

STATE OF ALABAMA        )  
COLBERT COUNTY         )

**Minutes of a Regular Meeting**  
**of the**  
**Colbert County Commission**  
**03/16/21**

The Colbert County Commission met today in regular session at the Colbert County Courthouse. Chairperson Bailey called the work session to order at 5:01 P.M. with the regular meeting following at 6:07 P.M., being the time and place previously scheduled for such work session and regular meeting. All Commissioners answered “present” at the call of the roll. Pastor Ronald Thompson of Calvary MB Church offered the invocation and Keith Jones with NACOLG led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairperson Bailey declared that a quorum was present for the purpose of the transaction of business.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Garrick Kinney spoke and thanked the Commission for its consideration of the vacation issue on Old Covered Bridge Road.

**BOARD APPOINTEE REPORTS**

Shanika Byrd, with the Colbert County DHR Board made a report to the Commission. She explained that the board is an advisory body and deals with equity distributions for the community. The current Executive Director of Colbert County DHR is Kelly Pearson. The DHR Board meets quarterly. At the present, they are focusing on COVID guidelines, preparing organizational charts for vaccines and receiving bids for the renovations of the DHR building. The building will have new office spaces and a meeting space with updates to other sections of the building.

Melanie Hugley, member of the Colbert County Northwest Alabama Healthcare Authority Board made a report to the Commission. She announced Helen Keller’s 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration March 22, 2021 at 11:00 A.M. The community is welcomed. On April 20<sup>th</sup> they will hold a movie night at the Music Hall of Fame. She reported that they have the Avalon Medical and Physical Therapy center as well as Singing River Cancer Center imaging center, a 3D monography center at Keller. The current Surgery Pavilion Center will be changed to the Ambulatory Surgery Center. Physician recruitment has been huge and are searching for a neurologist.

**AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS**

Administrator Roger Creekmore presented each Commissioner with a Certificate from the State of Alabama, recognizing each in their election and service as a County Commissioner and signed by Governor Ivy.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Chairperson Bailey announced that the business before the Commission was the approval of the consent agenda. Commissioner Gardiner made motion to adopt and approve the matters placed on the consent agenda during the work session. The motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Mansell. Chairperson Bailey stated that the adoption and approval of a consent agenda comprised of the following items of business was properly before the Commission and stated the matters as follows:

1. Waived reading of March 2, 2021 minutes and approved the same as written.
2. Approved payment of March 16, 2021 bills as presented by the Chief Financial Officer.
3. Approved Application of CBDG - CV Grant - NACOLG for the amount of \$500,000 by adoption of the following resolution:

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**RESOLUTION NUMBER 2021-0023**

*A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION FOR  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS*

WHEREAS, the Colbert County Commission is completing its application for CDBG-CV program funds through the State of Alabama's Community Development Block Grant Program, and

WHEREAS, the Colbert County Commission concurs with objectives, needs and program activities proposed therein, and

WHEREAS, priorities for proposed program activities adopted by the Colbert County Commission were determined in accordance with State and Federal guidelines and determinations on eligibility of activities,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COLBERT COUNTY COMMISSION:

1. That said application shall be designated as the official application for the Colbert County Commission to be submitted to the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs upon its completion;
  2. That the Chairman is duly authorized to sign said application for and act on behalf of the Colbert County Commission and is further authorized to execute all other documents required for application or disbursement of State of Alabama CDBG funds for the Colbert County Commission;
  3. Should the project exceed total CDBG-CV funding, the Colbert County Commission commits to provide local matching funds towards the project's completion.
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4. Appointed a member to the Board of Directors of Riverbend Center for Mental Health by adoption of the following resolution:
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**RESOLUTION NUMBER 2021-0024**

*A RESOLUTION TO FILL A VACANCY ON THE BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS FOR RIVERBEND CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH*

WHEREAS, the term of a member of the Board of Directors for Riverbend Center for Mental Health, namely, Jesse Thomason, has expired and the Commission being desirous of making the necessary appointment to said board; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth James, Executive Director for Riverbend Center for Mental Health has recommended that the Commission appoint Mary Gates to this vacancy; and

WHEREAS, the following individuals made proper application and met the requirements for appointment, and are eligible for appointment to fill the pending vacancies:

Mary Gates

WHEREAS, Mary Gates was determined to be the sole qualified applicant by the Commission; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COLBERT COUNTY COMMISSION that Mary Gates be and she is hereby appointed to serve a term on the Board of Directors of Riverbend Center for Mental Health commencing on April 1, 2021 and ending on March 31, 2027.

The County Administrator is hereby directed to notify the above-named person of her appointment and further to notify the respective board of said appointment.

