



Miller County Government

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Board of Commissioners



REGULAR SESSION MEETING 04/11/2022, 6:00 P.M., Courthouse Courtroom MINUTES

Present: Chairman Kreg Freeman, Commissioner Allen Worsley, Commissioner Nixon. Others Present: Faye Whittaker, Doug Cofty, Austin Lambert, Jujan Bowen, Keith Bowen, Sherry Henley, Rodney Bryan, Whitney Butler and Motorola Representative Glenn, Terry Toole

Chairman Freeman calls the meeting to order. Regular session 04/11/2022 and called for a moment of silent prayer then the pledge of allegiance.

HOUSEKEEPING:

Chairman Freeman stated the first thing we need to do is approve the agenda. Doug said he had one thing he needed to add to it. Mr. Cofty stated he gave you all a handout, it is called Textmygov. Chairman Freeman called for a motion, Commissioner Worsley made motion with Commissioner Nixon seconding, Chairman Freeman voted in favor. Motion carried.

Chairman Freeman as if all commissioners read the minutes from 3-14-22. Commissioner Worsley stated he made a motion to approve. Commissioner seconded it. Chairman Freeman voted in favor. Motion carried.

FINANCIALS:

Chairman Freeman asked the board did they review the accounts payable and if there was anything that needed discussing. Chairman Freeman called for motion to approve accounts payable. Commissioner Nixon made motion to approve. Commissioner Worsley seconded the motion, Chairman Freeman voted in favor, motion carried.

Chairman Freeman asked the board if the financial reports looked in order and if anyone had any questions. Chairman Freeman called for a motion to approve financial reports. Commissioner Worsley made motion to approve with Commissioner Nixon seconding the motion, Chairman Freeman voted in favor, motion carried.

APPEARENCES:

ELECTIONS - KEITH BOWN

Chairman Freeman stated we got Keith Bowen. He's going to update us on what he's been talking to us a little bit about the last couple of meetings. Mr. Bowen stated we have a fellow that's going to be here on Zoom to help you all to if you all have any questions. I know that you all looked and got with the County attorney and said it was we couldn't do paper ballots here in Georgia. But there actually is a part of the constitution that says we can. If it's impracticable or impossible to do that. He stated so

we can do paper ballots and as soon as fellow, his name is Garland Fabrito. He's doing this his whole life. This is what he's doing about voter rights. He's a non-partisan person. He has work with Democrats or Republicans because what he wants to do is be sure that every vote is counted the way it's cast by a legal citizen that has the right vote. So, he's going to come here on Zoom. They simply appear on the table and one of you all might have to just adjust where you can see him. He has three slides he'll show us. He'll take about five or 10 minutes and then he'll, any questions you'll have, he'll be glad to answer. He's here on Zoom now. Mr. Garland Fabrito. Ms. Bowen stated he's with Voter GA. She stated Okay, Mr. Garland. Mr. Garland began, Alright, thank you I want to first say it's quite an honor for me to be here. I want to thank the commissioners and the ones for setting this up. I just wanted to take about five minutes of your time to try to answer a couple of questions that I think some of you have had. I'm going to share my screen. Just quickly. I wanted to mention you. Hopefully, I think that you see that you see a screen written titled Georgia Law. The screen, it says Georgia Law. Yeah. Um so, there was a case that's gained quite a bit of notoriety up here in the Metro Atlanta areas because it currently called Raensburger vs United States District Court case. In which the judge of the case, Judge Thunberg has found that the current system that we're using which is the Dominion max suite 5.5 violates two Georgia's statutes and I'm showing those statutes you know on the screen. It's OCGA 2122 and OCGA 212300 hundred. What the statue says is that the system must print an electric verifying the paper ballot.

And it must produce paper ballots which are marked within elector's choices in a format readable by the elector. As most of you probably know if you vote in person, your votes are accumulated out of a QR code which neither voter cannot verify. And that has been a bond of contention that is caused the United States to support to find that this system is not technically in accordance with Georgia law. So, the relief on this case has not been granted yet. That is the current finding by Judge Thunberg. So, we call this an unverifiable voting system. And the so the question comes up as to what you can do about this. There are two statutes that might apply that you may want to consider or look at. One is OCGA 21234. And that's says, it's a statue entitled voting by paper ballot and release of machine is impossible or impracticable. Our argument is as Voter GA. I'm the co-founder of Voter GA. Our argument is that if the US District Court has already found that this machine violates two Georgia statues, that would certainly make it impractical. So, that means that any election superintendent who is elections director of the county, according to this statue, they may arrange to have the voting for such candidates or offices and such questions conducted by paper ballots. So, you have the option of using the paper ballot in lieu the ballot marking device. That is one statue and then the other statue which that's authorizes the superintendent but the other another statue, OCGA 212366 Authorization for utilization about the scanning system also authorizes the County commission to take action specifically to authorize and direct the use of optical scanning voting systems for reporting and computing the vote at elections held in the county. So, those are two options that you can consider if you are on uncomfortable with this current situation that we're in. I know there's quite a few counties that are uncomfortable. But I just wanted to make you aware of your options and that is all I think I plan to present and I'm happy to answer any questions. And again, it was an honor to be with you this evening. Chairman Freeman asked the board if they had any questions. Commissioner Worsley stated the only thing I'm going to say about it is I don't like what we got. But then again, we have had a reputation here in this county years past of doctoring ballot boxes. That's a concern of mine. I don't think they'll do it now, but you know, it's just a concern. I've had somebody say something two or three times about it. Word got on the street is we were looking at going to paper ballots. Chairman Freeman asked if somebody wants to do this? Who's going to have to take the lead on it? Mr. Garland stated well, I think that the elections

