

**Cleburne County Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**Regular Commission Meeting January 11, 2022**  
**Cleburne County Mountain Center**

**Roll Call**

Present:

Chairman Ryan Robertson  
Commissioner Laura Cobb  
Commissioner Emmett Owen  
Commissioner Terry Hendrix  
Commissioner Roger Hill

Absent:

None

Add to Agenda – Human Trafficking Awareness

Motion made by Commissioner Emmett Owen, Seconded by Commissioner Laura Cobb

Add to Agenda – Settlement

Motion made by Commissioner Terry Hendrix, Seconded by Commissioner Emmett Owen

**Comments from Citizens**

**Karen Mills**

Ms. Mills has concerns about stray dogs in her area and says they are attacking other residents' pets. She asks the Commission if there is anything she can do to help prevent further issues.

*Commissioner Cobb states there is the Self - Limited Governance that would authorize the Commission to exercise certain health and safety powers in the unincorporated areas of the County if passed in the November election.*

**John Williamson**

Mr. Williamson expresses his concerns on the Timber Business Tax and roads getting damaged due to logging.

**Consent Agenda**

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The Commission passes the January 2022 Consent Agenda including:

Action as related to **Resolution #5208 1-6 January 2022** Consent Agenda:

Motion made by Commissioner Terry Hendrix, Seconded by Commissioner Laura Cobb

In Support: Commissioners Laura Cobb, Emmett Owen, Roger Hill, and Terry Hendrix

In Opposition: None

Motion Passed

**Resolution #5208-1**

The Cleburne County Commission hereby resolves to approve the minutes of:

December 14, 2021 & December 22, 2021

as presented.

**Resolution #5208-2**

The Cleburne County Commission recognizes the following board appointment statuses as of this meeting:

**Board Appointments:**

DHR Board- Sherri Baughn

**Vacancies:**

DHR Board

**Resolution #5208-3**

Whereas, "The Alabama Limited Self-Governance Act" (Ala. Code 11-3A-1 et seq.) authorizes the County Commission to exercise certain health and safety powers in the unincorporated areas of the county upon passage of a local referendum in which the qualified voters in the unincorporated areas of the county approved the exercise of these powers by the County Commission; and

Whereas, a local referendum may be called by the County Commission upon a resolution adopted by a majority of its members, with such referendum to be held in conjunction with a primary, general, or special election held for another purpose; and

Whereas, if the Limited Self-Governance Act is approved by a majority of the qualified electors in the unincorporated areas of the county at a local referendum on the question, the County Commission will be authorized to adopt ordinances on health and safety issues related to the abatement of weeds, the control of animals, the control of litter, the control of junkyards, and the abatement of noise nuisances, unsanitary sewage, or pollution set out above; and

Whereas, the Cleburne County Commission believes that it is in the best interests of the county that the County Commission be authorized to address some or all of the important health and safety issues set out in the Act; and

Whereas, the Cleburne County Commission desires to grant its citizens in the unincorporated areas of the county an opportunity to vote on whether to grant the County Commission the authority to address these health and safety concerns within the unincorporated areas of the county; and

Whereas, based upon the foregoing, the Cleburne County Commission has adopted this resolution calling for a local referendum on the issue by a majority of the County Commission.

Now Therefore, be it resolved by the Cleburne County Commission, that it does hereby call for a local referendum to be held on the question of whether the

health and safety powers authorized in Ala. Code 11-3A-1 et seq. shall be effective in Cleburne County, with such referendum to be held during the election on November 8, 2022.

Be it further resolved that copies of this resolution be immediately forwarded to the judge of probate and sheriff's office with instructions to include this local referendum on the ballot for the election to be held on November 8.

**Resolution #5208-4**

Whereas, Cleburne County Commission has previously agreed that the need for a County credit card has been established by Resolution #5190; and

Whereas, further advisement from the ACCA has indicated that the responsibility for the credit card shall be held by only the County Administrator.

Now Therefore be it resolved that a County Credit card is to be obtained for use by the County Administrator for approved expenditures.

**Resolution #5208-5**

Whereas, Cleburne County's Engineer, states that there will be six bridges that need to be inspected by Rope Inspection; and

Whereas, Cleburne County has a limit of \$10,000 per P.O. request; and

Whereas, the inspections, to be performed by Stringteg, will cost \$33,000.

Now Therefore, be it resolved that the Commission hereby agrees to allow a Purchase Order for \$33,000 for the inspections.

**Resolution #5208-6**

Whereas, Cleburne County's Engineer, previously received approval by the Commission to sell used motor graders in March; and

Whereas, the Engineer states that he also has other items to be sold, as follows: Gradall Wheel Excavator, Dura Patcher Trailer, Pull Behind Pneumatic Roller, and F350 (shell); and

Whereas, these items are capable of being sold at the best amount at the same sale.

Now Therefore, be it resolved that the Commission hereby agrees allow the sale of these items when the motor graders are sold.

**New Business:**

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**A. Red-Eye Bass**

Action as related to **Resolution #5209** Red-Eye Bass

Motion made by Commissioner Emmett Owen, Seconded by Commissioner Laura Cobb

In Support: Commissioners Laura Cobb, Emmett Owen, Roger Hill, and Terry Hendrix

In Opposition: None

Motion Passed

**Resolution #5209**

Whereas, Cleburne County is home of the Red Eye Bass, the fierce predator that is an indicator that streams are relatively pollution-free and have retained their wild character; and

Whereas, the Native Fish Coalition, along with several government and non-profit agencies, wish to promote, protect, and educate the public about these unique native species and the waters where they reside; and

Whereas, the Cleburne County Commission wishes to support those groups with this endeavor.

