

**HABERSHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES
6:00 P.M., MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2024
HABERSHAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE
JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM
295 LLEWELLYN ST, CLARKESVILLE, GA 30523**

The Habersham County Board of Commissioners held a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, March 18, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Jury Assembly Room of the Habersham County Courthouse located at 295 Llewellyn St, Clarkesville, GA 30523.

Present was Chairman Ty Akins, Vice Chairman Bruce Harkness, Commissioner Bruce Palmer, Commissioner Dustin Mealor, Commissioner Jimmy Tench, County Manager Alicia Vaughn, County Attorney Donnie Hunt, County Clerk Brandalin Carnes, staff, members of the media and the public.

Chairman Akins called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Commissioner Tench lead the invocation.

Commissioner Palmer lead the pledge of allegiance.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Palmer, seconded by Commissioner Harkness and voted unanimously (5-0) to adopt the agenda with the following amendments:

- 1) Commissioner Palmer requested the addition of item “p. Consider/Approve Flooring Purchase for Replacement of Flooring at 911 Center to Covered and Clad in the Amount of \$35,399.00” to the consent agenda.
- 2) Commissioner Palmer requested removal of new business item “f. Consider/Approve Objection of City of Cornelia’s Proposed Annexation of Map Parcel 112C019” from the agenda.
- 3) Commissioner Palmer requested consent agenda item “i. Consider/Approve Purchase of One (1) 2019 Freightliner Cascadia Spreader Truck and one (1) 2009 Ford F750 for Public Works” be removed from the consent agenda and placed under new business.
- 4) Commissioner Tench requested consent agenda item “j. Consider/Approve Ratification of Purchase of One (1) 2020 Ford Explorer 4x4 SUV for Recreation Department” be removed from the consent agenda and placed under new business.
- 5) Commissioner Tench requested consent agenda item “k. Consider/Approve Ratification of Purchase of One (1) 2021 Ford Explorer 4x4 SUV for Tax Assessor” be removed from the consent agenda and placed under new business.
- 6) Commissioner Tench requested consent agenda item “l. Consider/Approve Ratification of Purchase of One (1) 2022 Ford Expedition SUV for Emergency Services” be removed from the consent agenda and placed under new business.
- 7) Commissioner Tench requested consent agenda item “m. Consider/Approve Ratification of Purchase of One (1) 2023 Dodge Durango for E-911” be removed from the consent agenda and placed under new business.
- 8) Commissioner Tench requested consent agenda item “n. Consider/Approve Ratification of Purchase of One (1) 2023 Ford F-150 4x4 Pickup for E-911” be removed from the consent agenda and placed under new business.

PRESENTATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- a. Employee Spotlight
 1. Laura McCallister
- b. County offices will be closed Friday, March 29, 2024 for Good Friday. The County landfill will remain open on Friday, March 29th but will be closed on Saturday, March 30th.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- a. Kerry Anderson: Ms. Anderson lives in the Orchard subdivision. Though she reached out to the Commissioners privately around a year ago regarding her opposition to the radio tower being built in her subdivision, she has refrained from speaking publicly on the topic. This was due to her desire to take time to learn more regarding the background and history of the project. She realizes that there are problems with the current radio system and that these issues predate this Commission. She feels that one of the things that attract people to move to Habersham County is the rural lifestyle that it offers, and that those people are willing to accept the risks that come with such a lifestyle. She showed the Commission pictures of a resident of the Orchard subdivision named Debbie Edner, who she stated was diagnosed with electromagnetic hypersensitivity which causes her body to attack itself in response to electromagnetic fields. She states that Ms. Edner purchased property in the middle of the Orchard subdivision because, at that time, there were no overhead powerlines or cellular service in the area. Ms. Edner is now faced with the uncertainty of what will happen to her given her condition when the radio tower is in place. Ms. Anderson stated that she is bothered by the fact that no one from the Commission has been out to visit the community and its residents who will be affected by this radio tower. She says that the county's own experts testified that the radio system will put out microwaves that are capable of penetrating the walls of buildings, and she is asking this Commission to reconsider their decision.
- b. Jean Armstrong: Ms. Armstrong states that she has lived in this county for well over 50 years and that she has some insight into the history of recycling in Habersham County. She feels that there have been few improvements made over the past 45 years compared to neighboring counties such as Rabun County and Stephens County and that when all three counties are compared, Habersham County has the highest overall budget but fewest recycling locations, fewest days these locations are open and fewer items that can be accept by the recycling locations. While she realizes the lack of planning for the current state of the landfill and recycling programs fall on previous Commissions, she is challenging this Commission to stop the habit of passing the buck and take action. Commissioner Akins informed Ms. Armstrong that she has good timing, as they have already requested Landfill Director Johnnie Vickers to research ways to expand the recycling program and present them to the Commission at a future meeting. He does want to make everyone aware that they have heard many people asking for these services over the years and he does feel like there is enough demand to warrant it, however he reminded that additional services have additional expenses and for everyone to keep this in mind during budget season.
- c. Tim Stamey: Mr. Stamey wished to voice a complaint regarding amendments to the ordinances for open burning that were passed at the February 19th Board of Commissioners Meeting. He feels that the authorized burning times, between sunrise and one hour before sunset, are too restrictive and infringe on the rights of the property owner. He states that the best time to burn leaves is at dusk as the wind diminishes due to temperature inversion caused by the surface of the earth cooling more rapidly than the air above it, leading to a reduced amount of mixing between the layers of air. He doesn't understand why, out of 159 counties, Habersham County is the only one that restricts the time at which one can burn? Chairman Akins and Emergency Services Director Chief Adams informed Mr. Stamey that the amendments to the ordinance reflect a new state law that was passed that included this requirement. Mr. Stamey informed the Commission that the county website does not yet reflect this change. Mr. Stamey also wished to address the state of the gravel roads in the County. He informed the Commission that their primary purpose is to oversee the maintenance of roads and bridges in the County. He feels that it takes a specially trained

employee to pull ditches correctly and that the County has driven off all the employees who could run a grader correctly, leaving the gravel roads in what he feels is terrible condition.

- d. Marie Bartliff: Ms. Bartliff voiced her concerns regarding roadside litter detracting from the rural beauty of Habersham County's roads. She is requesting that the Commission ensure that money is budgeted to take care of roadside litter cleanup on a more regular basis. She also feels that having anti-litter signage would be helpful as well. She understands that the county is no longer able to get inmates from the state prisons for roadside cleanup details due to issues with recruiting supervisors. She also understands that the local jail lacks enough misdemeanor level inmates to use as well. She hopes that using inmates for this work becomes an option again as she feels it is beneficial to both the inmate and to the County. Ms. Bartliff suggested that if the county has an event planner, they could possibly coordinate cleanup events and challenges to solicit community participation. County Manager Vaughn informed Ms. Bartliff that Public Works Director Jerry Baggett has reached out to private vendors to get quotes for contracting litter cleanup services so that he could present this as a request during the budget process. Another option they have reviewed is the possibility of paying an in-house supervisor for the state prison inmates. Major Les Hendrix wanted to clarify that the issue regarding using the local jail inmates is not so much about whether they are guilty of a misdemeanor or a felony as whether they have been adjudicated. Major Hendrix stated that the Sheriff's Office could look into using probationers for roadside litter cleanup details as part of their service requirements. Commissioner Palmer stated that the accountability court sends people to participate in community service at the landfill and he had asked Judge Caudell about the possibility of having them clean up the roadside. Judge Caudell informed him that this poses a liability issue and that if you have them do it as volunteers, the county would still be required to add them to workers compensation insurance. Human Resources Director Ann Cain stated that it is possible to have someone waive the County's liability should they choose to participate in community service.
- e. Jack Sharpshail: Mr. Sharpshail feels like there are low-cost solutions to promote recycling in Habersham County and reduce the amount of waste going into the landfill. He suggested that the County could partner with local scrap businesses. A citizen could call the County if they have a large metal item they need hauled off and the County could arrange dispatching someone from a list of these businesses to collect the scrap. He also feels that it would be a good idea to have programs focused on getting the children of Habersham County onboard with recycling. He stated that back in the 70's there were a lot of anti-smoking campaigns in the schools. He didn't want to stop smoking, but his kids pressured him to stop. He feels that getting the children involved will lead to their parents getting involved. He reminded everyone that the cost of a new landfill is substantial compared to the low-cost ideas like his.
- f. Richard Rumble: Mr. Rumble resides in the Orchard Subdivision on Cider Ridge. He informed the Commission that he launched a petition against the construction of the radio tower in the Orchard that garnered 135 signatures from the residents. He feels that it is apparent that the constituents in this subdivision are opposed to the tower, but the Commission did not hear their concerns directly as he states that the town hall that was held in 2023 regarding the tower was not attended by any of the Commissioners. He does not feel that due consideration was given to other sites, stating that the Commissioner never voted on or assessed alternative sites to the Orchard. He is asking that the Commission stop differing this issue to the County Manager and the county's experts and address what alternatives and solutions were reviewed themselves. He also wishes for them to address the technical need for violating both County ordinances and the subdivisions restrictive covenants in placing this tower in the Orchard.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion by Commissioner Palmer, seconded by Commissioner Mealor and voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the consent agenda as amended during the adoption of the agenda.

