

**Cleburne County Commission Meeting Minutes  
Regular Commission Meeting January 21, 2025  
Cleburne County Mountain Center**

**Roll Call**

Present:

Commissioner Emmett Owen  
Commissioner Terry Hendrix  
Commissioner Laura Cobb  
Commissioner Mark Truett  
Chairman Lane Kilgore

Absent: None

**Comments from Citizens**

**Comments from Board Members or Officials**

**Consent Agenda**

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The Commission passes the January 2025 Consent Agenda Resolution# 5516 1-3, 5516 5-6. Resolution# 5516-4 has been moved to New Business Item D.

Action as related to **Resolution #5516 1-3, #5516 5-6** 2025 Consent Agenda:

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

In Support: Commissioners Laura Cobb, Emmet Owen, Mark Truett and Terry Hendrix

In Opposition: None

Motion Passed

**Resolution #5516-1**

The Cleburne County Commission hereby resolves to approve the minutes of December 16, 2024, as presented.

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**Resolution #5516-2**

January 21, 2025, Board Vacancies: None

**Resolution #5516-3**

Whereas, the Cleburne County Commission has asked to approve all purchase orders over \$15,000.

Therefore, the Cleburne County Commission hereby approves the following requests:

Cleburne County Engineer

Srinteg (Truss Inspections)	\$37,500.00
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**Resolution #5516-4**

Whereas, the Cleburne County Engineer requests the Cleburne County Commission to authorize surplus of equipment, as follows:

TOTAL STATION SURVEY EQUIPMENT MODEL# CL0171, Asset ID# 1081, Serial# GTS-303

1997 FORD F700 F-SERIES, Asset ID# 1975, VIN# 1FDYL90E0VVA10446

RJ350 BROCE BROOM, Asset ID# 4467, Serial# BR89984

EQUIPMENT TRAILER, Asset ID# 4471, VIN# 16JF0192861042073

WD630 WOODS 10FT ROTARY CUTTER, Asset ID# 004308,Serial# 10007570267001

WD630 WOODS 10FT ROTARY CUTTER, Asset ID# 004309, Serial# 10007628960002

7x16 BLACK, SPARE MOUNT 7000# TRAILER, Asset ID# 4493, VIN#  
16V1W2025P3208310

Therefore, the Cleburne County Commission hereby authorizes the surplus of this equipment.

#### **Resolution #5516-5**

Whereas, the Department Heads have contacted the County's insurance company directly to remove inoperable vehicles from our insurance;

Whereas, there is a process in place that must be followed to remove the inoperable vehicles from County insurance policies, fixed assets systems, etc.;

Therefore, the Cleburne County Commission hereby requires that any inoperable vehicle be reported to the Administrator so that appropriate action can be taken.

#### **Resolution #5516-6**

Whereas, the Cleburne County Coroner requests a raise in pay to increase from \$1,000 per month to \$1,500 per month.

Whereas, other nearby counties have given raises to their Coroners;

Whereas, the Commission understands that an increase could only take place through Legislation;

Therefore, the Cleburne County Commission hereby tasks the County Administrator to gather information concerning a pay increase for the Coroner.

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## **New Business:**

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### **A. Economic Board Member Appointments**

#### A. Action as related to **Resolution #5517** Economic Board Member Appointments

Motion made by Commissioner Emmett Owen to remove the first paragraph and section C, Seconded by Commissioner Laura Cobb

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

In Opposition: None

Motion Carries as Amended

### **Resolution #5517**

Whereas, there is a need to establish an Economic Development Board;

Whereas, pursuant to 2023 Code of Alabama, Title 45, Chapter 15, Article 24, Part 4, Section 45-15-243.04,

(a) Section 1. Pursuant to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, there is created and established the Cleburne County Economic Development Authority, here to forth known as “the Authority”, on the first day of the first month following the effective date of this act. The Authority shall be composed of eleven (11) members who are residents and qualified electors of the county and shall be appointed as follows:

(1) The County Commissioners from Districts 3 and the Municipality of Edwardsville shall each appoint one member for an initial term of one (1) year.

- (2) The County Commissioner from District 2 & 4 and the Municipality of Ranburne shall each appoint one member for an initial term of two (2) years.
- (3) The County Commissioners from District 1 and the Chairman of the County Commissioner and the Municipalities of Heflin and Fruithurst shall each appoint one member for an initial term of three (3) years.
- (4) A consensus of the state legislative delegation for the county shall appoint two members for initial terms of four years.

