

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION
ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA
April 7th, 2020**

The Etowah County Commission met in a virtual meeting in accordance with the CDC Guidelines regarding social distancing via virtual meetings and/or other alternatives. The meeting took place on April 7th, 2020 at 10:00am and was called to order by Commissioner Washington. Commissioner Statum led in the Prayer and the Pledge to the Flag.

The link for the meeting was published in The Gadsden Times and was also emailed to everyone that requests/receives the Agenda for the Commission Meetings. The meeting was recorded and the video of the meeting was posted on the Etowah County official website on April 7th, 2020.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS: The public had the ability to type in questions to the meeting host and there were no questions asked at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS AND OTHERS: None.

CALL OF ROLL TO ESTABLISH A QUORUM: The roll was called to establish a quorum. The following 6 out of 6 Commission members answered to their names and accordingly and quorum was present:

District 1 – Joey Statum	District 4 – Tim Ramsey
District 2 – Johnny Grant	District 5 – Jeffery Washington
District 3 – Larry V. Payne	District 6 – Craig Inzer

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS: None.

CONSENT AGENDA: Upon motion of Commissioner Statum, seconded by Commissioner Inzer, with all other members present voting “yes”, the following resolution was passed and adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION: That the following items on the Consent Agenda were approved as presented:

CONSENT AGENDA: All items designated as “Consent” are considered to be routine and non-controversial and will be approved by one motion. No separate discussion of these items will be permitted unless a Commissioner so requests. If so, such item(s) will revert to New Business.

- A. That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting dated March 17th, 2020, of the Etowah County Commission be, and the same are hereby approved as written.
- B. The Proposed Agenda for April 7th, 2020.
- C. Reported Financial Transactions. Copies of the Online Transfers and Cash Disbursements for March 2020 have been filed in Attachment Book 11, Page 001.
- D. To place the name of Marques Deloatch, in the Sheriff’s Office job slot of Detention Deputy effective April 6th, 2020. This is a replacement to be paid from the ICE Fund, at an hourly rate of \$12.60.
- E. To place the name of Tahj Taylor, in the Sheriff’s Office job slot of Detention Deputy effective March 30th, 2020. This is a replacement to be paid from the Jail Fund, at an hourly rate of \$12.60.
- F. To approve the request of Melissa Lett, Purchasing Accountant, to award Bid No. FY 2019-2020-13 Misc. Tax Forms – Revenue Commission to American Solutions for Business, the only bidder. This has been reviewed and recommended by Linda Barrett-Vaughn (Revenue Commissioner).

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 7th DAY OF APRIL, 2020.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Upon motion of Commissioner Statum, seconded by Commissioner Inzer, with all other members voting “yes”, the following resolution was adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION: That the following item was approved:

To approve the Agreement with Delta Computer Systems, Inc., for Instrument Indexing Hosted On-line for the Probate Office through their Harris Recording Solutions-Delta Division, including the license fee and monthly support and to authorize the CAO to execute the Document. A copy of this document has been filed in Attachment Book 11, Page 002.

Scott Hassell, Judge of Probate, discussed what an exciting time it was while working to get the infrastructure on the technological side of the Probate Office better to make public records available electronically and to provide

online services regarding the Probate Records. The indexing is free and the public will be charged a fee to view/print a document. The Probate Office also has a 'secure box' at the 9th Street entrance for the public to place documents to be recorded. SIMPLIFILE LLC., will be the company that will record the documents electronically so the public can access them. Judge Hassell thanked the Commissioners, Kevin Dollar, and Shane Ellison for expediting this system.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 7th DAY OF APRIL, 2020.

Upon motion of Commissioner Payne, seconded by Commissioner Ramsey, with all other members voting "yes", the following resolution was adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION: That the following item was approved:

To approve the Electronic Recording Procedures document with the government recording office of the Etowah County commission and SIMPLIFILE, LLC., (an e-recording vendor) and to authorize the Deputy Administrator/CFO to execute the document. A copy of this agreement has been filed in Attachment Book 11, Page 003.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 7th DAY OF APRIL, 2020.

Upon motion of Commissioner Inzer, seconded by Commissioner Ramsey, with all other members voting "yes", the following resolution was adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION: That the following item was approved:

To approve the Fiscal Year 2020 Certifications and Assurances for Federal Transit Administration Assistance and to authorize the Commission President to execute the document. A copy of this document has been filed in Attachment Book 11, Page 004.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 7th DAY OF APRIL, 2020.

Upon motion of Commissioner Inzer, seconded by Commissioner Ramsey, with all other members voting "yes", the following resolution was adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION: That the following item was approved:

To approve the 'Supplemental Agreement No. 1 between Etowah County Commission and the State of Alabama Relative to a Pass Through of Federal Funds for a Rural Area Public Transportation Project for Etowah County' for Fiscal Years 2018 – 2022, and to authorize the Commission President to execute the document. A copy has been filed in Attachment Book 11, Page 005.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 7th DAY OF APRIL, 2020.

