



**Fannin County Board of Commissioners**  
**Regular Scheduled Meeting**  
**April 13th, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m.**  
**Jury Assembly Room**  
**Third Floor**

**OPENING REGULAR MEETING**

Chairman Hensley called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Item #1: Invocation was led by Eddie O'Neal. Pledge was led by Commissioner Glenn Patterson.

Chairman Hensley recognized the attendance by Zoom of Post One Commissioner Johnny Searce and welcomed him.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Item #2: Chairman Hensley asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 23rd, 2021 Regular Scheduled Meeting. Motion made first by Commissioner Searce. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Item #3: Kim O'Neal of the North Georgia Mountain Crisis Network presented to the Board the Proclamation declaring the month of April Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Proclamation was signed and presented by Chairman Hensley.

Item #4: Sandy Ott with UNG presented to the Board the project of the turning lane on Highway 515 which accesses the UNG Campus; and asked for the support of the project. Ms. Ott explained the safety concerns for students as they access the campus. Todd Burman also spoke to the Board regarding the project. Estimated total cost of project would be \$220,000.00 with the City of Blue Ridge funding \$150,000 & UNG funding \$35,000 leaving a balance of \$35,000. Commissioner Searce commented on the safety issue and referred to the RVs access to the entrance also. After discussion, the Board tabled the issue until the next Board of Commissioners Meeting being April 27<sup>th</sup>.

Item #5: Director of Recreation Eddie O'Neal approached the Board to present projects at the Recreation Department. Mr. O'Neal stated the first request was to do some remodeling to the concession stand which is on the soccer side of concession. Mr. O'Neal stated he had two bids, first bid from JTL in the amount of \$37,150.00 and a bid from Wolfcreek Builders in the amount of \$31,080.00. The bids would be for labor only. This would be a SPLOST project. Chairman Hensley asked for a motion to approve the bid for Wolfcreek Builders in the amount of \$31,080.00 for labor and total not to exceed \$67,000.00. Motion made first by Commissioner Searce. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. O'Neal presented to the Board redoing fields 6 and 7; this would include the in-fields and out-fields to include the drains and fences. Mr. O'Neal stated the cost would be \$23,600.00 from BIOME for the drawings. Mr. O'Neal stated this would also be funded by SPLOST. Chairman Hensley asked for a motion to approve the engineering of reeding fields 6 & 7. Commissioner Patterson made motion first. Motion made second by Commissioners Searce. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. O'Neal stated they had a lot of flood damage to the creek bank and it has damaged the walking tracks. Mr. O'Neal stated this would be through FEMA; one bid for the work was \$42,710.00 and the other bid was for \$203,000. Mr. O'Neal stated most of this would be coming back from FEMA. Mr. O'Neal also stated the cost of the engineer's plan would be \$5,700.00 for the creek repairs. Chairman Hensley made a motion first to approve the work for the fields in the amount of \$48,410.00. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

Items #6: Director of Public Works Zack Ratcliff approached the Board to present repairs in the amount of \$7,000.00 to one of the trucks at the Road Department. This will be paid for out of SPLOST funds. Mr. Ratcliff stated this truck was in good shape besides this repair. Chairman Hensley asked for a motion to approve the repairs in the amount of \$7,000.00. Motion made first by Commissioner Searce. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #7: 911 Director Patrick Cooke approached the Board asking for permission to seek bids for Radio Console for 911. Mr. Cooke stated the radio console had not been replaced since 2005. Mr. Cooke stated these probably would run around \$120,000.00. Mr. Cooke stated these have reached the end of life and parts are not available any longer. Mr. Cooke stated the funds were available through the 911 Fund account. The Board agreed on accepting bids for the project.

Item #8: Amendment to FY2021 Fannin County Superior Court Budget. Chairman Hensley asked for a motion to amend the 2021 Superior Court Budget in the amount of \$4,472.00 as requested. Motion made first by Commissioner Searce. Motion made second by Chairman Hensley. Motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENTARY:**

The following individuals approached the Board with public commentary: Mariane Folger, James Bond, Kirk Williams, Debbie Holcomb, Julie Wooten and Frank Tate.

Public Commentary closed at 7:05 p.m.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Chairman Hensley made a motion first to enter into Executive Session at 7:07 p.m. Motion made second by Commissioner Searce. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Hensley made a motion first to come out of Executive Session at 8:03 p.m. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.


Chairman Hensley stated the Board had discussed the COLA raises for the county employees. Chairman Hensley made a motion first to approve the COLA raises in the amount of 3% for county employees. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Hensley stated the Board had discussed the Whitepath Building and there would be a test survey which would be available on the county website.

Chairman Hensley stated there would be a moratorium on building a structure not to exceed 72 feet from footers to ceiling. The moratorium will be six months. Chairman Hensley asked for a motion for the moratorium. Motion made first by Commissioner Patterson. Motion made second by Commissioner Searce. Motion passed unanimously.

**CLOSING**

Chairman Hensley asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion made first by Commissioner Searce. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously. Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

  
Jamie Hensley, Chairman

  
Johnny Searce, Post One Commissioner

  
Glenn Patterson, Post Two Commissioner

Attest:

  
Sherri L. Walker, County Clerk