- a. Consider/Approve Minutes for February 19, 2024 Regular Meeting
- b. Consider/Approve Minutes for February 19, 2024 Work Session
- c. Consider/Approve Minutes for February 19, 2024 Executive Session

- d. Consider/Approve Courthouse X-Ray and Metal Detector Replacement
- e. Consider/Approve Contracted Instructor Agreement for Youth Karate Instruction at Recreation Department with Joshua Yu.
- f. Consider/Approve Contracted Instructor Agreement for Ageless Grace Classes at Recreation Department with Ruth Purcell
- g. Consider/Approve Air Methods Revised Lease Agreement for Hangar M-1
- h. Consider/Approve Award of Bid 2024-15 for Purchase of One (1) 2025 108SD Freightliner Tandem Axel Chassis Water Truck for Landfill
- ~~i. Consider/Approve Purchase of One (1) 2019 Freightliner Cascadia Spreader Truck and one (1) 2009 Ford F750 for Public Works (Item was moved to new business during adoption of the agenda.)~~
- ~~j. Consider/Approve Ratification of Purchase of One (1) 2020 Ford Explorer 4x4 SUV for Recreation Department (Item was moved to new business during adoption of the agenda.)~~
- ~~k. Consider/Approve Ratification of Purchase of One (1) 2021 Ford Explorer 4x4 SUV for Tax Assessor (Item was moved to new business during adoption of the agenda.)~~
- ~~l. Consider/Approve Ratification of Purchase of One (1) 2022 Ford Expedition SUV for Emergency Services (Item was moved to new business during adoption of the agenda.)~~
- ~~m. Consider/Approve Ratification of Purchase of One (1) 2023 Dodge Durango for E-911 (Item was moved to new business during adoption of the agenda.)~~
- ~~n. Consider/Approve Ratification of Purchase of One (1) 2023 Ford F-150 4x4 Pickup for E-911 (Item was moved to new business during adoption of the agenda.)~~
- o. Consider/Approve Ratification of Purchase of Six (6) 2024 Ford Explorer 4x4 SUV Police Interceptors for Sheriff's Office (State Contract Pricing)
- p. Consider/Approve Flooring Purchase for Replacement of Flooring at 911 Center to Covered and Clad in the Amount of \$35,399.00- Added during the adoption of the agenda. (This item was added to the consent agenda during the adoption of the agenda).

REPORTS:

- a. County Manager's Report: Alicia Vaughn

APPOINTMENTS:

RECREATION BOARD

Appointments Will Serve Remainder of 5-Year Terms

1. Alan Irvin (Resignation-Term Expires 12/31/25)- Commissioner Melor's Appointment

Motion by Commissioner Melor, seconded by Commissioner Harkness and voted unanimously (5-0) to appoint Shelley Tullis to the Recreation Board.