Thereafter, successor members shall likewise be appointed for terms of four years. The Authority shall hold an organizational meeting within thirty days of the passage of this act at which the Authority shall elect a chair and vice chair by majority vote of the members present and voting at the meeting. Thereafter, the Authority shall meet at least quarterly or upon request of two-thirds of the members of the Authority and filed with the chair of the Authority stating a need for a special meeting. Members of the Authority shall serve without compensation, but they shall be entitled to reimbursement from funds of the Authority for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their actual duties.

(b)(1) The Authority may select a formal name for the council. The Authority shall have the authority to negotiate for the county on all industrial and economic development matters. The council shall formulate and implement plans to promote and foster the industrial development and economic growth of all areas of Cleburne County and any incorporated municipalities located within the county. The council shall be entitled to all of the powers, rights, privileges, exemptions, immunities, and authority provided by the general laws of Alabama to local industrial development authorities, including, but not limited to, abatement of taxes, issuance of bonds, acquisition, enlargement, improvement, replacement, ownership, leasing, selling, or disposing of properties to the end that the council may be able to promote the creation of jobs and develop commerce and trade within the county and the state.

(2) The headquarters office of the Authority shall be located in Cleburne County. At the first board meeting in January of each year, the board of directors, by a majority vote, shall elect a chair, vice chair, secretary, and treasurer who shall hold office until their successors have likewise been elected. The Authority may adopt bylaws to regulate and administer the day-to-day business of the Cleburne County Economic Development Authority.

(3) The Authority may employ such personnel as it deems necessary to carry out its duties and purposes. Personnel employed by the Authority may participate in the Employees' Retirement System of Alabama like other employees of the county and may purchase prior service credit in the Employees' Retirement System for service rendered to Cleburne County economic development under the applicable laws, rules, and regulations of the Employees' Retirement System.

Therefore, the Cleburne County Commission approves sending this resolution to the local Legislators.

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## **B. CR 81 Speed Limit Reduction**

Action as related to **Resolution #5518** CR 81 Speed Limit Reduction

Motion to table made by Commissioner Mark Truett, Seconded by Commissioner Laura Cobb

*The Commissioners have discussed doing research and speaking to the Judge who enforces the speed limit tickets before voting on this matter.*

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

In Opposition: None

Motion Tabled

### **Resolution #5518**

Whereas, Commissioner Mark Truett has expressed his concerns of the current speed limit on CR 81;

Whereas, CR 81 is a narrow road and reducing the speed limit to 35 mph may limit potential accidents from occurring;

Therefore, the Cleburne County Commission agrees to reduce the speed limit on CR 81 to 35 mph.

### **C. Secure Rural Schools**

Action as related to **Resolution #5519** Secure Rural Schools

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

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

In Opposition: None

Motion Carries

*Commissioner asks the Economic Developer to give a copy of this resolution to the Board of Education.*

## **Resolution #5519**

Whereas, the Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization Act would ensure that rural counties like Cleburne County continue to receive necessary funding for vital local services, including education, infrastructure, conservation, and public safety;

Whereas, enactment of a sustainable long-term program to share revenues generated from the management of designated federal lands with forest counties and schools will ensure that students receive essential education services and rural communities have critical funding for roads, conservation projects, search and rescue missions and fire prevention programs.

Whereas, barring a long-term solution, SRS will continue to be subject to the annual appropriations cycle and the expiration of SRS will create budgetary shortfalls for Cleburne County. In FY24 and FY25, Cleburne County received approximately \$176,000 each year.

Whereas, H.R. 5030, Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization Act, and its companion bill, S. 2581, was introduced in the House on July 27, 2023. S. 2581 passed the full Senate on November 14, 2024. The House is awaiting action at the House Agriculture Committee's Subcommittee on Forestry.

Therefore, the Cleburne County Commission approves sending a letter, to be signed by the County Chairman, to United States Representative Mike Rogers asking for his consideration of co-sponsoring H.R. 5030 and support for its final passage.

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### **D. Surplus - Engineer**

Action as related to **Resolution #5520** Surplus - Engineer

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



Motion made by Commissioner Terry Hendrix to amend resolution to remove the trailers. After discussion, Commissioner Terry Hendrix removes his motion to Amend.

