

STATE OF ALABAMA)
COLBERT COUNTY)

Minutes of a Regular Meeting
of the
Colbert County Commission
07/01/2025

The Colbert County Commission met today in regular session at the Colbert County Courthouse. Chairperson Bailey called the work session to order at 5:06 p.m. with the regular meeting following at 5:31 p.m., the time and place previously scheduled for such work session and regular meeting. All Commissioners answered “present” at the call of the roll with the exception of Commissioner Barnes who was absent. Commissioner Jimmy Gardiner offered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairperson Bailey declared that a quorum was present for the purpose of the transaction of business.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chelsea Lawson, director of business development of Cramer Children’s Center, addressed the Commission requesting consideration for continued and additional support of the center. Cramer Children’s Center helps children between the ages of 3 and 19 who have been abused and or witnessed violence. Referrals are from law enforcement and DHR. They are the only child advocacy center in Northwest Alabama. Cramer Children’s Center is accredited by the National Children’s Alliance as well as the Alabama Network of Child Advocacy Centers (ANCAP). Lawson stated that in 2023, the Commission donated \$5,000 to support services to children who were abused or had witnessed violence and she is asking for annual support in the amount of \$5,000 to go towards the services provided each year. In the past 6 months 106 children living in Colbert County received healing services from the center after experiencing abuse, neglect, or witnessing violence all at no cost to the families. Over 2,120 healing services were provided to 381 children in our region in the past 6 months. The number of children needing services is going up from the number of children seen last year, which was 445 children. This number includes 18 medical exams, 285 therapy sessions, 442 victim advocacy and referral services, and 1,235 criminal justice support interventions.

Lawson states unfortunately the Cramer Center is currently facing a significant funding shortfall due to funding cuts under the Federal Victims of Crime Act, which has impacted child advocacy centers across the county. This year, the Center is facing a potential loss of between \$38,000-\$96,000 in federal funds, which has limited its ability to fully staff their programs and expand services to meet the growing needs in our community. The need is great and without local investment, the Center risks having to scale back services at a time when more children than ever are depending on them.

BOARD APPOINTEE REPORTS

None

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

None

PUBLIC HEARING

None

CONSENT AGENDA

Chairperson Bailey announced that the business before the Commission was the approval of the consent agenda. Commissioner Gardiner made a 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. Approved June 17, 2025, meeting minutes as written and waived reading of same.
2. Approved July 1, 2025, bills as presented by County C.F.O.
3. Approved Dispatch Agreement with Colbert County Emergency Management Communications District by adoption of the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2025-0025

**A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE CONTRACT PROVIDING DISPATCH SERVICES
TO THE COLBERT COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

WHEREAS, Colbert County is currently party to a contract along with the Colbert County Emergency Management Communications District (E-911) whereby E-911 provides dispatch services to the Colbert County Sheriff's Department; and

WHEREAS, the term of the current contract ends on September 30, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Colbert County Commission has determined that continuing the aforementioned contract is in the best interest of the citizens of Colbert County.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Colbert County Commission that the term of the contract with E-911 providing for dispatch services to the Colbert County Sheriff's Department be renewed for a period of one (1) year, beginning October 1, 2025, at 12:01 AM and ending on September 30, 2026, at 11:59 PM, with all other provisions of the current agreement remaining in force and effect.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Commissioner Tori Bailey, in her capacity as Chairman of the Colbert County Commission, be and she is hereby authorized to execute the proposed dispatch agreement on behalf of Colbert County, Alabama.

4. Approved request by Tyler Barnett for payment of unused accrued annual leave in the amount of \$1,388.52.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

REPORTS FROM STAFF

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

County Administrator:

Administrator Roger Creekmore made the following reports: There was a communication from the Alabama Historical Commission that Burnstown Cemetery in Cherokee, Al., is now on the Alabama Historic Cemetery Registry. The LaGrange Senior Center's manager has been hospitalized and is now in Rehab and it is uncertain what her long-term status will be. The relief person also had a medical issue and is no longer able to continue. As a result, 3 relief persons have been hired on an as needed basis. They are; Carrie Meek, hired July 1, Joyce Clement, hired June 27 and Janice Amos, hired June 26. They will be working no more than 30 hrs./wk. at \$9.27/hr. We are wishing Mrs. Armstrong a speedy recovery. Creekmore also announced a new hire in the Sheriff's Department, Frank Erwin Anderson was hired effective July 1 with a beginning salary of \$38,007.70 as an APOST / CPR certified deputy. The courthouse washing/touch-up has begun.

County CFO:

No Report

County Attorney:

No Report

E-911/EMA Director:

No Report

County Engineer:
No Report

NEW BUSINESS
None

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

During the work session, Chairperson Bailey directed the Commission’s attention to a continuing issue on Gate 6 road involving water draining from a culvert underneath the roadway onto property owned by Mrs. Bates. Chairperson Bailey stated that the situation has been going on for too long a period and expressed her desire to add closing the culvert to prevent further flow of water to the agenda for tonight’s Commission meeting.

Chairperson Bailey asked for the Commission’s unanimous consent to consider the proposed resolution at tonight’s meeting. Commissioner Isom stated that he would like the opportunity to visit the property in question prior to voting on the proposed resolution and withheld his consent to place the proposed resolution on the meeting agenda. Commissioner Bendall suggested that the County Attorney should research potential legal ramifications to the County arising from closure of the culvert or leaving it open. All Commissioners present and voting supported Commissioner’s Bendall’s suggestion and the Commission directed the County Attorney to research the issue and report back to the Commission.

Chairperson Bailey stated that WZZA Radio will be celebrating 53 years of service on July 4th.

Commissioner Gardiner announced that the Saddle Up for St. Jude event is 2 weeks away, July 17th-19th. He also informed the Commission that 52 volunteers participated in a recently heldwork day to help prepare for the event.

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 1

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 2

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 3

CHAIRPERSON

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 5

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 6