

**HABERSHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION MINUTES
4:30 P.M., MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2021
HABERSHAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE
JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM
295 LLEWELLYN ST, CLARKESVILLE, GA**

The Habersham County Board of Commissioners held a work session on Monday, September 27, 2021 at 4:30 P.M. in the Jury Assembly Room of the Habersham County Courthouse. Present was Chairman Dustin Mealor, Commissioner Harkness, Commissioner Palmer, Commissioner Tench (via Teleconference), Interim County Manager Alicia Vaughn, County Attorney Donnie Hunt, County Clerk Brandalin Carnes, Department Heads, Staff, members of the media and the public.

Chairman Mealor called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m.

Chairman Mealor lead the invocation.

Chairman Mealor lead the pledge of allegiance.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

a. RFP for Radio Communications Project

Finance Director Tim Sims informed the Commission that the county received proposals from three vendors and that the review committee and TUSA consulting meet on several occasions to analyze and score proposals. After having ranked vendors, they made negotiations to determine where the final cost estimates for the Radio Systems purchase and installation fell within the budget constraints of the county. They are recommending approval of the Award of RFP #2021-11 Project-25 800 MHz Radio System to Communications International, Inc/L3 Harris (CI/L3) in the amount of \$9,654,534.89.

b. Request for Funding to Aid Cornelia Sewer Project

Charlie Fiveash stated that Cornelia is requesting \$400,000 of assistance from the counties ARP funds to assist with a project that involves extending furniture Rd to Iron Ore Rd. This would be joint arrangement between the city of Cornelia, the county and GDOT that would address traffic issues as well as providing potential revenue from opening up parcels on an under-utilized piece of real estate. Victor Anderson has worked to get a GDOT grant that would provide \$300,000 towards the project, however even after this grant and with county assistance their would still be a shortfall that would need to be addressed and they are currently exploring all possible options to do so.

c. Request to Submit Application for Funds to Expand Courthouse

Mrs. Vaughn informed the Commission that the Chief Superior Court Judge is requesting to apply for ARP funds to finish out the third floor of the new courthouse. They would need the assistance of Precision Planning to get estimates for the project prior to submitting the application. The cost for having drawings and estimates done will be around \$4350.00.

d. Designation of a Voting Delegate for the ACCG Conference

A member of the Commission will need to be selected for voting on policy changes at the upcoming ACCG County ReConnect Conference on November 13, 2021. Commissioner Tench suggested that Chairman Mealor be the designated voting delegate to which Commissioner Harkness agreed.

e. Current Use of Herbicides for Maintaining Road Right of Ways

Commissioner Harkness wants to limit the roadside herbicide spraying that has been occurring to maintain the county road right of ways. He is concerned regarding the effects of this spraying on the honeybee population. He understands that we save \$27,000 per year by spraying the herbicides rather than mechanically mowing the right of ways, however he is hoping that we could schedule such spraying in a way that it occurs during times of the day and year when honeybees are less likely to be out.

f. County Water and Sewer

Discussion was had by the Commission about the need for the formation of a Water and Sewer Commission and the composition they would be looking for in such a committee.

ADJOURN: 5:28 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

By: _____
Chairman Dustin Mealor

Attest: _____
County Clerk Brandalin Carnes