

**HABERSHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
6:00 P.M., MONDAY, JULY 17, 2023
HABERSHAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE
JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM
295 LLEWELLYN STREET, CLARKESVILLE, GA 30523**

The Habersham County Board of Commissioners held a regularly scheduled meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, July 17, 2023 in the Jury Assembly Room of the Habersham County Courthouse located at 295 Llewellyn St, Clarkesville, GA 30523.

Present were 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 6:06 p.m.

Commissioner Akins lead the invocation.

Commissioner Mealor lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Palmer, seconded by Commissioner Mealor and voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the adoption of the agenda with the following amendments:

- a. Removal of item (b.) "CU-23-04 Conditional Use Application by Donnie Wade to Allow for Towing Service/Holding Lot on property located at 164 Bryson Dr (Parcel#022 150 & Parcel#022 153)" from the Public Hearings portion of the agenda.
- b. Addition of item (b.) "Special Presentation" to the Presentations/Announcements, with renumbering of subsequent items under Presentations/Announcements.

Motion by Commissioner Palmer, seconded by Commissioner Mealor and voted unanimously (5-0).

PRESENTATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- a. Employee Spotlight: Andra Townsend and Chase Trammell

Sheriff Joey Terrell expressed his appreciation to Corporal Townsend and Deputy Trammel. On June 17th dispatch got a phone call regarding a possible drowning of a young child that occurred at Lake Russell. Corporal Townsend and Deputy Trammel both responded to assist and, without any regard to themselves, stripped off their outer gear to enter the water to attempt to locate the child. The child was located and brought to the shore where they initiated CPR until the ambulance arrived to transport him to the hospital. Sheriff Terrell expressed that both individuals are doing something on a daily basis to help citizens and are employees that he can rely on to get a job done.

Sheriff Terrell wanted to discuss a tragic event that had occurred in Habersham County the day prior in which a Hall County Deputy lost his wife and two children when their vehicle was hit by another that was going in excess of 170 mph on Highway 365. He stated that he has already talked to Representatives Chris Irwin and Victor Anderson as well as Senator Bo Hatchet and that they are on board with having a meeting with GDOT to discuss ways to improve the safety of the crossovers on Highway 365. He is going to get Emergency Services Director Jeff Adams to attend as well as a representative from the Highway Patrol. He wants the Board of Commissioners to be involved with this and he is going to keep them in the loop through County Manager Alicia Vaughn. He feels that everyone needs to come together to make their voices heard regarding the need for safety improvements to these crossovers. He expressed his appreciation to Mrs. Vaughn for providing a space for the first responders of this horrific accident to meet for a peer counseling meeting. Commissioner Harkness inquired as to whether another accident that had occurred this past

Saturday had happened in a crossover as well? Sheriff Terrell confirmed that this was the case, stating that the accident occurred where Rock Road crosses 365 and that seven people were injured with two having to be flown out.

b. Special Presentation: Plaque Presented to County Manager Vaughn on Behalf of Commission

This item was added during the adoption of the agenda. Commissioner Palmer presented a plaque to County Manager Alicia Vaughn on behalf of the Board of Commissioners in recognition of her hard work and outstanding dedication to the community in enabling the early acquisition of Habersham Medical Center by Northeast Georgia Health Systems ensuring quality healthcare for the citizens of Habersham County. Northeast Georgia Health Systems Vice President of Regional Hospitals, Mr. Kevin Matson, was in attendance.

c. Millage Rate Hearing Schedule:

- 1) July 19th at 6:00 p.m. in the Courthouse (Jury Assembly Room)
- 2) July 26th at 11:30 a.m. in the Administrative Building (Commission Conference Room)
- 3) July 26th at 6:00 p.m. in the Courthouse (Jury Assembly Room)

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

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.

