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

1. Department Updates

Fire & EMS director Sloan Elrod reported a nine percent increase in 911 calls in 2019 over those received in 2018. For 2019, there were 84,318 calls for service compared to 77,481 calls. These calls were those with a request for emergency response and do not include non-emergency calls received by 911. The fire & EMS department received two new tankers and a new fire truck in 2019 and is anticipating the new fire station at Tate to open this month. Director of Utilities Phillip Dean reported the county set 166 new meters for the year, 70 of which were in the Lawson’s Landing subdivision in far east Pickens. The water infrastructure in that area was privately installed many years ago, but later taken over by the county. He also reported the county is rehabilitating booster pump stations that are around 15 years old. Greg Logan, who is temporarily filling in for former public works director Kim Quinton, reported that for 2019 the road department installed 48 culvers, cleared 400 trees, and performed 1,600 miles of mowing. There were also 32 miles of road paved in the county, 11 of those done by the road department. Human resource officer Paula Peace reported seven of the nine employees who qualified for early retirement offer the county made available for a brief window last year. Two of those were department heads Kim Quinton, Road Department and Planning and Development Director, Rodney Buckingham. Roy Dobbs, Chief Tax Appraiser commented on increased activity and development in the county. He noted that for homestead exemptions to be in effect by the next billing cycle, applications need to be submitted by April 1, 2020.

2. General Discussion

There were no additional comments.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

These Minutes were approved at the January 16, 2020 meeting.

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