

HENRY COUNTY COMMISSION
MARCH 24, 2026
10:00 A.M.

The Henry County Commission held its regular meeting on Tuesday, March 24, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. The following members were in attendance: Chairman Ray Marler and Commissioners Joe Falkner, John Ralph Saunders, Jason Hudspeth, Henry Grimsley and Jay Jones.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Invocation was given by Jay Jones.

Chairman Marler stated that we do have a quorum.

Public Comment from Citizens – None.

Consent Agenda

Chairman Marler requested a motion to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2026, regular commission meeting. Henry Grimsley moved to approve the minutes of February 24, 2026, regular commission meeting seconded by John Ralph Saunders. Vote was unanimous.

Chairman Marler requested permission to add additional agenda item. Joe Falkner motioned to add additional agenda item seconded by John Ralph Saunders. Vote was unanimous.

Chairman Marler requested a motion to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2026, special called commission meeting. Henry Grimsley moved to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2026, special called commission meeting seconded by Jason Hudspeth. Vote was unanimous.

Scheduled Public Hearing

Chairman Marler requested a motion to enter into a public hearing to vacate a portion of Lakeridge Drive. Jason Hudspeth moved to enter into a public hearing to vacate a portion of Lakeridge Drive seconded by Henry Grimsley. Vote was unanimous. Michael Shelley served as the spokesperson on the request to vacate a portion of Lakeridge Drive. With no future intent on completing the road it's in the best interest of the property owners to close the portion of the road. No one was present against the vacation. Derek Peterson stated that the petition had been signed by the property owners as well as the advertisement of the public hearing in The Abbeville Herald as required. Chairman Marler requested a motion to come out of the public hearing. Joe Falkner motioned to come out of the public hearing to vacate a portion of Lakeridge Drive seconded by John Ralph Saunders. Vote was unanimous.

New Business

Chairman Marler requested action to vacate a portion of Lakeridge Drive. Jason Hudspeth moved to vacate a portion of Lakeridge Drive seconded by John Ralph Saunders. Vote was unanimous.

Chairman Marler requested action on Longevity resolution with ACCA Liability Fund for calendar years 2027-2029. Henry Grimsley moved to approve Longevity resolution with ACCA Liability Fund for calendar years 2027-2029 seconded by Jason Hudspeth. Vote was unanimous.

Chairman Marler requested action to appoint Jarod Oates to the SEACAP board for a 3-year appointment. John Ralph Saunders moved to appoint Jarod Oates to the SEACAP board for a 3-year appointment seconded by Jay Jones. Vote was unanimous.

Chairman Marler requested action on change order #5 from JMR + H for Henry County Jail. Joe Falkner moved to approve change order #5 from JMR+ H for Henry County Jail seconded by John Ralph Saunders. Vote was unanimous.

Chairman Marler requested action on agreement of understanding with Henry County Board of Education regarding SEID grant funded through the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission. Jay Jones moved to approve agreement of understanding with Henry County Board of Education regarding SEID grant funded through the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission seconded by Henry Grimsley. Vote was unanimous.

Chairman Marler requested action to proclaim April 12-18, 2026, as Alabama Extension Week. Joe Falkner moved to proclaim April 12-18, 2026, as Alabama Extension Week seconded by John Ralph Saunders. Vote was unanimous.

Chairman Marler requested action to proclaim April 19-25, 2026, as National Library Week. Henry Grimsley moved to proclaim April 19-25, 2026, as National Library Week seconded by Jason Hudspeth. Vote was unanimous.

Chairman Marler requested action to proclaim April as Community College month. Jay Jones moved to proclaim April as Community College month seconded by Henry Grimsley. Vote was unanimous.

Chairman Marler requested action to award bid to Hewes Construction for courthouse renovation to be completed in phases. Henry Gimsley moved to award bid to Hewes Construction for courthouse renovation to be completed in phases seconded by Jay Jones. Vote was unanimous.

Chairman Marler requested action to adjust Probate transaction fee by \$3.00 to be paid to the general fund. Henry Grimsley moved to adjust Probate transaction fee by \$3.00 to be paid to the general fund seconded by Joe Falkner. Vote was unanimous.

