

County Meeting
October 22, 2019
Minutes
Union County Courthouse

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Lamar Paris at 6:02 pm. The invocation was given by Pat Malone and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bill Walker. The minutes from the September 19, 2019 County Meeting were approved as presented.

Commissioner Paris thanked Jill Chastain, the Deputy County Clerk and Accounts Payable clerk for filling in for Jennifer Mahan since Ms. Mahan was absent. It is a huge job preparing for the County Meeting and Ms. Chastain did a great job.

The Commissioner proclaimed Sunday, October 6, 2019 as St. Clare's Episcopal Church Day in Union County in honor of their 35th year and all they do to serve our county. The first official church service of St. Claire's Episcopal Church was held on October 7, 1984, using the facilities of the First United Methodist Church on Cleveland Street. The Mission began worshipping at the Susan B. Harris Chapel in October 1988 until building their own facility on Ledford Road in 1995, being known by this time as St. Clare's Episcopal Church. St. Clare's has been involved in numerous community activities and outreach on local, state, and world-wide levels. St. Clare's shares it's resources with helping agencies located in Union County such as the Hope House, Helping Hands Community Clinic, the Ecumenical Food Pantry, S.A.F.E, the Meals on Wheels Program, and Family Connection.

Commissioner Paris approved a Lease Agreement between the 9th District Opportunity and Union County for the use of office space located at 185 Welborn Street, Suite 8 in the Pat Haralson Memorial Civic Center in the amount of \$230.00 per month totaling \$2,760.00 for the term of the lease. The duration of this lease will be from October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020. This is the food bank that is located in the Civic Center.

The Commissioner approved an Amendment to the Contract between Union County and CHA that was dated July 25, 2018 for Professional Design Services for the Youth Sports Complex. This contract is for additional services that will be provided such as data collection, schematic design, design development, and construction documents in the amount of \$137,000. This Contract Amendment went into effect on September 16, 2019. This is the maximum fee and actual time allotted will be what is billed for.

Commissioner Paris approved an Agreement between Union County and LexisNexis Coplogic Solutions, Inc. to provide online accident report services to people who are involved in motor vehicle accidents here in Union County. There is no fee to the County for this service but individuals who request their report through this service will be charged a small fee by the company.

The Commissioner approved a Memorandum of Understanding between Union County and Lumpkin County for the transfer of two sets of Haul-All Hyd-A Way HL6T 6-yard recycling containers from Lumpkin County to Union County in the amount of one-dollar (\$1.00). If needed, these will be used with the recycling truck that Union County will consider leasing from North Georgia Resource Management Authority. This is a co-op authority owned and operated by Union County and Banks County and formerly Lumpkin County. If Union County decides to actually lease the recycling truck once its condition is determined, a lease agreement with North Georgia Resource Management Authority will be adopted at that time.

Commissioner Paris accepted an Accountability Courts Sub-Grant for the Enotah Family Drug Treatment Court in the amount of \$38,950.00. The Grant period is from October 1, 2019 to September 29, 2020. This grant is in addition to the grant that was approved at the June 20, 2019 County Meeting. These funds come from the State of Georgia and Union County is the pass-through fiscal agent for the Accountability Courts.

The Commissioner completed the 2nd Reading of the Revised Soil Erosion, Sedimentation, and Pollution Control Ordinance. The entire revised version is available in the Commissioner's Office. There have been no changes since the 1st Reading at the September 19, 2019 County Meeting or since the Public Hearing that was held on October 10, 2019. This is an update to the

ordinance that is required by the state, but there were no changes made from the existing ordinance to the revised ordinance.

Commissioner Paris then accepted the revised Soil and Erosion, Sedimentation and Pollution Control Ordinance as presented.

The Commissioner adopted the Title VI Plan for the Union County Transit System. Union County Transit System submits this Title VI Plan to remain in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 49 CFR Part 21, and the guidelines of FTA Circular 4702.1B, which was published on October 1, 2012. The Title VI Plan ensures no person shall be excluded from participation in, or is denied the benefits of, or is subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance from the Department of Transportation on the grounds of race, color, age, sex, disability or national origin.

