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

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Present: Chairman Ladon Calhoun, Vice Chairman Jeff Cox, Commissioner Worsley, Commissioner Nixon. Commissioner Edwards Others Present: Faye Whittaker, Douglas Cofty, Andy Moore, Sheriff Jimmy Holt, Billy Phillips, Austin Lambert, Paul Fryer, Steve Jackson, Adam Cochran.

6:00 P.M. – Welcome & Call to Order. Prayer and pledge of allegiance

## **Housekeeping**

### **Approval of Agenda**

Chairman Calhoun opened the meeting with Approval of Agenda. Motion to approve by Commissioner Worsley, seconded by Commissioner Nixon. All in favor. Motion carried.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Calhoun asked if there was any questions on minutes. Commissioner Nixon made motion to approve. Commissioner Worsley seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

### **Approval of Financial Reports**

Chairman Calhoun asked if there was any questions of comments on financials. Commissioner Worsley made motion to approve. Commissioner Nixon seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried. Chairman Calhoun stated you want to go first, Mr. Paul? Are you ready to go? Are you going to be quick or short? Mr. Fryer stated I'll be brief. Chairman Calhoun stated all right. We'll get you out of the way then. I'll get an update on the P25 Radio grant.

### **Paul Fryer – P25 Radio system**

Mr. Paul Pryor stated we've been working on the situation since then to try to get the radio systems to mesh and so forth. So, the bottom line is there's been a grant, and I think you know the big picture. The Congressman got a congressionally directed spending appropriations act for at least \$3.9 million for the regional commission in Camilla to upgrade radios, and it looks like the participating counties, Miller County, Baker County, and Colquitt County. and Colquitt County is not in the congressional district but it is in the regional commission district so that's who's going to get the bulk of the money. This is going to provide upgraded radios for your Sheriff and other first responders, I am not sure if its going to be fire and EMS. Mr. Cofty stated it was for Fire and EMS also. Mr. Fryer stated and so it took

forever to get to where it is. The Federal government acts kind of slowly, but it is becoming a reality. The regional commission had a meeting about a month ago announcing that USDA had signed off on it, its all being put in place. I emailed today, Suzanne Angel. Suzanne is the executive director. She's got a lot of gray hair over this. When this is over with, she's going to retire. What she says is she's been told to proceed with the purchase of equipment, this is a reimbursement grant. I would say you've got to be cautious about that because there is 2 vendors. Motorola and Southern Linc. They're both on state contracts. So, there's also another requirement, there is a federal law called Buy America Build America requirement that is a law that was put in place several years ago. They need to be assured that this is US made equipment. So, I'm not sure what they define as US made equipment because if you can buy a Ford classic vehicle and it's got an engine from Mexico, transmission for Canada, I believe Motorola is still an American made company but I am not sure but Suzanne will work with you on those additional details as necessary. But bottom line is it is happening and necessary and vital to your communications for the Sheriff and you people need that. Chairman Calhoun stated Thank you, sir. Now we've got to present Mr. Allen Worsley with a plaque. Thank you, sir, for all your service. We appreciate it. Mr. Steve Jackson, do you want to come up and talk?

## **Appearances**

Steve Jackson from Sowega Meat stated I'm sorry I didn't have an overhead projector screen and all that kind of good stuff to keep you all in for about four hours. I'm Steve Jackson. I am co-owner of Sowega Meat Company about 5 miles north of town. You all may now we are the third owners of this place. We bought it November 1st of 2023. Our goal is to make it a destination place, I brought along Adam Cochran, Adam is with Home Oil Company and the whole purpose for us to be here tonight, and I want to say thank you all for having me. Thank you. I apologize I wasted you all's time last month. Doug and I got our wires crossed, I understand I was on the agenda and I didn't show up. That was my fault, I did not know when and where to be. He was going to call me back and he probably did, I carry 2 phones around, and I am on one of them 99% of the time. So, I apologize. What we're here tonight to discuss is, like I said, we want to make our store. We have bought MSN meats and in the last two weeks we have put a feed yard in the back and start feeding cattle there. We have really accelerated what we are doing, I do not want to give you the numbers because you will say why do you need us but I need you all. I need you in a bad kind of way. We want to put fuel tanks in. Home Oil has committed to helping us put it out there and supply the need. As y'all very well know if you've traveled from Bainbridge Georgia to Cusseta Georgia there's really nowhere for a semi to pull in and get fuel that's easy to access. And so, we get a lot of Tallahassee traffic, we get a lot of Florida traffic. In doing this, as I said before, let me tell you what you're looking at first here what you're looking at is a design layout by North Star Engineering out of Dothan Alabama, the stores actually everything that's in a darker shade of gray would be pretty much either in concrete or in Asphalt the store is obviously the big white the actual processing plant the store is the big white unit in the middle the gas tanks will be in the front the diesel tanks will be on the side the diesel tanks are designed so that there's a there's a need for expansion and there will be in a few years, a need for expansion we can go off to the to the South there and add on with no problem but in doing so, we ran into a little bit of a challenge with the Georgia DOT. Took us a little bit to get a

