

County Meeting  
December 13, 2022, 6:00pm  
Minutes  
Union County Courthouse

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Lamar Paris at 6:00pm. The Commissioner welcomed everyone to the meeting. The invocation was then given by Fire Chief/EMA Director, David Dyer and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bill Walker. The minutes from the November 17, 2022 County Meeting and the November 29, 2022 Called Meeting were approved as presented and attendees were provided copies.

The first item on the agenda was an awards presentation by Sid Turner of the Sons of the American Revolution. Mr. Turner came to the podium and presented awards to public safety personnel. The award presentations and Mr. Turner's comments are summarized as follows:

Mr. Turner asked Sergeant Alan Patton to come to the front. Sgt. Patton was not in attendance and Mr. Turner advised that his award would be given to Sheriff Mack Mason for presentation at a later date.

Mr. Turner called up Lieutenant Eric McClure of the Union County Fire Department. Lt. McClure has been with the Fire Department for six years and advanced through the volunteer ranks to First Lieutenant in command of District 3, which consists of Station 3, Station 10 and Station 12. Eric has been a dedicated fire fighter since his first day as a volunteer and quickly completed his fire training, still seeking every opportunity to advance his knowledge and skills. He is very active in search and rescue and also completed his SAR Tech 2 Certification. His dedication to service and his knowledge are vital to the operation of District 3 and the whole department. Lt. McClure's leadership skills have better organized the district and improved operations while fostering a cooperative culture enabling the district to provide excellent service to the community. He is an asset to the Fire Department and the community. Lieutenant Eric McClure was awarded the Fire Safety Commendation Medal.

Mr. Turner then called up Rusty Fortenberry who has been with EMS for 28 years with 24 years being as a paramedic. His experience has allowed him to deliver consistent quality patient care. Mr. Fortenberry has been with Union General EMS since 2008 and serves as a field paramedic as well as maintenance coordinator for the entire ambulance fleet. Mr. Turner stated that Rusty's quality patient care and his efforts to ensure the fleet is ready to respond made him an excellent candidate for this award. Rusty Fortenberry was then presented with the Emergency Medical Service Commendation Medal.

Mr. Turner then asked Rusty Fortenberry to remain at the podium and he asked Mrs. Kendra King to come up as well. Mr. Turner stated that Mrs. King's husband had passed away from a heart attack and needed the Emergency Medical Service. While Mr. Murray King did not survive, his widow was so impressed with the professionalism shown by the

paramedics that she and the Sons of the American Revolution created the Murray King Memorial Award to honor Murray King. Mrs. King stated that the Sons of the American Revolution have been so kind and supportive over the years. She went on to say that after reading some information about Rusty Fortenberry, she felt he exemplified some of the same qualities as Mr. Murray King did during his time working at Bellsouth. Mrs. King thanked Rusty for his service to the community and his dedication. He was then presented with the Murray King Memorial Award along with a check.

Commissioner Paris thanked all that were in attendance on behalf of the recipients of these awards. He also thanked the Sons of the American Revolution and Mrs. Kendra King for presenting the awards and recognizing these individuals.

Commissioner Paris accepted federal funds received from the Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund in the total amount of \$468,587.08 with half being paid in 2022 and the other half being paid in 2023. This will be \$234,293.54 per year. Union County is receiving this money based on the fact that Union County contains federal land, and the amount received is based off of how many acres of federal land is actually in Union County.

The Commissioner accepted a grant award from American Rescue Plan Funding for the Enotah Judicial Circuit in the amount of \$1,999,662.00 awarded by the Judicial Council of Georgia. The grant period is from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023. This is a reimbursement grant that will be used to hire employees for the Enotah Judicial Circuit to help the court system decrease their backlog. As with a lot of these ARPA Grants, Union County is just the fiscal agent for these funds. The money comes in and then it goes right back out again.

Commissioner Paris accepted an Accountability Courts Grant for Local Law Enforcement in the amount of \$21,837.00. The grant period is from January 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023.

The Commissioner accepted an Accountability Courts Sub-Grant for Enotah Judicial Circuit FTC in the amount of \$21,938.00. The grant period is from January 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023, which is a six month period, and this subgrant adds additional funds to an existing grant.

Commissioner Paris accepted an Accountability Courts Sub-Grant for Enotah Mental Health Accountability Court in the amount of \$35,400.00. The grant period is from January 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023, and this subgrant, like the previous one, adds funds to an existing grant.

The Commissioner asked everyone to remember the reason for Christmas and wished everyone a Merry Christmas. Commissioner Paris then apologized to the attendees for having to move the December County Meeting up a few days, but he had an out-of-town meeting that he had to attend on the regular meeting day. He went on to state that everyone should have gotten their tax notice and the 20<sup>th</sup> is the date to get them in. Commissioner Paris said that the county has worked hard on trying to keep taxes as low as possible, and a lot of people have come up to him and said that they appreciate that he was able to lower their taxes lower than they thought in most cases. "Are there some that went up, sure there are, but in most cases this year the taxes have been reduced as much as they could be reduced to keep the budget going."

Commissioner Paris said there are several projects that are in the works for next year and that he will be talking about those later because he had another function to get to. He closed by stating that questions and comments could be directed to Jennifer (Mahan) or Renee (Deibert). The Commissioner then thanked everyone for coming out in the cold and dreary weather, and he looked forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting on the third Thursday in January.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

  
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Jennifer Mahan, County Clerk

Approved this 19<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2023

  
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Lamar Paris, Commissioner