- a. CU-23-03- Conditional Use Application by Walter Bien Jr. to Allow for Transmission Repair Shop on property located at 226 Glade Rd (Parcel #144 041)

Planning Director Mike Beecham addressed the Commission, informing them that this application is a request for a transmission repair shop to be located at 226 Glade Rd, which is a single family residence owned by Walter Bien Jr. The property is located in the LI, low intensity district. This property is a 2.87 acre parcel located at the intersection of Glade Rd and Antioch Church Rd. Mr. Beecham stated that clarification had been provided at the Planning Commission meeting that Mr. Bien would be acting as a subcontractor for other dealerships and mechanics who would be bringing him the transmission itself to work on, not the entire car. The business activities would take place entirely within a detached garage that is located on the property. This parcel is located within a platted subdivision. The applicants original request was to include a future commercial building, however the Planning Commission is recommending approval of the conditional use excluding approval of the commercial building. They feel that he should reapply in the future at the time that he is ready to construct this building so that a determination can be made based on what is being proposed. They are also recommending that the hours of operation be limited to 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and that the business consist of transmissions being dropped off with no storage of vehicles while being repaired.

Commissioner Harkness asked if this is in a subdivision, does it violate any HOA conditions? Mr. Beecham stated not to his knowledge. Mr. Beecham stated that he does not have any knowledge of the violations of any HOA conditions.

Commissioner Harkness asked where the repair business would take place on the property? Mr. Beecham stated that it would occur in a detached garage located on the property. Mr. Beecham stated that neighbors have stated that this business has actually been occurring for quite some time, however he does not have any proof of this and the Planning Office had not been aware of any business occurring at the property in question until the applicant came in to complete a business application.

Commissioner Harkness asked if it was known how much traffic was coming in and out of the subdivision? Mr. Beecham stated that he doesn't believe there is a lot of traffic, as there are only about 10 houses located in that subdivision. This property is the first home entering the subdivision.

Commissioner Harkness brought up concerns regarding multiple vehicles being stored on the property and Mr. Beecham informed him that if they start to see a lot of vehicles parked on the property than they would run the vehicles information to determine the owner and if they are sitting there for multiple days at a time than it would be a violation of the conditional use and appropriate action will be taken.

Commissioner Harkness inquired about the posting of notices for the conditional use hearing and Mr. Beecham stated that the notice was posted on the property in question in front of Mr. Bien's house. Only one person showed up to the Planning Commission meeting in opposition of the conditional use application. This individual stated that he had concerns about the effects on his property values.

County Attorney Donnie Hunt invited the applicant, Mr. Walter Bien Jr., to address the Commission regarding his conditional use application. Mr. Bien was allowed 10 minutes to speak. Mr. Bien informed the Commission that he has been operating out of the two-car garage located on his property for several years. Commissioner Akins asked Mr. Bien how long of a turn around there is for him to work on a transmission, to which Mr. Bien replied that it is usually a week depending on how long it takes to receive parts. He stated that he may work on an average of three to five cars a week and that most are not normally there for more than 24 hours. Commissioner Harkness asked Mr. Bien how long he has owned the property, to which he replied that he has owned the property for 10 years. Mr. Bien stated that he has been doing work on the property for several years and that his immediate neighbors are okay with him doing so. Commissioner Harkness stated that if this business was going to be located on a Commercial property, he would not have any concerns, however it is located in a subdivision. He feels that most body shops start off with one car to begin with but then in only a few years they end up growing until they have multiple cars sitting around. Attorney Hunt asked if the Commission had any further questions for Mr. Bien? There were none.

Attorney Hunt invited anyone else who was in support of the conditional use application to speak for the remainder of the 10 minutes. There was no one else who wished to speak in favor of the application.

Attorney Hunt invited those who were opposed to the conditional use application a 10-minute opportunity to speak.