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5. Approved County Vehicle Acquisition and Surplus Policy in the form attached hereto as Exhibit "A".
  6. Authorized EMA Director to submit letter of intent for hazard mitigation grant by adoption of the following resolution:
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**RESOLUTION NUMBER 2021-0025**

***A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE LETTER OF INTENT FOR  
HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT***

WHEREAS, Colbert County, Alabama, through its Emergency Management Agency, may be eligible to receive grant funding as a result of natural disasters occurring in February 2020; and

WHEREAS, the grant funding, if awarded, may be used generally for storm shelters, emergency sirens, and flooding mitigation; and

WHEREAS, in order to make application for such grant funds, the County Commission must designate the purpose for which it intends to use such grant funds by submission of a letter of intent to the granting authority; and

WHEREAS, the County Commission is desirous of using such grant funds, if awarded, for the following purposes and in the following order of priority: flood mitigation; storm shelters.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COLBERT COUNTY COMMISSION that the Colbert County Emergency Management Agency be and is hereby authorized to submit the required letter of intent to the granting authority stating Colbert County's intent to use grant funds, if awarded, for flood mitigation and storm shelters, in that order of priority.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Michael David Smith, as Director of the Colbert County Emergency Management Agency be and is hereby authorized to execute such letter of intent and to submit the same as he deems appropriate and expedient.

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7. Approved Fuel Bid Renewal with Tatum Oil.
8. Approved Liquid Asphalt Bid Renewal with Ergon.
9. Approved Request Annual Leave for Joseph Bett via Resignation for the amount of \$653.02.
10. Approved CBDG Grant for flood mitigation with a drainage pipe under Marthaler Lane as Proposed.

## **REPORTS FROM STAFF**

Chairperson Bailey announced that the Commission would now hear reports from staff. Upon being recognized by the Chair, the following reports were heard by the Commission:

### **County Administrator:**

Administrator Roger Creekmore reported that Deborah Robinson of the Probate Judge's Office has been promoted from tag clerk to 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Tag Supervisor grade 6. This promotion will create a new job opening. RSA retirement to change certain employees from Tier 2 to Tier 1 has been approved and will become effective October 1, 2021. HHG has developed a letter, explaining rules established for white goods pick up and is working with Sheffield Utilities to mail to all customers. We fell behind on grass cutting this past year, administrator may issue an RFQ for grass cutting at Storm Shelters in the East end of the County to help with job. Monies from the Strom Shelter budget will be used to offset the cost.

**Chief Financial Officer:**

April Bearden reported that the County has been instructed by the Department of Public Examiners said to open a new bank account to receive funds anticipated from the American Rescue Plan Act.

**County Attorney:**

Edgar Black reported that due to DHR’s renovation, the Colbert County Public Building Authority Board needs to be reactivated. The members are to serve a 4-year term. The Board mainly serves as a vehicle to allow the project to be funded through issuance of tax exempt bonds.

**EMA Director:**

Michael Smith reported severe weather is expected on March 17. Long track tornados are expected for Central AL and MS. The event is expected to begin at lunch time. A state of emergency has been issued. Schools and Health departments are closed.

**County Engineer:**

Engineer Robison reported to the Commission that a project submitted under the CBDG Flood Mitigation Grant, was a drainage culvert under Marthaler Lane to mitigate historic flooding issues on Cassie Davis Street. The Commission had previously approved the Engineer to negotiate with the adjacent property owner, Mr. Uhulman, to make an offer of up to \$20,000.00 for a drainage easement across his property. That offer has been rejected. Mr. Robison’s proposal is to proceed with the installation of the culvert and asks that the Commission allow the project to move forward.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Gardiner reported on the Coast Guard Building Project. The Commission approved \$250,000 for the project. Since so much time has passed, prices have escalated. Therefore, the project has been scaled back. Commissioner Gardner reminded the Commission that Senator Stutts, through CCDC, has allocated \$50,000 toward the project. The total project cost is approximately \$363,000. Commissioner Gardner requests that this project be placed on the April 6, 2021 Agenda for consideration.

Commissioner Barnes briefed the Commission on SSWA Recycling, the need for increased garbage fees, and SSWA proposals to fund and continue recycling in the County. In order to adequately fund the recycling program and keep the service now offered, a monthly rate increase to County Customers of \$1.50 - \$2.00 will be necessary.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned upon motion made, duly seconded, and approved by the Commission.

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COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 1

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COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 2

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CHAIRMAN

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COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 4

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COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 5

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COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 6

**Exhibit “A”**

**VEHICLE ACQUISITION AND SURPLUS POLICY**