director, election superintendent, and the County Commissioners should be in agreement that that's what they want to do and then I would imagine that the election superintendent would then probably take the lead on it with the authority and backing of the county commission. Chairman Freeman asked would you to have a public hearing about this and get citizen input before we went or they certain steps we got to follow to go about this if we just so decide. Mr. Garland stated if the county according to the statue depends on which statue you would like to use. In accordance with this statue that we're looking at 212366. You could make this determination at any regular meeting or at any special meeting specifically for that purpose. That's your option as the County Commissioner, the governing authorities of the county. The election superintendent, I believe for to declare the system impractical. I don't even think that requires a meeting according to this statute 21234. I think that can be declared the superintendent as I'm as I'm reading the statue. Chairman Freeman asked is there anything else? Ms. Bowen stated is there any assistance, Mr. Garland with if you choose paper ballots to be there any organizations or anything that you have that could assist with that? Mr. Garland stated I believe that we could provide some assistance for doing that. I'd have to double check and see you know in terms of the time frame and everything and the folks we might be in the area that could possibly help out. The good thing about this is that you're only doing what you're already doing with mail-in voting. We're voting by a handwriting ballot so you are, there's no learning curve in doing it because you, you know, you do that for every election anyway.

Chairman Freeman stated alright, would this go back to what it used to be long time ago when they you had to count every ballot by hand and the personnel that's involved in that like it was before the voting machines came along. Is it going to be the same? Mr. Garland stated well, you've got some more options there, you could count the ballots by hand. That is an option, or you could still continue to feed them in one of the scanners. I think you have multiple options there. Chairman Freeman asks is the state going if it goes paper ballots, if you did it like that right there, is the state going to require it to be scanned like it is now, but it not had that digital code, and maybe it, it have, something else to read up there that you could verify that other than that code. Mr. Garland stated I think that you would have to run all of your ballots through the scanner that you use for mail in ballots. That would probably be the way that it would have to work. So, you would just have to simulate your mail-in system just like you're doing now. And it's just that you would use that instead of the other scanners. The precinct scanners are set up only to read that QR code. They can't read a regular mail in ballot. But I believe that you have another scanner you know that that does do that for your mail-ins. Commissioner Worsley stated it basically would be like voting absentee then. Ms. Bowen stated because the scanner at the election office reads the absentee. The ballot marking device at the precinct is the one that prints the QR code. That's the difference. Mr. Bowen stated yeah, every other one is filled in by hand. But the day of here. Ms. Bowen stated for present voting. The early voting to in person. They use the ballot marketing device. Chairman Freeman stated but if you so decide to do this at some point in time. Is it going to do away with the digital code? Are you fixing the problem? Ms. Bowen stated did you hear that question, Mr. Garland? Mr. Garland stated yes, I did. I believe that you are fixing the time because you would no longer need to use that QR code at all. All the ballots, you know, in the mail-in system, the mail-in system doesn't have a QR code and the reason for that is that the scanner instead of differently, it's set up to a digital scan on what we call the Mark Sense bubble and so it reads the ballot differently and the mail-in system doesn't require the QR code. It looks at the at the little bubbles and it interprets the bubbles for the environment. So, yes, it would do away with the dependence on that QR current. Chairman Freeman stated do you all got somebody that could make some kind of demonstration of this. Mr. Garland stated I think that the best demonstration that you have is what you already have in the process in your mail-

ins. It would be exactly the same thing. You would use your in-person you would process your in-person ballots exactly the same way you're processing your mail-in ballots today. I think that would be the best demonstration that you're already doing actually. Chairman Freeman stated Okay. Ms. Bowen stated also, to Judge Josh is gone this week, but he said that he's willing to do a Zoom call with voter GA and talk about it too. Mr. Bowen stated he talked to Judge Josh last week when we were setting this up. He's very and the points that we made with them being so new in office, some of the ones he wasn't aware of is he's just he just got there you know. Chairman Freeman stated right. Mr. Bowen stated he wants to talk to Mr. Garland. We are going to try to set it up. He is at training from the 10th to the 14th. So, when he gets back it'll probably next week. We'll set up a meeting between Zoom between him and Mr. Garland and let them be able to talk about them codes and numbers and everything. But he is very interested in the points we're bringing also. Mr. Bowen continued all we're wanting is for folks is and that's I knew what here last week but that little QR code when you vote the day of. Can't nobody read that so the Dominion machine and that's what we're getting to. We want to be certain that what you voted is what is being counted. No matter if you're Democrat, Republican, Libertarian, Constitutional Party, whatever you are, it doesn't matter to me. I just want your vote to be counted the way you cast him. That's all we're asking. So. Mr. Garland stated Amen, that's a very honorable thing to approach. I believe that you're absolutely one of us and correct and I believe every county should want the same thing.

Chairman Freeman asked any more questions? Was there anything else got him need to talk about? Mr. Bowen stated that is that is always. Thank you all for your time and for your interest and we'll get with Judge Josh and talk to him and then hopefully we can pursue this further. I don't I don't know when or if I really feel strongly if we can get back to a paper ballot because the big thing, I'm hearing in Miller County is no one has confidence in the voting system anymore. They're not and I'm not saying some of the stuff the things that are being thrown out there are correct, but I do know that QR code is unconstitutional. We can't read what we're voting on and that's the thing that we're going after right now. If we can do away with that and use the same thing as Mr. Garland said, the absentee ballots are, everybody vote on that same kind of ballots. We've got the scanner already to read those like the old timey went to a test in school and you put through Scantron deal. You know, you got that regard. We already said it before that. Yes, let's go ahead and do that for everybody the day of and the absentee and because if we back and recounted those day of that they're that are lost because of the dominion guy mix of down there. We can count them again, but we still don't know what the QR code says. We can count them until we wear the ink off the papers, but we still don't know what they say because we can't read that code and that's what I'm getting now to. I want us to have confidence and I if I go and vote for Joe Blow that I can look and see if that's the name, that's the bubble, that's the whatever, who it is now. We can read it at the bottom. They don't count that.

