

County Meeting  
April 18, 2019  
Minutes  
Union County Courthouse

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Paris at 6:00 pm. The invocation was given by Pat Malone and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bill Walker. The minutes from the March 21st, 2019 County Meeting were approved as presented.

The Commissioner asked Molly Cousins with S.A.F.E. to come forward to accept a proclamation for Sexual Assault Awareness month. The commissioner proclaimed the month of April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month calling attention to the fact that sexual violence is widespread and impacts every person in our community. The commissioner went on to state that child sexual abuse prevention must be a priority being as young people experience heightened rates of sexual violence, and youth ages 12-17 are 2.5 times as likely to be victims of sexual assault. He also asked that we, must work together to educate our community about sexual violence prevention, supporting survivors, and speaking out against harmful attitudes and actions. The first step is increasing education, awareness, and community involvement.

Commissioner Paris asked Ann Atchison with the Daughters of the Confederacy to come forward to accept a proclamation. The commissioner proclaimed April 26, 2019 as Confederate Memorial Day. The commissioner explained that the United Daughters of the Confederacy is an organization whose purposes include honoring the memory of its Confederate ancestors and honoring the service of veterans from all wars, as well as active duty military personnel. Smith's Legion Chapter #2699 was chartered January 2014 to carry out the organization's purposes in Union County and surrounding area. It has been the practice of Georgia governors since 1984 to proclaim April 26<sup>th</sup> as Confederate Memorial Day. The commissioner encourages all citizens to participate in programs, displays, and activities that commemorate and honor our shared history and cultural inheritance under the leadership of Smith's Legion Chapter #2699.

Commissioner Paris asked Gene Little with the U.C. Lions Club to come forward to accept a proclamation. The commissioner proclaimed April 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019 as White Cane Days, with Lion's International, having over 1,350,000 members in the free world; they have been dedicated to serving sight for over sixty years. The Union County Lions Club has been outstanding in its community in helping the needy with sight problems using its White Cane donations. The commissioner invited all citizens to join in sharing the Lion's concern for the best sight possible for our neighbors in need, by giving generously to The Lions on White Cane Days.

The commissioner proclaimed April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019 as Patriots' Day. The Sons' of the American Revolution are the descendants of the soldiers and seamen who fought in the American Revolution. Patriots' Day serves as a reminder to citizens of our Revolution and the sacrifices endured during the eight years of struggle for American Independence.

The commissioner proclaimed May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 as a Day of Prayer in Union County. The 2019 theme "Unity" is based on Ephesians 4:3 which reads, "Making every effort to keep the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace". The National Day of Prayer is an opportunity for Americans of all faiths to join in united prayer

The commissioner proclaimed April 14<sup>th</sup> through the 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019 as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. Our Dispatchers are the first and most critical contact our citizens have with emergency services. When an emergency occurs the prompt response of law enforcement officers, firefighters and paramedics is critical to the protection of life and preservation of property. Union County 911 center has contributed substantially to these by exhibiting compassion, understanding and professionalism during the performance of their job.

Commissioner Paris proclaimed April as Parkinson's disease Awareness Month. The Blairsville area Parkinson's Disease Support Group is an affiliate of the GA Chapter of the American Parkinson Disease Association, and the Leader of the affiliate. Peggy Deyton was my Executive Assistant for 12 years in the Commissioner's office and did an incredible job. She has been gone, retired, for 4 years. Not only did Peggy require a kidney transplant while working at the county, but since retiring, she has contracted Parkinson's disease. For many years, Chuck Espizito, from Suches, headed up the local Parkinson's Disease Support Group and did a wonderful job, but we are so fortunate to have Peggy willing to take over the reins of this organization and we appreciate her very much.

The Commissioner approved the Resolution R-2019-01 consenting to the acquisition of land and easements for the removal of obstructions at the Blairsville Municipal Airport.

Commissioner Paris approved a "Notice of Award" to BM&K Construction & Engineering to construct the Union County Recreation Center in the amount of \$3,320,000.00.

The commissioner approved the Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan, put in place for the Enotah Judicial Family Therapy Program. This plan will help serve as guidance to help ensure meaningful access to programs and services for persons who, as a result of national origin, are limited to English proficiency.

Commissioner Paris accepted the Temporary Special Use Permit between Union County and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, for the purpose of acquiring soil samples from the Union County Shooting Range site. This permit is to commence on March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and end on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019.

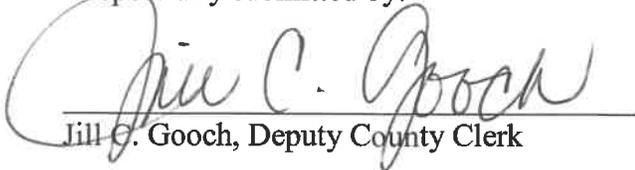
The commissioner accepted the Corrective Action Agreement between Union County and Georgia Environmental Protection Division, dated April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019. The purpose of this agreement is for Union County to have the opportunity to take corrective measures to fix or prevent problems with petroleum contamination, storage tanks, or piping. In order to protect the health, safety and well-being of the citizens of our county.

Commissioner Paris accepted the Contract between Union County and Point to Point Environmental in the amount of \$96,050.00 for soil and groundwater testing and monitoring at 311 Industrial Boulevard, Blairsville. The Contract is in effect from March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019 until the work is completed. This is related to repair, upgrade and maintenance of our fueling system at the Road Dept.

The commissioner went on to explain this has been a very busy time for the county. You have seen construction going on at the new gym site and hopefully you have seen the new pavilion in Meeks Park that is still under construction. Also, we are working on several other dirt moving projects. We should begin working on the access road to the Farmers Market soon, and hope to then work on widening a curve and site distance on a curve on Pat Colwell just across the bridge and then construction of an access road into Panther Way near sears. The Auditors are still at the county working on our annual audit.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:39.

Respectfully submitted by:

  
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Jill C. Gooch, Deputy County Clerk

Approved this 16<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2019

  
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Lamar Paris, Commissioner