



**Miller County Government**  
304 W. Pine Street  
Colquitt, Georgia 39837  
P: 229.758.4104 | F: 229.758.2229  
**Board of Commissioners**



**REGULAR SESSION MEETING**  
**06/10/2024, 6:00 P.M., County Government Complex**

## **MINUTES**

**Present:** Chairman Ladon Calhoun, Vice Chairman Jeff Cox, Commissioner Cristene Edwards, Commissioner Niki Nixon. Others Present: Douglas Cofty, Faye Whittaker, Austin Lambert, Sheriff Holt, Debbie Henry, Craig Tully, Emanuel Haire, Andy Moore, Tyrone Burns, Whitney Butler, Garison Clenney, Charles Barnard, Stephen Woodham, Tammy Grimsley, Felix Grimsley.

Chairman Calhoun called the meeting to order. Regular session 06/10/2024 and called for prayer then the pledge of allegiance.

### **HOUSEKEEPING:**

#### **Approval of Agenda:**

Chairman Calhoun stated we need to add something to the Agenda, asked what we need to add. Mr. Cofty stated we needed to add Motorola to the appearances. Chairman Calhoun stated for the P25 system, if anybody has any other additions or changes to the agenda? Do we have a motion. Commissioner Nixon made the motion, Commissioner Edwards seconded. All in favor motion carried.

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

Chairman Calhoun asked if everyone has had time check over the minutes. If everything is in agreement we need a motion to approve. Commissioner Edwards made motion to approve, Vice Chairman Cox seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

#### **Approval of Financial Report:**

Chairman Calhoun asked did everyone have time to look at them, anyone have any questions. If everything looks good we need a motion to approve. Vice Chairman Cox made motion to approve, Commissioner Edwards seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

## **APPEARANCES:**

Chairman Calhoun stated we will move on to the appearances Steven Woodham and Tammy Grimsley on the p25 system. Mr. Cofty stated just basically tell them why you all are here and what we need to do. Mr. Woodham stated okay so we have presented to a lot the county and we met with them talked about your radio system upgrade and so what we've really done is put together a list by working with the city and county to do a full turn key price to move over to p25. So p25 that's the Atco standard on communication systems so that's where your grant funding comes from to get additional funds for anything you've got to be at this p25 compliancy and that also allows you to be interoperable with all your surrounding neighbors so when you talk Seminole County, you also got the Donaldsonville I mean Decatur, Grady all of those other systems their p25 a lot of counties are in the same seat that you're in right now is trying to make this step to go to p25 so we went through the Sheriff's radios, fire, EMS everything that we needed for 911 and we included the city as well for the police department and EMA and so we put together a complete proposal on that, that's also utilizing the new tower that's been built by the fire station and 911. We would add antennas on the it, we put all the equipment into the base of that tower that would give you all six channels which is very is it really is that comparable to what you have now so that gives each department their own channel and then of course all that's piped back to 911 and so Whitney through dispatch will be able to dispatch through that system to everybody in the county. So really I just want to open it up to any questions you may have, I've got Doug handed you this this is the agreement with the all the information in there and of course we can leave some copies, but I just wanted to make myself available to ask any questions.

Mr. Woodham addressed Vice Chairman Cox, I know you're at one of the original meetings that we talked about last week we came down we brought an array of different radios so all the Departments could touch and feel and see what they like and so what we tried to do is answer to the user group all the questions that they may have, do I want this feature or that feature you know we pick some items there's other things that we made it a little simpler to keep everything consistent and put everything out there for you. So do you all have any questions for me. Mr. Cofty stated so my understanding through them, the tier one, because I wasn't here Friday as what we have to do for Motorola is we have to get a PO number issued through the county system and the USDA is going to pay all the bills, we won't be responsible if the deal falls through if I'm correct the deal goes away, we just have to issue a po number so I need to get you all to kind of vote just to go ahead and issue that number so we can get the ball rolling. Mr. Woodham stated yeah so there's the funding is available we're not going to penalize the county at all so what we want to do is we want to get into the production list to get the

