

CULLMAN COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING
September 22, 2015

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Chairman Walker called the Commission Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

CALL OF ROLL TO ESTABLISH QUORUM

The County Clerk called the roll; present were Chairman Kenneth Walker, Commissioner Kerry Watson and County Attorney Heath Meherg. Commissioner Garry Marchman was absent. The invocation was given by J.L. Parker. Dusty Baker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 8, 2015 MEETING; APPROVE APPROPRIATIONS, EXPENDITURES, REQUISITIONS AND ALL JOURNAL ENTRIES TO BE POSTED.

Commissioner Watson made the motion to approve the minutes from the September 8, 2015 Commission Meeting; approve appropriations, expenditures, payroll, requisitions and all journal entries to be posted. Chairman Walker seconded the motion which passed on a unanimous voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Phyllis Little, EMA Director, announced their department will be distributing Emergency Preparedness Guides in preparation for the fall tornado season.

OLD BUSINESS

Consider approval of an Agreement with Breeze Group LLC for credit card processing for Cullman County Parks and Animal Shelter – tabled August 25, 2015

Gary Teichmiller, County Administrator, stated the Parks Department, Animal Shelter and the Accounting Department met with the Breeze Group for a demonstration of their processing software. After looking at several companies, he recommended going with Breeze Group for the credit card processing. Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the credit card processing agreement with Breeze Group LLC for the parks and the animal shelter. Chairman Walker seconded and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Public Hearing – CARTS Operations for FY-2016

Commissioner Watson made a motion to open the public hearing and the hearing was opened on a second by Chairman Walker. Joyce Echols, CARTS Director, stated CARTS was started in 1983 to provide transportation service to seniors and others meeting specific criteria. Two CARTS' patrons addressed the Commission. Kathy Olegney stated she suffered a stroke in 2004. As a widow, CARTS services have allowed her to continue to live independently. She reported the drivers are always cooperative and courteous. Pascal Nelson stated he has been riding the CARTS buses since 2003. They take him to the doctor, bank and grocery store which allows him to continue to live on his own. There were no other questions or comments. Commissioner Watson made a motion to close the public hearing. Chairman Walker seconded and the hearing was closed.

Consider the adoption of the FY 2016 Budget for Cullman County

Chairman Walker stated he and Commissioner Watson have met with the County Administrator and Commissioner Marchman has been sent a copy of the budget to make him aware of funding for FY-2016. Gary Teichmiller, County Administrator, stated the County Budget for 2016 is \$49.9 million with a \$19.6 million general fund budget. The budget includes a one step across the board merit raise for all employees and a 3% raise for contract employees and elected officials which will be reflected in the second paycheck in October. All other departmental cost and appropriations were kept at level funding. Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the budget as presented. Chairman Walker seconded and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Authorization of Issuance of \$8,320,000 Water Revenue Warrants, Series 2015, to refund the Series 2005 and Series 2007 Water Revenue Warrants of Cullman County, Alabama, and Approval of Financing Documents in connection therewith

Gary Teichmiller, County Administrator, stated the refinancing of the 2005 and 2007 water bonds will save the County Water Department about \$860,000 or 9% over the life of the warrants. Heyward Hosch of the law firm Maynard, Cooper & Gale, agreed with Mr. Teichmiller stating the refunding of the warrants will save the County almost \$900,000 and will not extend the 10 year maturity date of 2025. It will also allow flexibility for planning of future operations. Commissioner Watson made a motion to authorize the issuance of \$8,320,000 of Series 2015 Water Revenue Warrants and approve the signing of all documents. Chairman Walker seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Authorize the Chairman to sign a renewal contract with Optum for Stop Loss Employee Health Insurance

Gary Teichmiller, County Administrator, explained the County is self insured for employee health insurance, which is administered by Blue Cross. The catastrophic insurance policy reimburses the County for annual claims exceeding \$100,000 for a single individual's aggregate claims. This year's cost of \$403,474 is up from last year due to several large claims during 2015. Commissioner Watson made a motion to authorize the signing of a renewal contract with Optum for stop loss employee health insurance. Chairman Walker seconded the motion which passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Consider an agreement with the Cullman County Partnership for Children, Inc.

Heath Meherg, County Attorney, explained the County desires to sign an agreement with the Cullman County Partnership for Children for the oversight of the Juvenile Detention. The Partnership will in turn sub-contract the daily operations of the facility. The County will appropriate \$100,000 for the center. This should save the County about \$300,000 annually. Juvenile Detention personnel employed by the County will be placed in other position in the county where there are openings or will be terminated due to elimination of their position at the Juvenile Detention Center. This will become effective October 1, 2015. Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the agreement with the Cullman County Partnership of Children, Inc. Chairman Walker seconded. Upon a unanimous voice vote, the motion passed.