permit to widen the driveways which we couldn't do anything till we got that permit we now have that permit in place, but the next step is when we brought DOT out to widen the driveways we thought we'd be grandfathered into the fact we wouldn't need a deceleration lane coming out of coming headed south and there's a little curve there right in front of Mr. Terry Pickle, if you all know where he lives and there's a little curve there so you can kind of get up on the on the plant before you before you know it and with as much traffic and Google using Google Maps and they're trying to shove more I75 units just way coming up 27, they thought it would be coming up and down 27 they thought it'd be best if we have a deceleration lane. The deceleration lanes are not cheap you're looking at anywhere from \$250,000 to \$300,000 just for the deceleration lane. The deceleration Lane is going to be significantly important, we did not budget that neither one of us budgeted that and it's extremely important that we get some support from the Miller County commission. We would I guess just go ahead and blurt it out we'd like for you to pay for it in some shape form or fashion, there'll be what you're looking at the next page is kind of an overall summary we had a third party study done back at the first of the year right after we bought it and if you'll notice in the top paragraph it says nine half acres there we actually have, we bought all 35 acres out there so it's not a misprint at the time the 9 and a half acres was all we had but we acquired the other 25 around it to give us 35 acres.

The next page you're looking at kind of gives you a little so Home Oil is a Marathon franchise a brand that's what I was okay will be a marathon brand out there and I cannot tell you how many people have expressed interest in when are y'all get in fuel tanks when are you get in fuel tanks. When Terry built this place, that was his goal and his objective was to one day put fuel tanks in there. I don't think it ever got to that point and we think the viability of the business requires fuel tanks I mean we're doing a substantial amount of retail at the moment probably drop your chin to know that we don't get a whole lot of local support when it comes to meat and comes to you know buying product every day out there but the road traffic any Saturday any Friday you come through there, I would tell you probably 70% of our business is from Tallahassee but we get a lot during the summer, we get a lot of beach bound traffic and we still we still do really well with the retail . If you'll turn to the next page, what I got is kind of the rundown so this particular third party study is usually within plus or minus 10% and the volume they're talking about us doing the first year would be somewhere around 71,000 gallons a month, okay and you go what does that mean when you start bringing that kind of volume into the county y'all we're not just stopping people to shop at so SOWEGA meat company, we're stopping people we're bringing them to Miller County as a whole and they're going to come through here and if you and if you put something nice out there then they're going to want to know more about Miller County when they come through here and you know the biggest thing is it's not so much the gas that's the driver it's the diesel because you're pulling a pile of diesel out of Florida coming into here coming into this county and so I know you guys don't have a gas tax here or a fuel tax here but there's so many more other

things you're going to get the 4% tax of in the convenience store side. We don't want to be a convenience store but that's what they compared us to because I know you all know a Striplings or a Salt lick or something like that I mean we want to be very similar to that. The biggest difference is most of them have gone to a lot of box stuff, we're still processing as hard so when we bought it they did about 108 animals we've done 560 animals to date so it's pretty well, we're killing ourselves to stay here we need we'd like some help if we could get it. If you look down just a little bit below there and I'm giving you rough numbers so the convenience store sales above and beyond what we're doing right now you're looking you're looking at the first year of it making about a \$56,000 a month impact. You say that's you know I mean that's a lot of money \$56,000 a month of as I always say makes the mayor run, it kind of it kind of gives us a chance to have a little breathing room but we'd like some help, we need some help, and without saying it too harshly this thing probably won't go unless we get something done with the with the with the deceleration lane I mean it's we Kenny and my partner intended to be here tonight but he also helps at the stockyard and he called me, they ran a little late and apologize for not being able to be here tonight but we have we have poured a lot of our, I don't know if you all know how we acquired it but the there was a grant in place that that the previous owners that that collateralized the loan at the bank and when we came in and bought, it kind of got a little squirrely and the Department of Community Affairs did a did a push back on them with the grant because they were a nonprofit and we were for profit which a nonprofit doesn't mean you don't make you don't make money a nonprofit just means you get a little extra tax incented here or there.