Mr. Jake Riley spoke in opposition of the conditional use application. Mr. Riley informed the Commission that there are 38 homes in the subdivision. He provided the Commissioners with a copy of a petition that was signed by 35 residents of the subdivision who own 22 of the 38 homes. These individuals are opposed to the conditional use application, stating environmental concerns, the impact on property values, traffic congestion/safety concerns, and the ability of the county to enforce any conditions that are put on the property's usage. Commissioner Harkness asked Mr. Riley if the subdivision has an HOA? Mr. Riley stated that originally there were covenants, but they ran out after 20 years and that the residents of the subdivision never formed an HOA to renew them. Commissioner Harkness asked why those who signed the petition did not show up at the Planning Commission hearing? Mr. Riley stated that he himself was present at the Planning Commission hearing but there was already an individual that spoke addressing these concerns. Many of the residents of the community work at night or have children.

Mr. Joel Byers spoke in opposition of the conditional use application. He lives with his parents at their property located in this same subdivision. His father feels that once an area that is zoned residential is approved for commercial activity, it opens the door for other commercial activities to take place. He asked if the ability to use the property for commercial activity transfers to the next owners if Mr. Bien loses or sells the property? Commissioner Akins stated that he does not believe that is the case and asked Planning Director Mike Beecham if he could provide clarity? Mr. Beecham stated that the next owner would have to follow the exact same conditions for usage that had already been approved. A new application would have to be submitted and approved for any change in the usage. Mr. Byer also expressed his concerns regarding multiple vehicles being stored on the property, saying that he saw three as he drove by today.

Mr. John Branson voiced his opposition to the application, stating that he has the same concerns as previously presented by Mr. Riley and Mr. Byers regarding approval of this conditional use opening the gate for future commercial activity in the area. He also has concerns regarding the environmental impact and the

impact on traffic congestion/safety. He does not want to disrupt Mr. Bien's livelihood; however he also does not want to see the makeup of the community change. He is unsure how it would be possible to prevent the business from growing to the point that it impacts the community.

Mr. Chris Wilson stated that he is new to the area and, though not a property owner, he is a guest of Mr. Riley's during his search for a new home. He stated his observations regarding the fact that members of the community do not want Mr. Bien to feel persecuted, however there is a reason for zoning laws and that the Commission should consider the investment that all of the residents in this community made when purchasing their homes in a residentially zoned area.

Mr. Dwight Mallard spoke in opposition of the conditional use application. He understands that a lot of businesses start off in a garage, but the nature of a successful business is that eventually it grows bigger. He feels that the applicants should take advantage of an available commercial property for his business. Commissioner Harknes asked Mr. Mallard how long he has lived in the subdivision? Mr. Mallard stated that he is relatively new to the area, having moved there two years ago. Commissioner Harkness asked Mr. Mallard if he realized the covenants had expired when he bought the property? Mr. Mallard stated that he had known that there were covenants at some point but didn't realize they had expired. Commissioner Harkness asked Mr. Byers if he knew that the covenants had expired for the property that he lives on and Mr. Byers stated that he had not and that he doesn't know if his father had ever been informed they had expired. County Attorney Hunt stated that when one purchases a property, the title search would have revealed any covenants and if they were active or not. Mr. Byers stated that the covenants were likely active when his parents purchased the property in 1992. County Attorney Hunt informed Commissioner Harkness that the covenants do not have any bearing on the Commission's decision regarding the conditional use of the property as that is a civil matter for the homeowners to determine and enforce themselves.

County Attorney Hunt gave an opportunity to the applicant to provide response to the opposition. Mr. Bien's wife, Mrs. Ashley Bien spoke on his behalf. She stated that they have been living in this subdivision for over 10 years. Unlike a traditional subdivision it has multiple entrances off Antioch Church Rd. There are no active covenants on the property. This property is also their residence, and they do not intend to have any outside features that would make it discernable as a business. They have already started a 6 foot privacy fence and plan to finish it. There is no environmental concern regarding runoff, as all of the work is done on a transmission table that catches and collects the liquid for its transport and disposal at the recycling center. All work is contained within the garage and there are no chemicals that leave the garage. She stated that when you drive by their home you would be unable to tell that a business was being conducted on the property. Commissioner Akins asked Mrs. Bien if any vehicles would be stored on the property, to which she reiterated that there would be no vehicle storage. The three vehicles currently on their property are their own personal vehicles and that those personal vehicles could potentially be parked in the driveway once in awhile if her husband has a vehicle he is diagnosing in the garage. There would not be any non-personal vehicles sitting around in their yard for any significant amount of time.

