

AGENDA
THE JOHNSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
March 11, 2024
6:00 P.M.
JOHNSON COUNTY GOVERNMENT ANNEX

The Johnson County Board of Commissioners held their REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING on March 11, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Johnson County Government Annex. Chairman James L. McAfee, Jr. called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Chairman James L. McAfee, Jr. led the Invocation.

Chairman James L. McAfee, Jr. led all in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Felice Pullen made a motion to accept the minutes of the last Regular Monthly Meeting held on February 12, 2024. Commissioner Mike Keene seconded the motion. The vote to approve the minutes was unanimous 5-0.

Chairman James L. McAfee, Jr. stated the amount of bills from the General Fund for the month of February amounted to \$216,422.42. Total amount of bills from all funds for the month of February was \$494,201.71. Commissioner Larry Pope made a motion to approve the monthly bills for February of \$494,201.71 from all funds. Vice-Chairman Ron Darrisaw seconded the motion. The vote to approve the bills was unanimous 5-0.

County Administrator Bill Lindsey gave the Financial Report. As of today, the General Fund will have a balance of \$1,284,510.85 after the monthly bills are paid. **A COPY OF THIS FINANCIAL REPORT WILL BE FILED WITH THESE MINUTES.**

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Consideration and Approval of Amendment to Subdivision Ordinance – County Attorney Joseph Sumner stated to the board they had a meeting with the District Health Inspector, and we just need to get back together on some of the items they had mentioned as far as what they want done. County Administrator Bill Lindsey stated to the board a lot of it was clarifying what their roles are expected to be in our ordinance, due to us having them responsible for several things. Lindsey stated they just want to clarify what the county wants them to do and what roles we want them to play. Sumner asked Lindsey if he wanted to set a meeting with them or just us. Lindsey stated he thought it would be best for us to sit down and work through it, and kind of clean it up, and then we could get back with the health inspector to make sure that everyone is on the same page. This item was tabled.

New Business

- A. Ronald Holmes- Cypress Grove Church Road- Ronald Holmes addressed the board concerning Cypress Grove Church Road. When it rains the dirt road gets in a mess, and they are requesting to have the road paved. Holmes stated he had a crew to go out and determine the distance from Hwy 57 to the church, and he also used his odometer on his vehicle. Holmes stated it was approximately one-half of a mile. Holmes stated the church was established in 1853, and this September the church will be 171 years old. He thought it is the oldest church in the county. Holmes stated the land was given to slaves in 1853 by Mr. Allen Meeks. Holmes is the Pastor of the church along with his wife. Holmes stated the longest serving commissioner on this board was John Pullen, who was Mr. Holmes's uncle. Pullen's family plots and the Holmes family plots are out there, and there are a lot of people in the community with family plots there in the cemetery. Holmes stated back in 2015 the church was supposed to be torn down. However, due to the family and other people donating to the church, they were able to collect enough money to renovate it. Holmes stated they have regular services and funerals still at the church. Holmes stated the church appreciates what the county has done for the road, but he thought it needed more of a permanent fix. He stated if we get a lot of rain this weekend, it's going to be tough getting up to the church. Holmes stated he and his wife have contacted the Historical Society. Holmes stated if you pull up the church on the internet, it doesn't show the cemetery on the site, but it's listed on the Historical Society site. Ms. Holmes stated the church is on the National Register of Historic Places, and she understood that Wrightsville itself is already a historical city, with downtown on the National Register. She stated the Historical Society has been helping us with the history part of the church, and she understood the church was 171 years old.

She stated they still have activities and have people coming in and out of the church. She stated it does help to have the gravel on the dirt road. If the road could be paved, they see that as a benefit to Johnson County and the church. She stated that the history of Wrightsville is an ongoing thing, due to its background. Ms. Holmes stated the request to have the road paved be considered by the board. Also, they are looking at if there could be any grants through the historical registry. Chairman James L. McAfee, Jr. stated paving the road would cost the county a lot of money, and the county does not have the funds to pave the road. The county has to go through the state highway department to get those funds. Chairman McAfee stated we give the state highway department a list of roads, and we could add Cypress Grove Church Road to that list. Chairman McAfee stated they will go out and look at the road, and they let the county know which roads the state highway department will furnish the money. The county will have to put up some of the funds, but eighty to ninety percent comes from the state highway department. Chairman McAfee stated he did not believe that Cypress Grove Church Road is on the list, and the board could meet to get it on the list. Chairman McAfee stated they will contact the state highway department and explain the history of the church and then go from there, and we will do our best to get it moved up on the list. Chairman McAfee stated anytime they have a function at the church, just contact the county one or two days ahead of time, and the county can get the dirt road fixed before their functions at the church. Commissioner Felice Pullen stated the county has already been fixing the roads