But Department of Community Affairs did a little push back and required us to pay back some back grant because their philosophy was they gave the money to a nonprofit and that was their excuse to get out so it wind up costing us a little more out of our pocket than we intended to the tune of about what this would cost. If it wasn't for that ,we could survive it and I just come to beg and plead and see if there's anything you all can do to help us we really appreciate what y'all have done because with Nikki's fingers in my mouth whenever I was getting my teeth clean one day I told her I said we need some help from Miller County because we weren't getting it from the City and she said well we'll help you all and you all came out and visited with us and I appreciate that if means a lot to us. This County's got a lot of potential we just got to push it forward and we need your help to do that. That's pretty much all I have you know all I have at the moment if you all have any questions I know I know you that's a lot to consume in a short amount of time but if you got any questions you want to ask me now or if you want to ask me later please feel free to I know I didn't expect an answer today I just wanted to throw the ball out there the only way we can lob it I mean the only way we can do it is lob it up and serve it up and you know let you guys think about it and know and understand that we need some help so. Chairman Calhoun stated all right well we'll all get together and we'll kind of talk and see and we'll get with Doug and see what we can do and what we can't do. Mr. Jackson stated let me just go ahead and say this too I talked

to Gerald Green. Gerald's all in for supporting us. Gerald's an old family friend but more than that Gerald is a mover and shaker for us rural in South you know this part of the country and Gerald's has supported our area like he like we expect politicians to and Gerald's done a great job and you know if I need to meet with any of you all or we need to meet with him I think he's support us any you know any way he could. Again, I brought Adam along from Home Oil just so you all understand the partnership that we have and I appreciate him being here tonight and his support and again if you got any questions we you know we be glad to answer. Chairman Calhoun stated he's already got a business in Colquitt, correct. Mr. Jackson stated he does. Chairman Calhoun stated a lot of people might not know that. Mr. Jackson stated so that's right, they do have a business here in Colquitt and so they're huge supporters of the area and you know and that's you guys have got a really great thing going here with swamp gravy and going I mean if we can get this in the right direction with the fuel you know as I told I think I told several of you all that were there you know our goal is to eventually one day put a 8 to 10 and camper hookup out there and then also to put a fulfillment center because we want to ramp up our shipping our online sales that's going to be a key ingredient for us we have a game plan in place we just , Rome wasn't built in a day but we need some support and we appreciate you all considering that.

Mr. Cochran with Home Oil stated for those that don't know we bought Sharber Oil Company we bought the card lock downtown and our plan moving forward in Georgia is to grow we also bought the Southwest Georgia Oil in Camila from Chad Johnson we bought their bulk plant there of course we have Bainbridge as well, so our plans and the five-to-10-year future are to grow in the Georgia market for sure. Mr. Jackson stated we could be at 100,000 gallons a month in two or three years three or four years if Google Maps continues which is that's nothing more than the political people getting into Google Maps and shoving that shoving that traffic this way we're in a nice area out there it's very accessible and right now our goal was two on-road fuels and one off-road fuel so we would have off-road for local farmers and that kind of stuff. We've had several folks come to us and tell us we buying from you all when you all get them put in so, we've got some traction and I can't tell you how many times a week we get asked when are you putting the fuel tank and I said well your DOT has been your problem so we appreciate any help and like I said I've probably taken enough of you all's time I just appreciate the opportunity to present this in front of you all and please come please come visit us and give us a call. Chairman Calhoun stated all right thank you. Commissioner Worsley stated I know we won't make a move but I strongly suggest everyone stop and think about this with the taxes that we're facing, where is the money going to come from. Chairman Calhoun stated well I think that's what we'd have to discuss.