radio start built as soon as you are 100% fully approved on your funding then we would submit an invoice then to the USDA they would pay that 25% down I think and then it processed. We're in about a 30 week lead time anyway to get the equipment and so two things are happening simultaneous as you all were waiting on all that we can be getting everything ready and pushed through so by the time the funds arrive we're not all of a sudden starting the clock you know waiting on this time so that is kind of where we are and you know I just want to be available to ask we've done coverage maps so that's been approved by everybody so they know where the radios will talk and make sure we have the coverage that you all need. Mr. Cofty stated Tammy anything you want to say. Ms. Grimsley stated I was just going to say I had to print at home so you all forgive me there's three copies you can share, and it is for the grant for Congressman Bishop. Mr. Cofty stated so the money go so basically that's where we are now we just need to be able to issue them a PO number because if I'm not mistaken it goes up in July. Mr. Woodham stated yeah so and 100% transparency we don't know it going up but usually when you go in the third quarter after July we start seeing price increases that is why we wanted to get ahead of this so that you know we're not sitting there and go you know how we get here now because we wanted to stay within the amount of money that you all had been allocated. Mr. Cofty stated so we did that correct? Mr. Woodham stated we did yes. Vice

Chairman Cox stated so we won't be affected by any price increase. Mr. Woodham stated no we would get it this the locked in on the current pricing, so they come out July 7th and go there's 4% increase you're going to avoid that. Chairman Calhoun stated you got any more questions, Nikki, Christine. Vice Chairman Cox stated, and you said all of our department has tested the radios and that's they did. Mr. Woodham stated what they did Friday night they were still adding to the count. Chairman Calhoun stated all right so we need a I think we good I think everybody good , so we need a motion to approve a PO Vice Chairman Cox stated I'll make a motion to approve a PO. Commissioner Nixon seconded . All in favor. Mr. Woodham stated all right thank you all. We will stay in front of you and keep you posted on where we are, and we'll be working with you all and look forward.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Fueling Center Report:**

Mr. Cofty stated the fuel center is running normally, you see the amounts there we're actually running I guess a little above normal. We have not had any issues since that transformer blew so that's running pretty well. That's all I got all right update.

## **DNR Shooting Range**

Mr. Cofty stated so I emailed all you guys should have got an email with the market analysis that they did. I do have a meeting June the 13th we're going to be meeting doing a virtual meeting with DNR to actually discuss that report in in detail it was a little bit too large, so I didn't make any copies but to me it basically they just looked to see how many shooting ranges was around us like 30 miles, 60 miles, 90 miles and so forth and talking to him it don't sound like that that's a hinder. We just have to get a lay out where we want the skeet shooting and stuff like that because we're not going to be able to do it like it is. I wouldn't split it up like half of it here and half of it on do it we talk about yeah, but I mean I'll have more information on the 13th when I mean with him.

## **EMA Vehicle**

Chairman Calhoun stated ok, EMA vehicle. Mr. Cofty stated so you know I sent you all out that text message to vote to go ahead and move forward and I had three commissioners they move forward. I have reached out to the banks and the only bank so far has responded back First State Bank at 6.5%, Tristan with Peoples is going to respond back it's just he needed a little bit more information, so I don't have his numbers yet. Debbie, you did Issue the PO number right? we did have that there so we're just waiting on those two banks to see which way we need to go, and I'll send you all a message out once I find out from them which it is then we need to discuss, I mean you can do it now discussing on what you want to do with Debbie's truck if we want to surplus it or if we want to move it to another department and kind of credit her back. She isn't going anywhere without the money I can tell. Chairman Calhoun stated so everybody knows what's going on. Do you all want to just let's just take her truck and see if we need it somewhere instead of surplus it. I mean I'm sure somebody and then maybe get rid of something else that's got a lot of miles on it. How many miles it got on 60,000 yeah, we need a motion to do that.

Mr. Cofty stated you already do that we basically need a formal motion to go ahead and get her to the truck and then um I guess make a second motion to let me pick or let you let you know which bank's the lowest and we go with that bank. Chairman Calhoun asked so you need all different motions for this. Mr. Cofty stated two motions. Chairman Calhoun stated we, so we need a motion to give a PO number, is that right. Mr. Cofty stated to approve the purchase Chairman Calhoun stated we need a motion to approve her purchase. Commissioner Nixon made motion to approve. Vice Chairman Cox seconded. All in favor. Motion carried. Chairman Calhoun stated all right then we need a motion to bank with who has the lowest interest rate, need a motion go with the lowest interest rate. Commissioner Nixon made motion. Vice Chairman Cox seconded. All in favor. Motion carried. Mr. Cofty stated on this last one you don't have to do it now, you all can think about how you want to do it because all she really has I mean we get you continue use the truck until you get your new truck. We'll get the bank loan set up and

then and then we make payments out of that till we decide. Chairman Calhoun stated absolutely thought we done talk about this we okay is everybody good all right.

