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

1. Department Updates

Pickens County Public Works resurfaced 27.66 miles of road across the county, in addition to tar and graveling 3,245 miles of dirt road. This brought a total of roughly 31 miles of road that were asphalted or tar and graveled during the year a paving record for Public Works. Additionally, Public Works cleaned up over 500 down trees on right-of-way, installed 111 drainage pipes county-wide, and constructed a new parking area at the Tate Depot.

The Water Department installed 77 new meters and installed over 17,000 feet of new water line along Jones Mountain Road that will connect to Gilmer County’s water main. Also, the Water Department and Public Works have been working in conjunction to start an in-house brine operation which will allow roads to be pretreated more efficiently during the winter months. The project will be completed in early 2019.

The Department of Planning and Development issued 475 building permits, 123 new business licenses, and renewed 605 business licenses for the year. Also, Planning and Development received 16 rezone requests and revised two county ordinances.

Pickens Fire & Rescue acquired property in Tate to rebuild Fire Station #2. Groundbreaking on the project is set for this Spring. Construction on Carlan Road Fire Station #12 continued throughout 2018 and is expected to open within a couple of months. Further, Pickens Fire & Rescue received an impressive upgrade of ISO ratings that indicates fire service readiness and is used to calculate homeowners’ insurance.

The Pickens County Recreation Department had roughly 1,000 kids participate in youth sports and 185 kids attended PCRD Summer Camp. Additionally, with the help of an
EMA grant a new Thor Guard lightening detection system was installed around the ball fields, the U6 and U8 soccer fields were redone, and new playground equipment was installed with the help of Pepsi and Southeast Outdoors Solutions. PCRD continues to offer many activities for the citizens: the popular adult sport Pickelball, fitness, karate, and dancing classes.

2. General Discussion

Commissioner Jones express thanks to Cherokee County Sheriff Frank Reynolds for donating a portable water tank to Pickens County.

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

These Minutes were approved at the January 17, 2019 meeting.

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