

**CULLMAN COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING**  
**May 23, 2017**

**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, Commissioner Garry Marchman, County Administrator Gary Teichmiller and County Attorney Chad Floyd. The invocation was given by John Freeman. Dusty Baker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 25, 2017 MEETING; APPROVE APPROPRIATIONS, EXPENDITURES, REQUISITIONS AND ALL JOURNAL ENTRIES TO BE POSTED**

Commissioner Marchman made the motion to approve the minutes from the April 25, 2017 Commission Meeting; approve appropriations, expenditures, payroll, requisitions and all journal entries to be posted. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion which passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Cherrie Haney from Economic Development announced the City/County Blood Drive will be June 9<sup>th</sup>. The County will have collections sites at the courthouse and Walmart on Olive St. and the City will be at Dick's Sporting Goods and Walmart on Hwy 157.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Consider and Abatement for Topre America Corp in the amount of \$21,236,691 for building and equipment**

Dale Greer from the City Economic Development Office, introduced Stanley Kennedy the new Existing Industry & Economic Development Manager for their office. Mr. Greer explained the \$21 million abatement for Topre will abate taxes over a ten year period amounting to approximately \$1 million. Education taxes are not abated which totals approximately \$600,000. Topre will be adding a 42,500 sq. ft. building and a hot stamp press which will create 54 new jobs with an average salary of \$52,000/year. They currently have 600 employees and have invested over \$400 million in Cullman County. Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the abatement for Topre America Corp in the amount of \$21,236,691 for building and equipment. Commissioner Marchman seconded and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Ratify the City of Hanceville's Abatement for Metrology South in the amount of \$370,000 for land, building and equipment**

Stanley Kennedy with City Economic Development explained the City of Hanceville passed the abatement for Metrology South at their meeting last week. The company, a machine tool and die operation, is moving the facility from Birmingham to Hanceville. They are a major supplier for Rehau, Topre and Yutaka. They have chosen Hanceville for their relocation due to their favorable relationship with WSCC and the graduates that are being supplied to the company from the college. Commissioner Marchman made a motion to ratify the City of Hanceville's abatement for Metrology South in the amount of \$370,000 for land, building and equipment. Commissioner Watson seconded. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Public Hearing – Vacating a portion County Road 1615**

Commissioner Watson made a motion to open the public hearing concerning the vacating of County Road 1615. Commissioner Marchman seconded.

Chad Floyd, County Attorney, explained the County received a request in February of this year from AGCOR Steel requesting consideration of the vacating of a portion of County Road 1615 in the Berlin community. The public hearing date has been advertising in the paper four consecutive weeks and posted in the courthouse. Mr. Floyd asked the County Engineer, John Lang, if he sees any significant problems with the County taking action to vacate the road. He said he has looked at the area and there are alternate roads available to the public so he does not see a problem.

Mr. Floyd stated he has not received any written opposition from utility companies. However, Randall Waldrep, Water Department Manager, has stated there is a 10" waterline that goes to the Holly Pond pump station to fill the Holly Pond water tank that would have to be relocated. The estimated cost would be \$350,000 to \$400,000 to move the line.

Zac Smith, owner of AGCOR Steel, addressed the Commission concerning the vacation request. The company has bought property on County Road 1615 to build a new facility. They manufacture metal buildings and supply about 70% of the metal used in chicken house construction in the State of Alabama. They pay about \$200,000 in taxes to the county and have 25 employees. The new facility will include a truss shop. The company's objective in the vacating of the road is to restrict access of large trucks entering the facility and minimizing truck traffic in a residential area.

There were approximately 20 attendees from the community opposed to the vacating. They presented a petition with approximately 300 signatures to the Commission of those opposing the road closure. Several members of the delegation addressed the Commission with different concerns.

Marie Sanford, who lives on County Road 1615, is a member of Mt. Carmel Church which is located on County Road 1615 and is manager of the community center located on that road, stated closing the road would cause major problems. Currently drivers use the community center's back driveway as a public road. The closing of the road would only exacerbate the problem and would result in the center closing the drive to the community. Also County Road 1615 is used by many elderly individuals who attend Mt. Carmel Church because it is a safer alternative than getting on Hwy 278.