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

In Opposition: None

Motion Carries

### **Resolution #5520**

Whereas, the Cleburne County Engineer requests the Cleburne County Commission to authorize surplus of equipment, as follows:

TOTAL STATION SURVEY EQUIPMENT MODEL# CL0171, Asset ID# 1081, Serial# GTS-303

1997 FORD F700 F-SERIES, Asset ID# 1975, VIN# 1FDYL90E0VVA10446

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7x16 BLACK, SPARE MOUNT 7000# TRAILER, Asset ID# 4493, VIN# 16V1W2025P3208310

Therefore, the Cleburne County Commission hereby authorizes the surplus of this equipment.

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## Reports from staff:

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- A. The County Administrator, Lisa Copeland states that the State Examiners will be here in February to do the FY22 Audit, she will let the Commissioners know the exact date when she has it. She states she is working on FY23 Financials now.

*Commissioner Laura Cobb asks she has given everything for FY23 to Melissa?*

*Lisa states Melissa is busy for the next few weeks, there is no timeframe just yet, but she and Tracy have been working on getting FY23 so it will give her time within the next few weeks to be able to give it to Melissa to start going through. She states she should have everything ready to give to the Auditors by the time they finish FY22 Audit, it just depends on her and Melissa's schedule.*

*Commissioner Terry Hendrix and Lisa discuss the Sheriff's Vehicle Maintenance Budget and the Vehicle Maintenance Contract. Commissioner Terry Hendrix asks Lisa to invite Sheriff Jon Daniel to the next work session.*

*Commissioner Emmett Owen asks Lisa to send them all a copy of the current Vehicle Maintenance Contract.*

*Lisa and the Commissioners discuss the AL Trust Fund money and what it can be used for.*

*Commissioner Mark Truett asks when should the Fire Departments know about the Fireworks tax money they are to receive?*

*Lisa states by the end of February will receive a check directly from Avenue for the Fireworks taxes collected for January.*

- B. The County Engineer, Lee Estes states that the Bridge Rope Access inspections will be in February. He states that he will receive 2 new dump trucks in February and will Surplus the old ones in March. He states that the Sign truck's transmission may be gone; he will come up with a plan for what to do.
- C. The County Attorney, Jason Odom does not have any updates.

**Old Business:**

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**A. Tree Brand Expansion**

Action as related to **Resolution #5507** Tree Brand Expansion

Dies for Lack of Motion

**Resolution #5507**

Whereas, Tree Brand has plans to expand their factory;

Whereas, a water tower is needed to provide additional fire suppression;

Whereas, the funding to build the water tower will come from a \$15,000 grant for Tourism will be applied as well as funds from ADECA;

Whereas, the deed will be in the name of the Cleburne County Commission and an agreement will need to be in place between the Commission and the Ranburne water authority for maintenance of the water tower;

Therefore, the Cleburne County Commission agrees to accept the deed for the new water tower and enter into an agreement with the Town of Ranburne Water Authority to assume maintenance of the water tower.

Whereas, the deed will be in the name of the Commission and an agreement will need to be in place between the Commission and the Ranburne water authority for maintenance of the water tower;

Therefore, the Cleburne County Commission agrees to accept the deed for the new water tower and enter into an agreement with the City of Ranburne Water Authority to assume maintenance of the water tower.

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**B. New Business Approval**

Action as related to **Resolution #5509** New Business Approval

Dies for Lack of Motion

### **Resolution #5509**

Whereas, in previous years it was established that all new landfill businesses must go through the Cleburne County Commission for approval;

Whereas, the former Cleburne County Landfill has been a topic of discussion for conducting business;

Therefore, the Cleburne County Commission agrees to continue to require all new businesses to go through the Commission to gain approval prior to conducting a landfill business.

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### **C. Road Department Controlled Spraying**

Action as related to **Resolution #5510** Road Department Controlled Spraying

Motion to Amend made by Commissioner Mark Truett, Seconded by Commissioner Laura Cobb

*Commissioner Terry Hendrix asks the County Engineer, Lee Estes what is the cost of the replacement chemical, and will it be as effective?*

*County Engineer, Lee Estes states the cost is double the price, but it is just as effective.*

In Support: Commissioners Emmett Owen, Mark Truett and Laura Cobb

In Opposition: Commissioner Terry Hendrix

Motion carries as Amended

**Resolution #5510**

Whereas, Commissioner Mark Truett has expressed concerns about the safety of spraying herbicides, specifically glyphosate, for weed control on right-of-ways;

Therefore, the Cleburne County Commission to exclude glyphosate from use on rights-of-way.

**Discussion Items from the Chairman and Commission:**

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Action as related to **Resolution #5521**

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

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

In Opposition: None

Motion Passed

Meeting Adjourned.

Certified by:

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Lane Kilgore – 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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Mark Truett – District 4