for them. Chairman McAfee stated since we already do that, he will make sure we do a better job at it. Ms. Holmes stated they are also looking at trying to get a grant, and wanted to know how will that affect us getting the road paved. County Administrator Bill Lindsey wanted to know what kind of grant and what will it be for. Ms. Holmes stated it will be used for the renovations of the grave site and the road. Lindsey stated the best option as far as getting a grant for the road, is to have the LMIG Project list included for 2024-2025. Also, the state budget for the next fiscal year has passed some additional LMIG funds. Lindsey stated they will have other funds not called LMIG, through it will work like LMIG, and it's called Supplemental Local Road Assistance. Lindsey stated the state has allocated two hundred fifty million dollars in the budget to be distributed statewide, and it is now available for cities and counties to compete for. Lindsey stated this could be an option as a project for one of those avenues, should the board decide to go that route. Lindsey stated it could be an option that could solve the issue. Lindsey stated he thought it would be the best option. Lindsey stated the only other option out there as far as grants for a road would be some of the federal infrastructure money that is coming out of the Pandemic. The only caveat to that is all the money is going to urban areas and not rural areas. Lindsey said we could try for that, but he thought the state through LMIG or the supplemental road assistance program is going to be the best options. Commissioner Mike Keene stated sometimes with those grants if you need right-of-way it is tough to obtain. Commissioner Keene stated as long as you are doing it under the state, it is a little easier to do. Chairman McAfee stated the road probably does need right-of-way since the road is narrow. Chairman McAfee stated the board will take it under consideration, and they will do the best they can for the road.

- B. Consideration and Award of Bid for FY 2023 LMIG Projects- County Administrator Bill Lindsey presented to the board a copy of the FY 2023 LMIG Project list that was put out for bid. Lindsey stated that we had two bidders. Lindsey stated the bid opening was held Thursday, February 29, 2024. The FY 2023 LMIG list consists of resurfacing Lord's Pond Road from State Route 15 to Idylwild Road, striping Archer Pond Road from State Route 15 to US 80, striping Pringle-Harrison Road from Hwy 319 to Cross Cedar Road, and then full depth reclamation on Pringle-Harrison Road from Cross Cedar Road to the Washington County line. Lindsey stated there is a pipe replacement project on Shepard Road at Smith Creek. Lindsey stated out of the two bids received, the lowest bid was from The Scruggs Company out of Cochran, Georgia, and their total base bid was in the amount of four hundred eighty thousand three hundred seventy-two dollars and fifty-five cents (\$480,372.55). Lindsey stated the other bid received was from Sikes Brothers, Inc. out of Cobbtown, and their bid was in the amount of five hundred eighty thousand seven hundred ninety-one dollars and seventy-five cents (\$580,791.75). Lindsey stated the recommendation from EMC Engineering is to accept the lowest bid from The Scruggs Company, and he recommends that as well. Chairman James L. McAfee, Jr. made a motion to approve the low bid from The Scruggs Company in the amount of four hundred eighty thousand three hundred seventy-two dollars and fifty-five cents (\$480,372.55). Commissioner Felice Pullen seconded the motion. Chairman McAfee stated to the board that Commissioner Mike Keene has to refrain from voting, due to him working for EMC Engineering. The vote to approve the bid from The Scruggs Company

in the amount of four hundred eighty thousand three hundred seventy-two dollars and fifty-five cents (\$480,372.55) was approved unanimously 4-0.