### **EMS Contract**

Chairman Calhoun stated now we are talking about the EMS contract. Mr. Cofty stated So the EMS contract, Harold and I negotiated through the EMS contract, and they pretty much met everything that I demanded and we kind of may need to meet what they demanded. They actually lowered the supplement from \$700,000 to \$600,000 but in return we need to build a maintenance facility at no charge to them, but they will pay utilities. That 100,000 it'll take 5 years to recoup that. So, I mean we're still into the good so everything else is as as I put it in there you can see what the different negotiations was. If you look at it down where you all are on that page. They will call Miller County the hub of the EMS operations in Southwest Georgia, let me see so the annual percentage they will raise only 3% of the national CPI which if you do the math it's only going to be like \$18,000 a year for salaries that they'll raise it. They get the use of all of our ambulances and EMS building, and they will pay all of the uh utilities on that so that'll save the county money. I did talk them into buying fuel so we will be selling fuel to them and the reason we can do that is because that's still our trucks even though they're leasing them from us, it's still a government vehicle and then let's see, then we build the maintenance shop it'll be by the road department, that's the spot that I'm looking at. Andy and I talked about it and then it it's kind of level I mean if we back it up a little bit further and kind of put it on that little pad we should be able to do, and I've got pictures in there for you. I told you all in the past that we needed to keep SPLOST in there for vehicle purchases, they did agree to split the cost of either a remount or new vehicle and it still be in the County's name, so they agree to that. So, I didn't see anything in there that would hinder the contract, so we just need to get that moving, the county attorney has approved it he said everything looks good, so we just need to sign it and they want the start date to be September 1<sup>st</sup> to start the takeover. So, you all just need to make a motion to approve the contract and then sign. Chairman Calhoun stated I need a motion to approve the EMS contract and to allow me to sign. Commissioner Edwards made motion, Vice Chairman Cox seconded, all in favor. Motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Library Board Appointment**

Chairman Calhoun stated on new business the library board appointment. Mr. Cofty stated Carlton Thomas was on the library board but he I guess does not want to be reappointed, so they sent a letter, they want to appoint Mr. Harvest Williams to the board. Chairman Calhoun stated we need a motion to appoint Mr. Harvest Williams on the library appointment. Commissioner Edwards made motion. Commissioner Nixon seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

### **Clerk of Court Pitney Bose Contract**

Chairman Calhoun stated let's do the Pitney Bose contract do you want to do that first. Mr. Cofty stated yes, you can, so this is just basically a mail machine for stamps and it's a 5-year contract, so they need you to be able to approve the signing. Ms. Whittaker stated she's having to order pre addressed envelopes and it's not going to cost anymore it maybe even be a little less because she won't have to order those in bulk and then when she runs out she won't have to wait to get them, so this help her office and it probably help with the cost a little bit too. Chairman Calhoun stated so this is in her budget, but she can't enter into a contract, so we have to do this for her. So, I need a motion to approve the Pitney Bose contract and sign it. Vice Chairman Cox made motion, Commissioner Edwards seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

### **Sheriff's Office Vehicles**

Chairman Calhoun stated all right then the Sheriff's Office Vehicles. Chief Deputy Clenney stated so a couple months ago we had Brannen come by, and they spoke briefly. Since then, we've been in contact back and forth trying to get some things ironed out as far as a new fleet of patrol vehicles. I sent Doug everything over as far as what they sent, and we went through our fleet that we currently have and pretty much picked out the shows we would be needing to get rid of for the eight new vehicles they be fully equipped all the bells and whistles. We did cut what we could as far as other stuff that we just didn't need. They do come with new radars, the vehicles have a three year factory warranty bumper to bumper and then all equipment on it comes with a two-year warranty from Whelen, so if anything, it was to rise you know we'd be able to get it taken care of. There's a several different options but there's three different options as far as payment plans, the more cost-efficient one would be a five-year lease, that's in the package been provided. The first year, talking to Ms. Faye about it, we'd have to move some money around but after this first year we shouldn't have an issue with it this would be the last jail payment that we have that' be extra \$130,000 that we would be able to reallocate into the patrol vehicles. Chairman Calhoun stated you said two-year warranty. Chief Deputy Clenney stated two-year on equipment. Chairman Calhoun stated like the lights and all that radar so we they going to install all that at Brannen, so let's say if the

