

County Meeting
December 17, 2020 6:00pm
Minutes
Union County Courthouse

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Lamar Paris at 6:00 pm. The Commissioner proceeded with the meeting via zoom from his office in the Union County Courthouse. Due to a possible COVID-19 exposure the Commissioner and staff felt it would be best if he was not physically present in the room with the meeting attendees. He was live on a computer screen and all attendees could hear and see Commissioner Paris as the meeting was conducted.

The invocation was given by Patrick Malone and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by David Dyer, Union County Fire Chief.

The first item on the Agenda was the Presentation of Awards to Union County Firefighters and Emergency Service personnel presented by Sid Turner with the Sons of the American Revolution. Commissioner Paris asked Mr. Turner to come up and present the awards. Union General Paramedic Frank Lowery received the Emergency Medical Services Award and the Murray King Award. Fire Lt. Brent Long received the Fire Safety Commendation Award and Sheriff's Lt. Leon James received the Law Enforcement Commendation Medal.

Commissioner Paris proclaimed November 1, 2020 as Retired Educators Day. More than 130,000 educators have devoted their time and talents to public education in our state and have touched the lives of generations of young people, prompting them to become responsible, contributing citizens of our city and county. Retired educators have valuable knowledge and experience and use that in various ways to enrich our quality of life and to help set the direction for education in the future. For sixty-two years, the Georgia Retired Educators Association has dedicated its efforts to improving the welfare of retired educators and the Union County Retired Educators Association, has supported numerous local initiatives, scholarships, informational programs, recognition of outstanding teachers and students, and other resources. Citizens of Georgia and Union County are grateful for the contributions our retired educators have made, and continue to make, to the advancement of our children and their futures, and to the betterment of our community.

The Commissioner proclaimed February 9, 2021 as Arbor Day in Union County. Trees and native plants are among our most valuable resources and trees provide a more livable environment for mankind, providing clean air and removing pollutants for the air. Trees also provide a cooling effect and prevent global warming as well as being a food source for man and animals. Arbor Day is designated for tree planting and the Garden Clubs of Georgia encourage the participation in tree planting. A tree will be planted on February 19, 2021 to commemorate the 149th Anniversary of Arbor Day and the 27th year in Union County. This is a cooperative effort between the Georgia Forestry Commission, City of Blairsville, Blairsville Garden Club, and the Union County Commissioner's Office.

Commissioner Paris proclaimed January 2021 as Radon Action Month. Radon is a colorless, odorless, naturally occurring radioactive gas that threatens the health of Georgia citizens. The U.S. Surgeon General has warned that radon is the nation's second leading cause of lung cancer according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and radon exposure is the top cause of lung cancer among non-smokers. One in fifteen homes in the U.S. is estimated to display an elevated radon level and any home in Georgia may have an elevated radon level, even if other homes in the same neighborhood do not present such risk. The University of Georgia's College of Family and Consumer Sciences, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, and the EPA are among the entities that encourage Georgia citizens to test places of residence for elevated levels of radon and to build new homes with radon-resistant material and features. Radon tests are available at the Union County Extension Office.

The Commissioner accepted the Notice of Award to Ten-8 Fire and Safety for the Union County Fire Department Custom Fire Engine/Pumper in the amount of \$478,873. The date of the Notice of Award was October 26, 2020. This will be paid for by SPLOST dollars.

Commissioner Paris accepted the Notice of Award for a Standby Contract for Debris Monitoring Services between Thompson Consulting Services, LLC and Union County. There is no cost for this contract unless activated. The date of the Notice of Award was December 17, 2020.

The Commissioner accepted the Notice of Award for a Standby Contract for Debris Removal and Disposal between Southern Disaster Recovery and Union County. There is no cost for this contract unless activated. The date of the Notice of Award was December 17, 2020.

Commissioner Paris accepted the Notice of Award for the View Grill Expansion Project to Winkler & Winkler Construction in the amount of \$330,370.00. The date of the Notice of Award was December 17, 2020. This project will be paid for by SPLOST dollars.

The Commissioner accepted the Notice of Award for the roof replacement at the Union County Sheriff's Office and Jail to Roof Management, Inc. in the amount of \$215,500.00. The date of the Notice of Award was December 17, 2020. This project will be paid for by SPLOST dollars.

Commissioner Paris accepted an Accountability Courts Grant for the Enotah Family Drug Treatment Court in the amount of \$47,392.00. The Grant period is from October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021. This grant is in addition to the grant that was approved at the June 20, 2020 County Meeting. These funds come from the State of Georgia and Union County Government is the pass-through fiscal agent for the Accountability Courts.

The Commissioner accepted an Accountability Courts Grant for Enotah Mental Health Court in the amount of \$20,575. The Grant period is from January 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021. The same information applies to this grant as the previously approved grant. These funds come from the State of Georgia and Union County Government is the pass-through fiscal agent for the Accountability Courts.

Commissioner Paris accepted an Agreement between Union County and the Georgia Association of Conservation District, Incorporated in the amount of \$95,200.00. This Agreement will be in effect from December 2, 2020 to September 30, 2022. Union County will be responsible for \$47,600 and the GACD will be responsible for the other \$47,600 during the term of this agreement. The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) provides support to landowners to implement conservation practices on eligible land.

The Commissioner approved an Amendment to the Agreement for Project Grant No. NRT-16(15) for improvements to the Helton Creek Falls Trail dated the 10th day of August 2017 between the Department of Natural Resources and Union County Government. This agreement was amended for the purpose of extending the grant period so that it would not terminate until April 30, 2021.

Commissioner Paris appointed Anthony Allen to the Union County Alcohol Board for a five-year term effective January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2025.

The Commissioner accepted a Memorandum of Understanding between Lumpkin County and Union County for Lumpkin County to transfer surplus property described as a 1998 Case 580L Backhoe, Vin JIG0243018 to Union County at no cost.

Commissioner Paris accepted an Agreement Renewal between Union County and CorrectHealth Union, LLC for inmate health services at the Union County Jail. This is a renewal of a 12-month contract effective January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, for a contract total of \$151,778.86. There was no cost increase from FY 2020 to these services.

The Commissioner accepted Resolution R-2020-23 to re-appoint Bill McGlamery to the Board of Directors of the Union County Development authority for the term of December 31, 2020 to December 30, 2024.

Commissioner Paris accepted Resolution R-2020-24 to re-appoint Jeff Carlin to the Union County Board of Tax Assessors for the term of January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2025.

The Commissioner accepted Resolution R-2020-25 to extend the Emergency Moratorium on Applications for Multi-Family Unit Developments that was enacted on August 6, 2019. This Emergency Moratorium will be extended for up to 190-days from October 8, 2020.

Commissioner Paris accepted a Settlement Statement and Limited Warranty Deed between Union County and Blairsville Motel Properties, Inc. for the purchase of 8.972 acres, more or less, located in Land Lot 305, 9th District, 1st Section of Union County in the amount of \$800,000.00.

The Commissioner approved the 2021 Schedule of County Meetings. All attendees were provided a copy of the schedule.

The minutes are usually approved at the beginning of the meeting, but they were delayed and approved at the end of the meeting. The minutes from the October 15, 2020 County Meeting were approved as presented.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:


Jennifer Mahan, County Clerk

Approved this 2nd day of January, 2021


Lamar Paris, Commissioner