Attorney Hunt turned the hearing back over to the Chairman.

Motion was made by Commissioner Palmer, seconded by Commissioner Akins, to approve conditional use application CU-23-03 with the conditions set forth by the Planning Commission. Motion carries 3-2 to approve with Commissioner Harkness and Mealor dissenting.

- ~~b. CU-23-04 Conditional Use Application by Donnie Wade to Allow for Towing Service/Holding Lot on property located at 164 Bryson Dr (Parcel#022-150 & Parcel#022-153) This item was removed during the adoption of the agenda.~~

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.

- a. Mr. Kenneth Haines requested that the Commission consider increasing the income limit for the Elderly and Disabled Homestead Exemption for school taxes to adjust for inflation. He informed the Commission that he brought this topic up last year and has not heard any further discussion. The law permits the county to adjust the income limit to take into account inflation, however the county has not done so since 1980. He states that if inflation adjustments had been made since 1980, the income limit of \$12,000 would be more in the general area of \$35,000. Commissioner Mealor stated that he would be remiss to make changes that effect the Board of Education's budget without having discussion with them and that the Board of Commissioners will need to work together with the Board of Education if there is to be any change. Commissioner Mealor stated that he has brought this issue up every year and nothing ever gets done about it. Commissioner Mealor and Harkness both agreed that this needs to be addressed with the Board of Education.
- b. Mr. Harold Pope asked the Commission to consider alternatives to the demolition of the Old Courthouse, stating that demolishing the courthouse does nothing to benefit the county or provide additional revenue. Back in his former residence of Visalia, California, the county (Tulare) sold the old courthouse, and it was developed into a hotel and restaurant. He feels the same could be done in this case. He informed the Commissioners that he has provided County Manager Vaughn with the contact information for Tulare County. The City of Clarksville has an interest in the property and has a plan for it that was developed by Lew Oliver, he feels that selling the courthouse to them would be the best course of action. Commissioner Harkness informed Mr. Pope that the Commission has been trying to sell this property for several years and the buyers keep backing out. Commissioner Akins informed Mr. Pope that the last appraisal that was received showed the property would be worth more with the courthouse demolished than with it standing.
- c. ~~Mark Benelle~~ Mr. Benelle had signed up prior to the meeting but was not present to speak.
- d. ~~Clarence Bryson~~ Mr. Bryson had signed up prior to the meeting but was not present to speak.
- e. Mrs. Sherry Hendrix wanted to express her support for paving Stonebank Rd. She had been made aware of the fact that the Board of Commissioners would be voting at tonight's meeting on whether or not to include Stonebank Rd to be paved. She wanted to let them know that the county road department has had to work on Stonebank Rd thirteen times in the past two years. There has been many times when the Road Department has been unable to come out in time prior to neighbors having damaged caused to their vehicles or having to make temporary efforts to repair the road itself. Emergency Service vehicles have had difficult times with coming up the road and she has seen them have to back down the entire length of the road. Residents on Stonebank with children must take their children down to the end of the road to meet the bus, as it is not capable of coming up Stonebank Rd in its current condition.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion by Commissioner Harkness, seconded by Commissioner Mealor and voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the consent agenda as presented.

- a. Consider/Approve Minutes for June 19, 2023 Regular Meeting
- b. Consider/Approve Minutes for June 19, 2023 Executive Session
- c. Consider/Approve Minutes for June 26, 2023 Called Meeting
- d. Consider/Approve Ratifying Agreement with Baker AV for CIP Funded Courthouse Technology Upgrades
- e. Consider/Approve Letter of Intent for Lease of 1045 Hollywood Hwy to the State Properties Commission for Use by Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS)