Commissioner Worsley stated you can hold it in your hand and see what you're doing. Mr. Bowen stated that's right. I want to be able to look there. I'm big about writing stuff. When I write my plant dates down, I can look and see what those plant dates are. I don't have to worry about a QR code and that's what we're at here to do away with any kind of and that'll take away any kind of mix ups, any kind of, well, I don't know what I focus but when you've been looking to see it and if you have a question, you can go back and count them, and you could like Kreg was saying. We could go back and get him out on the look and say, well, this is better for this person. You can go back and physically see and count and you'll Now, if we do a recount, we still don't know because we still can't read the codes. We just want confidence back in our electoral system that we don't have right now. That's what we're at. Chairman Freeman stated okay. Mr. Garland

stated sir, if I could add just one thing, I think you made a very good point there about the constitutionality, the US District Court has already found that the old system we were using was unconstitutional and they banned that one and now in this lawsuit currently, Rasensburger, the plaintiffs are also filing against the new system because their argument is that it has the same problem as the old system, and it should not have been purchased and they are asking the judge to demand this one as well as unconstitutional. So, I think you have a very good point there. I believe that it's only a matter of time before this system is in fact declared unconstitutional. Commissioner Worsley stated now, do I understand right what did the lawyer say about it? Chairman Freeman stated he didn't have very much input it but he told Doug just like he said that it was up to election superintendent but he kind of admit to believe it was the Board of Elections. I think the Board of Elections is going to have to have don't they kind of override the election superintendent? Mr. Bowen stated well, since we don't have a Board of Elections. Chairman Freeman stated well, it's coming. Mr. Bowen stated yeah, but we do not have one now. Chairman Freeman stated right. Mr. Bowen stated so, we just going to have to go by the rules we got now which is Judge Josh and County Commissioners. When we have a board of elect election, that's exactly who we'll go to. But I've talked to them I think it might be 2023 before we really get that up and running. So, you know, I don't like to put off something that you can do today. Don't put off until tomorrow, what you can do today. That's where I'm after now.

Commissioner Worsley asked that's not going to leave us hanging out if somebody wants to contest election because they don't like the old one. Mr. Bowen stated that'd be something Mr. Garland. Ms. Bowen asked did you hear that question, Mr. Garland? Mr. Garland stated well, I'm sorry. I didn't hear that. Ms. Bowen stated okay. Commissioner Worsley asked alright, if we were to go to the paper ballots, that's not going to put us out there hanging us out. Somebody might say, well, I don't like to think about it. I'm going to file a lawsuit against the election because I don't like it. You know, where do we stand on something like that? Mr. Garland stated I can't really, you know, anything is possible, but I can't really imagine someone doing that because we're already using papers for absentees, I can't imagine that somebody would want to sue over that. I mean, anything's possible. I know certainly all the folks that I know in the civic groups are concerned about the voting machines and they're all advocating for paper ballots. So, I can't envision that happening. I don't think it would have any trouble that I can see. Commissioner Worsley stated okay. Chairman Freeman asked alright, anything else we need to go, we'll be waiting to, I mean, we'll be talking with you and waiting to hear what's the next step we need to take. Mr. Bowen stated I'll get with Judge Josh next week instead of a time with him and Mr. Garland and we can all get on a Zoom call together and then he can get everything figured out what he says and then I reckon get him and you all to maybe can meet and find get his flesh out of what it would look like but that that's all I'm asking for. We can get this as a county to get Security in our elections where folks will believe their vote counts. You know that the belief is a strong thing. If you've seen folks where they think they're sick and they think they're sick long enough, they don't get sick. And folks, think that their vote don't count, they going to stay at the house. They going to complain and grumble and gripe and not do nothing about it and I want people to go and vote and to be able to say, I voted for this person. Yeah, because here it is, right? I can plainly see it. And not to beat a dead horse that what we got now is a bunch of uncertainty. Because of the Dominion machines and then and I'm not saying our county did anything wrong. We know that we never got those valid images that we were entitled to because of the Dominion guy that was downloading it made a mistake and corrupted the file. So, we've never been able to get all the files. We were legally entitled to. So, we never got them but still it goes back. You get those files, those ballot images, you still can't know what that ballot was because we can't read the QR code. Commissioner Worsley stated it goes back to trust. Mr. Bowen

stated that's it. We want to build, this republic was based on one man, one vote, and it count the way he cast it. And it sort of went away over the past several election cycles because folks has lost their trust in the systems that are being used to count the votes. When we get back to, we can plainly see what this person voted. It's made us mess up. You can fix it. When it's with a QR code and something messes up, you can't fix nothing there. You're just stuck for what says, you don't know what was intended. So, that's why I want to get back. We can build trust with each other, with our candidates, with the system to where people will be part of it and take part and become stronger in our faith that our that our government is being ran by the people that were elected to be in those positions and that's all I'm asking for. So, thank you all for your time. Ms. Bowen asked Commissioner Nixon did you read over what we talked about with the problem we had getting the digital valid images from our county here Commissioner Nixon so I've just I've heard about that. Ms. Bowen stated I have Mr. Garland with voter GA to try to assure that the votes, you know, with his organization, I made an open records request here and the deal, half of the digital ballots were missing.

