

STATE OF ALABAMA)
COLBERT COUNTY)

Minutes of a Regular Meeting
of the
Colbert County Commission
1/20/2026

The Colbert County Commission met today in regular session at the Colbert County Courthouse. Chairman Bendall called the work session to order at 5:02 p.m. with the regular meeting following at 5:27 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. Commissioner Tyrus Mansell offered the prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Bendall declared that a quorum was present for the purpose of the transaction of business.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BOARD APPOINTEE REPORTS

None

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

None

PUBLIC HEARING

None

CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Bendall announced that the next item of 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 Barnes. Chairman Bendall 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 January 6, 2026, meeting minutes and waived reading of same.
- 2. Approved January 20, 2026 bills as presented by County C F O.
- 3. Approved the following Resolution for expenditure of 287(g) funds on behalf of the Sheriff’s Department:

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2026-0012

RESOLUTION OF THE COLBERT COUNTY COMMISSION

A RESOLUTION APPROVING EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS RECEIVED FOR
COLBERT COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT PARTICIPATION IN ICE /
287(G) PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Sheriff of Colbert County entered into a Service Agreement with the United States Department of Homeland Security Immigration and Customs Enforcement for specific enforcement actions; and

WHEREAS, the General Fund of Colbert County was paid a One Time Stipend / Reimbursement in the amount of \$130,000.00 as a result of the Colbert County Sheriff's Department participation in the 287(g) program; and

WHEREAS, the Colbert County Commission has responsibility for the allocation and expenditure of monies contained in the County General Fund; and

WHEREAS, Eric Balentine, the Sheriff of Colbert County, is requesting the expenditure of 287(g) funds for law enforcement purposes, specifically, the installation of Tonneau Covers in two (2) patrol cars at a cost of \$2,320.00; and

WHEREAS, the Commission recognizes that the presence of marked patrol vehicles contributes to enhanced public safety, and equipment transported by these patrol vehicles should be protected from the elements. Therefore, the Commission desires to approve the allocation of 287(g) funds for the installation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Colbert County Commission, having deemed that the installation of Tonneau Covers on patrol vehicles is a necessary, reasonable, and proportionate expenditure of the 287(g) funds elects to allocate \$2,320.00 of the 287(g) funds for the installation of Ultra Flex Tonneau Covers on two (2) patrol trucks.

4. Approved the following Resolution for expenditure of 287(g) funds on behalf of the Sheriff's Department:
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RESOLUTION NUMBER 2026-0013

RESOLUTION OF THE COLBERT COUNTY COMMISSION

A RESOLUTION APPROVING EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS RECEIVED FOR COLBERT COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT PARTICIPATION IN ICE / 287(G) PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Sheriff of Colbert County entered into a Service Agreement with the United States Department of Homeland Security Immigration and Customs Enforcement for specific enforcement actions; and

WHEREAS, the General Fund of Colbert County was paid a One Time Stipend / Reimbursement in the amount of \$130,000.00 as a result of the Colbert County Sheriff's Department participation in the 287(g) program; and

WHEREAS, the Colbert County Commission has responsibility for the allocation and expenditure of monies contained in the County General Fund; and

WHEREAS, Eric Balentine, the Sheriff of Colbert County, is requesting the expenditure of 287(g) funds for law enforcement purposes, specifically, the installation of Fire Arms Racks in three (3) patrol cars at a cost of \$1,448.70; and

WHEREAS, the Commission recognizes the necessity of properly outfitting patrol vehicles to enhance public safety. Therefore, the Commission desires to approve the allocation of 287(g) funds for the installation of Fire Arms Racks in patrol vehicles.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Colbert County Commission, having deemed that the installation of Fire Arms Racks in patrol vehicles is a necessary, reasonable, and proportionate expenditure of the 287(g) funds elects to allocate \$1,448.70 of the 287(g) funds for the installation of Fire Arms Racks in three (3) patrol cars at a cost of \$1,448.70.

5. Approved the following School Tax Resolution for the City of Sheffield Board of Education:
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RESOLUTION NUMBER 2026-0014

BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED BY THE COLBERT COUNTY COMMISSION, the governing body of Colbert County, Alabama, (the "Commission") as follows:

Section 1. That certain resolution and order heretofore adopted by the Commission on March 15, 1993 and further supplemented and amended on April 5, 1994, December 6, 1994, June 4, 1996, March 4, 2003, June 25, 2013, June 4, 2019, and April 1, 2025, levying a special privilege, license and excise tax for public school purposes in Colbert County pursuant to Section 40-12-4 of the CODE OF ALABAMA 1975, as amended (herein called the "School Tax Resolution") is hereby ratified and amended and supplemented as hereinafter provided.

Section 2. The School Tax Resolution is hereby further amended and supplemented by adding thereto a new section designated Section 23 and reading and providing as follows:

"Section 23" (a) The Colbert County Commission, by resolution and order adopted pursuant to Section 40-12-4 of the CODE OF ALABAMA 1975, as amended (the "Enabling Law"), levied and provided for the assessment and collection of the special privilege license and excise tax as herein provided for public schools in Colbert County (the "Special School Tax"), the proceeds of which Special School Tax are required to be used exclusively for public school purposes and are required to be distributed to the Colbert County Board of Education (the "County Board"), the Muscle Shoals City Board of Education (the "Muscle Shoals Board"), the Tuscumbia City Board of Education (the "Tuscumbia Board") and the Sheffield City Board of Education (the "Sheffield Board"), on the same basis as funds received by the County from the Foundation Program Fund are distributed within the County."