Safety was the major concern expressed by many of those who spoke. The closure of the road would force residents to use other exits onto Hwy 278; roads that are very dangerous due to low visibility due to hills and obstructions in the area. Patrick Bates, trustee for the Berlin Community Center, stated the east end of County Road 1615 entering County Road 747 is very dangerous and feels the closure will make for a more dangerous intersection due to increase traffic. The point was also raised that County Road 1615 is used a bypass to keep traffic flowing when Hwy 278 is shut down due to a wreck.

Jeff Harper, Cullman County Schools Transportation Director, also expressed issues over safety because the closing of the road would force buses to travel Hwy 278, where intersections and road conditions are more dangerous. He stated, "The shortest distance between two points isn't always the safest."

Mr. Smith addressed the public hearing again stating the company has considered all possible outcomes and they feel the safest solution would be to close a section of the road. This would enable them to build their facility without having to build on both sides of the roadway with trucks going back and forth across the road numerous times daily. He wants to work with the community. He lives in the community along with many of his employees and they want to be good neighbors. Whatever the Commission decides to do, the company will work around it.

Commissioner Marchman stated he would like to go out and look at the area and see the concerns that have been brought up. Commissioner Watson made a motion to table any vote on the vacating of County Road 1615 until the next meeting on June 13, 2017 to give more time for investigation and consideration and to close today's public hearing. Commissioner Marchman seconded the motion and action was tabled until the next meeting on a unanimous voice vote.

#### **Public Hearing - CARTS Operations for FY-2018**

Commissioner Watson made a motion to open the public hearing which was seconded by Commissioner Marchman. Joyce Echols, CARTS Director, reported on the 2017 operations of CARTS. Without CARTS transportation, many older and disable residents of the county would be unable to get to doctor's appointments or to the grocery store. The budget for next year is level and there are no plans to increase rider fares. There were no other public comments or questions. Commissioner Watson made a motion to close the public hearing and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Marchman.

#### **Resolution 2017-25 – Authorize Local Matching Funds for CARTS for FY-2018**

Ms. Echols explained the CARTS operations budget for FY-2018 is \$815,300 with federal and county funding of \$365,385 each and the remaining funds coming for the fare box and contract revenue. The administrative budget totals \$634,200 and is an 80/20 funding from Section 5311 grant of \$507,360 and the County match of \$126,840. The capital budget for FY-2018 is \$540,000 of which \$416,000 is Section 5311 funds and \$124,000 coming for the CARTS escrow account. Plans are to buy six new buses next year. Commissioner Marchman questioned why the CARTS budget was being approved in May instead of October. County Administrator Gary Teichmiller explained the CARTS budget is due to ALDOT by the first of June because they must set the overall transportation budget for FY-2018 before October 1. However, if the County's funding should decrease for some reason, ALDOT can be notified. This would result in the federal portion of the funding coming to the County to be lowered. Commissioner Watson made a motion authorizing the local matching funds for the CARTS operation for FY-2018. Commissioner Marchman seconded and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

#### **Resolution 2017-26 – Authorize submission of application for CARTS administration, operation, capital federal funding for FY-2018 with ALDOT**

Ms. Echols explained the resolution gives authorization to submit paperwork for next year's funding for CARTS. Commissioner Marchman made a motion to approve the resolution authorizing submission of application for CARTS administration, operation, capital federal funding for FY-2018 with ALDOT. Commissioner Watson seconded. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

#### **Authorize the Chairman to sign the Approval of the Issuance of Tax-Exempt Note on behalf of the Health Care Authority of Cullman County**

Chad Floyd, County Attorney, explained the County has been contacted by the Health Care Authority concerning a bond issue for Cullman Regional Medical Center (CRMC) for the addition of the fifth floor of the hospital and the new urgent care center. To satisfy the requirements of the bond issue, the governing body having jurisdiction over the area in which the facility is located must approve the issuance of the bond. The County will in no way be responsible or liable for any phase of the issue. Commissioner Watson made a motion to authorize the Chairman to sign the Approval of the Issuance of Tax-Exempt Note on behalf of the Health Care Authority of Cullman County. Commissioner Marchman seconded and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

#### **Resolution 2017-27 - Exemption of County Sales and Use Tax for the Third Weekend in July for Purchase of School Supplies as Authorized By Act No. 2017-120**

