



**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Work Session**

**MINUTES**

**March 6, 2014**

**10:00 a.m.**

**Commissioners Conference Room – Ste. 168**

**Chairman Jones began the Work Session at 10:00 a.m. Commissioner Becky Denney and Commissioner Jerry Barnes were present.**

**Steve Vaughn of GEBCorp Retirement Services spoke at the request of the Board regarding the present retirement plan. The Board is looking at eliminating the present plan as an option for employees who are not vested. Mr. Vaughn went into great detail about the present plan and said that our plan was a “success story”. Chairman Jones stated that they want to leave the plan as is for employees already vested in the plan, but want to look at changing from this plan forward. Mr. Vaughn expressed to the Board that any changes to the plan, of course, is up to them and what they want for the employees. He said they would have to make critical decisions and GEBCorp will design the plan. He said it would be a six to nine months to process.**

**The Board agreed to meet with Mr. Vaughn in a couple of weeks and look at options.**

**Chief Judge Brenda Weaver stated that she had four grants last year that required no cash match. She wants to apply for two other grants (Veterans Court and Mental Health Court) and she expressed to the Board that no additional monies will be required for them. Judge Weaver said that some staff positions that Fannin, Gilmer and Pickens are helping with now may decrease in monies needed. In-Kind will be used on Federal Grants; such as office space the county already provides.**

**She asked the Board if her staff could go ahead with the paperwork. Judge Weaver explained that it is a lot of work for her staff and also explained that if they did get the grant the Board doesn't have to accept it.**

**Judge Weaver was told by the Board to go ahead with the paperwork.**

**Norman Pope provided the Board with copies of a Mutual Aid Agreement between Big Canoe Utilities Company and Pickens County Water and Sewer Authority. This hook up will provide a source for water in emergency situations only. Mr. Pope explained that the rate would be \$1.90 / per thousand gallons unless we have to purchase from Cherokee County which would be at a higher rate. Approximately two weeks ago connections were made that allow Pickens County to distribute water to Big Canoe. The connection that will allow Big Canoe to distribute water to Pickens has not yet been installed.**

**This item will be on the March 20, 2014 Regular Meeting Agenda.**

**Chairman Jones asked Director of Public Works Greg Collis for an update on striping on Hwy 5 in front of Mount Zion Baptist Church. Mr. Collis said that Parker Traffic Markings is trying to stripe it today as well as Bethany Road. However, it is difficult due to the windy conditions. Mr. Collis said his department has been patching potholes steadily, having to catch them in between rains. In the west end, Henderson Mtn. Road has already been patched. He said it has got to be paved. It is 10 miles long. He said that will take all the money we get and it is one of many that need paved. The bad weather has really been rough on our roads.**

**Commissioner Denney thanked Sheriff Craig for the community service workers picking up trash on Steve Tate Road. The Sheriff said they have 5 or 6 on the list for trash pick-up as soon as the weather breaks.**

**Chairman Jones reported that the final cost of the Courthouse Project was \$15,782,124.46. This figure includes the land purchase as well as the construction of the new parking lot on Court Street. The project came in at \$1.2 under budget and some of that money will be distributed to the Cities of Jasper, Nelson, Talking Rock, and \$500,000 to \$700,000 toward the Community Center debt. Jason Segers, Assistant Finance Director added that the courthouse bond will be paid off. This should all take place in April.**

**Chairman Jones mentioned that the elected officials and department heads met with Kronos representatives regarding a time keeping system. He said they are looking at that system and some others to hopefully centralize all departments and achieve better management.**

**Wild Timber Subdivision Roads – Joey Low, Director of Planning and Development, reported that the offer still stands from the Home Owner Association that was presented earlier. The Wild Timber HOA will pay for materials to top the roads, which did not receive the final top coating after the original developers went bankrupt, and the county will do the work. A developer is still under contract for the remainder of the lots in Wild Timber. The County will take the roads over before paving begins because the county can't go on private property. Mr. Low mentioned that the same buyer has also purchased vacant lots in the Dogwood Trace subdivision and is willing to pay for topping materials for those roads also. Mr. Low said he told them we first have to see what happens with Wild Timber. Public Works Director Greg Collis said once he gets the go ahead, crews could have Wild Timber roads paved in a couple of days. He also stated he would like to have the project completed this year before the department receives state monies for other road projects.**

**The Wild Timber Subdivision HOA offer will be on the March 20, 2014 Regular meeting agenda for consideration of the Board.**

**Commissioner Barnes said we need to work on this, not to let it happen again. Chairman Jones said that we are working on it and have come up with a couple of options such as: 1) 125% put up by Developer before breaking ground 2) Developer goes ahead and does the roads upfront.**

**There was discussion about the Animal Shelter. Chairman Jones stated that the Board needs to decide whether the county should take it over or not.**

**Sheriff Craig says the shelter provides a regular area for 45 dogs and a quarantine area for 8 dogs. A separate area is provided for puppies. Sheriff Craig said the Animal Control budget is \$177,500. The shelter has been managed by the Sheriff's office since opening in 2009. Sheriff Craig was asked to provide more information to each Board member.**

**There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:13 a.m.**

**These Minutes were approved on March 20, 2014.**

**Commission Meetings are videotaped and may be viewed at [www.knowpickens.com](http://www.knowpickens.com).**