Chairman Marler requested action to approve Granberry Crossing, a minor 2 lot subdivision located on CR 55 south of HWY 134. Joe Falkner moved to approve Granberry Crossing, a minor 2 lot subdivision located on CR 55 south of HWY 134 seconded by Jay Jones. Vote was unanimous.

Chairman Marler requested permission to sell surplus road department equipment on Gov Deals. Henry Grimsley moved to sell surplus road department equipment on Gov Deals seconded by John Ralph Saunders. Vote was unanimous.

Chairman Marler requested action to approve county funded resurfacing projects- Holiday Shores, CR 70, CR 248, CR 203, and CR 42. John Ralph Saunders moved to approve county funded resurfacing projects- Holiday Shores, CR 70, CR 248, CR 203, and CR 42 seconded by Henry Grimsley. Vote was unanimous.

Chairman Marler requested permission to bid county funded resurfacing projects - Holiday Shores, CR 70, CR 248, CR 203, and CR 42. Henry Grimsley moved to bid county funded resurfacing projects- Holiday Shores, CR 70, CR 248, CR 203, and CR 42 seconded by Jason Hudspeth. Vote was unanimous.

Chairman Marler requested permission to amend driveway permit installation agreement for Agriculture and Forestry installation. Joe Falkner moved to amend driveway permit installation agreement for Agriculture and Forestry installation seconded by John Ralph Saunders. Vote was unanimous.

Chairman Marler requested permission for letter of intent to purchase (4) Mack Dump Trucks from Gulf Coast Truck and Equipment during next budget year. Jay Jones moved to grant letter of intent to purchase (4) Mack Dump Trucks from Gulf Coast Truck and Equipment during next budget year seconded by Henry Grimsley. Vote was unanimous.

Old Business

None.

Reports from Staff

Chairman Marler – Thank you all so much for working together as a great team. We're a small county but we dream big. I wish we had the funding to handle all these projects, but we don't. We keep chipping away at them every year and we'll eventually get them taken care of. Thank you all.

County Administrator – none

County Engineer/Sanitation – See attached report.

Derek Peterson, County Attorney – On behalf of the legal community I appreciate your attention to the courthouse. The judicial fund will contribute to the renovations. The courthouse gets a lot of traffic, and these renovations are greatly needed. Thank you!

Economic Development Director – See attached report.

EMA/Maintenance –none

Safety – See attached report.

Sheriff – See attached report.

Discussion items by Commissioners

Joe Falkner - I was in D.C. last week and to be away from Henry County, Alabama and get back home it really makes you appreciate what we have. It's so good to see the public here today at the meeting. We are thankful to have the employees we have and the friendliness in our part of the world. Thank you all for what you do.

John Ralph Saunders – I agree with Joe, there's no place like living here in the Wiregrass. Thank you to the visitors that came regarding the road closure, our library personnel, Wallace College, and Jimmy

with the extension office, thank you all. Chad, I give you props on keeping us informed on the weather events. Thank you for letting us know where affected areas are. I appreciate everybody doing what you're doing.

Jason Hudspeth – Thank everybody for coming always. I'd like to commend my fellow Commissioners, The Commission, and especially the road department for all the hard work put into the resurfacing. I know it's election time and a lot of promises are being made with no knowledge of if they can even be kept. Item M on this agenda is a direct result of hard work, teamwork, and careful planning and budgeting over the last six years that I know of. We've been able to resurface every year since I've been a commissioner without raising taxes. We've done over \$2 million dollars in District 3 in my term without raising the community's taxes and to me that is great.

Henry Grimsley – It's good to see each and every one of you. I'd like to commend the Judge, Sheriff, and the Engineer for a job well done! Keep all the good work up. Have a great day and a great weekend. Happy Easter to all!!

Jay Jones – Thank you to our road department. When an E1 tornado comes through at 3:00 a.m. and it's cleaned up by lunch time that does not happen by accident. We have numerous things happen and our people always step up. What's also great about Henry County is the love we have, and this is home! Thank you all for coming.

On a motion by Henry Grimsley seconded by John Ralph Saunders and a unanimous vote, the Commission adjourned the meeting at 10:43 a.m.