**GEORGIA MOUNTAINS COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
(DBA AVITA COMMUNITY PARTNERS)**

Appointment Will Serve Remainder of 3-Year Term Ending 12/31/26

**Must Be an Elected or Appointed Official*

1. Bruce Palmer, Habersham County Commissioner, District 1

Motion by Commissioner Harkness, seconded by Commissioner Mealor and voted unanimously (5-0) to reappoint Commissioner Palmer to the Georgia Mountains Community Services Board (DBA Avita Community Partners).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Consider/Approve Resolution 2024-03-001 Authorizing Filing of Joint Community Development Block Grant Application with the City of Cornelia

Gabe Morris with Carter & Sloope, Inc addressed the Commission. Mr. Morris is assisting the City of Cornelia with a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application for improvements to their water system. The two target areas for these improvements, which were the areas with the highest need, both are in a service delivery area outside of the city limits. Due to this, the Department of Community Affairs requires that the CDBG application be filed jointly with both the City of Cornelia and Habersham County. There would be no cost to the county as the City of Cornelia will be paying all of the costs beyond what the grant covers and handling all aspects of the project from engineering to construction. The only involvement needed on the side of the county is the passing of a resolution authorizing the joint filing of the application, necessary paperwork that is part of the application process, and holding a public hearing regarding the application. The hearing has already been scheduled and advertised for March 25th at 5:30 p.m. in the Habersham County Administrative Building.

Motion by Commissioner Mealor, seconded by Commissioner Palmer and voted 4-1 to approve with Commissioner Tench dissenting.

- b. Consider/Approve Issuance of RFP for Four (4) 60'x60' Airport Box Hangars

Airport Consultant Phil Eberly with Lead Edge addressed the Commission regarding both the agenda item requesting approval for the RFP and the agenda item requesting approval for the ground leases for the four (4) 60' x 60'x box hangars that are being proposed for construction at the Airport. He reminded the Commission that they were originally considering funding the construction of these hangars themselves, however this no longer became possible after the county had to provide funding to keep Habersham Medical Center from closing. The Habersham County Airport Commission is proposing a public-private partnership. An RFP would be put out for the construction of the hangars to the specifications required by the county. This allows the County to control the quality of the hangars being built. Those who respond to the RFP and are chosen would be able to build these hangars at their expenses subject to a ground lease with the county. They can then either use the hangar themselves or lease it out. The ground lease will include a reversion of the hangars back to the airport after a term of 25 years and stipulate that the aircraft stored in the hangars must pay ad valorem taxes in Habersham County. Commissioner Harkness asked for clarification regarding why a ground lease was needed. Mr. Eberly informed him that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) does not allow government property at airports to be sold, they only allow for leases with reversions back to the county. Commissioner Harkness stated that he was hoping that the county could look at a shorter 20-year term for the ground lease. Mr. Eberly stated that normally no one goes below a 25-year term as 25 years is aggressive, however they can put out the RFP with the proposed 20-year term ground lease and see if they get a response.

Motion by Commissioner Mealor, seconded by Commissioner Palmer and voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the issuance of an RFP for four (4) 60' x 60' airport box hangars.

- c. Consider/Approve New Ground Lease for Four (4) 60'x60' Airport Box Hangars

Motion by Commissioner Harkness, seconded by Commissioner Mealor and voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the ground lease contract for four (4) 60' x 60' airport box hangars for a 20-year term.

