

Town Board Meeting March 10, 2025

Supv. Crossen called the monthly meeting of the Alabama Town Board to order at 7:00 p.m. Roll Call was taken, Councilperson Klotzbach, Fisher, LaGrou and Supv. Crossen were present. Also present were Supt. Covell, Attorney Boylan, Mark Masse, Terry Thompson, Katie Rivers, Chad Klotzbach, Sharon Lindsley, Heather Shultz and Travis Warner.

Disc. on Ethics and Conflict of Interest

After disc. with the Town Attorney, Supv. Crossen informed the Board that Councilperson Klotzbach will be allowed to speak on STAMP.

Privilege of the Floor

Katie Rivers – question on Plug Power:

Have they paid their PILOT payments? Supv. Crossen answered yes, the Town has been paid.

Mark Masse answered that the County and School have been paid.

Lights are on all night with a security person, are they paying him? Who is in Charge? Disc. held.

Highway – Supt. Covell gave update:

Feb. 10th to March 2nd out everyday plowing.

35 LED lights installed so far.

Wifi and cameras installed with Rob's help. Will be working on cameras at Town Hall soon.

Estimate on salt barn to Soil & Water.

VanBortel has the new truck.

10 Wheeler build date is July, on schedule to get next year.

STAMP – Mark Masse gave update:

Water line from STAMP Dr. to Edwards starting soon.

Application to DEC for sewer line.

SEQR approved for Data Center.

Edwards permit fees – Disc. held. \$158,187.30 spent so far, \$560,442 balance. Working on a Road Use Agreement as required by Site Plan Application. Approx. \$150,000-\$200,000 needed for inspections. Will revisit refunding part of the fees to Edwards in April.

The next Company will to build in STAMP will get the Road Use Agreement up front.

Supt. Covell asked if utility companies should be required to do a Road Use Agreement. Disc. held.

Plug Power paid their Host Comm. and PILOT payments for 2025.

Emergency Services Study – Disc. on funding the study. Approx. \$57,000. Supv. Crossen wants to start it with the Data Center coming in. He has asked the EDC to loan the Town \$70,000 to get the study done. The Study will be funded by the Applicant. Mark Masse to get loan details for the April meeting.

Water District #2

The valve and vault replacement project will cost \$350,000. There is \$70,000.00 available in the Water Dist. 2 fund. Supv. Crossen suggests using \$50,000.00 towards the project. Disc. held. Will put on April agenda for a vote. A motion is needed to allow the project to start in April.

MOTION by Councilperson Fisher, seconded by Councilperson Fisher to allow the Town of Batavia to make changes as proposed and reviewed by the Town Engineer, on the Water District 2 valve replacement project. Approved by roll call vote:

C. Fisher – yes C. Klotzbach – yes C. LaGrou – yes Supv. Crossen – yes

Executive Session

MOTION by Councilperson Klotzbach, seconded by Councilperson LaGrou to go into executive session at 7:25 p.m. to discuss matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation; and/or Negotiations and updates subject to NDAs regarding the IZA; and/or Negotiations regarding the Teamsters Contract with Attorney Boylan and Mark Masse and then Sharon Lindley. Approved by roll call vote:

C. Fisher – yes C. Klotzbach – yes C. LaGrou – yes Supv. Crossen – yes

MOTION by Councilperson Fisher, seconded by Councilperson Klotzbach to come out of executive session at 7:56 p.m. Approved by roll call vote:

C. Fisher – yes C. Klotzbach – yes C. LaGrou – yes Supv. Crossen – yes

Water Dist. #1 --

Supv. Crossen composed a Shut off notice letter to be sent to WD1 residents who don't pay their bill.

Date: [Insert Date]

Subject: Urgent: Water Service Disconnection Notice

Dear [Recipient Name],

As stated in our December 31, 2024 letter (copy attached), the district is currently facing financial hardship, in part due to unpaid water bills. This situation has rendered the district unable to meet its obligations in a timely manner, resulting in additional interest and penalties on money owed to others for district expenses.

Your water account (#0000) at [Address] is currently past due in the amount of (\$00.00). Unless payment is received by [XX/XX/2025], your water service will be disconnected. While the amount owed by any one individual account may seem small, at the time of this letter, more than 10% of district users have failed to pay their bills, which exacerbates the financial strain on the district.

Please be aware that, should your service be disconnected, the full outstanding balance must be paid, along with a \$25 disconnect fee and a \$25 reconnect fee, in order to restore service.

To avoid service interruption, kindly remit payment immediately. Payments can be made by mail or in person at the Town Hall.

If you have any concerns regarding your bill or are experiencing financial hardship, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss your situation.

Sincerely,

Robert Crossen
Alabama Town Supervisor
585-948-9341, option 6

enclosures: Outstanding water bill
12/31/24 Letter to District Users

Disc. held on shut off/turn on fee. The letter sent to the District residents in January states a \$25.00 fee for turn off and \$25.00 fee for turn on. Will re-visit increasing the fee for 2026.

MOTION by Councilperson Fisher, seconded by Councilperson LaGrou to allow the bookkeeper to send the shut off notices as written. Approved by roll call vote:

C. Fisher – yes C. Klotzbach – yes C. LaGrou – yes Supv. Crossen – yes

Solar

Supv. Crossen, Councilperson Fisher, Attorney Boylan met with the Town of Batavia, Village and Town of Oakfield to discuss large solar projects. The Town is expecting an application in the Fall.

Battery Storage Law – nothing new

Town Hall – nothing new

Court Audit – 2024 records was done by Councilpersons LaGrou and Klotzbach. Will be on the April agenda for review and approval.