Consider approval of a Mediation Settlement with David Bussman former Water Department Manager

Heath Meherg, County Attorney, explained the former Water Department Manager, David Bussman, filed suit for breach of contract following his termination in 2011. The suit sought more than \$2 million in damages and attorney fees. The County counter-sued Mr. Bussman for conspiracy in the formation of a new county utility and for misuse of funds revolving around the establishment of the South Cumberland Cooperative District in 2010, where all assets of the Cullman County Water Department were transferred to the Cooperative. Earlier this year the County was granted summary judgment and all lawsuits were dismissed. However, Mr. Bussman appealed the Circuit Court's decision to the Alabama Supreme Court where both parties were ordered to appellate mediation. A settlement deadline was set for this week. Mr. Meherg stated the maximum the County will owe with the settlement proposal is \$28,000. Considering there would be a substantial cost of attorney's fees and time if the case were taken to trial, Commissioner Watson made a motion to settle the lawsuit for \$28,000. Chairman Walker seconded the motion which passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Consider acceptance of \$15,000 match from the City of Hanceville for the building of a Community Storm Shelter contingent of final cost

Cherrie Haney, Director of Economic Development, stated the City of Hanceville has agreed and has sent a letter of commitment for \$15,000 to go toward the matching funds for the construction of the community storm shelter to be located at the senior center in Hanceville. Commissioner Watson made a motion to accept the matching funds from the City of Hanceville for the building of the storm shelter. Chairman Walker seconded. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Consider a request for the closing of Big Bridge on the evening of October 3, for a memorial service

John Lang, County Engineer, stated the County has received a request for the closing of Big Bridge for a memorial service on the evening of October 3rd. Commissioner Watson stated there are safety concerns about closing the bridge at night and also that weekend is the BassFest fishing tournament at Smith Lake Park and there will be extra traffic in the area. He made a motion not to approve the closing of Big Bridge for a memorial service. Chairman Walker seconded and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Consider acceptance of County Road 67 and County Road 100 in Rocky Springs Subdivision, Phase 1 & 2, located in District 2.

Keith Creel, Engineering Assistant, stated the Engineering Department has inspected the roads and necessary repairs have been made. He recommended acceptance of the roads. Commissioner Watson made a motion to accept County Road 67 and County Road 100 into the county maintenance system. Chairman Walker seconded. Upon a unanimous voice vote, the motion carried.

Consider the surplus of 2008 Ford F-350 truck, VIN # 1FTWW31R18EC95714, from EMA to be sold to the Sheriff's Department

Phyllis Little, EMA Director, stated this vehicle was scheduled for replacement. The Sheriff's Department has offered to purchase the truck for the appraised value of NADA including the installed radio equipment. Commissioner Watson made a motion to surplus the 2008 Ford F-350 truck, VIN # 1FTWW31R18EC95714, from EMA and authorize the sale to the Sheriff's Department. Chairman Walker seconded and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Bid No. 1153 – Motor Oil – Stewart's Auto Parts - Extension One Year

John Lang, County Engineer, stated Joe Perry, Fleet Manager, has been pleased with the service provided by Stewart's and wants to extend the bid. Commissioner Watson made a motion to extend the bid with Stewart's Auto Parts for one (1) year. Chairman Walker seconded. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Bid No. 1200 – Computer Equipment – White River Services – 30 day extension

Joey Martin, Director of IT, stated the six month contract expires October 8. With the closeout of the fiscal year's requirements, they wish to extend the bid for one month to give time to review bid specifications. The current bid allows for a 30 day extension. Commissioner Watson made a motion to extend the computer equipment bid with White River Services for 30 days. Chairman Walker seconded. Upon a unanimous voice vote, the motion passed.

WORK SESSION

The Commission will hold a Work Session on Tuesday, October 13, 2015, at 8:30 a.m. in the commission conference room.

NEXT REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING OCTOBER 13, 2015

Chairman Walker announced the next commission meeting will be Tuesday, October 13, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. in the commission meeting room.

ADJOURN THE MEETING

Commissioner Watson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Walker seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 10:16 a.m.

/s/ _____
Kenneth Walker,
Chairman

/s/ _____
Kerry Watson,
Associate Commissioner

(ABSENT) _____
Garry Marchman,
Associate Commissioner