## **Old Business**

### **Fuel Center Report**

Chairman Calhoun stated next is old business Fueling Center. Mr. Cofty stated the fuel usage is up 14,000 gallons so I estimated it's probably going to be a little bit lower when the school goes down and the buses stop a little but we're sitting at 14,000 gallons of dispersed right now. And no issues with the fueling center.

### **Update on the WMA Shooting Range**

Chairman Calhoun stated give us a little update on the shooting range. Mr. Cofty stated so Sheriff Holt Chairman Calhoun and I met with Gerald Green and the DNR supervisor and Gerald said that a lot of the school systems has been calling him saying they are starting up a shooting teams like skeet shoot team and you know we thought about doing the phase one which was revamp the rifle range and the pistol range but the state and the and DNR wants to go phase two first which is the skeet shooting. Mr. Gerald thinks that the state of Georgia with the way Georgia is going with the gun legislation and gun safety that we make it actually get them to pay the full amount for the phase two and then come back he said it's phase one which is tearing down that mound is going to take some time because we got to get with the EPD and all the lead that's out there we got to do the mitigation so he said just to we just leave that up there they'll come in and reshape the berms and possibly start on phase two when they can find a good location. They're supposed to be scouting a location now but that's going be paid according to Mr. Gerald, it's probably going to be appropriated so it's going to be 100% state funded so they'll just let us know when we find something else out.

### **School Tax**

Chairman Calhoun stated next is school tax. Mr. Cofty stated the Chairman and I met with the superintendent and their chairman and kind of discussed that and you know they're here tonight if you all want to just kind of discuss it a little bit. Just kind of tell us what we kind of went over appreciate Mr. Keown stated I'm Michael Keown, I'm superintendent Miller County school I have been here about a year and a half, got a couple my board members here with me Mr. Leroy Bush and Mr. Jason Cox. Doug and your chairman came and met with us earlier this week, I believe it was no it was last week last week and we sat down and discussed it I really got three points I'd like to share with you when you are talking about a senior exemption for school property taxes. First it comes down to a question what type of community do you want to live in. I've seen communities, counties where they have done that exemption and it's always been not only very detrimental to the school system but it's also been very detrimental to the community and in fact if you look closely you'll find a county real close to us here that that has that exemption and the school system is flat broke and the community is struggling.

There's a very real correlation between the health of a school system and the health of a community and I would just ask you what type of community do you want to live in. Second I'll tell you this I'll use my family as an example and I'm just going to throw some numbers out here this is probably a very conservative estimate it takes the community the school system about \$10,000 a year to educate a

child okay, I've got three children okay, so if each child goes to school K through 12 that's 13 years it's going to cost this school system this community about \$130,000 to educate that child so if I've got three children then my family it has cost this community about \$390,000 to educate my family. Now my school taxes and I live out on Philipsburg I say my portion of the school taxes about \$1,500 okay and so maybe closer to 2,000 right now but if I were to live there for 30 years I've only paid \$60,000 in school taxes okay so you you're never really going to pay back all that money that it cost to educate that child. Third thing that I that I'll say is you know school systems are being hit left and right now by the state of Georgia and the legislature in particular House Bill 581 which I know affects y'all too as well as the city government you know that is a that is a Statewide Homestead exemption it is a cap on assessments based on inflation level that's going to have a great impact on funding for the school system for the county and for the city in the future, you know we were given the opportunity to opt out of that and all school systems were given the opportunity to opt out of house bill 581. Right now the last I checked about 75% of the school systems in the state of Georgia are planning on opting out of house bill 581 which means their constituents their county is not going to get that Statewide homestead exemption, I can tell you that our school board is not planning on opting, now we're not going to take that it was voted on by the state it was voted on by our County it was approved and we're not planning on opting out our community and our County and our taxpayers are going to get that savings from the state, so you know we we've done real well I've got a great board they're definitely heading in the right direction. We've got a lot of very positive things going on in our school system and financially we're doing great. We have been able to take our millage rate down from 19 and a half since when I got here it was at 19.5 and right now it's 16 and a half, so we're moving in the right direction I would just caution you when you start talking about an exemption for seniors you know we've got to get that funding from somewhere and if there's an exemption for a portion of the community you're going to have to make up that funding with the rest of the community that's left. So, those are the points that I given Doug and chairman and they asked if I share and I appreciate y'all letting me come if y'all have any questions I'd be glad to answer them.

