Protection Authority Board Appointment—President Harcrow presented a request from the Blake Fire Protection Authority to reappoint Mr. Kenneth Black to the Board of Directors for another six-year term.

Mr. Black made a motion to honor the request. Mr. Saferite seconded the motion. All members voting affirmatively, motion carried.

President Harcrow notified the audience that due to a scheduling conflict the next meeting will be on Tuesday March 14, 2023 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

Ron Saferite, Commissioner District III

Lester Black, Commissioner District IV