Chad Floyd, County Attorney, explained for a number of years there has been a tax free holiday on the purchase of school supplies the first full weekend in August in which the County has participated. This legislative session, a new bill was passed moving the date to the third weekend in July. The County is required to pass a new resolution in order to continue to participate. The County will continue to participate in the program annually unless the State is notified otherwise. Commissioner Marchman made a motion to approve the resolution to be sent to the State Department of Revenue for the County's participation in the exemption of County Sales and Use Tax for the third weekend in July for purchase of school supplies as authorized by Act No. 2017-120. Commissioner Watson seconded. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Resolution 2017-28 – Authorizing Chairman to Enter Contract with Reed Contracting Services, Inc. for Resurfacing County Road 1568**

John Lang, County Engineer, explained the paving project, funded through a CDBG grant, is for the resurfacing of County Road 1568 (Welcome Road) from Fairview to the Baileyton town limits. Commissioner Watson made a motion to authorize the Chairman to enter into a contract the Reed Contracting Services, Inc. for the resurfacing of County Road 1568. Commissioner Marchman seconded the motion which passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider a bond release request from Drummond Company, Inc.**

Chad Floyd, County Attorney, stated the County has received a letter from Drummond Company concerning the release of a performance bond for mining reclamation. The Surface Mining Commission will be the determiner if reclamation has been successfully completed and give authorization for the bond release. Cullman County has no fundamental interest in release. Commissioner Marchman made a motion to approve the request. Commissioner Watson seconded. Upon a unanimous voice vote, the motion passed.

**Consider authorizing a one (1) year contract with Ameritek for Managed Print Services for the Revenue Office**

Barry Willingham, Revenue Commissioner, stated the proposal from Ameritek Print Services is slightly less per copy than their current provider but will save the department about \$2,400 annually. The company will provide ink cartridges, drums, toner and other supplies. The company is in the North Alabama Cooperative. Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the signing of a one (1) year contact with Ameritek for managed print services for the Revenue Office. Commissioner Marchman seconded and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Chairman Walker to appoint Tim Culpepper to the Healthcare Authority of Cullman for a six (6) year term expiring 6-30-2023, replacing Todd McLeroy**

Commissioner Watson made a motion to appoint Tim Culpepper to the Healthcare Authority of Cullman for a six (6) year term expiring 6-30-2023, replacing Todd McLeroy. Commissioner Marchman seconded. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Commissioner Watson to appoint Beth Anderson to the Healthcare Authority of Cullman for a six (6) year term expiring 6-30-2023, replacing Judy Butler**

Commissioner Watson made a motion to appoint Beth Anderson to the Healthcare Authority of Cullman for a six (6) year term expiring 6-30-2023, replacing Judy Butler. Commissioner Marchman seconded and the motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

**Commissioner Marchman to reappoint Roger Humphreys to the Healthcare Authority of Cullman for a six (6) year term expiring 6-30-2023**

Commissioner Marchman made a motion to reappoint Roger Humphreys to the Healthcare Authority of Cullman for a six (6) year term expiring 6-30-2023. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion which passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider proposed plat for Hawk's Nest - Phase 2 Subdivision, located in District 2 off County Road 184**

Keith Creel, Engineering Assistant, stated the first phase of Hawk's Nest was approved in 2016 and the builder installed a private maintained road into the subdivision, County Road 2026. Phase 2 will contain eleven lots off this private road. Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the plat for Hawk's Nest, Phase 2 Subdivision, located in District 2 off County Road 184. Commissioner Marchman seconded the motion which passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Resolution 2017-29 - Changing Speed Limit on County Road 747 from Double Bridges to Welti to 45 MPH**

John Lang, County Engineer, reported there have been some complaints about the posted 40 MPH, including the school bus drivers. Bus drivers are required to drive five miles below the posted speed limit. As a result, traffic backs up and drivers are taking risk trying to pass the buses. Mr. Lang has evaluated the section of road and feel raising the speed limit to 45 MPH will not affect the federal aid design. Commissioner Marchman made a motion to raise the speed limit on County Road 747 from double bridges to Welti to 45 MPH. Commissioner Watson seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider surplus of the following vehicles from the Road Department to be sold on GovDeals:**

