

**April 21, 2025**

At a scheduled meeting of the Walker County Commission held in their offices in the Walker County Courthouse Annex, Jasper, Alabama, at 9:30 a.m. on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of April 2025, Chairman Miller gave the welcome and called the meeting to order.

After Chairman Miller gave the invitation for comment from citizens and other elected officials, County Administrator Amy Frederickson called the roll and Commissioners present were John Dunagan, Jeff Burrough, Jim Borden, and Steven Aderholt.

Commissioner Burrough gave the invocation and Mr. Ed Howell led the pledge of allegiance.

**AWARDS AND PRESENTATION:**

Commissioner Borden read a Proclamation aloud proclaiming April, 2025 as Walker County Fair Housing Month (Copy of proclamation attached hereto).

Commissioner Burrough read a Proclamation aloud proclaiming the month of May, 2025 as Walker County Mental Health Month. (A photo session was held capturing the Commission presenting the Proclamation to April Knight and employees of Northwest Alabama Mental Health) (Copy of proclamation attached hereto)

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to Approve the Agenda; to Approve the Meeting Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 7, 2025 and the Emergency Meeting of April 11, 2025.

With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District One; Aye; District Two: Aye; District Three: Aye.; District Four: Aye.

Without opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

**REPORTS FROM STAFF:**

County Administrator Amy Frederickson greeted all in attendance, before stating, "the State Economic Interest forms will be due shortly. These forms are due April 30, either on or before. I have provided some packets at the back of the room for all county employees, public officials and supervisors that might qualify, as well as the applicable rules and definitions governing who should file. I'll be getting in touch with all department heads shortly, probably this afternoon. We have a list of expected filers. That's all I have."

County Engineer Glenn Peek stated, "We currently are working on some plans for more paving jobs and possibly some bridge work to be done. That's all I have at this time."

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- (1) Motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Dunagan to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Request to Retroactively Re-Appoint Mr. Arvil (Buddy) Uptain to the Boldo Water Authority Board of Directors. Mr. Uptain's Six-Year-Term will begin Retroactively on April 1, 2025 and Conclude March 31, 2031.

Motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Dunagan to Approve the Request to Retroactively Re-Appoint Mr. Arvil (Buddy) Uptain to the Boldo Water Authority Board of Directors. Mr. Uptain's Six-Year-Term will begin retroactively on April 1, 2025 and conclude March 31, 2031.

With no further discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District One: Aye; District Two: Aye; District Three: Aye; District Four: Aye.

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

- (2) Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of Discussion and Approval to Appoint Richard Fikes as Deputy Coroner.

After explanation by Chairman Miller and a brief statement from Mr. Fikes, motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to Approve to Appoint Richard Fikes as Deputy Coroner.

With no further discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District One: Aye; District Two: Aye; District Three: Aye; District Four: Aye.

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

- (3) Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to open discussion of Discussion and Approval to Purchase Walker County Jail Dental Equipment from Jasper Dental for \$10,000.

After explanation by County Administrator Amy Frederickson, input from Chairman Miller and much discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Dunagan to Approve to Purchase Walker County Jail Dental Equipment from Jasper Dental for \$10,000.

With no further discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District One: Aye; District Two: Aye; District Three: Aye; District Four: Aye.

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

- (4) Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of Discussion and Approval to Reclassify and Sell as Surplus a 2006 Lone Wolf Enclosed 28' Double-Axle Trailer (VIN#4P7U828216F019087) on GovDeals.com.

After explanation by Sheriff Nick Smith, motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Dunagan to approve to Reclassify and Sell as Surplus a 2006 Lone Wolf Enclosed 28' Double-Axle Trailer (VIN#4P7U828216F019087) on GovDeals.com.

With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District One: Aye; District Two: Aye; District Three: Aye; District Four: Aye.

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

- (5) Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to open discussion of Discussion and Approval to Authorize Chairman to Execute NAVY DOD Program 1-year Memorandum of Agreement for the Provision of Night Vision Goggles to the Sheriff's Department with Payment from Sheriff's Discretionary Fund.

After explanation by Sheriff Nick Smith, motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to Approve to Authorize Chairman to Execute NAVY DOD Program 1-year Memorandum of Agreement for the Provision of Night Vision Goggles to the Sheriff's Department with Payment from Sheriff's Discretionary Fund.

With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District One: Aye; District Two: Aye; District Three: Aye; District Four: Aye.

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

- (6) Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Discussion and Approval to Vacate a Portion of W.B. McCullar Road in District Two and to Schedule a Public Hearing on the Matter.

