

STATE OF ALABAMA)
COLBERT COUNTY)

Minutes of a Regular Meeting
of the
Colbert County Commission
3/18/2025

The Colbert County Commission met today in regular session at the Colbert County Courthouse. Commissioner Bendall acting as Chairman called the work session to order at 5:03 p.m. with the regular meeting following at 5:45 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 except for Commissioner Bailey and Commissioner Gardiner who were absent. Commissioner Mansell offered the invocation 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

911 Board Member Beth Pirtle addressed the Commission and reported on 911 Board involvement in the new E911/EMA facility on the TVA Reservation. She indicated that she was hopeful that the facility would be operable at a target date of May 1, 2025. Ms. Pirtle thanked the Commission for its continued commitment to 911. Ms. Pirtle also called attention to the recent severe weather events; the Tornado in Tuscumbia and flooding and storms throughout the area. She praised EMA Director Jody Hitt for his dedication and handling of these situations.

911 Board Member Edna McPhearson also addressed the Commission, saying that she would echo Ms. Pirtle’s statements. She is looking forward to the move to the new facility and thanked the Commission for the purchase of and build-out of the new facility.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

None

PUBLIC HEARING

None

CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Bendall 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 Isom. 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 March 4th, 2025, meeting minutes as written and waived reading of same.

2. Approved payment of March 18, 2025, bills as presented by the Chief Financial Officer.
3. Approved purchase of advertisement in the Times Daily Explore the Shoals Magazine in the amount of \$1,685.00
4. Approved request to surplus Snapper Lawn Mower, Model 5900665, Serial # 2013169930 and sell on Gov. Deals and adopted the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2025-0020

A RESOLUTION TO DECLARE CERTAIN PROPERTY AS SURPLUS PROPERTY

WHEREAS, the Colbert County Commission has been informed that certain property hereinafter described and previously used in performance of duties in the office of the Commission 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 Commission.

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 Commission finds that the following constitutes surplus property:

Equipment Description	Equipment ID
Snapper Pro Zero Turn Mower	2013169930

5. Approved appointment of Mr. Kevin Jackson for a 3-year term, ending April 1, 2028, to the Northwest Alabama Airport Authority Board of Directors.
6. Approved the following Resolution for the Tuscumbia Board of Education for a bond issue in the amount of \$4,765,000.00, for capital improvements:

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2025-0021

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, and June 4, 2019, 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 20 and reading and providing as follows:

“Section 20” (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 Tuscumbia Board (the “Tuscumbia Board’s Share of the Special School Tax”) is authorized to be utilized and appropriated by the Tuscumbia Board for public school purposes.

(c) It is necessary and desirable and the Tuscumbia Board is hereby authorized to issue and sell approximately \$4,765,000 principal amount of its Tax Anticipation School Warrants, Series 2025, 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 February 1 and August 1 in each year, beginning August 1, 2025, and maturing or subject to optional and/or mandatory redemption on August 1 in each of the years 2032 through 2045, said Warrants to be payable in part from the Tuscumbia 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, (i) 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 Tuscumbia 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 21 and reading and providing as follows:

“Section 21. 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 22 and reading and providing as follows:

“Section 22. 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.

7. Approved final plat for Lakeridge Subdivision as presented by the County Engineer.
8. Approved request from County Engineer to renew the Liquid Asphalt Contract for a term of 12 months ending March 31, 2026 with Ergon Asphalt & Emulsion Inc.
9. Approved request from County Engineer to renew the Fuel Contracts for a term of 12 months ending March 31, 2026 with Tatum Oil Company.
10. Approved Franchise Agreement with Alabama Fiber Network.

11. Approved purchase of Full-Page Ad in the Colbert County Sports Hall of Fame 2025 Program in the amount of \$500.00.
12. Approved purchase of table for the NAACP Freedom Awards Breakfast Banquet in the amount of \$240.00.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

REPORTS FROM STAFF

Chairman Bendall 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: From the Probate Office; Regina Springer has been terminated as a probate employee, last working day, March 13, 2025; Keisha Adams has been hired, effective March 17, 2025 to the position of tag clerk, grade 4, a lateral move from the CCSD, salary at \$33,644.99 annually, and, Claudia Carrol will begin work as a tag clerk, effective March 31, 2025 at an annual rate of \$27,389.23.

From the Sheriff's office: Keisha Adams has resigned from the CCSD effective March 15, 2025. Amanda Boczar has been hired, effective March 14, 2025 as a Part-Time, APOST Certified Deputy, with an hourly pay rate of \$15.45 / hr., no benefits.

From the Household Garbage Department, Elijah Jones has resigned effective March 18, 2025

From the Commission Office, Sandra Wood has been hired on a Part-Time, as needed basis as a helper at the LaGrange Senior Center, pay rate \$9.27/hr.

County CFO:

CFO April Eaton informed the Commission that the RSVP program may have a temporary shortfall in revenue due to the re-alignment of programs in Washington D.C., deposits of Grant Monies could be delayed a month or longer. Ms. Eaton asked the Commission if operational funds could be loaned to RSVP to offset the revenue shortfall, then repaid when federal monies are received. All Commissioners concurred.

Ms. Eaton informed the Commission that Don Allen, who has collected the County Sales Tax for several years is retiring. Our options for his replacement will be either The Alabama Department of Revenue, or, a private entity such as Avenue. Ms. Eaton and the County Administrator are investigating the options and will have a determination by the April 1, 2025 Commission Meeting.

County Attorney:

No Report

E-911/EMA Director:

EMA Director Jody Hitt reported to the Commission that the past weekend has been eventful with the storms and the Tuscumbia warehouse fire. There were 145 calls to 911 in a 30-minute timeframe. Director Hitt also reported on the Storm Siren notification system. All sirens were tested no Friday and with the exception of the Lagrange and Barton locations, which were blown down in a previous storm, all sirens were operable. He also reported that replacement sirens for both Lagrange and Barton have been acquired from Marshall County, and are being serviced at the Radio Shop and will be installed as soon as service is completed.

Hitt also discussed the age and condition of the entire siren network, and stated that approximately 10 of the units are over 20 years in age and that the siren communication system is of the same age and needs upgraded with some redundancies built in. He stated he is working with the County Administrator to identify and secure funding for replacements and upgrades.

County Engineer:

County Engineer Robison reported that there was a tremendous amount for rain over the weekend, resulting in the closure of 3 – 4 roads with lots of wash-outs and damage to shoulders and culverts. His department with cooperation of EMA are assessing the damage to determine if any money will be available if the threshold is met under the State Disaster Declaration. He has been contacted by SEDA, who wants the signage updated at the Industrial Park.

Commissioner Barnes requested that the County Engineer look at replacement of the Center Line reflectors which were damaged during snow removal operations. Mr. Robison responded that this is the case with roads around the County, he and his Assistant Mr. King will begin work on the cost of replacement and repair.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Barnes stated that there will be a roadside trash clean-up from 9:00-Noon in the Ford City area on Saturday, March 22. KTSB trailer will be there. All volunteers are welcome.

In addition, he reported on his trip to D.C. and discussions with NACo. There will be bills in Congress to limit the liability of County Water services in dealing the PFAS. NACo also wants to work to speed up EPA approvals when dealing with grant applications.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the Chair recognized Commissioner Mansell, who made motion to adjourn. The motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Barnes. All commissioners voted in favor of adjournment, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:05: p.m.

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 1

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 2

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 3

CHAIRPERSON

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 5

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 6