1991 Ford F350 Truck	VIN# 1FDHF37M8MNB13176
2009 International w/Durapatcher	VIN# 3HTMMAAR79N042522
1994 AM General Hummer	VIN# 152702
1994 AM General Hummer	VIN# 156732
1993 AM General Hummer	VIN# 138736

Joe Perry, Fleet Manager, stated the vehicles to be surplus have been replaced or are vehicles the County no longer has a use for. Commissioner Watson made a motion to surplus the listed vehicles and list them on GovDeals for disposal. Commissioner Marchman seconded. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Authorize payment to F&O Architects, LLC for preliminary design work for the renovations for the Commission on Aging facility - \$13,430.66**

Dusty Baker, Director of Commission on Aging, explained there are plans for the old Rescue Squad building to be renovated to accommodate office space for daily operations for the Commission on Aging. The City of Cullman requires architectural drawings for projects in the city. The bid opening will be June 1. Commissioner Marchman made a motion to approve the payment to F&O Architects, LLC for the preliminary design work for the Commission on Aging. Commissioner Watson seconded and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider authorization of travel expenses for CARTS training on June 6, 2017 in Detroit, Michigan**

Joyce Echols, CARTS Director, stated the Expo and Rodeo is being held in Detroit next month. Four driver and two administrative personnel will be attending. ALDOT is paying the majority of expense for the trip with the County's portion being about \$2,400. Two of the driver placed first in state competition and will be participating in the nationals in Michigan. Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the travel expenses for CARTS. Commissioner Marchman seconded. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider purchase of 2017 Dodge R1500 Crew Cab 4X4 from State Contract #T191L for CARTS - Total purchase price \$28,538 (Federal Funds - \$22,830 Local Match - \$5,708)**

Ms. Echols stated she has priced trucks at several local dealerships and the best price is off the State Contract. There is federal money available through ALDOT in the amount of \$22,830 with the County's match being \$5,708. Commissioner Marchman made a motion to approve the purchase of a 2017 Dodge R1500 Crew Cab 4X4 from State Contract #T191L for CARTS. Commissioner Watson seconded. Upon a unanimous voice vote, the motion carried.

**Consider Revenue Commissioner's request to purchase of one (1) or more 2016 Ford Explorer(s) off the State Bid List through Stivers Ford for the Reappraisal Department – Price \$25,787 each**

Barry Willingham, Revenue Commissioner, stated the Reappraisal Department has two vehicles which are over ten year old. It is in this year's budget to replace one of them. Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the purchase of a 2016 Ford Explorer off the State Bid List through Stivers Ford at a cost of \$25,787 for the Reappraisal Department. Commissioner Marchman seconded the motion which passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider purchase for 2012 Chevrolet Equinox from State Surplus for the IT Department - \$12,900**

The IT Department hired an additional employee earlier this year and they are in need of another vehicle. They have found a used vehicle at the State Surplus in Eva which is suitable for the department. Commissioner Marchman made a motion to approve the purchase of a 2012 Chevrolet Equinox from State Surplus for the IT Department at a cost of \$12,900. Commissioner Watson seconded and the motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

**Bid No. 1260 – Tires**

Joe Perry, Fleet Manager, stated four bids were received for tires for all departments. After some discussion, Commissioner Watson made a motion to reject the tire bid and purchase tires off the State Bid List and to rebid for recap tires only. Recaps cannot be purchased off the State List. Commissioner Marchman seconded the motion which passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Bid No. 1261 – Print Advertising**

Attorney Floyd explained after the bids were sent out, the County discovered there was a problem with the way the bid specs were written making it difficult, if not impossible, to compare bids which were submitted. The best solution is to rebid with new bid specs. Commissioner Marchman made a motion to reject and rebid for print advertising. Commissioner Watson seconded and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**WORK SESSION**

The Commission will hold a Work Session on Tuesday, June 13, 2017 at 8:30 a.m. in the commission conference room.

**NEXT REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING JUNE 13, 2017**

Chairman Walker announced the next commission meeting will be Tuesday, June 13, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. in the commission meeting room.

**ADJOURN THE MEETING**

Commissioner Watson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Marchman seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

/s/  
Kenneth Walker,  
Chairman

/s/  
Kerry Watson,  
Associate Commissioner

/s/  
Garry Marchman,  
Associate Commissioner