Commissioner Worsley stated you ask what kind of community, I want a community that elderly people can afford to live in, I got 93 old mother-in-law just like that man Mr. Philip sitting right there her school tax was almost \$1,000 this year and first of all let me since we on camera I want to apologize to the tax payer of this County but I told a lot of people that the taxes were not going to be no different based this time other than he going have to pay the homestead exemption so somebody made liars out of us you know, her school taxes went up almost \$500. We are talking about people that are living on fixed income they can't pick up a phone and call Social Security and say hey they are going up on my taxes I need more money it don't work that way but now if people can't afford to live here. Mr. Keown stated part of the I saw was when the last time they reassessed property. Commissioner Worsley stated this last year. Mr. Keown stated I can tell you like my property the assessment went way up but I'll tell you this I guarantee you I wouldn't have sold it for what they had it the assessed last year. Commissioner Worsley stated well I tell you right now if they will pay me tonight what they have mine set for, I'll start moving tomorrow. Mr. Cofty stated let me I can tell you, they missed six years straight of assessments. Commissioner Worsley asked why. Mr. Cofty stated

that's the tax assessor board they should have been here to talk but they aren't here, but they miss six years so the state of Georgia said hey you're only at 20 something %, you got to be at 41% so without you know I think the first time was COVID, they said so we didn't want to put a break on the second time they said was well we thought it was going to be a short-term jump and it would go back down and it didn't, so that's there's where the six years that was missed. Commissioner Worsley well all I know is I told people out there on the street who asked me from the information I was getting from the Tax Assessors so they sit right in here one night and told him and I say I want to apologize to the people out there but then like I say now it is not right for people you've got an aunt it's in the same boat. Commissioner Nixon stated that is 100% correct. Commissioner Worsley stated it's not right. Mr. Keown I moved here about a year and a half ago I can tell you I bought my house for about \$150,000 more than what it was assessed for there was an assessment problem but I don't have anything to do with assessments y'all don't have anything to do with assessments, we don't make the assessments, we changed the millage rate and our school board has dropped that millage rate and will continue to drop that millage rate and do everything that we possibly can to help out our taxpayers and spend this money financially responsible fiscally responsible okay. Again, you know about 75% of the counties school systems are opting out of house bill 581, we're not, we're going we're going to let that go to the taxpayers they voted for it. Commissioner Worsley stated biggest problem is they is more or less a handful a good size handful of people who pay the taxes in this county, the rest of them it's a free ride, you know, it's free ride and like I say it is hard very hard to pay these high taxes and with the amount of taxes people paying it keeps people from wanting to move in here you know that's my concern is I'm just doing what I was asked to do to address it. Mr. Keown stated I can tell you this my taxes went up a lot my assessment went up my taxes went up but as far as city and county did not go what quite as much because y'all dropped the millage rate, we dropped the millage rate okay. I think you might be looking in the wrong place particularly for people that live in the city okay we did drop the millage rate now mine did go up but what I'm telling you is I also have a very real understanding of what a school system and a community how they work together and when one's going good the other one goes good and one goes bad the other one goes bad. You can look at some very close communities around us right here and see some very real struggles.

Commissioner Worsley stated no I'm not saying y'all doing a bad job don't take I thank y'all for what you all are doing but I'm saying when you cut that funding and you don't have those services to offer and you're not able to pay the teachers to get those good teachers here to work with these kids. You're not able to offer the programs that's going to make these kids more successful and you don't have the facilities that you need you don't have all that, I'm telling you I can show you I'm not going to name names here but if you look real close around us there are some counties that the school systems have gone very far downhill and you can watch the communities have done the exact same thing and followed the school system and from what I hear they're not places I'd want to live because of that. There's a very real struggle there and there's a there's a very real correlation between the school system and the community and how they how they work together so I see the value in it, I definitely understand the taxpayer side of it. I'm doing it myself, if I told you what I was having to pay in January for taxes you probably wouldn't believe it but I'm going to tell you this I value a daggum good school