- d. Consider/Approve Change Order with CROFT for Design of Fire/EMS Headquarters Administration Facility

Public Works Director Jerry Baggett addressed the Commission. He informed them the Commission that he is requesting approval for a change order with CROFT for the architectural design the new fire/EMS headquarters and administration building. The design fee is based on square footage. At the time that the RFP was put out for architectural design services the scope of work was thought to be for a square footage of approximately 22,523 sq ft and the design fee was calculated based on this. The finalized square footage of the design is 31,797 sq ft. This change order will pay CROFT for the additional 9,274 sq ft of design work they have completed. Commissioner Palmer stated that he has concern with the design. He feels that it is a safety issue with having dispatch on the second floor. He also doesn't understand the quantity of bunk rooms in the design, stating that there are more bunk rooms than are in the current fire stations. Mr. Baggett stated that the plans were the product of meetings between himself, CROFT, Emergency Services Director Jeff Adams and E911/EMA Director Lynn Smith in which they discussed both the current and anticipated needs of their departments. Ms. Smith stated that when they planned the number of bunk rooms, they were trying to keep in mind that in an emergency there would be two shifts at the location at the same time. Having the additional bed space allows for each person to have their own bunk area rather than having to swap beds between each other. They also tried to plan for future growth. County Manager Vaughn stated that this agenda item is only to approve the square footage of the design to pay CROFT appropriately, the plans themselves are not finalized yet as they will be hiring a Construction Manager at Risk who will make recommendations on how to save money in the final plans.

Motion by Commissioner Harkness, seconded by Commissioner Mealor and voted 3-2 to approve with Commissioner Tench and Commissioner Palmer dissenting.

- e. Consider/Approve Award of Public Works Fuel Station Renovation Project to MECO Inc. of Augusta.

Public Works Director Jerry Baggett addressed the Commission. The fuel station was built in 1998 and for over 25 years the county has used MECO Inc. of Augusta to inspect, maintain and repair it. During the most recent inspection several issues were discovered that require correction to the fuel dispensers, monitoring sensors, tank access wells, and concrete pad. While these issues can be corrected they are cost prohibitive due to the age of the station and obsolescence of components. The last renovations that occurred to this fuel station were made in 2013. The Fleet Maintenance Department is recommending the approval of renovations to the fuel system using MECO Inc. The \$122,675.68 of funding for these renovations will be achieved through the savings that occurred in the Fleet Maintenance Department which include the realized savings from the Georgia gas tax suspension by Governor Kemp last year. The Commission had confusion regarding the savings from the suspension of the gas tax, as they thought that the county did not have to pay taxes. Finance Director Tim Sims clarified that the county does pay some state taxes on fuel, which is the savings that Mr. Baggett is referencing as having occurred.

Motion by Commissioner Harkness, seconded by Commissioner Palmer and voted unanimously (5-0) to approve.

- f. ~~Consider/Approve Objection of City of Cornelia's Proposed Annexation of Map Parcel 112C019 (Item removed from the agenda during the adoption of the agenda).~~
- g. Consider/Approve Revocation of Business License for Good Vibes Event Center Co. Located at 117 Walls Complex Circle, Clarkesville, GA 30523

County Planner Troy Dills addressed the Commission. When the business license for Good Vibes Event Center Co. was issued to Ms. Chakeithia Burtch it specifically stated that alcohol would not be allowed at the business. There were two reasons for this, the first being that that Habersham County Code Section 6-131 states that alcohol can only be served by the drink in a restaurant with a full-service kitchen and Good Vibes Event Center Co had not yet received the needed Food Service Permit from the Environmental Health Department to operate a restaurant. Secondly, even if the business did obtain a food service permit, they still would be unable to serve alcohol at the 117 Walls Complex Circle, Clarkesville location due to the fact that it is located within the same shopping center complex as a church and Habersham County Code Section 6-3(b)(7) prohibits the sale of alcohol for consumption on premises within 100 yards of a property line containing any church building. The planning department had Ms. Burtch write on her application herself that no food or alcohol would be allowed. Shortly after having issued the license, the Habersham County Planning Department started receiving copies of advertisements implying that food and alcohol was being served at the business and that they had a bar. They also received a screenshot video showing someone holding a bottle of alcohol inside of the business. He states that Sheriff Joey Terrell can also attest that

there were several DUI arrests made from people leaving a function that was occurring at Ms. Burtch's business. Mr. Dills stated that the Planning Department is asking that the Ms. Burtch's business license for Good Vibes Event Center Co. to be revoked.

