Chairman Jones called the work session to order at 10:00 a.m. Commissioner Jerry Barnes was present; Commissioner Becky Denney was absent.

Items discussed:

1) Employee Handbook Updates – Human Resource Director Paula Peace made suggestions about needed updates. 1) Sick leave policy – suggested amendment: under Certificate by Physician – Sick leave of any duration, if absence from duty recurs frequently or habitually. 2) Add to Section 4: FLSA guidelines, 3) Add to Section 8: Holidays – this was already in our previous handbook but was inadvertently omitted in the last handbook. She is simply putting it back; 4) Remove from Section 8 – Page 26 – Remove Pension Plan and leave Retirement since new employees are not in the Pension Plan.

Mrs. Peace said a couple of departments have employees who have excessive absenteeism and this amendment should help curtail that problem. Also, a couple of departments have their own sick leave policy. If they are not going to follow the county policy she needs a copy of their policy in writing.

County Attorney Phil Landrum is looking over the sick leave policy amendment to be certain the change is under the FMLA. Mr. Landrum will forward his opinion/conclusion to Mrs. Peace by email. This item will be considered possibly in the February 16, 2017 BOC meeting.

2) CFO Faye Harvey stated that the Audit is coming along. The auditors will be doing field work at the county offices in the courthouse the week of February 27th and will be here doing field work the week of March 20th.

3) Chief Appraiser Roy Dobbs said they are working on a new program – DIS mapping system with GA Mountains Regional Commission. This would give us LiDAR at a fraction of the cost. This would be a great upgrade – ground resolution, etc. and will provide accurate information.

4) Emergency Management Director John Nicholson stated that the EOC had been updated and that he is looking at grants. Two generators were approved and have been set up. He will find out later this month about a grant for three more generators.
There being no further discussion the work session was adjourned at 10:22 a.m.

These Minutes were approved in the February 16, 2017 BOC meeting.

Commission meetings are videotaped and may be viewed at www.knowpickens.com.