- f. Consider/Approve Ratifying License Agreement with Ingles for Voting Equipment Storage and Approval of Amendment to License Agreement for Additional Storage Space
- g. Consider/Approve Renewal of Facilities Use Agreement with Piedmont University for Swim Program
- h. Consider/Approve FY 2024 Tentative Allocation Letter with the GA Department of Transportation
- i. Consider/Approve Agreement with Tivity Health for Rec Department Participation in Silver Sneakers Program

REPORTS:

- a. Manager's Report: County Manager Alicia Vaughn
- b. Accountability Court Report: Accountability Court Coordinator Beth Pelaccio gave a report to the Commission. Ms. Pelaccio stated that the Accountability Court programs serves Habersham, Stephens and Rabun counties with the majority of program participants coming from Habersham County. Accountability Court is made up of three separate programs: Drug Court, Family Court and Mental Health Court. Ms. Pelaccio informed the Commission of that it costs the state of Georgia has the highest felony probation rate in the country with 1 out of every 13 adults in the state being on active probation. The cost of jail/traditional probation for these individuals in ten times as much as sending them through the drug court program as the participants of the drug court program have work and community service requirements and are required to pay fees to be in the program. Graduates from the drug court program also have a 75% chance of not going back to jail within a three-year period from graduation. Ms. Pelaccio stated that it costs the state between \$40,000 to \$50,000 per year to incarcerate an individual versus the \$2,500 it costs for the same individual to go through Accountability Court. Another benefit of Accountability Court is treatment compliance. Ms. Pelaccio informed the Commission that 60% of Georgia inmates are parents and one of the risk factors that increase and individuals' likelihood to develop a drug addiction is having an incarcerated parent. Accountability Court programs help to stop the continued cycle of addiction.

APPOINTMENTS:

HOSPITAL AUTHORITY 3-year term

- 1. Ken Johnson (Term Expiration) 06/30/2023- At Large Appointment

Motion by Commissioner Akins, seconded by Commissioner Harkness and voted unanimously (5-0) to approve nominating the following slate of names for consideration of this appointment by the Hospital Authority:

- 1) John Hendrix
- 2) Leigh Hunnicutt
- 3) Monica Schulte

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Consider/Approve Ratifying First Amendment to Purchase Agreement with Batson Family LP

County Attorney Donnie Hunt addressed the Commission, reminding them that they approved a purchase agreement for property owned by Batson Family LP. This amendment to the purchase agreement was to

extend the due diligence period to allow time for completion of the survey of the property. This agreement is a “price per acre” contract and the survey is necessary to determine the acreage that the price would be applied to. This amendment has already been signed by the Chairman and needs ratification from the Commission. The due diligence period is being extended to August 31, 2023.

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

b. Consider/Approve Contract with McCormick Solutions for Commercial and Industrial Property Review

Chief Tax Assessor Joan Church addressed the Commission. The purpose of this agenda item is to obtain approval for a contract with McCormick Solutions for their services in assisting the Tax Assessor’s Office with assessing new construction, completing industrial and commercial property appraisals, and conducting a three-year review of all parcels (both residential and commercial/industrial) in the county. At their June 26, 2023 meeting, the Board of Assessors approved recommending this contract to the Board of Commissioners for their approval. The services provided by McCormick Solutions as outlined in the contract would greatly assist the Tax Assessor’s Office, which has been experiencing a staffing shortage. Ms. Church informed the Commission that in the past year she has lost three employees with a cumulative of 40 years’ experience, and that these are not positions that you can just hire someone off the streets and immediately set them to work. The Tax Assessor’s Office has been unable to complete the three-year review on parcels the past several years as they have had a hard time even keeping up with new construction, appeals and homestead exemptions. One of the recommendations of the state during the recent peer review that was conducted was that each parcel in the county be assessed every three years. McCormick Solutions has contracts with several other counties throughout Georgia. The total cost for McCormick Solutions to provide these services is \$491,480. County Manager Vaughn informed the Commission that this cost is spread out over the three-year contract period with this year’s cost being \$226,693. The funds necessary for the first year of this contract are already included in the upcoming fiscal year’s budget. Commissioner Meador inquired as to what quantity of parcels would be reevaluated. Ms. Church informed him that it would be all 23,000 parcels in the county over the three-year period, sans any exempt properties. Mrs. Vaughn informed the Commission that this would hopefully give the Tax Assessor’s Office time to hire the people necessary to be fully staffed and get them trained.