truck tears up, do we have to take it back to Brannen. Chief Deputy Clenney stated you do not. Chairman Calhoun stated so we can work we get work on here or closer. Chief Deputy Clenney stated pretty much we just need the I know it's going to be a little bit before the budgets get approved for this coming up year, but we were trying to get this rolling because I think this is this quote is up the 15th of next month whenever we went up there me and Doug went talked to folks at Brandon he said if we could go ahead and get it approved, we might start seeing vehicles by October. We can sit down and discuss as far as the vehicles that we want to surplus, If you want to do like Ms. Debbie's vehicle reallocate them to a different department or if it be you know better for us to try to sell them out right and Brandon also offers an option to buy you know it just depends on what we most out of. Chairman Calhoun stated how many do we have to get rid of. Mr. Cofty stated its on that trade in vehicle page, page seven so you want to trade seven to get eight. Chief Deputy Clenney stated yes. Chairman Calhoun asked are all them trucks paid off those seven or do they all. Chief Deputy Clenney stated I'm almost positive the two that we're going to keep back from the current fleet that we have now those are the two that we're still paying on. Chairman Calhoun stated so all these are paid for yes these seven these are the ones. Mr. Cofty stated and these numbers, these trade in values that you see here are not against that that the number that they gave Garison, it does not include trading so you're looking at about another \$55,000 off. Chairman Calhoun stated is that what that number is I was trying to do that in my head. Mr. Cofty stated it's somewhere there.

Chief Deputy Clenney stated the original quote here from Brannen, that's without anything. Chairman Calhoun stated so would this \$55,000 go against that total number or however we want to work it I guess. Chief Deputy Clenney stated unless we just want to reallocate them to a different department, any money that we would make if we did sell them we would put it toward the lease. Ms. Whittaker stated what we've talked about is SPOST but the sheriff's come. SPLOST got approved so whenever you all go over what percentages you got to have a workshop or meeting which department gets which percentage obviously this is a lot to take out of the general fund budget so if we can take it out if we can take it out of SPLOST, but I think we're going to maybe bump the sheriff SPLOST up a little bit so that's what we're going to have to talk about. Mr. Cofty stated as far as paying you just need to do it this first year because like he said the jail payment is going away. Commissioner Nixon stated that's what I was about to ask if we do it. Mr. Cofty stated for five years about \$88,000 to 90,000 roughly. Ms. Whittaker stated but if you know if we bump up the SPLOST then they'll have that every year and still have an extra 100,000. Chairman Calhoun stated so this is a five-year deal. Chief Deputy Clenney stated it can go up to a five year that's the. Chairman Calhoun stated I'm talking about you're going to keep the vehicles five years. Chief Deputy Clenney stated the patrol Vehicles. Chairman Calhoun stated is that what you, I saw it was a three four and a five

I'm assuming five. Chief Deputy Clenney stated we wish to keep them it's a dollar per vehicle then they go us. Mr. Cofty stated do you want to keep them, or you want to just roll them over. Chief Deputy Clenney stated it depends on the shape, I mean if they're still in good shape we'll keep them. I put the numbers to it and on average we're putting anywhere between 20,000 to 25,000 miles on a patrol vehicle and the admin vehicle is anywhere from 15,000 to 17,000. Chairman Calhoun stated so they going to have about the same amount of miles that you got on these right now. Chief Deputy Clenney stated we still got another two and a half years on our admin vehicles before we even need to start thinking about those unless something crazy happens as far as engines. Chairman Calhoun stated so do we do we need to talk about this that do we need to have a little budget workshop and talk about this before we approve this. Ms. Whittaker stated I mean you can approve it I'm just saying we have to talk about the sheriff's SPLOST, you can approve it but we're not really going to approve where it's coming out of. Mr. Cofty stated well we're not going to get them right immediately right I mean if we go and approve it I mean you still. Chief Deputy Clenney stated no they just start the process. Chairman Calhoun stated do that you want to have a little meeting and figure out where the money's coming from. Ms. Whittaker stated we can have a workshop need to, but you all are going to have to sit down.