system for this community and so I'm going to pay my part and do my part. Because it's that important to me and I hope it's that important to everybody in this County, in this community but I do understand I get that but we are going to continue to do what we can to make it less and less of a burden on the taxpayers, we've lowered the millage rate we're not opting out of 581, we're going to do everything we can and we're going to try to do it the right way and I've got some great board members to work with me. Mr. Bush stated what percentage of our budget Michael goes to payroll. Mr. Keown stated about 90%. Mr. Bush stated 90% of every dollar we take in goes payroll. Mr. Keown stated let me tell you this a lot of that is not the salaries, the cost of our health insurance and this is mandated by the state a lot of this is State mandated we do not control of most of our cost is State mandated we do not control. Commissioner Worsley stated yeah I realize you got your hands are tied. Mr. Keown stated our healthcare costs for and our benefits costs have gone through the roof okay but I tell you this we're not getting any more tax revenue from this County than we got last budget year and our expenditures our expected expenditures have actually gone down so what this board has done has kept our revenue flat we're not getting any more money from this County than we got last year. We are not asking for a dime more but our expenditures are going down, even though we've had rising health care costs and other costs that have been laid on us by the state. Mr. Bush stated and we like to have half that money you all collect our money, how much they 28,000 30,000. What does the county charge us to collect our tax. Commissioner Worsley stated I don't know. Chairman Calhoun stated I don't think we charge do we. Mr. Bush stated what do you all charge Doug, I know you know. Mr. Cofty stated usually its 2.5% of the total, I'd have to get with Jennifer and say she would know more about that. Commissioner Nixon stated I just want to say this I mean I don't think it's a matter at all that that any of us care I mean we want t Colquitt to and we want our children to thrive that's not it, the issue is when you've got you know an 80-year-old person that's living on a fixed income. How do they pay that, that's just our concern because I want nothing more but for our children to thrive. Mr. Bush stated this isn't the first time this came up. Mr. Keown stated yeah I mean I've seen this happen in in several counties and I'm going tell you it's been detrimental not only for the school system for the county in every single instance it really has.

Mr. Phillips stated question from the floor. Chairman Calhoun stated go ahead. Mr. Phillips stated where do you get that information. Mr. Keown stated just from my experience. Mr. Phillips stated my compliments on dropping the millage rate, we appreciate that appreciate the job y'all doing nobody here wants a bad school system. I'm 75 years old you're. Mr. Keown stated 46. I'm 46. Mr. Phillips stated you'll be 75 one day you won't be in the situation I'm in where all I get is a social security check I can't afford you, I have paid School tax since I was 18 years old never had a kid in the school, I paid for your education for your children, didn't mind, still don't mind but it's a matter of now I can't afford you. I got to eat now I got a choice I can even not eat or. Mr. Keown stated I well again it goes to the question or the statement first statement I made what kind of community you want to live in. Mr. Phillips stated I understand that I understand that's. Mr. Keown stated listen I get what I get what you're saying I understand what you're saying I understand that. Mr. Phillips stated first off let me say this this board and your board has no interchange except budget time, this board represents the people of the county because all we were asking for is to get it put on a referendum, let's put it to the

voters and let the voters decide if there's enough over 65 years old to pass it fine if there's not then I'm stuck with you. I'll help you all I can I'll help you with your school system but I can't afford what you're charging me now plain and simple. I wish I could never fussed about it right for 50 years over 50 years but now it's time to say something and this board and your board are kind of sort of interwoven a little bit that's not good either but it's the way it is in a small County yeah and I don't quite understand you saying that we going to have a terrible Community if we don't pass this if we don't keep it like. Mr. Keown stated no that's not what I'm saying. Mr. Phillips stated yes it is. Mr. Keown stated no sir I said you can see the correlation between how school system starts falling and the community does as well. Mr. Phillips stated that's a difference in a PhD and a post. Mr. Keown stated I don't have a PhD. Mr. Phillips stated I'm sorry Masters, I'm sure that's a difference no reflection on that no that's no criticism that is that's I don't mean a thing in the world by that except I'm just a poor ole whole simple working man and the bottom line is the bottom line now you submit a budget I'm assuming to the county. Mr. Keown stated no sir they don't have anything to do with our budget. Mr. Phillips stated no I'm just saying you tell them what it's going to cost you to operate right. Mr. Keown stated no. Mr. Cofty stated no they do not tell us anything. Mr. Phillips stated my mistake. I apologize for that I'm in error, but I'm right about the part I can't afford you no more that's just the way it is. Chairman Calhoun stated all right well thank you for your comments. Any more discussion on the board. Mr. Keown stated I appreciate y'all, if you got any questions ask me I mean y'all can call me you know I'll talk to anybody about it you know I appreciate everybody in this community what they've done and thank you. Chairman Calhoun stated all right let's move on.