Commissioner Mealor stated that in the five years that he has served on the Commission that this is the first time that he has had to revoke a business license. He asked County Attorney Hunt if the procedures would call for inviting the business owner to address the Commission? Attorney Hunt stated he felt that this was appropriate.

Ms. Chakeithia Burtch, owner of Good Vibes Event Center Co., was invited to address the Commission. She was adamant that she had never sold alcohol at her business and that the only drinks that were served were soda, Gatorades, and water. She stated that she does not have a full-service kitchen and that she was only serving pre-packaged food. Commissioner Akins informed Ms. Burtch that the evidence they were presented with included pictures of alcohol being served inside of her business. Deputy Jarrells informed Ms. Burch that the Sheriff's Office conducted a traffic stop in which a gentleman was arrested for DUI and open container who had been witnessed having just left her business. Ms. Burtch stated that inebriated people that Deputy Jarrells was referring to had come to her business after having drank at Big Daddies. She stated that she felt like her business was targeted as 80% of her patrons on the night in question were pulled over. Deputy Jarrells informed her that there were people that were drinking in the parking lot of her business and that the intelligence they gathered stated it was \$20 per person for entry into her business which included food and drinks and that there was security present. They had stopped someone who had been at her business, and they stated that it was a bar and grill and that they had several drinks there. Ms. Burtch stated that she does not have a full-service kitchen and that the grand opening event had been catered. She has her ServSafe certification and didn't realize she needed anything else to serve food she was not cooking herself. Mr. Dills informed the Commission that it does not matter if the food is catered for, that Ms. Burtch did not have the ability to serve food at her place of business. Ms. Burtch stated that she felt like she was not given any advanced warning that she was doing something wrong so she could correct her actions.

Motion by Commissioner Palmer, seconded by Commissioner Mealor to revoke the business license for Good Vibes Event Center Co. Motion carries 4-1 with Commissioner Harkness dissenting.

- h. Consider/Approve Purchase of One (1) 2019 Freightliner Cascadia Spreader Truck and one (1) 2009 Ford F750 for Public Works- item was moved from the consent agenda to new business during the adoption of the agenda. (Item was moved to new business from consent agenda during adoption of the agenda)

Commissioner Palmer stated that there are a lot of SPLOST projects that are short of being funded. He realizes that in past years the money has been moved from one place to another to fill gaps in funding, however he feels that it is time to prioritize SPLOST items. Commissioner Akins inquired as to whether or not the Road Department already has a spreader truck in service? Public Works Director Jerry Baggett informed him that they have a spreader truck in use already and that this second spreader truck was approved during the budget process for the current fiscal year. Commissioner Akins stated that it was his understanding that spreader trucks are more efficient for graveling roads because they only require one person to operate them as opposed to having two people operate a dump truck and a motor grader. Having two spreader trucks allows two separate people to be graveling roads in two separate locations of the county and frees up the other equipment for other purposes. Commissioner Mealor asked if other equipment can be used if the purchase of a spreader truck is not approved? Mr. Baggett informed him they can make things work, however this item was approved as part of the budget process and spreader trucks are multipurpose and can also be used on construction type projects.

Motion by Commissioner Mealor, seconded by Commissioner Akins, and voted 4-1 to approve with Commissioner Palmer dissenting.

- i. Consider/Approve Ratification of Purchase of One (1) 2020 Ford Explorer 4x4 SUV for Recreation Department- item was moved from the consent agenda to new business during the adoption of the agenda. (Item was moved to new business from consent agenda during adoption of the agenda)

Commissioner Tench asked for clarification on why the purchase of these vehicles were being ratified if they were already approved as part of the budget process? Finance Director Tim Sims addressed the Commission, informing them that while all of the vehicles had been approved as part of the budget process, the purchase itself needed

approval due to the fact that it is over the \$20,000 threshold at which Commission approval is needed. Mr. Sims went on to inform the Commission that the reason that these purchases are being made and then ratified after the fact is because that they are having difficulties with being able to find and purchase vehicles through state contract pricing. Instead, they are having to search for and buy vehicles on the used car market. When a quality vehicle is available at a good price, they must purchase it quickly because the car dealers will not hold the vehicle with a purchase order. Mr. Sims went into details regarding the amount budgeted for the purchase of the vehicles, the state contract pricing, the amount that was spent, and the savings for the vehicles. If the vehicles that were being proposed for ratification had been purchased new at state contract pricing, the cost would have gone over the budget. By purchasing them on the used car market they were able to get the costs under the budgeted amount.