Chairman Calhoun stated do you all want to have a meeting, Ms. Christine said of course so I mean I think everybody just probably wants a little more information. Is there anything else he needs to provide that y'all want to see like some other numbers or something. Ms. Whittaker stated the SPLOST is going to be doable with him we you know. Chairman Calhoun stated we just got just that first year, when we make that jail payment. Mr. Cofty stated the first of February. Vice Chairman Cox stated first of next year we'll be in better shape. Commissioner Nixon stated that's what I want to see I just I would like to see like things in front of me where you know when the jail is paid off, how much we'll have win SPLOST. Ms. Whittaker stated, right well jail payment doesn't come out of SPLOST, it comes out of our general fund, I think we're going to bump the sheriff's SPLOST up in the in the percentages that are going to each department, so he'll have enough to cover it without having. Chairman Calhoun asked also aren't you all jailing some other. Chief Deputy Clenney stated yes sir. Chairman Calhoun stated so that some revenue that will come in that maybe we haven't. Chief Deputy Clenney stated last month would have offset the payment. Sheriff Holt stated we spent \$100,000 on repairs. Chairman Calhoun stated right. Sheriff Holt stated these truck we are driving right now are five years old. Chairman Calhoun stated no they older than that. Sheriff Holt stated well the newest truck we got was made in 2020 so it man it was manufactured 5 years ago now because this is 2024 so they made you know the year before so these the newest truck we got was a 2020 and we spent about \$100,000 on repairs this year for motors, transmissions and everything. Yeah we have more income. Chairman Calhoun



stated I'm just trying to tell everybody, I knew me, and you talked but I had in told them. Sheriff Holt stated we got two different areas to bring in a whole lot more money since we've got new employees in there and actually we're going to be bringing in about \$150,000 from house inmates way it looks right now we started January housing Clay County's we look going to bring in about \$150,000 from Clay County you know housing their inmates. Probation was bringing it bringing in like 10,000 a year, we are bringing in like over 100,000 a year now since we got a new probation officer so there there's a lot of lot of things improved in there you know and these trucks some of these trucks have got 200,000 miles on one thing like the other day we had three vehicles over 200 miles away on hauling inmates and 1013 which is mental patient, we have to deliver somewhere every week Valdosta, Savannah, Brunswick, Atlanta we transport all the mental patients that gets committed and so, these vehicles on the road you know a lot of them over 200,000 miles now and I mean to get we get and what we're asking for is eight patrol vehicles. It won't be administrated, won't be mine, or Garison or Belba, it'll be it' be 8 marked patrol vehicles the one that's on the road will be the ones that's getting. Ms. Whittaker stated I think it would be all right to go ahead and prove him if y'all think so to get started on it we just need to meet to see to lock that pricing and then we just need to go over where we're going to take what from. Chairman Calhoun stated all right what about that you okay with that. Vice Chairman Cox stated sounds good.

Chairman Calhoun stated all right so we need a motion to approve to go ahead and then we'll figure out. Vice Chairman Cox stated what time frame they say once they get the word that they can once they get the word. Chief Deputy Clenney stated they said right now I think they had one other county that had 10 vehicles, everybody else is one or two here and there they said by October we could see at least 2 vehicles. Chairman Calhoun stated who does the stripping on that. Chief Deputy Clenney stated they do, it's a complete package, the only thing we have to do is insert our radios. We put them in the vehicle when they get here. Sheriff Holt stated may cut out on the price of the vehicles too we already got the radios so we can probably be able to take that that was going to be fully equipped with radios and everything I think that's with our radios so whatever we pay for the mobiles, we going to pay mobiles and all the vehicles plus portables on the T25 system so these radios will already be paid for. Mr. Steve how much are those mobiles. Mr. Woodham stated they're \$5,000. Sheriff Holt stated all right so we can take 5,000 off that's 40,000 we can take off those eight vehicles right there. Vice Chairman Cox made motion to approve, Commissioner Nixon seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