Commissioner Nixon stated this is not only county where they were missing. Ms. Bowen stated there are the counties where I made the request and Sherry and I made requests and they gave us immediately the next Seminole County, gave us immediately the next day. Everything we needed to get to go to Voter GA, but Miller County couldn't do it and unfortunately with Judge Josh coming in and not being, you know, being elected and everything on. The only thing that they know is that it was in an error. Mr. Bowen stated a Dominion employee person when he was downloading. That concerns us too. Ms. Henley stated I've had three counties. They didn't, they couldn't, and it wasn't just Dominion. It was just they when they did an audit to come and get some person to them. So, there's a lot of. Chairman Freeman stated the paper ballots aren't lost. They're in the clerk's office but the digital download, they don't have access to it. Josh doesn't have access to it. Actually, the stack is not lost. Mr. Bowen stated the ballot images are what is lost. We can go back and get a rescan. But we've got to file a bunch of court orders to get it done. And it's supposed to be our right to get them. But they're the way they're locked up and taken care of, we have to file, we went to two or three different places to get the court order. Every court. Every person tells you to go somewhere else. And you don't get anywhere with it. So, and since we're since the dominion, the QR code doesn't really settle anything anyway. We just started to focus on this because I can specifically say that's unconstitutional. That QR code, that's what we're focusing on that. The ballots are still there. They're just not, the images are not available to us. So, they're supposed to be by law. We can't get them, and it was and it and we're not throwing Judge Josh under the bus at all. He's done an admirable job because he couldn't get training. The old probate judge had to run it for him because he had not been, he wasn't certified to do anything. He couldn't do it. I mean, he just, that was, that's all it was to it. So, I'm not throwing him under the bus at all. He did everything he could, and he's tried everything to fulfill the request. He's called dominion and then everything he can do and he's at a loggerhead. He can't get anywhere with it. But that's what I say. It's not a thing where we're trying to say that that our probate judge lacks in his duties. He's not at all but it's just that's a byproduct of this system. You just can't do it. You know, that's why we go back to paper ballots. Looks to me like that. We'll solve a bunch of problems. So, that's where we're at. Commissioner Nixon stated well, thank you for explaining that to me. Mr. Bowen stated Thank you all for taking time. I really appreciate you all taking time to listen and asking some awesome questions tonight. Thank you all so much. Thank you. Chairman Freeman stated alright, is there anything else we need to go over this what up here? If not, we're going to move on to the next thing. We appreciate it. Thank you.

TAX ASSESSOR CREDIT CARD – Cody Hamilton

Chairman Freeman stated the next thing is a tax assessor board. Cody's here and he's telling us that they are requesting a credit card because I think some of the Cuba lands, stuff like that is they file each parcel or whatever is approved for that. They must pay for it at that time, is that correct? Mr. Hamilton stated so, in the past, whenever a large property owner come in and file for conservation use, we would accept it, turn around, and record it at the court's office and then we would send over batches of them to be reported at a time, 25-30 applications at a time and then we would just write a check to the clerk court's office. Well, now that the clerk of court has went digital, we have to submit them online which means we have not only have to pay online, we have to submit it one by one and pay each application individually online. So, after talking with Faye, this is going to be an ongoing thing for us. Anything we have to record is going to require us to upload it online and pay for it as soon as we upload it. Then that would probably tie up the credit card she's got for weeks at a time or of me coming down and trying to track it down. So, what I'm asking for is a departmental credit card for the Board of Assessors to be able to use to do the conservation use and recording forms online that we need to. Chairman Freeman stated do you all understand what he talking about? Is there any questions on that other than what he done went over. Any concerns? Commissioner Worsley stated well, I got one. Is that going to open it up for all the other departments going to put in for credit card. Chairman Freeman stated I do not see where it will unless it's something like what he's got to do. Mr. Hamilton stated state statute says, I must record it and archive it to the original property deed. So, there's no way around it, I must record it at the clerk of court's office. Chairman Freeman stated alright, we going to get. I know you all going to keep up with the paperwork or we going to get like an invoice or a statement from you to turn in to match it up with a credit card. Mr. Hamilton stated the credit card statement will come here first. Chairman Freeman stated I am talking about what you submitted we need to, it'll be like an invoice. Mr. Hamilton stated correct. So, we'll get a receipt for each charge. Each charge from clerk's office. So, when we submitted online, we'll just print the receipt, put it in a folder, and match it up with credit card statement every month when it comes in. Chairman Freeman asked Faye do you have any input on that? Ms. Whittaker stated no, I mean that's, do you want a totally separate credit card number, or do you want another user on the one we already got. Mr. Hamilton stated That not on me. We don't have to have a totally separate. It's just one of whatever is easier for you when those statements come in. Ms. Whittaker stated its just if we got, because we've got a pretty good limit on it and you're not talking about like a lot of months, right? I mean. Commissioner Worsley stated well, would it be easier though if you had a separate credit card to keep everything separated? Ms. Whittaker stated well, we've already got, you know, the one with the sheriff, the one with us. So, I mean, either way, we can get another user and he can use the same one and when she's balanced in the credit each month. He can just give her those to go with it as receipts. Chairman Freeman asked do you want it on the same card, or do you want to be it be more convenient like that or to have a separate card? Because you're going to get a separate bill. Mr. Hamilton stated well, with separate bill, if I may interject, we in the assessor's office takes the payment. Ms. Gail keeps track of our checkbook. I talked with the board assessors about doing it on a debit card. They were absolutely against that. They said, let's do a credit card which it would come in a monthly statement and I kind of agree with them. So, my thoughts behind it is we would take and let the credit card state become here, get with Faye, reconcile a statement, and then turn around, write her check out of our checking account to match what is on the credit card. Ms. Whittaker stated for him to have his own separate number. Chairman Freeman stated alright, do you all want to go with that? Commissioner Worsley stated Yeah, you need a way to make sure everything checked out in the situation. Chairman Freeman stated we need a motion to approve a credit card for the tax assessor's office? Commissioner Worsley made motion.

Commissioner Nixon seconded. Chairman Freeman stated alright, I'm going to vote in favor of it all. Motion carried. Chairman Freeman stated any more questions on any of that?

OLD BUSINESS:

SHERRIFF DEPARTMENT LAWSUITS

Chairman Freeman asked the board did you all read through that? Are there any questions on that right? Go ahead and mull over it a little bit. I mean, this information, there isn't much we can act on. There is nothing we can do to do. Commissioner Worsley stated yes, it is out of our hands.