- C. Consideration of Proposed Contract from Johnson County Board of Health For Use of Public Facilities In The Event Of A Public Health Emergency- County Administrator Bill Lindsey presented to the board a copy of a proposed contract between the Johnson County Board of Health and Johnson County. Lindsey stated the health districts are being required to have this in place. It is basically planning in the event of a large scale emergency, for example, if we have another pandemic, an anthrax outbreak, or an accident on the roads where a truck carrying chemicals was to wreck and have a chemical spill. Lindsey stated it is required by the state in the event of an emergency such as that, where the public needed to be inoculated so that between seventy and eighty percent of the population could be vaccinated within a forty-eight hour period. Lindsey stated we have a population of a little over nine thousand, and if something like that were to happen here, you are talking about trying to vaccinate seventy-five hundred to eight thousand people in a forty-eight hour period, which would tie up traffic and creating all kinds of chaos. Lindsey stated the health district is required to plan, and they are doing planning efforts now for a drive-thru for a COVID/Flu vaccination drive-by to be held in September.

Lindsey stated it will be held at the Johnson County Health Department, and it will work just like it did during the pandemic where everyone came down Hilton Holton Drive and went through the parking lot at the health department and the senior center and drove back out. Lindsey said that is what they prefer to use in a situation like this, but depending on the nature of the emergency or the type of event it is, they may be required to utilize other facilities. Lindsey stated the way the contract is worded it is kind of vague, that it does not specify which facilities that would be used. According to our local health department, the state drew that up intentionally because you never know what type of emergency you might be dealing with and it may vary. Lindsey stated they also sent this contract to the Board of Education for their approval as well. It is something that our local Board of Health has to have on the books, and they requested that we adopt this contract. Chairman James L. McAfee, Jr. called for a motion to adopt this contract. Commissioner Felice Pullen made a motion to approve adopting the contract from the Johnson County Board of Health to use public facilities in the event of a public health emergency. Vice-Chairman Ron Darrisaw seconded the motion. The vote to approve adopting the contract from the Johnson County Board of Health to use public facilities in the event of a public health emergency was approved unanimously 5-0.

- D. Consideration of Expanding Number of Days Per Week Solid Waste Convenience Sites Are Accessible- Chairman James L. McAfee, Jr. stated to the board they discussed this last year about expanding the number of days that the Solid Waste Convenience Sites would be open. County Administrator Bill Lindsey stated what we did with this year's budget was to plan for up to as many as five days a week to have the sites open. The funds are in the Solid Waste budget for it if the board wants to increase it from three days to five days a week. Lindsey stated since the board talked about this last year during the budget process that's why staff went ahead and planned for that. Lindsey stated that

Solid Waste/Code Enforcement Officer John Price has been doing some work and reaching out to different folks to try to get them to work as site attendants for the additional day or days the board decides to do. This way he will have some folks in place ready to go whenever that the board decides on it. Lindsey stated when we went to this system, and with the exception of the landfill being open six days a week, the biggest complaint we have received was the number of days the sites were open. Lindsey stated if we go from three to five days you don't necessary get rid of all of the complaints, but you would get rid of a big chunk of it. Also, people will feel a lot more comfortable with the sites being available five days as opposed to the current three day system. Lindsey stated our system is identical to what is used in Laurens County, and those sites are available four days a week. He stated if we went to five, our sites will actually be available more days a week than what the case is now in Laurens County. Lindsey stated this option is available to the board, and staff has done the planning and prepared for it. Also, it is just a matter of when the board feels comfortable to go from three days to four or go all the way up to five.

Chairman McAfee suggested to go to four days, and asked since the time change what are the hours going to be now. Lindsey stated they are currently from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., and we did not change it during the winter months. Commissioner Mike Keene wanted to know could we go with all of the sites being opened on the same days. Solid Waste/Code Enforcement Officer John Price stated currently there are two that are opened on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, and if we do go with 5 days a week that he recommends that we change them all to the same days. Price stated it would cut out some confusion on what days the sites are open. Chairman McAfee asked what if we open the sites to four days, and Price stated that he probably wouldn't leave them alternating like they are now, so that certain ones will be open when the other sites were not. Commissioner Felice Pullen wanted to know could the county afford to have them all open at the same time, and Price stated we could due to them having it in the budget this year to go to five days. Lindsey stated the two invoices that we have received from Attaway so far is one from January for twenty-four thousand (\$24,000.00), and the one for February was nineteen thousand (\$19,000.00). Commissioner Larry Pope stated the most complaints we have had was due to the sites not being opened enough and suggested more days open. Chairman McAfee polled each board member, with Commissioner Larry Pope voting yes to five days, Commissioner Mike Keene voting yes to 5 days, Commissioner Felice Pullen voting yes to five days, and Vice-Chairman Ron Darrisaw voting yes to five days and Chairman James L. McAfee, Jr. voting yes to five days. The vote was 5-0 to approve expanding to five days a week at the Solid Waste Convenience Sites. Lindsey suggested for the sites to be open on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday and not have them open on Sunday or Wednesday. Commissioner Larry Pope made a motion for the Solid Waste Convenience sites to be open for five days a week on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Commissioner Mike Keene seconded the motion. The vote to approve for the Solid Waste Convenience sites to be open for five days a week on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday was approved unanimously 5-0.