## Departments

Chairman Calhoun stated department reports. Mr. Cofty stated I have included all the reports in there, but I do want to talk to you all about this. I have been getting beat up about rock road. Chairman Calhoun stated Me too. I sent the DOT out there and they gave me some recommendations such as adding more pipes and lowering the current pipe. They did say they had one drain that was clogged but didn't fell that was causing an issues. They recommended us do hydrology study and he asked about the ditching, and I told him we had motor grader training coming up on the 25<sup>th</sup>. I feel that you all need to come up with 1 road in each of your districts, Niki I know that's a little hard for you, but we need to attack those roads and stay on those roads and get them complete and then move on to 5 more roads, we need to have a plan to get these roads in order. So, if you all would send me the roads in your district, I know Rock Rd. is at the top. Chairman Calhoun stated that's in my district isn't it. They gave you all a report on the different roads when this bad storm so if y'all read that report that kind of tells you what road that they couldn't get down and they've actually fixed, there's still some that they're working on still working on road right now so I mean they are working on the roads we do have a lot more to go but I just want to let you know these citizens are starting to get to where they are wanting something done and then the next thing I had I know I told to some of you all and I've talked to Andy and I've talked to Jeff and Ladon about this about the tractor pulling the excavator and we agreed to look at the cost of a semi and a trailer so if you'll look at that so we just need to look at it see what the cost is and maybe because I mean you got your CDLs now so we're covered and then didn't you hire a lady too that's got CDL. Mr. Moore stated actually as of today we got two people, so we got three total you know myself we got two people on payroll that's got CDL and then I got them. Mr. Cofty stated that's three total so we probably need to go and look at it because them dump trucks just can't pull that excavator.

Chairman Calhoun stated they can't pull it good can they. Mr. Moore stated it pulls it all right just a slow you know we can move faster if we the excavator 17 years old eventually we're going to have to do something with it and when we trade it if we get one right at even equal to the size of it we won't be able to haul it like you know at anyway because the weight change. I mean we're maxed out on what we can haul with what we're doing now and if you get a new one and you won't be able to haul it like that no way, we have to do something different you know we just need to do and we move other stuff too we move limb cutters, and you know we carry stuff to the shop I mean it's time for us to look at doing something different you know. Mr. Cofty stated we do have a lot of TSPLOST money it did come in didn't it? LMIG and all come in. Mr. Moore stated yes we should have a little over a million dollars. Chairman Calhoun stated that's any of the other departments. Mr. Cofty stated Whitney, Jimmy ,Sheriff you all have their reports in there. Vice Chairman Cox asked do we have a tandem dump truck. Mr. Moore stated no we

don't have them. We maxed out on 20 tons that we got you know we pull them with a 20-ton trailer it's you know it's fully loaded you know I mean that's all we can stand we do anything different you know it'll all be overweight for what we got so it be safe. Chairman Calhoun stated if that's all we got Judge Suggs wants to go into executive session to discuss personnel so ask Judge Suggs and Faye to join us that way we can discuss. Chairman Calhoun stated we need a motion to go into executive session. we need a motion to do this. Yes, we need a motion to go into executive session. Vice Chairman Cox made motion with Commissioner Nixon seconding. All in favor. Motion carried.

### **Executive Session**

The board returned from executive session with no action taken. Vice Chairman Cox made motion to come out of executive session and adjourn. Commissioner Nixon seconded. All in favor. Motion carried. Chairman Calhoun stated we need a motion to let Judge Suggs appoint an associate judge. Vice Chairman Cox made motion with Commissioner Nixon seconding. All in favor . Motion carried. Chairman Calhoun asked was there anything else to discuss if nothing, he called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Nixon made motion to adjourn. Vice Chairman Cox seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

SIGNATURE PAGE:

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Cristene Edwards, Commissioner – District 1

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Jeff Cox, Commissioner – District 2

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Allen Worsley, Chairman – District 3

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Niki Nixon, Commissioner – District 4

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Ladon Calhoun, Vice Chairman – District 5

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Douglas Cofty, County Manager