Justice V. Williams asked if the justices need permission to attend the annual conference. Disc. JCAP awards to be announced soon.

Bicentennial Committee

The Committee met last weekend.

They would like to apply for an Art Grant for a mural, possibly on Mabon's building at the Lewiston/Alleghany intersection. Will get more info.

Supv. Crossen asked for a list of Committee Members.

Chad Klotzbach informed the Board that they would like to set up a Historical Society. Disc. held. They will look into this further.

7047 Maple Rd. -- no update

Mike Morris, CEO/ZEO has three chronic violators that continue to defy the Zoning Law and his notices. He would like to take them to Court possibly using DiMatteo, Roach & Kelly. Disc. held. Supv. Crossen would like to use the funds in the budget for Law Enforcement to pay for the attorney fees. Supv. Crossen to get estimate from Attorney for April meeting.

Town Board Vacancy

All interested persons have been interviewed. Disc. held. Councilperson Fisher is not comfortable appointing anyone to fill the vacancy. He would like Town Residents to have the choice during the Election.

MOTION by Councilperson Fisher, seconded by Councilperson Klotzbach to table the issue. Approved by roll call vote:

C. Fisher – yes C. Klotzbach – yes C. LaGrou – yes Supv. Crossen – yes

Bingo Inspector Resignation & Appointment

Robert Crossen submitted his letter of resignation.

MOTION by Councilperson LaGrou, seconded by Councilperson Fisher to accept Robert Crossen's letter of resignation for Bingo Inspector, effective immediately. Approved by roll call vote:

C. Fisher – yes C. Klotzbach – yes C. LaGrou – yes Supv. Crossen – yes

MOTION by Councilperson LaGrou, seconded by Councilperson Fisher to appoint Rebecca Borkholder as the Bingo Inspector with a salary of \$200.00 for One (1) inspection and One (1) follow up.

Approved by roll call vote:

C. Fisher – yes C. Klotzbach – yes C. LaGrou – yes Supv. Crossen – yes

Age Exemptions for Town Taxes

The current exemption rates have not been updated since 1995. Supv. Crossen would like the Board to consider updating the exemptions. Disc. held. Will revisit once the County analyzes the exemptions.

Pirate Fund Request to Sell Tickets in Town

There is a request from the Pirate Fund to be able to sell raffle tickets in the Town of Alabama (as well as Towns in several other Counties). Disc. held.

MOTION by Councilperson Fisher, seconded by Supv. Crossen to deny the request to sell tickets in Town from the Pirate Fund. Approved by roll call vote:

C. Fisher – yes C. Klotzbach – yes C. LaGrou – yes Supv. Crossen – yes

Building Fee Schedule

There is no fee in the schedule for Commercial Buildings. Current rate is 15 cents per sq. ft. for residential. The Village of Oakfield is 15 cents; Town of Pembroke is 50 cents. Disc. held.

MOTION by Councilperson Klotzbach, seconded by Councilperson Fisher to add a commercial building fee of 30 cents per sq. ft. to the Building Fee Schedule. Approved by roll call vote:

C. Fisher – yes C. Klotzbach – yes C. LaGrou – yes Supv. Crossen – yes

Approval of Minutes

2/10/2025 Board Meeting – MOTION by Councilperson Klotzbach, seconded by Supv. Crossen to accept minutes as presented. Approved by roll call vote:

C. Fisher – yes C. Klotzbach – yes C. LaGrou – yes Supv. Crossen – yes

Supervisors Report

3/1/2025 -- MOTION by Councilperson Fisher, seconded by Councilperson LaGrou to accept report as written. Approved by Roll Call Vote:

C. Fisher – yes C. Klotzbach – yes C. LaGrou – yes Supv. Crossen – yes

Audit Bills

MOTION by Councilperson Fisher, seconded by Supv. Crossen to accept Abstract #003-2025 and pay bills in the amount of \$19,597.23 vouchers 57 to 79 General Fund; \$36,854.90 vouchers 31 to 48 Highway Fund; \$2,131.32 vouchers 7 and 8 Water District 1. Approved by Roll Call Vote:

C. Fisher – yes C. Klotzbach – yes C. LaGrou – yes Supv. Crossen – yes

Williamson Law Books Annual Software Support Contracts

MOTION by Councilperson Fisher, seconded by Councilperson Klotzbach to approve the Annual Support Contracts from Williamson Law Books for the Payroll and Town Clerk programs and to have Supv. Crossen sign them. Approved by roll call vote:

C. Fisher – yes C. Klotzbach – yes C. LaGrou – yes Supv. Crossen – yes

Town Clerk's Report

February 2025 -- MOTION by Councilperson LaGrou, seconded by Councilperson Klotzbach to accept report as written. Approved by Roll Call Vote:

C. Fisher – yes C. Klotzbach – yes C. LaGrou – yes Supv. Crossen – yes

Assessor's Report -- not submitted

Assessor & Code Enforcement disc. at GAM meeting – The County has been approached by several Towns to hire an Assessor and/or Code Enforcement that would be able to cover the Towns. Disc. held. The County is working on a survey to send out to the Towns.

CEO/ZEO Report

February 2025 -- MOTION by Councilperson Fisher, seconded by Councilperson Klotzbach to accept report as written. Approved by Roll Call Vote:

C. Fisher – yes C. Klotzbach – yes C. LaGrou – yes Supv. Crossen – yes

MOTION by Councilperson Fisher, seconded by Councilperson LaGrou to adjourn meeting at 8:45 p.m. Approved by roll call vote:

C. Fisher – yes C. Klotzbach – yes C. LaGrou – yes Supv. Crossen – yes

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca L. Borkholder
Town Clerk