

Manager's Monthly Report
Monday, February 18, 2019

Development Authority: The Development Authority closed on the sale of Industrial Park Pad 9 on January 24, 2019. Pad 9 is a 2.41 acre building pad, it sold for \$95,600. The Development Authority currently has a cash balance of approximately \$600,000, primarily from land sales. The Windstream land swap is moving forward and we expect to close on that transaction in February 2019.

Health Benefits: Habersham Medical Center is now the primary provider of medical services used by Habersham County employees and their dependents through our health benefit plan, based on the number of claims. We believe this increase in cases managed by our local hospital has helped to reduce plan costs by approximately \$160,000 in the first six months for the fiscal year. The partially self-funded health insurance program has been successful in controlling our claims costs and stabilizing the cost of our health insurance program overall.

Sheriffs Jail: The Habersham County jail was built with the capacity to house 130 detainees. Currently, the number of Habersham County inmates ranges between 160 and 220 resulting in the need for the Sheriff's Department to house up to 50 inmates in other facilities. Housing detainees in other county facilities costs Habersham County additional funds due to transportation costs, housing fees paid to other county jails, medical costs, and other expenses. We have contracted with Precision Planning, Inc. to provide concept drawings and site design for a new facility. Precision Planning, Inc is also under contract to provide a needs analysis and comparison of alternative solutions including a) new construction, b) expansion and modification of the current facility, c) no new construction or modification at the current jail with any excess detainees continuing to be housed out to other county jails. Andrew Tritt of Stifel Nicolaus has provided the Commission with options to consider for financing the proposed new jail, along with an amortization schedule and potential funding sources.

Veterans Services Office: The State of Georgia Veterans Services Office has been located in the Habersham EMC Annex for many years at a lease rate of \$10 per year. Considering the Habersham County offices will be moving out of the HEMC Annex into the new administration building, we have been searching for appropriate space for the Veterans Services Office. The Georgia State Environmental Health Office currently located in the Health Department building on Scoggins Dr., and will be relocating to the new administration building. We suggest the Veterans Services Office move into the space currently housing the Environmental Health Department when that space becomes available after Environmental Health relocates.

New Administration Building Move Schedule: County administrative offices will soon be moving into the new administration building. Our current plan is to suspend office activities for the public only on Friday March 22nd in order to move all departments located in the current administration building, as well as the Tax Assessors' office, into the new administration building. Environmental Health will move from the Health Department building on Friday March 29th. The Tax Commissioner's Office will then move from the HEMC Annex building on Friday April 5th. The reason for the delay in moving the Tax Commissioner's Office is due to their Mobile Home tax collection schedule, which requires they be available to collect taxes through April 1. We hope to avoid any public confusion that may result if the office were to change their location during that collection schedule, they will move after that collection

period has ended. The Veterans Services Office will move from the HEMC annex to the Health Department building at the end of April. A few adjustments need to be made to the former Environmental Health office to accommodate the Veterans Services Office.

Senior Wellness Center Construction: This past month has been focused on erecting the structure and installing the roofing material for the Senior Wellness Center. The building is now “dried in” and construction is expected to be substantially complete by mid-May 2019.

Respectfully Submitted,

Phil Sutton, County Manager
Habersham County, GA