

STATE OF ALABAMA)
COLBERT COUNTY)

Minutes of a Regular Meeting
of the
Colbert County Commission
3/17/2026

The Colbert County Commission met today in regular session at the Colbert County Courthouse. Chairman Isom called the work session to order at 5:03 p.m. with the regular meeting following at 5:33 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 Jimmy Gardiner offered the prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Isom 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 Isom announced that the business before the Commission was the approval of the consent agenda. Commissioner Mansell 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 Gardiner. Chairman Isom 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 March 3, 2026, meeting minutes and waived reading of same.

2. Approved March 17, 2026, bills as presented by County C F O.
3. Adopted the following Resolution approving a request by the Sheriff's Department to declare a 2015 Chevrolet Tahoe, VIN # 1GNSK2ECXFR666828 as surplus property and to and donate to Brick Hatton Volunteer Fire Department:

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2026-0018

A RESOLUTION DECLARING A 2015 CHEVROLET TAHOE AS SURPLUS PROPERTY

WHEREAS, the Colbert County Commission has been informed by the Colbert County Sheriff that certain property hereinafter described and previously used in performance of duties in the office of the Sheriff is no longer required for use by County personnel; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has determined that such property is surplus property and the County has no further use of such property due to the age and condition thereof, and it would be of no economic benefit for the County to retool or refit the property in order that it be able to be returned to service in the office of the Sheriff's Department.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COLBERT COUNTY COMMISSION that the following described property be declared surplus property and be disposed of by the Sheriff in a manner that will require no further expenditure by the County or expose the County to any liability in the further use of or operation of such property and the County Commission does hereby authorize the Sheriff to dispose of said property in such manner. The Sheriff is hereby authorized to donate this surplus property to the Brick Hatton Volunteer Fire Department. The Commission finds that the following constitutes surplus property:

Equipment Description	Equipment ID
2015 Chevrolet Tahoe	1GNSK2ECXFR666828

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4. Adopted the following resolution authorizing the expenditure of 287(g) funds for installation of graphics on patrol vehicles in the amount of \$2,388.00:

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2026-0019

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 graphics, logos, and striping on two (2) patrol cars at a cost of \$2,388.00; and

WHEREAS, the Commission recognizes that the presence of marked patrol vehicles contributes to enhanced public safety, and desires to approve the allocation of 287(g) funds for the installation of graphics to patrol vehicles.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Colbert County Commission, having deemed that the installation of graphics to patrol vehicles is a necessary, reasonable, and proportionate expenditure of the 287(g) funds, elects to allocate \$2,388.00 of the 287(g) funds for the installation of graphics, logos, and striping on two (2) patrol vehicles.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Colbert County Commission has caused this Resolution to be executed in its name and on its behalf by its Chair on the 17th day of March, 2026.

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5. Adopted the following Resolution for expenditure of 287(g) funds for purchase of hazmat safety equipment in the amount of \$1,517.80:

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2026-0020

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 purchase of Haz Mat Safety materials, inclusive of coveralls, boots, respirators to equip Sheriff's Department Personnel at cost of \$1,517.80; and

WHEREAS, the Commission recognizes the necessity of properly equipping Sheriff's Department Personnel to enhance public safety. Therefore, the Commission desires to approve the allocation of 287(g) funds for the purchase of Haz Mat Safety Equipment for use by Sheriff's Department Personnel.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Colbert County Commission, having deemed that the purchase of safety equipment is a necessary, reasonable, and proportionate expenditure of the 287(g) funds, elects to allocate \$1,517.80 of the 287(g) funds for purchase of Haz Mat Safety Equipment.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Colbert County Commission has caused this Resolution to be executed in its name and on its behalf by its Chair on the 17th day of March, 2026.

6. Approved request for payment of unused accrued annual leave by Brian Behel in the amount of \$1,141.70.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

REPORTS FROM STAFF

Chairman Isom 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: Kitty Sparks was promoted in the Road Department to Water Department Office Manager Step 1, effective March 1 with an hourly rate of \$20.54/hr. Jordan Shirley will be filling in as interim at the water treatment plant as superintendent during Larry Howard's absence, at an hourly rate of \$48.03. Janie Behel has been hired in the Revenue Commissioners Office as Appraiser Trainee - Real Estate Personal Property in the Appraisal Department effective March 23 with a starting rate at \$15.84/hr. grade 7. Darrin Fountain has been hired as a Full-Time Certified Deputy with the Sheriff's Department, effective March 16 with a beginning salary of \$39,147.93. Brian Behel tendered his resignation effective March 13, 2026, from the Sheriff's Department. Nicolas Looney has been terminated from the Sheriff's Department effective March 17 due to no call and no show at work. Christopher Wingard has been hired at the Household Garbage Department as Part-Time Litter Crew worker, effective March 13 with a starting pay of \$12.73/hr. Creekmore goes on to say that there is a tentative schedule for the groundbreaking of the new jail April 9, 2026, around 10 or 11:00 A.M. And finally, a notice of rate increase at the transfer station for the HHG Department was received. The rate is going from \$49.75/ton to \$51.90/ton.

County CFO:

Absent

County Attorney:

No Report

E-911/EMA Director:

No Report

County Engineer:

No Report

NEW BUSINESS

None

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Tommy Barnes asked Chief Engineer Jeremy Robison about the pavement reflectors. Robison responded that hopefully next month we will have them. Commissioner Barnes stated that he went out to Alsboro School for the CU360 event. Barnes asked if she had grant money to help with the facility and is it something we can spend some of the opioid money on? Administrator answered by saying, at this point in time I would say no. Barnes asked what are the uses? Creekmore responded that the auditors have verbally informed our CFO that opioid funds should be spent directly on traceable opioid treatment and prevention. Creekmore stated that there needs to be some clarification on it because obviously there is confusion on the part of Counties. There has been no guidance provided by the A.G. for acceptable expenditures.

Administrator Creekmore says that there is a bill in the Alabama Legislative now that addresses what the state can spend their opioid portion of the money on. If that bill passes, by the county being a subdivision of the state, perhaps it will give us the clarification that we are looking for on how we can spend the money. The current balance is roughly \$225,000.

Commissioner Tyrus Mansell stated that he is on plan 2026 and they have adopted the platform of Child advocacy. Mansell asks that at some point during the month of April, Child Advocacy Month, can we light the courthouse blue in support of Child Advocacy specifically and we would

like to support it on a local level along with some resolutions. We can maybe work with the CAC, Cramer Advocacy Center. There are 45 centers across the state of Alabama of the 67 counties. Initially we went to get the councilors in schools, politicians in our area, local delegations as well as the county commission, trained on awareness as to what to do if we were to see it.

Commissioner Tommy Barnes stated that MPO is going to get an update next week on the overpass design. Lately there has been a lot of blockages that obstruct people from getting to the hospital. The trains have been a problem. There was an article written that stated that it would be good if people knew when the tracks are blocked with an app or something. Bailey stated that it would be interesting to know how it worked out in Madison County.

Commissioner Bailey stated that there will be a fund raiser for Colbert Animal Services on the 23 of March. They want as many people to show up as possible and are looking for the elected officials to come.

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 1

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 2

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 3

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 4

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 5

CHARIMAN, DISTRICT 6