Now Therefore, be it resolved that the Cleburne County Commission supports this ongoing effort by agreeing to add their logo/mark on all signs erected and supports erecting signs at those public areas (within Cleburne County) deemed appropriate by the Probate Judge, with the understanding that no cost shall be incurred by the Commission.

**B. Chief Ladiga Trail Run**

Action as related to **Resolution #5210** Chief Ladiga Trail Run

Motion to table made by Commissioner Laura Cobb, Seconded by Commissioner Emmett Owen

In Support: Commissioners Laura Cobb, Emmett Owen, Roger Hill, and Terry Hendrix

In Opposition: None

**Resolution #5210**

Whereas, Cleburne County is home to a portion of the Chief Ladiga Rail Trail that it is a great source of ecotourism for the county with over a half million people utilizing the over 100 miles of it annually; and

Whereas, the Cleburne County Commission wishes to promote, protect and educate the public about this great outdoor resource; and

Whereas the Cleburne County Commission wishes to support those groups/organizations/events that promote this ecotourism resource.

Now Therefore, be it resolved that the Cleburne County Commission supports this ongoing effort by supporting the Chief Ladiga Run on May 20, 2022, agreeing to add their logo/trademark and other in-kind support as determined by the Probate Judge with the understanding that no donation or financial contribution shall be incurred by the Commission.

**C. Pay Raise/ Payroll Funding**

Action as related to **Resolution #5211** Pay Raise/ Payroll Funding

Motion made by Commissioner Laura Cobb, Seconded by Commissioner Emmett Owen

In Support: Commissioners Emmett Owen, Laura Cobb, Roger Hill, and Terry Hendrix

In Opposition:

Motion Passed

**Resolution #5211**

Whereas, Cleburne County received Simplified Sellers Use Tax (SSUT) monies, collected by the Alabama Department of Revenue; and

Whereas, Cleburne County has recently passed a resolution to increase Employee pay through a pay study plan; and

Whereas, the cost of the pay increase is a substantial burden on the County; and

Whereas, the burden of the pay increases/payroll will likely continue to be an issue in the future.

Now Therefore, be it resolved that Cleburne County will use the SSUT collected to supplement the cost of employee pay increases/payroll.

*Commissioner Cobb asks if it will only be used one time.*

*Commissioner Hendrix states it will be used all the time.*

**D. Well Property Availability**

Action as related to **Resolution #5212** Well Property Availability

Motion to table made by Commissioner Terry Hendrix, Seconded by Commissioner Emmett Owen

In Support: Commissioners Emmett Owen, Roger Hill, Laura Cobb, and Terry Hendrix

In Opposition: None

**Resolution #5212**

Whereas, PPM Consulting is performing ongoing work to clean up a previous fuel spill at the County Barn; and

Whereas, there were wells drilled to facilitate testing of ground water contamination; and

Whereas, some of the wells were on private property, close to the shop; and

Whereas, the County Commission is interested in the purchase of this property.

Now Therefore, be it resolved that the Commission is tasking Attorney Jason Odom to investigate the property for possible purchase, as it previously had a lien against it.

*Commissioner Cobb asks County Attorney Jason Odom about the research.*

County Attorney Jason Odom states the lien is already in place.

**E. Engineer Budget Modification**

Action as related to **Resolution #5213** Engineer Budget Modification

Motion to table made by Commissioner Terry Hendrix, Seconded by Commissioner Laura Cobb

In Support: Commissioners Emmett Owen, Roger Hill, Laura Cobb, and Terry Hendrix

In Opposition: None

*Commissioner Hendrix makes motion to amend the resolution to state that the area is CR 43 from CR 49 to Highway 46 (previous description was incorrect).*

*Commissioner Cobb seconds.*

*Amended motion passes.*

**Resolution# 5213**

Whereas, the County previously had carryover funds left in the General Fund at the end of fiscal year 2020; and

Whereas, the County Commission decided to allow the funds to be used for road surfacing projects on CR 533 and CR43 from CR 49 to Highway 46; and

Whereas, the funds were not used within fiscal year ending in September 2021.

Now Therefore, be it resolved that the Cleburne County Commission approves the modification of the County Engineer's budget for \$450,000 which will be used for the specific road projects approved by this resolution.

**Reports from staff:**

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- A. County Administrator Lisa Copeland has no updates.
- B. County Engineer Lee Estes has no updates
- C. County Attorney Jason Odom has no updates.

**Old Business:**

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There is no Old Business to attend to this meeting.

Action as related to **Resolution #5214**

Motion made by Commissioner Emmett Owen, Seconded by Commissioner Roger Hill

In Support: Commissioners Laura Cobb, Emmett Owen, and Terry Hendrix

In Opposition: None

Motion Passed

**Resolution #5214**

The meeting is adjourned.

Certified by:

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Ryan Robertson – Chairman

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Laura Cobb – District 1

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Emmett Owen – District 2

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Terry Hendrix – District 3

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Roger Hill – District 4