The Commissioner approved the following two Business Licenses:

Stephenson Rental located at 66 Toccoa Trail, Suches, Georgia
Webster Rental located at 221 Scouts Overlook, Blairsville, Georgia

Commissioner Paris was proud to report that the double gymnasium that was reported about three meetings ago as having the contract let, has finally started construction. BKM, out of Braselton, Georgia was the low bidder and they have now poured all the footings for the structure and reinforced the concrete support placement for the steel beams. The beams should be delivered the first week in November. The structure is a total of 31,565 square feet with two gymnasiums separated by offices, restrooms, dressing rooms and a meeting room. The upstairs area will have storage for all equipment. There will be an inside walking trail on the main floor, not suspended, and the facility will serve as not only basketball courts for youth and adults alike, it will also serve as an area for many type of adult activities including exercise classes, dancing, aerobics, volleyball and much more. The Commissioner stated the need for the double gym has accelerated as the growth in the basketball programs has increased steadily over the last few years and the fact that new security for the school system has limited use of the existing basketball courts.

Adjacent to the new double gym, the county is building eight pickleball courts which will be directly behind the Health Department. The original asphalt service has been applied and construction is currently underway by installing the required fencing. Once completed, the final lined surface will be applied by a specialty contractor. The courts may be available prior to years end, but restrooms and a small pavilion will not be completed until the gymnasium is complete sometime in late spring or early summer.

The Commissioner let those in attendance know that the county is still working with GDOT on constructing an access road from Highway 515 to School Circle, near the new Sears Store. This will probably be delayed until next year. In addition, the county hopes to complete the paving and landscaping at the new pavilion in Meeks Park so that it will be ready for use this Spring.

Commissioner Paris took a minute to thank all those involved in putting on the Sorghum Festival this year. It was a great event with a record crowd the first Saturday of the festival. He also announced that the SPLOST sales tax revenue numbers continue to be excellent and the county should be completely out of debt in April of 2021, which is the end of our current SPLOST. That means the payoff of the Union County Community Center and the double gymnasium will be complete. Two of the main projects for the 2021 SPLOST will be to build the youth sports ballfield complex (T-Ball, Coaches Pitch and eight and under baseball) across from the Farmers Market along Highway 515 and then to build a Covered Amphitheater in Meeks Park overlooking the Sorghum Festival venue.

The Commissioner announced that the county has completed paving all roads on the list, patching many more roads and they have striped more miles of roadway than any time the past 19 years. Eight miles of asphalt county roads have been resurfaced with the State of Georgia paying 70% of the cost, \$722,323 and the county paying 30% of the cost at \$216,697. The roads paved were: Henson Road, .70 miles: Jones Creek, 1 mile: Jones Creek Lane, .57 miles: Skennah Gap Road, 1 mile: Deaver Road, 1 mile: Pine Ridge Road, .92 miles: Leisure Time Road, .81 miles: Ed King Road, 1 mile: Jones Street, .16 miles: Chantelle Lane, .23 miles: Rich Gap Road, .71 miles. This was a total of approximately eight miles using three different contractors. The Commissioner said that some people have asked why the county only paved a mile of their road. The reason is that they are trying to spread the paving out as much as possible within the county.

An outside firm did a pavement assessment of all county roads to identify those in most need of resurfacing. The Road Department then goes over the list, identifies those listed and forwards that list to the county to get approval for funding. The County has also completed over \$250,000 in surface treatment paving and patching. Approximately \$138,000 was spent on striping, with the State of Georgia providing a \$100,000 reimbursement. This included 104 miles of roads with stop bars, center lines, and edge lines where needed.

The Commissioner said the county appreciates the State of Georgia and The Georgia Department of Transportation for how they always work with the county. When adding in the Farmers Market Way road that was completed this year, the county received about \$1 million dollars from the State of Georgia, saving the taxpayers a huge amount of money.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:45.

Respectfully submitted by:


Jennifer Mahan, County Clerk

Approved this 21st day of November, 2019



Lamar Paris, Commissioner