ROAD ORDINANCE

Chairman Freeman stated next thing, the ordinance for the roads. You need to if you hadn't already looked at that. I mean we do not to have do nothing tonight. You need to look at the things and see if it is what we talked about if somebody went unauthorized or without approval and dug a ditch across the road or moved dirt or whatever something like that right there. I mean You need to look at this thing and see is there anything we need to delete or add to it before we act on it. Commissioner Worsley stated I'm good with that. Chairman Freeman asked do you all want to just table it the next month. Commissioner Worsley stated yeah. Chairman Freeman asked Doug when you put this together, where did it all originate from? Mr. Cofty stated several counties up in North Georgia, so it is that already been approved as a document itself, and it just has not gone through our lawyer process, but it has approved that each individual aspect of, the different ones. I mean, there's not one specific to what all you guys are asking for. So, each one of these came from an already approved ordinance, if it's something that you approved, then, I would just send it up to the lawyer to get finalized through him and then, we can put it in place. Chairman Freeman stated okay You all look over the thing. Study on a little bit. We'll table it to next month.

USDA GRANT FOR ROAD DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT

Chairman Freeman stated there's a tractor and a mower. we're putting in for. We got a bid on it and the bid went to Flint Equipment. They had a lower bid. Doug, you want to tell us about that. Mr. Cofty stated Yes, sir. So, Flint and Sun South put in a bid. Flint was the lowest one. So, what I did was I went ahead and completed the USDA application process. It was pretty much reviewed, and they sent back a form that we just have to fill out as something new. But everything's been submitted for a tractor and a mower. I think it was 98,500 so we should get the full 50,000 back if we're able to get the grant. So, its basically in process now. Chairman Freeman stated Ok we're going to get pending in the outcome of the grant getting approved. We're going to purchase the tractor from Flint and the mower. Chairman Freeman asked what is the timeline on the grant I think when? Mr. Cofty stated you know what from the pickups, you know what kind of delayed it was. So, I kind of stay on it on a regular basis and I may go three days before I hear from her. So, I'm kind of rushing her as much as I can. We do have to fill this and sign a letter and we send it to her, and I think that's probably a little bit faster too. Chairman Freeman stated Ok. Next thing on the agenda

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT - CITY OF COLQUITT FOR DROP YARD

Chairman Freeman stated the next thing we got on the agenda is the intergovernmental agreement for the city to use some of the property out there at the landfill to put their dumpster not being used on them. They're going to fence it in. Mr. Cofty stated this is just a draft for you guys to look at. Cory still hadn't looked it over. Chairman Freeman asked so, we need to wait on this until Cory. Mr. Cofty stated Yeah, he's kind of had an issue with his daughter. So, he hasn't been at work. If, there's something that, it pretty much is self-explanatory. It says that either party can get out of it with a sixty-day cancellation. It tells about the not able to use any of the landfill land. It must be on the land that's back towards Hwy 91 that's never been deemed landfill. It talks about that they must do the survey and make sure they're not on that land. They must install a fence and keep the property maintained. Chairman Freeman stated me, and Doug and Cory went out and looked at it and he was okay with the spot out there. He said, well, no problem with that. So, just we're waiting on him to make sure this is like it needs to be and then we'll move on. So, it's what we talked about for the last couple of months about them using that property out there. And they just going to put the dumpsters on it. Any questions on that?

TENNIS COURT RESURFACING

Chairman Freeman stated next thing we got is the tennis court resurfacing. We got the amount on the thing. And the man looked at it. The last month he kind of had an example of what they did down there. To do it and do it right is \$35,000. Is that what I'm seeing here on this agreement? The only thing that has changed on that right there is the school was talking about putting in half for the money. They backed out of that deal. They said they're going to save the money and they going to do their own thing next year. And they're not interested in chipping in on this any. So, if we decide to do it, we're going to have to do the whole \$35,000. And the courts hadn't had any work done on them in a while. If you looked over the example, it looked like quality work. And he came down here and walked over the thing. They need some maintenance on it.

Commissioner Worsley stated yeah, if we don't do it, it's just going to get worse and if we get more expensive and I'm good, go ahead and do it. Commissioner Nixon stated Me too. Chairman Freeman stated alright we need a motion on that. Commissioner Worsley made the motion with Commissioner Nixon seconding. Chairman Freeman stated alright, I'm going to vote in favor of it also. Motion carried. Chairman Freeman stated so, that's good to go. When was, didn't he say he could be here in May? Mr. Cofty stated yes sir, they're still on board for May if he was to go differently.

He does have a school logo down there and I think we should change that to the Rec r department logo instead of the school logo. Commissioner Worsley stated yeah.

Chairman Freeman asked Is that agreeable? All stated yeah. Chairman Freeman stated just make a note of that right there that he knows that. Does he got an example of that logo? Mr. Cofty stated I'm working with Brad to kind of come up with a logo that they're wanting. And if I can just let you know it about the courts, I'm sure you guys have heard of pickleball. Well, he can, and it won't interfere with the tennis courts, he can actually also paint, pickleball courts inside the tennis courts. So, I think by doing that, I've talked to one of the guys who is associated with the United States Pickleball Association here in Bainbridge and he's willing to come up here and kind of help us out and make sure we do it right. I don't think it's going to cost any extra because we had talked about it before. So, by doing that, instead of the courts being like the red and gray that we talked about, I think it needs to be the blue and the green like your normal courts. So, that's what I'm throwing out there to go with those colors. And maybe we can attract some pickleball, you know, Commissioner Nixon stated Pickleball is really growing, it's really

growing around here so. Chairman Freeman stated is that agreeable to you all. All commissioners stated yeah. Chairman Freeman stated alright. Commissioner Worsley stated Doug you mentioned Brad, how is he? Mr. Cofty stated he's doing good. He is doing a lot better. I think he goes into surgery tomorrow. but he's good, he's called us twice today. Chairman Freeman stated we are thinking about him. Just relay that message. Any more question on the tennis court? Alright, we we're going to move on to the next thing.