After explanation by Commissioner Burrough and input by County Engineer Glenn Peek, motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to approve to Vacate a Portion of W.B. McCullar Road in District Two after a Public Hearing is advertised and held on the matter.

With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District One: Aye; District Two: Aye; District Three: Aye; District Four: Aye.

With no opposition, the Chairman declared this motion carried.

- (7) Motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Three Seasonal (June & July) Full-Time Common Laborer Positions Under the Road & Bridge Department's Summer Work Program for High School Students.

After explanation by County Engineer Glenn Peek and much discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Borden to Approve the Request to Hire Three (3) Seasonal (June & July) Full-Time Common Laborer Positions Under the Road & Bridge Department's Summer Work Program for High School Students.

With no further discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District One: Aye; District Two: Aye; District Three: Aye; District Four: Aye.

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

- (8) Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Request to In-

Service Transfer Ms. Leandra Smith to the Full-Time Position of Probate Clerk within the Probate Office, Effective April 21, 2025.

After explanation by Probate Judge Lee Tucker, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve the Request to In-Service Transfer Ms. Leandra Smith to the Full-Time Position of Probate Clerk within the Probate Office, Effective April 21, 2025.

With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District One: Aye; District Two: Aye; District Three: Aye; District Four: Aye.

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

- (9) Motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Dunagan to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Request to In-Service Transfer, from the Eligible Register, Mr. Harlon F. Scott to the Full-Time Position of Journeyman Mechanic at District Four, Effective April 21, 2025.

Motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Dunagan to approve the Request to In-Service Transfer, from the Eligible Register, Mr. Harlon F. Scott to the Full-Time Position of Journeyman Mechanic at District Four, Effective April 21, 2025.

With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District One: Aye; District Two: Aye; District Three: Aye; District Four: Aye.

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

- (10) Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Request to Hire Ms. Andra L. Griffin as Part-Time Jailer, with Expected Start-Date of April 23, 2025.

After explanation by Sheriff Nick Smith, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve Request to Hire Ms. Andra L. Griffin as Part-Time Jailer, with Expected Start-Date of April 23, 2025.

With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District One: Aye; District Two: Aye; District Three: Aye; District Four: Aye.

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

- (11) Motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Request to Hire Mr. Paul E. Anderson and Mr. Daren Christopher O'Neill in the Part-Time Position of Deputy Sheriff for the Walker County Sheriff Office, with Expected Start-Date of April 23, 2025. Both Candidates are APOST Certified and in Good Standing.

After explanation by Sheriff Nick Smith, motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to approve the Request to Hire Mr. Paul Anderson and Mr. Daren Christopher O'Neill in the Part-Time Position of Deputy Sheriff for the Walker County Sheriff Office, with Expected Start-Date of April 23, 2025, subject to successful completion of the Walker County Civil Service Board drug-test and hiring paperwork. Both Candidates are APOST Certified and in Good Standing.



With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District One: Aye; District Two: Aye; District Three: Aye; District Four: Aye.

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

- (12) Motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Request to Hire Mr. Cameron Beavers as Full-Time Common Laborer for District One, with Expected Start-Date April 23, 2025.

After explanation of Commissioner Dunagan, motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve the Request to Hire Mr. Cameron Beavers as Full-Time Common Laborer for District One, with Expected Start-Date April 23, 2025; subject to successful completion of the Walker County Civil Service Board drug-test and hiring paperwork.

With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District One: Aye; District Two: Aye; District Three: Aye; District Four: Aye.

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:** None.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS:**

Commissioner Dunagan stated, "I thank everybody for coming out and showing interest in our county business. Thank you, Mr. Knight, for the work you're doing. I want to thank all the county employees, our volunteer fire departments, y'all don't get enough appreciation. We appreciate y'all. Again, we're going to be doing a lot of road work, patching with equipment, so if you see our trucks, please slow down."

Commissioner Burrough, "Chairman, if we can, I'd like to add an item to the agenda, 13, for a full-time common laborer in my district."

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Dunagan to add Item 13, but after a brief discussion, Commissioner Burrough amended his motion to add to the Agenda to Hire Mr. Caleb Sides as a Full-Time Common Laborer for District Two, which was seconded by Commissioner Dunagan.

With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District One: Aye; District Two; District Three: Aye; District Four; Aye; Chairman Miller, Aye.

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

- (13) Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open for discussion to Hire Mr. Caleb Sides as a Full-Time Common Laborer for District Two.

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve to Hire Mr. Caleb Sides as a Full-Time Common Laborer for District Two.

With no further discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District One: Aye; District Two: Aye; District Three: Aye; District Four: Aye.

