Chairman Jones called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Prayer was led by Rev. Greg Long

Pledge was led by the Pickens High School FFA Officers

The Pickens High School FFA Officers were recognized before the meeting began. Emma Long was recognized for winning the National FFA Talent Contest and the State Poultry Winners were recognized as well.

1. Department Updates

The start of a new year comes with several projects including: the opening of Pickens County Fire Station #12 off Carlan Road, the construction of a new Tate Fire Station, a hefty paving schedule, water line extensions, and much more that is developing. Pickens County Fire and Rescue’s fleet is expanding to include two new fire engines this year. The two engines were purchased with SPLOST (Special Purpose Local Options Sales Tax) funds as allocated in the 2014 SPLOST referendum. The “twins” as they’ve been dubbed by Pickens Fire and Rescue will go into full service as soon as all equipment is installed.

The Department of Planning and Development issued 38 new building permits. The Water Department installed five new meters. The Water and Road Departments completed implementing a new brine operation for severe winter weather. The potential winter storm in late January allowed for the first run of the new brine system. The results were an extremely effective and efficient operation that allows for multiple roads to be pretreated in ample time. The Road Department is continuing to perform routine road maintenance around the county.

The Pickens County Recreation Department is currently accepting signups for spring baseball, softball, and t-ball. The cost for baseball and softball is $85. The cost for t-ball
is $75. The deadline to register is February 17th. A late registration period will be available February 18th through February 28th for a $10 additional fee.

2. Audio Visual – Courthouse

A Vendor Open House will be held on February 15, 2019 at Gilmer County Courthouse for anyone working in departments or agencies associated with courtrooms in Pickens, Gilmer and Fannin County. This event is planned as a kick-off for a Capital Improvement Project to modernize the audio and video technology in the respective courthouses.

3. Old Grandview Road Closure

The Salvation Army has requested to remove a section of Old Grandview Road off of the County maintenance system. Phil Landrum will take the necessary steps to run the legal ads, etc. to have a Public Hearing regarding the road.

4. Animal Control E-Mail

An e-mail was received by the Commissioners regarding the County ordinance on tethering and barking. Rodney Buckingham and Phil Landrum will review the ordinance.

5. General Discussion

It was discussed that the County policy for hiring retired employees needs to be reviewed with GebCorp. A meeting with GebCorp will be set to review our policy and make sure we are following ERISA guidelines.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

These Minutes were approved at the February 21, 2019 meeting.

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