911 EQUIPMENT UPGRADE

Chairman Freeman stated the 911 equipment upgrade. Whitney. Ms. Suggs stated yes, sir. Chairman Freeman stated You talked with me and Doug and who else was here when you talk? Faye? Update them on what we talk about. Ms. Suggs stated what we're looking at is the radio consoles and what I mean by when I say radio console is the computer screen that we used to talk to all our agencies from law enforcement, fire, EMS, for both counties. We're currently running MCC 5500 through Motorola. It is now out of support as of the first of the year. What that means is if it's something that our local people in Albany cannot come and fix, it's going to be hard to fix it because there's not going to be the parts and the upper level are not going to be able to come fix it because there's not going to be anything there to fix. I know there was some questions about the net clock. Simple terms for net clock would mean that all our times from our computer times, our radio times, our playback times, everything will be all one time. So, like sometimes at home, your microwave is as one time, you stove us another time. Net clock will put a stop to that. Everything will be in time. They will never be a question about what time the call come in from the CAD but playback maybe a second or two off. Net clock will put a stop to that altogether thing will be one time all the same. Same playing field, same guideline. Chairman Freeman stated what's the drawback of not having that on there. Is it going is it going to be a safety issue or just a recall issue on that right there? Ms. Suggs stated it would just be that depending on the time that somebody had a question about a time that was like on the CAD or on the playback. It would just be a simple matter of trying to piece it together if the times were all by any means. We would have to go back and try to piece the times together the best we could. Chairman Freeman stated I was trying to I don't have it marked in here, wasn't that several thousand dollars more. Ms. Suggs stated I brought this and I've asked Mr. Glenn with Motorola to attend to kind of talk about the financial side of it that I may not can answer. Chairman Freeman stated I do not have it marked, what page is it? Mr. Cofty stated it's on page 113. Chairman Freeman stated that's 14,450 more to add that to it. That's correct.

Mr. Glenn from Motorola stated Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, I can speak to the Net Clock. The Net Clock is a vital part of the Comm Center. It syncs the timing of timestamps not only for the inbound 911 call itself, the CAD system, the radio system, just virtually every technology she has in the center, syncs it all together and that may sound trivial but that's very important. When open records are requested and they go back and they say, well, you dispatch it at this time. I tell you, you didn't, this doesn't, this doesn't match up with that. It causes a lot of issues on that point. The systems that she has there. That that's kind of the heartbeat if you will to all the essential. Everything that's in there. So, it's not just a radio system that we're asking for the upgrade on the MCC 5500. It comes out of support the first of the year and we wanted to go ahead and make a change there as time allowed and finances allowed to take that out to give our technology that will take her the next 8 or 10 years down the road. We've offered it in single, single-year purchase or three or five-year warranty packages, very common place now for our com centers to be proactive and look at their fixed cost of ownership for the

next 5 years. Are you going to be in nine one business 5 years from now? I mean, these are questions you and therefore, this economy is scaled by going ahead and guaranteeing the fixed cost now for budgeting purposes over the over the next five years. So, she will have 150 paid by the repair cost if you will. But I'm here to answer any questions. Just let me help you with it. Chairman Freeman stated we got part of this right here. You got a grand total and it's got including Scout Care. 202,917. Mr. Glenn stated that's five years all in for three position, total upgrade of taken out her 5500 putting in a the Avtech Scout console position. She gets new monitors, new computers, new back-end service installation, new and 202 that's a five-year all-in with warranty. If you look at that first page, one year cost 149,833 that's a one year all in with warranty. If you look at year one below that, you show the zero cost for that because you get a warranty for that first year on the equipment itself. Year 2, at 13,272. That's your warranty cost for all the hardware for year 2 and then year 3, year 4. So, that's how you get to the 202 number. That's just five years off all your warranty cost on the Avtech dispatch equipment. Commissioner Worsley stated now, after 5 years, is it going to be obsolete? Mr. Glenn stated after 5 years, you can re up another maintenance contract. We just don't offer them past five years. Motorola owns Avtech. So, this is an this is a Motorola product. So, Motorola's made a lot of acquisitions in the last several years for that exact reason. There's a lot of equipment that's in these centers. Uh they would have to partner with other vendors and at the expense of the vendor saying to Motorola, we no longer make that product. It puts us in a bad position with our customers. So, Motorola has kind of prevented that. They've gone out there and got the full suite if you will of the of everything in the comm center. They own these types of companies now. So, to prevent that from happening in the future.

Chairman Freeman stated what he is talking about other than the warranty. The 202,917.00, the equipment that it covers other than the net clock thing. That's going to get you back. That'll be the replacing what you got as it is. Ms. Suggs stated yes, sir. Chairman Freeman stated so, the 202,917 if we decide to go with the net clock thing, that's \$14,450 more. Mr. Glenn stated Is that correct? Yes, sir. That's also, are you looking at this sheet here? Chairman Freeman stated yes. Mr. Glenn stated okay, so, let's talk through that. I wrote that out separately. This is the local boots on the ground, install 24/ 7 maintenance for her system. You can if you look at that, it says, three operative positions at \$29,450. That's the installation for the Albany Shop, Mobile Communications to do the installation thereof of all the takeout and install the new equipment. Keep her operational mind you all through the process. So, that way, there's no downtime. The IP recorder that you have in there, that's your installation of that. The optional four position that's not an issue at this point unless you pick up a fourth position. The annual MCA on-site maintenance. If you want to have 24/ 7 maintenance per year, you would budget the 6,182 number to with MCA to have the that way she can call Albany Com, Charles Moore, whoever the technicians are, they come in. That's her first line of defense to get this thing back up when the screens go dark. Otherwise, she can do it on a per-call basis, and you see the rates there. So, we got installation. We got IP recorder and we got net clock we need to consider Chairman Freeman stated, the maintenance begin year one, is that going to be \$6000 dollars per year? Mr. Glenn stated 6,182.00 to have the ability to have the local shop be able to respond to her call in 2 hours. Chairman Freeman stated for 1 year. Mr. Glenn stated for 1 year. You would budget that each year. Commissioner Worsley asked is Baker County going to help us out with this any. Mr. Cofty stated, Mr. Alan, I have reached out to Baker County on a couple of days and times, and I haven't heard. They said we'll schedule a meeting. They have not committed. They're going to have to, but I do not have a definite yes or no.