Motion by Commissioner Mealor, seconded by Commissioner Harkness, and voted unanimously 5-0 to approve.

- j. Consider/Approve Ratification of Purchase of One (1) 2021 Ford Explorer 4x4 SUV for Tax Assessor- item was moved from the consent agenda to new business during the adoption of the agenda. (Item was moved to new business from consent agenda during adoption of the agenda)

Motion by Commissioner Mealor, seconded by Commissioner Harkness, and voted unanimously 5-0 to approve.

- k. Consider/Approve Ratification of Purchase of One (1) 2022 Ford Expedition SUV for Emergency Services- item was moved from the consent agenda to new business during the adoption of the agenda. (Item was moved to new business from consent agenda during adoption of the agenda)

Motion by Commissioner Mealor, seconded by Commissioner Harkness and voted unanimously 5-0 to approve.

- l. Consider/Approve Ratification of Purchase of One (1) 2023 Dodge Durango for E-911- item was moved from the consent agenda to new business during the adoption of the agenda. (Item was moved to new business from consent agenda during adoption of the agenda)

Motion by Commissioner Mealor, seconded by Commissioner Harkness, and voted unanimously 5-0 to approve.

- m. Consider/Approve Ratification of Purchase of One (1) 2023 Ford F-150 4x4 Pickup for E-911- item was moved from the consent agenda to new business during the adoption of the agenda. (Item was moved to new business from consent agenda during adoption of the agenda)

Motion by Commissioner Mealor, seconded by Commissioner Harkness, and voted unanimously 5-0 to approve.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Commissioner Palmer wanted to thank everyone who came to tonight's meeting. He wanted to let everyone know that the veteran's mobile health clinic will be at the VFW in Cornelia this coming May.

Commissioner Harkness stated that his favorite saying when he speaks to people is "it is a great day to live in Habersham County". It isn't because of the beautiful mountains and lakes; it is because of the beautiful people.

Commissioner Mealor had no additional comment.

Commissioner Akins thanked everyone for coming and wished them a Happy Easter.

Commissioner Tench had no additional comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Litigation, pursuant to O.C.G.A §50-14-2; Property Disposal, pursuant to O.C.G.A §50-14-3 (b)(1).

Motion by Commissioner Mealor seconded by Commissioner Harkness to enter into executive session for the purpose of Litigation, pursuant to O.C.G.A §50-14-2; Property Disposal, pursuant to O.C.G.A §50-14-3 (b)(1).

ROLL CALL:

Commissioner Palmer- aye
Commissioner Harkness- aye
Commissioner Akins- aye
Commissioner Mealor- aye
Commissioner Tench-aye

Motion carries 5-0 to enter executive session at 8:23 p.m.

Motion by Commissioner Mealor, seconded by Commissioner Palmer, and voted unanimously (5-0) to leave executive session at 9:36 p.m.

County Attorney Donnie Hunt reported that all matters discussed in executive session were limited to those matters allowed by the laws of the State of Georgia and asked for a motion authorizing the Chairman to make such a representation under oath on the affidavit.


Motion by Commissioner Akins, seconded by Commissioner Mealor, and voted unanimously (5-0) to adopt the representation authorizing such affidavit as per the Attorney's recommendations.

ADJOURN

Motion by Commissioner Mealor, seconded by Commissioner Palmer, and voted unanimously (5-0) to adjourn the meeting at 9:36 p.m.

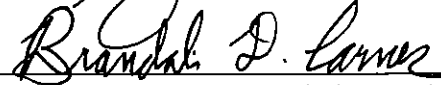
Respectfully submitted,

By:



Commission Chairman Ty Akins

Attest:



County Clerk Brandalin Carnes