- E. Appointment of Voting Delegate to State Opioid Settlement Regional Advisory Council- Chairman James L. McAfee, Jr. stated he has checked on who can be on this board and who could not be on it. Chairman McAfee stated that County Administrator Bill Lindsey could be on that board. Lindsey stated to the board the purpose for the Regional Councils and that ACCG is working with the state now to get them set up. Lindsey presented to the board a copy of ACCG's slide presentation, and the commissioner of the State Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities is the trustee of the state's opioid settlement fund. The state's share of the funds comes from the two nationwide Opioid Settlements out there. Lindsey stated the state gets seventy-five percent (75%) of the total funds, and the other twenty-five percent (25%) was allocated to the counties and the other participating local governments. Lindsey stated the money we received so far has come from that twenty-five percent share. Lindsey stated of the state's seventy-five percent funds, forty percent has to be allocated on a regional basis, and they have developed six regions for that purpose. Lindsey stated these regional advisory councils will approve the members that ACCG has put together with the state, and the governor has already appointed some to the state advisory commission that is going to oversee the regional councils.

Johnson County is in Region Five. The council will approve a slate of members that could be as little as three or as many as seven. The members will already be a member of a county board of health, community service board, sheriff or sheriff designee, academic community, substance use provider licensed by DCH, member or family member that has lived through experience and one member from the Judiciary. The voting delegates from each of the counties in these regions will meet to select the slate of those three to seven members that will make up the regional advisory council. So whoever the voting delegate is, they cast that one vote, and their work is done. Lindsey stated the meeting is in Baxley, Georgia on March 26, 2024. All ACCG is asking is for the board to approve one delegate to attend that regional meeting to approve the slate of council members. Chairman James L. McAfee, Jr. made a motion to appoint County Administrator Bill Lindsey to serve as a voting delegate to the State Opioid Settlement Regional Advisory Council. Commissioner Larry Pope seconded the motion. The vote to approve County Administrator Bill Lindsey to serve as a voting delegate to the State Opioid Settlement Regional Advisory Council was approved unanimously 5-0.

- F. Approval of Courthouse Repairs/Renovations Change Order Number 2-Installation of Carpet- Chairman James L. McAfee, Jr. stated to the board we were not going back with refinished hardwood floors in the courthouse, due to the contractor running into a problem. Chairman McAfee stated it wasn't a structure problem, but through the years there have been several coats of paint put on the hardwood floors. When the subcontractor started working on them, they did a sample testing on the wood, and the test came back positive for lead in several sections on the second floor, including the courtroom. McAfee stated if we don't disturb the lead, it should be fine. McAfee stated instead of the wood floors, they can install carpet throughout the whole building. County Administrator Bill Lindsey presented to the board a sample of the carpet, and they are going to put carpet in the entire building rather than in those certain areas we originally planned. Lindsey stated this will keep the project on time and on budget. This change

order will be at no cost to us. Trying to mitigate the wood will take a lot more time and add a lot more expense by causing us to go beyond the funds that were allocated. Lindsey stated the simple thing to do is to put the carpet down, so we can move on with the project. Chairman McAfee asked Commissioner Mike Keene since he is over the buildings was he satisfied with installing carpet instead of wood, and Commissioner Keene stated he thought it was the best thing to do, due to the lead. Commissioner Mike Keene made a motion to approve the repairs/renovation change order of installing carpet. Vice-Chairman Ron Darrisaw seconded the motion. The vote to approve the repairs/renovation change order of installing carpet was approved unanimously 5-0.