Chairman Freeman stated so what we got here is this this page 113, this is this is going to be an addition to this 202 and probably the only thing if we decide to go with that 24-hour maintenance, the only thing that's optional here is the fourth position. Is that correct? Mr. Glenn stated yes. Chairman Freeman stated so, we aren't going to need that. That's \$1,800. But all this other probably goes all hand in hand. Mr. Glenn stated yes, to be completely complete with a warranty with a maintenance program that allows her to call. get boots on the ground locally. The warranty. I broke it Mr. chairman, I broke it out separately to save Miller County cost. If I had to put that in here, they would have been margined up because it went through the paper side. I wanted to treat that separately because we haven't had a discussion how you want to go. You can go with the one year here and have the one-year warranty and call on a per call basis. You are at the mercy of, you know, paying for it every time something fails or paying for the repair of the call. If you go to the five-year route, You should see a return on investment there where you've got a fixed cost over five years. She's not going to surprise the commission with, okay, I got to, I got to replace this. I got to do that. She's going to get all her firmware software updates through this. She's going to stay current. This is where she needs to be. Technology is always involved and that's the nature of what she's dealing with there is constantly moving technology based that must be updated. She gets her updates on this. Chairman Freeman stated but still the five-year warranty, that's just the equipment. Mr. Glenn stated that is the equipment. That's the Motorola Avtech equipment. Chairman Freeman stated so to have somebody to come work on the thing, this 6,182. Is that a 24-hour call? for the year? Mr. Glenn stated Yes, sir. or as it says, \$150 an hour on a pre-call basis. Chairman Freeman asked what's the downside of if could you add I mean, what if what are you going? What's likely to go wrong if you didn't go that route? That you would need to call them for any kind of maintenance, what I'm getting at is just being new and it installed and ended up running. What would go wrong.

Mr. Glenn stated the hard drives, the, she could have screens go dark. No, no apparent reason, not knowing what's, you know, need an instant help on that. It's just a variety of things that's going to happen. It could be weather related too as well. We're dealing with she's got wireless control that talks to all these different dispatch radio systems. The Baker County side of it. That of course was also considered in here as far as all the equipment, the ties of their equipment, it talks to that comm. So, try to keep her complete and that's no surprises. When we present a proposal to the commission, we don't want any surprises. We don't we want you to know everything upfront. Turnkey cost. That way, you've got a plan for five years that you can go into and she's not going to come back to you for any more radio equipment on that part. 5 years. And it ended at 5 years. You could you got an option of redoing a maintenance contract at that time. Chairman Freeman stated alright, when me, you and Scott went over, it's just going to be something we already looked at when we went to Mitchell County. Ms. Suggs stated we look, we know, we looked at their radio console and their CAD system. Now, the CAD system we have is easy 911. It is separate from this. This this is the top screen that just controls all how we talk to every agency. Mr. Glenn stated there are three major components to a 911 center. The 911 phone system itself, CAD system, and the radio system. That's your three major sizes that are operating in that center. Chairman Freeman asked the board, you all got any questions on this stuff? We do not have to decide on it tonight, but you need to get in your head. What? Because we got to make some upgrades to that thing. Mr. Cofty stated, Mr. Kreg, while Mr. Glenn is here, I kind of want to give you update on, I know you guys talk about financing it. Mr. Paul Fryer from Congressman Sanford Bishop's office has been calling me and I'm going to be

submitting a grant for a possible P25 upgrade system for public safety and all that. Also, he told me today that this is a possibility that this can also go under the appropriations request for this upcoming budget. I must submit all this by Friday. Chairman Freeman asked the board on the equipment side, do you got any, is there anything y'all don't understand while he's here and Whitney is here of what we're trying to do here? We got an obsolete system here that isn't going to be able to, there's no going to be no support and no parts. Mr. Glenn stated right, it's just gone by the support which is going to aggravate the situation if she can't talk to a particular radio channel for whatever reason and the technician is going, he's going to have trouble getting the parts for it now. we like you would like everything you have in that center to be in factory support current, current availability. When those when those notices come out, we go around make all the customers aware that in, you know, in three years from now, two years from now, this is going to be end of life support. We'll try not to surprise you. We're trying to give you one, two, three years advance notice and we've kind of been talking about this for several years now. So, we're at a point now where we got to, the push is coming to shove so to speak.

Chairman Freeman stated when we make this upgrade right here, what's going to be the lifespan of this before the next latest edition comes out. Mr. Glenn stated It's technology. That's just it. With the five-year support plan, we keep you current inside of this this and you need to realize that machine she's working on, it's running 24/7, 365. So, it wears on it at a much faster rate than what we normally look at equipment with. So, you need to take that into consideration to answer your question we don't know what technology is going to afford us five years from now. That's why we will expand this out beyond that. We would I would say in 5 years, you'd want to start looking to see what's on but usually when we put something this magnitude in or with radio consoles last longer. They're kind of the workhorse of the radio system if you will but they can continue to work 8, 10 years easily on that. I've got them out there 10, 15, 20 years is the problem. They just work. So, get in one that's got support and it'll stay with you. Chairman Freeman asked any more questions? Alright. We're going to study on this a little bit and he's making note. Doug's making notes to submit that maybe we can get some money to help with this. We may want to talk with again. Mr. Glenn stated we will be completely satisfied with your decision.