Upon motion of Commissioner Inzer, seconded by Commissioner Grant, with all other members voting "yes", the following resolution was adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION: That the following item was approved:

To approve the request of the CAO to waive the \$2.00 mail fee in the Revenue Department until the State of Emergency declared by Governor Kay Ivey due to COVID-19 Pandemic has been lifted and the Etowah County Courthouse is open to the public. The closing of the Courthouse to the Public is for the safety and security of the employees as well as the public and this is an effort to encourage business from home.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 7th DAY OF APRIL, 2020.

Upon motion of Commissioner Ramsey, seconded by Commissioner Grant, with all other members voting "yes", the following resolution was adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION: That the following item was approved:

To approve the application for the '2020 Coronavirus Emergency Funding Program' to purchase needed items for the Sheriff's Office and the District Attorney's Office in order to video conference and conduct business with the restrictions due to the Coronavirus guidelines and to authorize the CAO to execute all documents.

There was some discussion about this item for clarification and the needed items are mostly computer items for both departments and a fogger for the Sheriff's Office to be used in the Jail. It is portable and can be used in other areas as needed but the Jail is a priority in order to keep the Coronavirus out of the Detention Center, plus the chemicals are limited. The County is expecting to receive about \$58,000 and Commissioner Ramsey just wanted to be sure the County gets the full benefit of the grant.

During the discussion, Sheriff Horton also said they were 9 people short of full staff mostly down on patrol and investigation. They have 2 quarantined due to potential exposure. He complimented the EMA/E911 and said he couldn't say enough about the job their staff are doing. The numbers in the jail have dropped due to some of the procedures as a result of the coronavirus but there are currently approximately 609 inmates in the jail.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 7th DAY OF APRIL, 2020.

Upon motion of Commissioner Inzer, seconded by Commissioner Statum, with all other members voting "yes", the following resolution was adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION: That the following item was approved:

To approve the "Emergency – Suspension of Policy Resolution" and to authorize the Commission President to execute the document. A copy of this document has been filed in Attachment Book 11, Page 006.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 7th DAY OF APRIL, 2020.

REPORTS FROM THE STAFF:

Chief Administrative Officer: No Report.

County Engineer: No Report.

County Attorney: No Report.

Other: No Report.

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

DISCUSSION BY COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Ramsey thanked everyone for participating and thanked Judge Hassell for putting the virtual meeting together.

Commissioner Grant thanked everyone and said he hoped we never have to go through anything like this again. He thanked the public for the great response.

Commissioner Payne said it was a good day for the county and glad all of the documents were available on-line. He said we had a great talent of people working for us in the county.

Commissioner Inzer thanked Judge Hassell for his help with the meeting and all he has been doing. He said some had wanted the documents in Probate to be available online for a long time and he was glad the Judge was able to get it set up. He discussed the COVID -19 virus and encouraged everyone to stay safe and keep informed. He hoped the first responders would be able to be made aware of the potential cases when they are on calls to keep them prepared. He said he knew the hospitals were doing all they could and encouraged everyone to support local businesses whenever possible. 'We have about 24 more days of sheltering at home' and he hoped everyone was just using common sense. He thanked the deputies and the front line people and he said he appreciated the work Kevin (and others) had put into maintaining the A+ rating.

Commissioner Ramsey said he liked to see people support local businesses and for everyone to stay safe and be diligent. He said everyone should think of it as if they have it and don't want to give it to others. It is expected to get worse in the next 2 weeks so everyone should take extra precaution. He thanked everyone for getting the grant together and Kevin for the A+ rating. He said we needed to do all we can to help the hospital and first responders.

Commissioner Statum said everyone should continue to keep up with the legislators and they were having a webinar over the next 2 days with the Representatives this afternoon and the Senator tomorrow. He also warned everyone about the Scam Alerts that were being sent out because a lot of people are trying to take advantage of the current conditions. He thanked the EMA and the First Responders. He said it was frustrating when people were not taking all precaution possible but if any of the staff felt they were in danger, they should take personal time or vacation. They should all be safe and he thanked the Commissioners and employees for what they do. He thanked Kevin for the A+ rating, realizing it's a group effort, but a monumental task. He encouraged everyone to support local businesses and keep the economy moving. Also, 'Do the 2020 Census!' Get Counted!

Commissioner Washington said this was a very difficult time and he thanked the EMA and First Responders. He said he couldn't thank them enough and he also thanked the school systems. He thanked Scott Hassell for his help with the meeting today. He encouraged everyone in the county to maintain the 6 feet social distancing as recommended and to wear a mask to protect yourself and those around you. He encouraged everyone to support the local businesses. He thanked everyone for all they are doing and asked everyone to continue to pray.

ADJOURN: The Chair then entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Upon motion of Commissioner Statum, seconded by Commissioner Inzer, with all other members voting "yes", the motion was passed. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.

Joey Statum, Commissioner, District 1

Tim Ramsey, Commissioner, District 4

Johnny Grant, Commissioner, District 2

Jeffery Washington, President, Commissioner, District 5

Larry V. Payne, Commissioner, District 3

Craig Inzer, Jr., Commissioner, District 6