

County Meeting
January 18, 2024 6:00pm
Minutes
Union County Courthouse

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Lamar Paris at 6:00 pm. The Commissioner welcomed everyone to the meeting. The invocation was then given by Fire Chief, David Dyer, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bill Walker. The minutes from the December 21, 2023 County Meeting were approved as presented, and attendees were provided copies.

At the County Meeting the previous month, Sid Turner with the Sons of the American Revolution presented awards to Sheriff Deputy, Seth Dyer and EMT, Adrian Stroud. Jeff Fortenberry was unable to attend the last meeting. Mr. Fortenberry was present to accept his award at this meeting.

Mr. Turner's comments are summarized as follows:

Mr. Turner stated that he is the Vice President of the Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. He introduced Jerry Ogden as the Treasurer and Past President of their organization. Their organization is in a good position to recognize people in the community and to reward them for their services to the community. He asked Captain Jeff Fortenberry to come forward. Captain Fortenberry has been with the Fire Department for 36 years and has advanced through the ranks to the level of Captain. He started his career in volunteer fire service where he received his initial fire training. He was then hired as a full-time firefighter with the Union County Fire Department in 1990. He completed his medical training in 1992 and is licensed in the State of Georgia as an Emergency Medical Technician. Captain Fortenberry is currently the shift commander of Shift C and his knowledge and experience are vital to the daily operations of the department. He has gone above and beyond to ensure the safety of his firefighters as well as the safety of the people in the community. Captain Fortenberry was presented with the Sons of the American Revolution Firefighter Safety Commendation.

Commissioner Paris approved the Affidavit of Appointment of James Fitzgerald to the Union County Board of Elections for the term of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2027. Mr. Fitzgerald is one of the two appointments made by the Democratic Party to the Board of Elections.

The Commissioner approved the Affidavit of Appointment of Linda M. Hill to the Union County Board of Elections for the term of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2027. Ms. Hill is one of the two appointments made by the Republican Party to the Board of Elections.

Commissioner Paris accepted an agreement between Document Destruction Services, Inc. and Union County for document destruction at the Union County Voting Registrar's Office every four weeks at \$75.00 per service. The duration of this agreement is from December 18, 2023 to December 17, 2025. This is at the new election building.

The Commissioner accepted an agreement between Mobile Communications America and Union County for preventative maintenance of 911 dispatch base stations and repeaters in the amount of \$2,100.15. This agreement is effective from September 1, 2023 to May 31, 2024.

Commissioner Paris accepted an agreement between Lexipol and Union County to provide grant writing services to the Union County Fire Department in the amount of \$4,500.00. The duration of this agreement is January 31, 2024 to January 30, 2025.

Fire Chief, David Dyer explained that Lexipol is a grant writing service. The Fire Department tries to write their own grants most of the time, but the applications are getting so complicated and they are so busy that this company was hired to help with applying for grants. The Commissioner accepted a contract between Leidos Security Detection & Automation, Inc. and Union County for annual equipment hardware maintenance for the x-ray equipment located at the two entrances to the Union County Courthouse. The cost of this agreement is \$12,800 for the duration of January 16, 2024 through January 15, 2025. This equipment is necessary, expensive, and required by the State of Georgia for the courthouse. This contract provides for maintenance in the event the machines do not work properly.

Attendees were provided a list of Business Licenses that were issued in Union County from December 18, 2023 to January 14, 2024 for the purpose of operating a short-term rental within Union County. Commissioner Paris approved all Business Licenses contained on the list provided and the list will be made a part of the minutes.

The Commissioner accepted a Lease Agreement between Quadient, Inc. and Union County on behalf of the Union County Board of Registrars for mailing equipment, supplies and maintenance in the amount of \$175.34 per month. The duration of this lease is 60 months starting on December 20, 2023. This is a postage machine that will be located in the new voting facility.

Commissioner Paris accepted a Lease Agreement between Blue Ridge Mountain EMC and Union County for the use of tower space, building space and electricity on Rocky Top Mountain for the 911 Repeater. The duration of this lease is five years with an effective date of January 19, 2024. The cost for this lease will be \$671.00 for 2024 and will increase annually in the amount published in the United States Forest Service "Rental Fee Schedule for Communications Uses". Union County has not been charged this fee in the past but will be charged going forward.

The Commissioner adopted Resolution R-2024-01 appointing Mary Ann Stephens to the Union County Board of Tax Assessors effective January 1, 2024. The appointment is set to expire on December 31, 2028, which is a five year term. Ms. Stephens is a paralegal who works in the field of title research. She is familiar with property records, property taxes, deeds, and deed transfers.

Commissioner Paris adopted Resolution R-2024-02 to set the qualifying fees for the 2024 election and authorizing the publication of the same. The fees will be as follows and will also be published in the January 24, 2024 edition of the North Georgia News.

Commissioner

\$2,918

Tax Commissioner

\$1,778

Clerk of Superior Court

\$1,778

Magistrate Judge

\$1,778

Probate Judge

\$1,778

Sheriff

\$2,122

County Coroner

\$287

County Surveyor

\$35


Board of Education

\$144


Commissioner Paris stated that Fire Station 13 is up and going and it has been a real asset to the county already. Construction is still ongoing with the Gun Range. It should be complete by the end of March but will probably not open until the end of April. The gym is under construction between the new double gym and the new elections center. This gym will be utilized for sporting events, exercise and dancing and voting during elections. The Commissioner said that hopefully sometime down the road some voting can be moved there. This will only be if the state approves that, and until then early voting will be held at this location. The new election building is officially called Union County Voting Center.

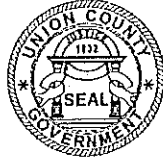
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:18pm.

Respectfully submitted by:


Jennifer Mahan, County Clerk

Approved this 15th day of February, 2024


Lamar Paris, Commissioner



**Union County Short-term Rental Licensees
Dec 18, 2023 – Jan 14, 2024**

TYLER CARPENTER
317 Coosa Run
Blairsville, GA 30512

RUSSELL DAVID R & ALEXANDRIA
376 Flowers Dr
Blairsville, GA 30512

ELIYAHU SCHUSTERMAN
25 Monique Lane
Blairsville, GA 30512

COKER RANDY ROBERT
37 Alton Hood Rd.
Young Harris, GA 30582

MATHENA RILEY SETH
453 Golden Nugget Rd
Blairsville, GA 34205