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Commissioner Burrough continued: "I hope everybody had a wonderful day yesterday. It was such a pretty day for Easter for the family to be together and go to church. I know I had a good one and I hope everybody got all the food they could eat and they spend all the time with family as they can. And then the work we had, I'm sure every Commissioner is the same, we had those floods about two weeks ago. We've about caught up on most of the washouts and the bad areas and we'll be moving into probably some grass cutting and some road work that the Engineer Office is working on. So, we've got a lot of projects ready for the summer and we're planning on them on a daily basis. And I also want to thank David Knight for the work he's done, but I'm not going to thank him with his wife sitting in here and not thank her. But April and Poly Anne, I've met with you guys several times and I appreciate all the work that y'all do and I know that we've got some ongoing stuff. I have not been updated about the Legislative stuff that's been going on. I'm sure you guys know, but you know, looking forward to that time to reach out and see what we can do with our opioid settlement funds. Let's hope that that progresses on forward. I appreciate everybody for being here. Thank you."

Commissioner Borden thanked everyone for being here, he thanked all the county employees, public safety and first responders. He stated, "Again, I say every meeting, they do a great job, our Volunteer Fire Departments, especially. I hope everyone had a very good Easter."

Commissioner Aderholt thanked everybody for being here. He stated, "We're kind of a little bit off topic here, but because of the storms and the nature of the storms and the storm shelters that we've had going in the County over the years since April the 11<sup>th</sup>, the last set of storms kind of put everybody on alert. Again, we've been working on storm shelters for the Yerkwood Fire Department for a couple of years now and again, there's a lot of moving parts to these now, because the funding is not the same today as it was after the 2011 storms. So, we're trying to find money and moving different types of funding for these storm shelters. And again, a lot of communities now see a need for them and want them. It was brought to my attention about Yerkwood, but we also see a need for a second storm shelter in the town of Sipsey. Again, it's one of those situations where geographically my area seems to be a funnel for violent tornadoes. Again, this is the second time Sipsey has been hit in recent years, so I think the last set of storms, the shelter that they had was full to capacity. The fire chief actually stood in the doorway during the storm because there was standing room only. So, we have additional need for another storm shelter in Sipsey. And I've got three other phone calls, the Community of Empire is now wanting a storm shelter. Boldo now sees a need for a shelter. And the City of Sumiton also needs a shelter. So, again, I'm all for if we can put them on the ground, we will, but it comes down to a matter of funding and how. We plan on pursuing funding for all five of these locations. We need some storm shelters on the ground ASAP. Again, thank everybody for coming. Thank all the folks for what you do in helping to make our county a better place."

Chairman Miller stated, "At this time, we're going to ask Ms. Janet and the Sheriff and the Chief Deputy and bring that backpack forward where we can get a picture, if you don't mind."

Chairman Miller read aloud, "At this time the Walker County Commission and the Walker County Sheriff's Office would like to express our gratitude to Cawaco and State Representative Matt Wood for the Five Thousand Dollar grant which was provided for the tactical backpack entry tool kits to every Walker County School Resource Officer. Each kit contains a high-quality bolt cutter, sledge hammer and Halligan bar that are securely housed in custom backpack design for use in emergency situations. These kits are a testament to the County's continued effort to prioritize the safety of our most precious assets, our children." He asked Sheriff Nick Smith if he had any comment.

Sheriff Nick Smith thanked the Commission, Janet and Representative Wood for their help with the grant with Cawaco. He said this is something that benefits our SROs in the event if they ever had an active shooter or a barricaded suspect inside the school. This provides them the tools and the opportunity to be able to reach entry inside.

(Photos were taken).

Chairman Miller stated, "At this time, I'd entertain a motion to adjourn."

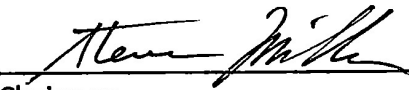
**ADJOURN:**

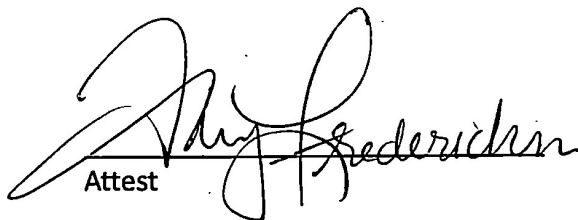
Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough that this meeting be adjourned to reconvene at the next regularly scheduled meeting or at the call of the Chairman.

With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District One: Aye; District Two: Aye; District Three: Aye; District Four: Aye.

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Read and Approved:

  
Chairman

  
Attest