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

c. Consider/Approve Change Order with Allied Paving for 2023 LMIG for Paving of Stonebank Rd

Planning Director Jerry Baggett addressed the Commission. He informed them that Stonebank Rd is a .38 mile, one lane gravel road, and that the proposal is to pave the road into two 9 ft lanes with 2 ft shoulders and a drainage ditch on each side. All of this would fall within the county’s existing right-of-way. He gave the Commission some background information, stating that Stonebank Rd was built in 1980 and adopted into the Habersham County road system in 1990 with a 40 ft right-of-way. The residents of Stonebank first petitioned for it to be paved in October 2020 and the last needed right-of-way was obtained last month. Allied Paving was the lowest bidder and awarded the contract for the 2023 LMIG Resurfacing Project. This proposal is for a change order to that contract to add paving Stonebank Rd to the contract for an additional cost of \$85, 527.50.

Commissioner Akins asked if this new amount was coming out of SPLOST funds? Mr. Baggett confirmed that the County’s portion would be coming out SPLOST VII funds. The county would be building up the base of the road and Allied Paving would be surfacing the base that the county road department builds. The county’s cost to perform the gravel base work, including surveying and utility relocates is \$181,750.

Commissioner Palmer asked how long it will take to have the road ready to pave? Mr. Baggett stated that it would only take the Road Department two to three weeks to complete their portion of the work building up the base of the road, however they would also have to have utilities (HEMC & Windstream) surveyed and relocated. He feels that this can all be done in time for around the same period that Allied Paving is supposed to be in the Cool Springs area, around late August or early September.

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

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Commissioner Palmer thanked the staff and citizens present for attending the meeting. He wished to remind everyone of the three millage rate hearings coming up. He understands that no one likes paying taxes, himself included, however it provides him comfort knowing that the county has ambulances and law enforcement to assist his family when needed. He feels that often when people look at their tax bills the first thoughts that pop into their mind are negative, but everyone appreciates the services that their taxes provide.

Commissioner Harkness stated that he has been contacted by many individuals in the community regarding concerns surrounding the counties paving of the right-of-way area of driveways. He has went out to look at some of these himself. It is his understanding that this is allowable under the codes of the planning office, but to appease the concerns of the public, he is requesting that the Commission hold a work session to look review the policies surrounding this. He is also asking that the county road department to hold off until the next Commission meeting on paving any more of these right-of-way areas to provide the Commission opportunity to look at the policies surrounding the practice. Mrs. Vaughn informed Commissioner Harkness that paving these driveway aprons is not only done through work order requests but also as part of paving projects. She asked Mr. Baggett if there was any work scheduled that would have this included prior to the next Commission meeting? Mr. Baggett stated that he could postpone the work orders until then. Commissioner Harkness thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Commissioner Akins had no additional comments.

Commissioner Tench had no additional comments.

Commissioner Mealor had no additional comments.

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

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

ROLL CALL:

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

Motion carries 5-0 for the Commission to enter into executive session at 8:08 p.m.

Motion by Commissioner Mealor, seconded by Commissioner Harkness and voted 5-0 to exit executive session at 9:02 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 Palmer, seconded by Commissioner Harkness, and voted 5-0 to approve signing the affidavit confirming this is true.

Commissioner Harkness asked if he could have additional comment prior to the meeting adjourning and Chairman Akins allowed it. Commissioner Harkness stated that there is a company that stains and seals concrete instead of having to put down flooring and it may be something that the county should consider as a way to save money. He stated that many of the big box stores have started to go this route.

ADJOURN

Motion by Commissioner Mealor, seconded by Commissioner Palmer and voted unanimously (5-0) to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____

Commission Chairman Ty Akins

Attest: _____

County Clerk Brandalin Carnes