(b) The portion of the Special School Tax distributable to the Sheffield Board (the "Sheffield Board's Share of the Special School Tax") is authorized to be utilized and appropriated by the Sheffield Board for public school purposes.

(c) It is necessary and desirable and the Sheffield Board is hereby authorized to issue and sell approximately \$15,000,000 principal amount of its Tax Anticipation School Warrants, Series 2026, to be dated the date of delivery (the "Warrants"), bearing interest at rates to be established by a private sale of the Warrants to The Frazer Lanier Company, Incorporated, payable on March 1 and September 1 in each year, beginning September 1, 2026, and maturing or subject to optional and/or mandatory redemption on March 1 in each of the years 2027 through 2056, said Warrants to be payable in part from the Sheffield Board's Share of the Special School Tax.

The proceeds of the Warrants shall be used to (1) construct capital improvements to the Board's public educational facilities, to consist of capital classroom construction improvements, renovations, and extensions, and (2) pay issuance expenses.

(d) Until such time as the entire principal of, premium, if any, and interest on the Warrants (and any obligations issued to refund the same, provided that such refunding obligations do not have a final maturity in excess of that of the Warrants) have been paid in full or provision for the payment thereof duly provided for, (1) Colbert County shall continue to levy and to provide for the assessment and collection of the Special School Tax at rates not less than those provided for in the School Tax Resolution, (ii) the proceeds of the Special School Tax shall be distributed immediately without condition, delay, or offset, as provided for in the School Tax Resolution and the Enabling Law, to the Tuscumbia Board, the County Board, the Muscle Shoals Board, and the Sheffield Board, and (iii) the Sheffield Board's Share of the Special School Tax shall be authorized to be used for public school purposes, including payment of the principal of, premium, if any, and interest on the Warrants. "

Section 3. The School Tax Resolution is hereby further amended and supplemented by adding thereto a new section designated Section 24 and reading and providing as follows:

"Section 24. The provisions of the School Tax Resolution as hereby amended and supplemented shall constitute a contract with the holders from time to time of the Warrants."

Section 4. The School Tax Resolution is hereby further amended and supplemented by adding thereto a new section designated Section 25 and reading and providing as follows:

“Section 25. The provisions of the School Tax Resolution, as amended and supplemented by this resolution, are in all respects ratified, approved, and confirmed.”

Section 5. This resolution and order shall become effective on the date of adoption hereof.

Section 6. Each and every provision of this resolution and order is hereby declared to be an independent provision and the holding of any provision hereof to be invalid for any reason shall not affect any other provision hereof.

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- 6. Approved at the recommendation of Commissioner Bailey for an appropriation to COARRM for the 2026 fiscal year, in the amount of \$2,500.00.
 - 7. Approved request by Alex Noles for payment of unused accrued annual leave in the amount of \$3,504.98.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A motion was made by Commissioner Bailey and seconded by Commissioner Mansell to approve application for ABC License transfer from Alen Enterprises Inc. d/b/a Alen Enterprises, 7060 Highway 72, Cherokee, AL., 35616 for 050-Retail Beer (Off Premises), and 070-Retail Wine (Off Premises).The Chair stated that the matter before the Commission was approval of said license and called for any discussion. There being no further discussion, Chairman Bendall asked the County Administrator to call the roll, and a roll call vote was had as follows:

District 1, Barnes	Yea
District 2, Mansell	Nay
District 3, Gardiner	Yea
District 4, Bailey	Yea
District 5, Bendall	Nay
District 6, Isom	Yea

The Chair announced that the motion to approve the license received four (4) votes in favor of approval and two (2) votes against and therefore was adopted. The Chair directed the County Administrator to notify the license applicant and the Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control of the Commission’s action.

REPORTS FROM STAFF

Chairman Bendall announced that the Commission would next 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: From the Sheriff’s Department, Tyler Johnson will begin work as a full-time Corrections Deputy effective February 1, 2026 at a beginning salary of \$33,974.83. Chris Hill will begin work as a full-time Certified Deputy effective February 1, 2026 at a beginning salary of \$38,380.32. Daniel Horn was terminated from his position as Corrections Deputy effective January 14, 2026. Alex Noles resigned his position with the Sheriff’s office effective January 16, 2026.

From the Household Garbage Department; Corbin Chaney was hired as a Household Garbage Helper, full-time effective January 13, 2026 at an hourly pay rate of \$14.74 hr.

County CFO:

Absent, No Report.

County Attorney:

No Report

E-911/EMA Director:

Director Jody Hitt reported on the possibility of a winter storm this weekend with predictions of ½ inch of ice being reported. Commissioner Bailey asked about warming centers availability and was informed by Director Hitt that 211 was compiling a comprehensive list which he would share upon completion.

County Engineer:

County Engineer Jeremy Robison made the following reports: The Road Department is preparing for the possibility of a winter storm. The department has a stockpile of salt and will be picking up an additional spreader this week. Mr. Robison is in communication with several contractors to assist in grading to remove snow, but he stated that grading does not work on ice. Robison is concerned of the potential for water line breaks which would have a huge negative impact on the smaller water systems such as Leighton and White Oak.

Chairman Bendall asked for an update on progress on the study being done by the Kelly Group to combine some of the water systems. Robison reported it was approximately 30% complete.

NEW BUSINESS

None

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

None

There being no further business to come before the Commission, upon motion made by Commissioner Mansell and duly seconded by Commissioner Gardiner, the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Bendall declared the meeting to be adjourned at 5:42p.m.

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 1

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 2

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 3

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 4

CHAIRMAN

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 6