## **New Business**

### **County Ordinances – Disbursements**

Chairman Calhoun stated new business, County ordinances. Mr. Cofty stated in the green packet there you've got all the ordinances that Sheriff Holt and I have been working on, some of them are road ordinances, a lot of them are public safety ordinances. That's just for you to kind of look over them, read them if there's anything you want added or taken out just let us know and then we can review them in January.

### **New Health Insurance bank account and SPLOST bank account**

Chairman Calhoun moved to the health insurance bank account and SPLOST bank account. Ms. Faye Whittaker stated all right so we got a new SPLOST referendum, I'm going have to have a new account, it can't be in same. You know got to be a totally separate bank account so I have to open that. We're still sticking with the same health insurance we have with Ambetter but the people that were our broker I guess is what you call them we're not going to go back with them we're going to use Madison Street which is the ones that anyway it's a confusing thing but they they're going to know how to do it better so what I want to do because the other people just I want to just let that bank account go out and I want to start fresh with a new one with new. Chairman Calhoun asked because they drafted out of there or whatever. Ms. Whittaker stated yes, so I just need y'all in the minutes where you all say I

can open those. Chairman Calhoun stated you need a motion to change checking account. Ms. Whittaker stated I need a motion to open a SPLOST account and a new health insurance account. Chairman Calhoun stated we need a motion to open a new one and two a new SPLOST account. Commissioner Worsley made motion, Vice Chairman Cox seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

### **First Responder PTSD Insurance**

Chairman Calhoun stated next is first responder Insurance. Mr. Cofty stated all right so this goes back to what we were just talking about you know some things that the state of Georgia puts on us that we have no control over so I don't know what the house bill was but they passed a bill that where we have to provide all of our Emergency Services which is the Sheriff's Department, which we don't have the police department so only us would be Sheriff's department and 911 dispatch. We have to provide them with PTSD insurance and that's a county expense so I've got the quote in there and all I need is a resolution sign which is in your packet and a risk management first responder application agreement. Commissioner Worsley stated Doug if you would for the record put the quotes in the amount is going to cost. Mr. Cofty stated okay well there really is no quote is because this is this is mandated so it's for all of ours is 4,973 a year and that is for \$2,000 per event so basically if we accident like we just had and we just had a dispatcher that was having trouble they could go and get care and that insurance would pay for so that's pretty much, there's only one vendor and it is through ACCG IRMA, like I said \$ 4973. Chairman Calhoun stated you need a motion adopt that. Mr. Cofty stated yes, I'm going to need, you don't have to read this resolution you just have to you have to make a motion to pass the resolution Chairman Calhoun stated everybody got that resolution. Mr. Cofty stated its in the packet. It basically talks about the state it's in official code so it's chapter 85 title 36 of official Georgia Code which basically tells us we have to do that. Chairman Calhoun stated so you want a motion to adopt that resolution and then we need to sign this as the chairman need to sign this participation agreement. Vice Chairman Cox made motion, Commissioner Nixon seconded. All in favor, Motion carried

### **Department Head Reports**

Mr. Cofty stated your department reports are in in your packet. Miss Virginia's did come in late so it's one by itself. I will say that we have hired Lawrence Martin with the Rec department and I'm getting nothing but compliments and great job good out of him. I mean it's looking tremendously good out there. Commissioner Worsley stated yeah I stop by and told him I appreciate what his is doing. Chairman Calhoun asked Sheriff would you like to say anything since be the last time we see you. Sheriff Holt stated no sir, enjoyed it it's been fun and I'm still available anything y need. Chairman Calhoun stated and we appreciate your service, thank you sir any other comments. Anybody have anything else. We need a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Worsley made motion. Commissioner Edwards seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Executive Session**

None

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

Commissioner Allen Worsley has been replace by Commissioner Keith Bowen.