

HABERSHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
6:00 P.M., MONDAY, MAY 17, 2021
HABERSHAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE
JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM
295 LLEWELLYN STREET
CLARKESVILLE, GA 30523

A meeting of the Habersham County Board of Commissioners was held on Monday, May 17, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the Jury Assembly Room of the Habersham County Courthouse in Clarkesville, Georgia.

Present: Chairman Dustin Mealor; Commissioner Bruce Palmer; Commissioner Bruce Harkness; Commissioner Jimmy Tench; County Attorney Donnie Hunt; County Manager Phil Sutton; County Clerk Lindsay Underwood; County Department Directors; Individuals from the Media and Public.

Chairman Mealor called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioner Palmer led the Invocation.

Commissioner Mealor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Palmer seconded by Commissioner Harkness and voted unanimously to adopt the agenda.

PRESENTATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- a. All County Offices will be closed Monday, May 31, 2021 in observance of Memorial Day

PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE

By permitting opponents or speakers to present public comment to the county, the county does not acquiesce or waive its ability to challenge to the legal standing of the speaker(s) in the event of litigation.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

During this time, members of the public are invited to address the Commission on any Agenda item other than those listed as Public Hearing. If you signed up to speak at the meeting tonight, you will have three minutes. If your name is listed on the Agenda, you will have five minutes.

1. Ernie Garrett: Erosion Problem at Camp Creek Road Culvert.
2. Doug McDonald: Current County Affairs, Including, but Not Solely Limited to, County Employee Hugh Stephens Worley and Request to Attach Two Items to Meeting Minutes.

HABERSHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
6:00 P.M., MONDAY, MAY 17, 2021
HABERSHAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE
JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM
295 LLEWELLYN STREET
CLARKESVILLE, GA 30523

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion by Commissioner Harkness, seconded by Commissioner Palmer, and voted unanimously to adopt the Consent Agenda as follows:

- a. Consider/Approve the Minutes of the April 19, 2021 Work Session
- b. Consider/Approve the Minutes of the April 19, 2021 Commission Meeting
- c. Consider/Approve the Minutes of the April 19, 2021 Executive Sessions (of the Board of Appeals and Board of Commissioners)
- d. Consider/Approve the Minutes of the May 10, 2021 Commission Called Meeting
- e. Consider/Approve the Minutes of the May 10, 2021 Executive Session
- f. Consider/Approve Affidavit 2020-16
- g. Consider/Approve Replacement of Network Switches at E911, Landfill, and Sheriff's Office (\$38,381.04 FY21 CIP)
- h. Consider/Approve Resolution from Prosecuting Attorney's Council for State Paid County Reimbursed Employees in the District Attorney's Office
- i. Consider/Approve Auction of Vehicles and Equipment for 2021
- j. Consider/Approve FY22 Contract with the Legacy Link, Inc.
- k. Consider/Approve Award of Bid for EMS Transport Billing Services
- l. Consider/Approve Permission for Emergency Services to use Municipal Equipment Company LLC, on a Cooperative Contract for the Purchase of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus from the 2020 Assistance to Firefighter Grant Awarded to Habersham County Emergency Services (\$658,718.18 of Federal Grant Funds, County Match of \$73,190.91 from SPLOST VII)
- m. Consider/Approve Temporary Easements Necessary for Repairs to Yeoman Lake Road
- n. Consider/Approve Administering the VAWA Grant on behalf of the Mountain Judicial Circuit
- o. Consider/Approve On-Call Water and Recycle Hauling Contract to Responding Contractors

HABERSHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
6:00 P.M., MONDAY, MAY 17, 2021
HABERSHAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE
JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM
295 LLEWELLYN STREET
CLARKESVILLE, GA 30523

REPORTS:

- a. Fiscal Status: Tim Sims
- b. Manager's Report: Phil Sutton
- c. Airport Commission Report: Ken Schubring

APPOINTMENTS:

BOARD OF TAX ASSESSORS

- 1. Phil Neeley (Term Expiration)- Commissioner Tench- 3-year term will expire 12/31/2023.
**Note: Tabled at the April 19, 2021 Commission Meeting until the May 17, 2021 Commission Meeting.*

Motion made by Commissioner Tench, seconded by Commissioner Harkness and voted unanimously to table this appointment until the June 21, 2021 Commission Meeting.

AIRPORT COMMISSION- 3-year term

- 1. Ken Schubring (Term Expiration)- Commissioner Tench
**Note: Tabled at the April 19, 2021 Commission Meeting until the May 17, 2021 Commission Meeting.*

Motion by Commissioner Tench, seconded by Commissioner Harkness, and voted unanimously to re-appoint Ken Schubring to the Airport Commission.

ETHICS PANEL- 2-year term

- 1. Reggie Coley (Term Expiration)- Commissioner Tench
**Note: Tabled at the April 19, 2021 Commission Meeting until the May 17, 2021 Commission Meeting.*

Motion by Commissioner Tench, seconded by Commissioner Harkness, and voted unanimously to appoint Theresa Tapley to the Ethics Panel.