FUELING STATION REPORT

Chairman Freeman stated next thing we got on the agenda is the fueling station report. You all got any questions on that? Chairman Freeman asked Doug, you got anything you got anything you need to. Mr. Cofty stated no, just had page 121 tells you to total gallons used and, but I do have tomorrow, the city has their meeting. So, they're going to present to the city council about signing that agreement. So, we're going to probably need to buy another tanker pretty soon because if they come on next week, the road department has finally got up to speed and they're actually using a lot of diesel which is good. So, I'll keep you guys updated on that. Chairman Freeman stated the next thing we got is the

SPRING CREEK PARK RESURFACING

Mr. Cofty stated we are just waiting on Oxford they want to do some measurements. They said they would have a quote later this week. They just couldn't get it in time of the meeting. Chairman Freeman stated we are just getting up information on that right now anyway. But while we talk about it, whatever the quote coming in, did you all want to try to be part of it one year and part of it another year or over the whole thing.

Commissioner Worsley stated I think we need to find out what's going to come first. We will have ideas. Chairman Freeman stated its pretty pricey. But I was when the Oxford man comes in, while they got the equipment in it, they might can do, if he comes looks at it, he might want to do part of it. and then when they come back and maybe pave another road in next year, might want to do some more. So, just anyway, just be thinking on that right there.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Freeman stated next was the DOT, there's a report in here about the bridge inspection. I don't know. Mr. Cofty stated that is just some information. Chairman Freeman stated it's just kind of, you know, to tell you what condition they're in. There's nothing we need to act on and none of that. Anyways, there. You look over it.

SAFETY COORDINATOR RESOLUTION

Chairman Freeman stated the Next thing we got is the safety coordinator resolution. And Jimmy Earp who is the EMS Director over there? Doug, you want to tell us. Mr. Cofty stated yes, him being on the emergency side of it, he will just replace me as the safety coordinator. I'll still be certified and all act as his backup, we just have to do a resolution changing the name. And then towards the end of the year we'll have to do two more. So that's all it is, just it's just changing the names, from my name to his name. Chairman Freeman stated alright, we need a motion to change this. James Earp is going to replace Doug Cofty as the safety coordinator. Commissioner Worsley made motion with Commissioner Nixon seconding. Chairman Freeman stated I will vote in favor of it also. Motions carried.

TANS NOTE SIGNATURE

Chairman Freeman stated next need permission to sign the tans note that's already been approved by the board but it's just it'll be there on standby in case we need to use it. So, we need a motion to any permission to sign on that. Commissioner Nixon stated I'll make the motion. Commissioner Worsley seconded it. Chairman Freeman stated he was voting in favor of it also, Motion carried. Chairman Freeman stated alright, Is there anything else we need to go over? Mr. Cofty stated just that thing I wanted to talk with you all about

TEXT MY GOV

Mr. Cofty stated this is called Text My Gov and from when I took over in July, the biggest thing that I see is the lack of communications with the citizens. And what this is, is a service that we would provide to where I'll give you a little demo. So, I had a webinar with the guy and he and it would be a local number. You basically, so, if you're riding down the road and there's a pothole or there's a bad something in the road, you would text to that number report or damage and it would automatically, it's a smart service that automatically responds back to you and says, what's your name? What's your location? And then it would take that data and send it out to the road department that way they would know what's going on. Also, like, say for instance, I got a lot of people that call me about the agenda. Well, we would be able to pre-program certain things so I could put agenda or like if you text and you just text the word agenda, it will send you to the website or you can download the agenda or any kind of events like opening day, you would type, type in events and it would give you a list of all the events that's going on. It would give us the option to respond back to them through text because a lot of people don't use Facebook and they call about the dump sites. So, by doing that, they could

type dump site and it would give them the address, the hours, anything that we want to use, we could put on there like I could direct it to pay your taxes online. You put pay taxes online and it would go to Jennifer. It would direct you to Jennifer's website. By doing my certified public manager's class, all the counties and cities are going to this. It is just a form of communication that will also enhance your social media, your Facebooks, and stuff like that. So, I want to see about putting under my budget and start using that as a tool to respond to the citizens. So, that's what I was just looking at, Chairman Freeman stated alright? you have a price down here, first year, \$4800. Mr. Cofty stated that's the setup fee and the first year and then after that, it goes to \$3200. What that is, if you look at it, that's like 25, 000 text messages a year. Also, we would have an online storage where we could store everything that we need. So, so like oh and it's also subject to open record request. So, if there is something, that store on there I would be able to pull that off and submit that to Open Records request. Basically, that's just something. I mean, I think the citizens deserve stuff like this to be able to communicate with them and that's why I kind of want to do it. Chairman Freeman stated alright, you got 25000 text messages per year. Mr. Cofty stated there's a fee that if you go over 25000 but based on our population. Its population based. So, based on our population, that's what they're saying we should use. We won't even use that much but what it says is like the old AT&T where if you don't use but say 10,000 well, the next following year, that 15, 000 rolls over to the next year. So, if you keep on going with it, there's a chance. You don't even have to, you know, never worry about even maxing that. So, it's just something that that I would like to look into and especially like I say with Andy and Shelly. Like I got a text today about they sent me a text with the picture of a damaged culvert. Well, they could do that easily and then it would, it would come to me but also would go to them and then they could put it on that work order map that we've incorporated. So, we can incorporate all that into the same, the same thing. Chairman Freeman stated you all want to do something like this right here and you want to. Commissioner Worsley stated I'd like to look it up a little bit and ask questions. Chairman Freeman stated table it to the next time and just make sure it's on the agenda for next month because we'll act on it. Yes, or no? Chairman Freeman stated the only other thing I think he put a report on Facebook, on the website that said that the construction on the Bellevue Road would be started on in May. Mr. Cofty stated yes, he told me it will start May 1st. or the first of May. Chairman Freeman stated that will finish it to the end of it and be completed sometime, first of May. Anything else, we need to go over, if not, we need a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Nixon made motion with Commissioner Worsley seconding and Chairman Freeman voting in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.