

County Meeting  
December 21, 2017  
Minutes  
Union County Courthouse

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Paris at 6:00 pm. The invocation was given by Carol McKechnie and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Lamar Paris. The minutes from the November 16, 2017 County Meeting were approved as read.

The Commissioner approved Resolution R-2017-15 authorizing the filing of an application with the Georgia Department of Transportation and the United States Department of Transportation for a Grant for Public Transportation Assistance under Section 5311 of the Federal Transit Laws. This is the grant that partially funds the Union County Transit System.

Commissioner Paris approved Resolution R-2017-16 authorizing participation in the ACCG – Interlocal Risk Management Agency Supplemental Medical, Accident, and Disability Fund for the purpose of providing coverage for those risks imposed upon the County by state law. This Resolution authorizes Lamar Paris to sign a participation agreement with ACCG for them to provide cancer coverage to full-time and volunteer firefighters in Union County. As of January 1, 2018, the county will be required by State Law to provide this type of coverage.

The Commissioner approved Resolution R-2017-17 to adopt the 2018 Budget. A copy of the Budget was provided for attendees. The 2018 Budget is increasing from the 2017 amended budget by \$910,941 or 5%. Commissioner Paris stated he was proud of staff and all the county employees that work so hard to keep operation costs under control and to maximize county revenue. The 2018 Budget includes salary increases and the county's costs to operate continue to rise with the improving economy. There was also an increase in the cost of medical benefit coverage (health insurance), and the county adjusted some categories to standardize them with the audit. Overall, the Commissioner is very pleased to have this modest increase and also to not have to raise property taxes. Commissioner Paris then thanked Laurel Driskel, the County's Finance Director of only 9 months, who has diligently worked to not only familiarize herself with county finances, but to also be able to make so many improvements to our system that will certainly assist in years to come.

Commissioner Paris accepted a Notice to Proceed work for Stahlman-England Irrigation, Inc. in accordance with the Contract dated November 16, 2017 on November 27, 2017. The work shall be fully complete on or before April 30, 2018. This is for the installation of the new irrigation system at Butternut Creek Golf Course that was discussed at the November 16, 2017 County Meeting.

The Commissioner accepted an Agreement between ACCG-IRMA and Union County for the County's participation in the Firefighters' Cancer Benefit Program in the amount of \$12,225 per year. This policy provides firefighters with Lump Sum Benefits or Income Replacement depending on the form and severity of the cancer. Again, this coverage is something that is now required by the State of Georgia.

Commissioner Paris accepted a Contract between Union County and the Correctional Resource Group to provide meals at the jail. These prices are good until December 31, 2018 and there is no increase from last year.

The Commissioner accepted a Contract Amendment to the health services agreement between Union County and CorrectHealth Union, LLC to be effective January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018. The contract price did not increase from last year and will be \$12,279.84 per month.

Commissioner Paris approved the Business License for Rock Ridge Retreat, a cabin rental, located at 89 Flat Rock Ridge Road. This is the only type of Business License issued in Union County for the purpose of collecting the Hotel/Motel Tax.


The Commissioner said he was thankful that the first snow had come and gone and that we survived without a lot of problems, very few accidents and no injuries that he is aware of, other than Lieutenant Leon James, our Courthouse Deputy. As usual, our Road Department and the Georgia Department of Transportation did an excellent job maintaining our roads during the snow and ice and everyone appreciates all the work done by our public safety employees and the utility companies. Commissioner Paris then wished everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:25.

Respectfully submitted by:

  
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Jennifer Queen, County Clerk

Approved this 18<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2018

  
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Lamar Paris, Commissioner