Items for Discussion:

1. Updates from Department Heads

Pickens County Government concluded a busy and productive year with several projects ahead in 2018. Elected officials, department heads, and staff implemented policies and launched new resources to increase the efficiency of operations. Brian Jones reported that the Pickens County Recreation Department had over 1,100 kids participate in the 5 sports offered during 2017. PCRD also offered adult recreation with pickle ball and basketball leagues. In addition, PCRD offers fitness, karate, and dance classes as well as various support groups that meet regularly. Richard Osborne stated the Department of Planning and Development issued 434 building permits for the year. The Comprehensive Plan is moving forward with strong participation from residents of Pickens County. Sloan Elrod reported the 911 operations center received 19,426 calls. Pickens County Fire/EMS had two ambulances remounted, and plans for additional service vehicle upgrades during 2018. Also, in 2017 a groundbreaking occurred for Pickens County Fire Station #12 located off Carlan Road, completion is planned during 2018. John Nicholson, Director of Emergency Management Operations, has completed the federal mandated Hazard Mitigation Plan for Pickens County two years ahead of schedule. Also, Pickens EMA was awarded $317,266 in federal and state grants for projects including generators for crucial infrastructure and acquiring other public safety resources. Phillip Dean commended the Water Department for the installation of 66 new meters. They installed 17,500 feet of new water line and replaced 3,400 feet of outdated water line. Additionally, in June of 2017 the Water Department began offering online bill pay for customer convenience. Rodney Buckingham and Tucker Green continue to work with the State regarding LMIG and with the EPD regarding various issues. The Tax Assessor’s office has started creating the tax digest for 2018. Roy Dobbs gave a reminder that anyone who needs to file for a homestead exemption should do so before April 1, 2018. He said the staff and appraisers will be working throughout the County and will be in marked vehicles. They will also have the proper ID with them.
Roy mentioned that Pickens County has the most up to date “Lidar Technology” which will be beneficial to all citizens. Kim Quinton gave an overview of the Pickens County Public Works Department. Public Works resurfaced 20.96 miles of road across the County in addition to tar and graveling 2.83 miles of dirt road. Over 50 miles of road had traffic signage replaced with increased reflect ability through state safety action projects. Also, roughly 300 street signs were replaced to meet federal guidelines with the remainder to be replaced during 2018.

2. BOC Meeting Schedule for 2018
   The BOC Meeting Schedule for 2018 was discussed and will be approved at the January 18, 2018 regular BOC meeting.

3. General Discussion
   Chairman Jones stated that as a new year begins, Pickens County Government looks forward to improving our overall operations further for the benefit of our citizens and our County.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.