BOARD OF HEALTH

- 1. Tim Stamey (Resignation): At-Large
**Note: This appointment will serve their elected term. Must be the Chairman of the BOC, or a County Commissioner designated to serve by the Chairman of the BOC.*

Motion by Chairman Mealor, seconded by Commissioner Harkness and voted unanimously to appoint Commissioner Palmer to the Board of Health.

HABERSHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
6:00 P.M., MONDAY, MAY 17, 2021
HABERSHAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE
JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM
295 LLEWELLYN STREET
CLARKESVILLE, GA 30523

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. Consider/Approve Exit Interview Procedures and Policy Update

**Note: Tabled at the April 19, 2021 Commission Meeting until the May 17, 2021 Commission Meeting.*

Vinitha Robinson, Human Resource Director, presented the Commission with a new exit interview questionnaire per the Commission's request at the April 19th meeting. This new form is a hybrid of the one she had originally created paired with the open-ended questions that were suggested by Commissioner Palmer. The Commissioners were all in agreeance that they preferred this new form, however much discussion was had regarding the fact that the employees name was required on the form and concerns that this would lead to employees not wishing to complete the form truthfully for fear that it is not actually confidential. It was agreed by the Commission that including a name on the exit interview should be optional and the form should state it as such. Commissioner Harkness stated that while this new exit interview procedure was a step in the right direction, a solution is also needed to determine employee grievances and trying to resolve them prior to their leaving as well.

Motion by Commissioner Palmer, seconded by Commissioner Tench and voted unanimously to adopt the updated exit interview questionnaire with the change that the form will indicate that the employees name is optional on the form.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Consider/Approve Authorization of the Habersham County Board of Elections and Registration to Conduct a Special Election for County Commission District 5 Seat on November 2, 2021

Laurel Ellison, Elections Supervisor, discussed the optional dates and costs for running the election. A special election could be held on September 21st but it would end up costing between \$31,000 and \$38,000 as opposed to waiting six weeks for the District 5 seat election to be held with the November 2nd general election. Chairman Dustin Meador brought up the fact that there will only be one Commission meeting between September 21st and November 2nd and that holding the special election would essentially be paying \$31,000 to \$38,000 just for the new District 5 Commissioner to be able to attend one extra meeting. County Attorney Donnie Hunt mentioned that he researched the dates allowed by law and that they could have had a June election but there were issues with getting ballots in time. Since they could not do it for June than the only two dates left to hold it were either September 21st or November 2nd. Commissioner Palmer stated that he would have been more open to a June special election, also he is afraid that holding one in September would have low voter turnout. Commissioner Harkness was in agreeance that there was no need for taxpayers to cover the cost of special election just for a commissioner to sit through one meeting.

HABERSHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
6:00 P.M., MONDAY, MAY 17, 2021
HABERSHAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE
JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM
295 LLEWELLYN STREET
CLARKESVILLE, GA 30523

Motion by Commissioner Harkness, seconded by Commissioner Palmer and voted unanimously by all to approve authorization of the Habersham County Board of Elections and Registration to conduct a special election for County Commission District 5 Seat on November 2, 2021.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Personnel, Property Acquisition/Disposal

Motion by Bruce Harkness, seconded by Bruce Palmer, and voted unanimously to enter into executive session to discuss Personnel and Property Acquisition/Disposal at 6:47 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Commissioner Harkness-yea
Commissioner Tench-yea
Chairman Meador-yea
Commissioner Palmer-yea

MOTION PASSES

Reconvened in Executive Session at 6:53 p.m.

Present: Chairman Dustin Meador; Commissioners Bruce Harkness, Bruce Palmer, and Jimmy Tench; County Attorney Donnie Hunt; County Manager Phil Sutton; County Clerk Lindsay Underwood

Motion by Chairman Meador, seconded by Commissioner Palmer, and voted unanimously to come out of closed session at 7:31 p.m.

County Attorney Donnie Hunt reported that all matters discussed in Closed 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 Chairman Meador, seconded by Commissioner Palmer, and voted unanimously to adopt the representation authorizing such affidavit as per the Attorney's recommendation.

Motion by Commissioner Palmer, seconded by Commissioner Harkness and voted unanimously to approve the agreement for permanent aviation easement.

Motion by Chairman Meador, seconded by Commissioner Harkness and voted unanimously to authorize the County Manager to sign closing documents to purchase 5.65 acres at the intersection of

**HABERSHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
6:00 P.M., MONDAY, MAY 17, 2021
HABERSHAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE
JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM
295 LLEWELLYN STREET
CLARKESVILLE, GA 30523**

Demorest Mt Airy Highway and Georgia Hwy 365 for the total contract amount of \$249,600. This property is for the new Emergency Services Headquarters.

ADJOURN 7:34 p.m.

Motion by Commissioner Tench, seconded by Commissioner Palmer, and voted unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____
Chairman Dustin Mealor

Attest: _____