

**MINUTES, LIMESTONE COUNTY COMMISSION, JUNE 17, 2024,
WORK SESSION MEETING**

The Limestone County Commission reconvened the meeting from June 4, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. today at the Clinton Street Courthouse Annex, 100 South Clinton Street, Athens, Alabama.

Present: Daryl Sammet, Danny Barksdale, Derrick Gatlin, and LaDon Townsend. Absent: None. Collin Daly, Chairman presided.

Carissa Callan, Elizabeth Stewart, and Candy Smith addressed the Commission regarding the Athens-Limestone Public Library Board.

Items were discussed for today's meeting.

Commissioner Sammet stated his opposition to imposing a tax for the construction or operation of a privately owned zoo.

Attorney Drew Dill explained that the State of Alabama requires certain procedures such as a public hearing to be held every few years regarding the Solid Waste Management Plan.

Chairman Daly stated that Re-Build Alabama funds are being used for the work on Davis Hill Road and Audra Lane ("Lester Streets").

Chairman Daly stressed that that the Homeland Security Port Security Grant for a patrol boat for the Sheriff's Department is simply for application only and not for acceptance. Commissioner Sammet expressed that he was not in favor of applying for this grant and requested that this item be removed from the agenda. Commissioner Gatlin stated he discussed this grant with the Sheriff as well as EMA, and if the grant is awarded, the current boat would be sold and there are some things in place from TVA.

Upon discussion of the Utility Agreements, Commissioner Barksdale stated that this all started back in 2016 and informed the Commission that Athens Utilities is requesting \$138,000 to move utilities, Athens Gas is requesting \$136,000 to move gas lines, and Limestone County Water & Sewer Authority is requesting \$384,000 to move water and sewer lines out of the right-of-way. It was also noted that the agreements must be passed in accordance with the grant for the roundabout, but Commissioner Barksdale would like to review the fees requested by Limestone County Water & Sewer Authority. Hunter Daws advised that \$300,000 would be received from ALDOT for this project. Commissioner Barksdale said this demonstrates the need for rights-of-way permits to better plan for future projects such as this.

As to the L3Harris contract amendment, Attorney Dill reported that this amendment would allow payment for the radios/equipment already received from L3Harris. Once the radios/equipment have been installed by Motorola, then final payment to L3Harris can be made. These funds are ARPA funds and have already been appropriated.

Regarding the County Strategic Plan agenda item, Commissioner Barksdale stated, "As the governing body of Limestone County, urban planning is part of our responsibility."

Under "Personnel, Policies, & Staffing Actions", it was agreed to take up numbers 1 and 2 under one motion.

The District Attorney has previously inquired about receiving a portion of the opioid money, and Commissioner Daly commented that he would like to see this money used to help with treatment rather than prosecution. Commissioner Daly said that he would be happy to work with legislation to help the District Attorney with receiving extra funds due to the District Attorney being a State funded office. Commissioner Barksdale stated that it was his understanding that the State of Alabama has record revenues and asked the District Attorney who he goes to, to seek more funding. There was an extensive explanation given by the District Attorney.

There was additional discussion regarding the appointment of 2 members to a 5 member Athens-Limestone Public Library Board and bylaws.

Recessed at 9:42 a.m.