- G. Courthouse Update- County Administrator Bill Lindsey stated to the board the only thing other than the change order on the carpet is the window installation has been completed on both floors. Lindsey stated the only thing left to do is to put the carpet down, and it will take about a month or so to do. Lindsey stated McKinstry has already ordered the carpet, which should take a month to get installed and finalized. Lindsey stated we are still on target for an early April move-in date. The only other thing that will need to be addressed to wrap the whole project up is to get the elevator and the alarm system fixed.
- H. Consideration of Proposal to Utilize Laurens County Teen Challenge to Assist with Roadside Litter Collection- Chairman James L. McAfee, Jr. presented to the board a copy of a sample job contract agreement. County Administrator Bill Lindsey stated to the board Teen Challenge has a current road side litter pickup contract with Laurens County for four days a week, and they work Tuesdays through Fridays. Laurens County sends them a list of roads to address, and gives them an order of what roads that need to be picked up. The crew from Teen Challenge basically follows that order. Lindsey stated it's a four man crew, and they charge fifteen dollars per hour, and they have their own transportation and bags. The only thing they will ask from the county is the tools to pick up the litter with, such as a utility trailer, vehicle to pull it, gloves, grab it, and they will take care of the rest. The four man crew has a supervisor. Lindsey stated it will be a little bit more cost effective, as opposed to contracting with another prison where we would have to work out the logistics as far as transporting the inmates and getting them here and getting them back, as well as having a van to carry them and to maintain that van. Lindsey stated that Teen Challenge will do whatever we need them to do. If we want the crew to come four days a week or one day a week, we just give them the roads that we want them to address.

Commissioner Mike Keene wanted to know is the fifteen dollars an hour for the driver, and Lindsey stated it was only for the crew. Commissioner Keene wanted to know will they follow under our liability insurance, or do they have their own for being beside of the road. Lindsey stated they have their own, and there's an indemnity clause within the contract. Vice-Chairman Ron Darrisaw wanted to know if we approve where would the funds come from, and Lindsey stated the money we are saving off the current solid waste services contract. We could apply some of that savings to it. Lindsey stated we don't have to use them four days a week as Laurens County does. We could do one to two days a week and try it to see how we like it. Lindsey stated he would be a little more comfortable with just trying them a couple days of week to just see how they do, before

we commit to more days a week. Chairman McAfee stated that Teen Challenge requested the county to furnish a trailer to put the trash bags in, and the county has one of them at the road department. McAfee stated it has been discussed that Jessica Reese needs another vehicle than the one she has to do 911 addresses with, and we have been looking at finding her another vehicle. McAfee said let's just try them for two days a week and a couple of months. County Administrator Bill Lindsey stated we can try it for at least six months and he recommend not going any less to make sure of how it was working, and also to be fair to them. Commissioner Mike Keene made a motion to have Laurens County Teen Challenge to assist with roadside litter for six months and the crew to work for two days a week. Commissioner Ron Darrisaw seconded the motion. The vote to approve to have Laurens County Teen Challenge to assist with roadside litter for six months and the crew to work two days a week was approved unanimously 5-0.

- I. Consideration of Proposal to Enlarge Moore's Chapel Fire Station to House Tanker Truck- EMA/Fire Director Shawn Wombles stated to the board that Moore's Chapel Fire Station can only house a 500 gallon truck, and the crew that built the station did the best they could with the funds they had. Wombles stated we currently have our 2,500 gallon tanker truck that will be assigned to Moore's Chapel Fire Station to enhance our fire protection throughout the county. The Moore's Chapel district only has that 500 gallon tanker, and Wombles said that is why we decided to put the new tanker there. Wombles stated, however, that the tanker will not fit inside that station. Wombles presented a copy of a quote from Red Man Farms, which is Randy Tanner, a local contractor, who has agreed to build on to that station to accommodate that truck. Wombles stated one of the quotes was to add on a 14 x 27 section for sixty-nine hundred dollars (\$6,900.00), and he would like to board to consider the possibility of adding on., Wombles stated we will do all the electrical, gas line and any work that needs to be done on the inside. Wombles stated this is only for Mr. Tanner to come in and extend that concrete pad and fix it to house the tanker, so we can keep it heated so the truck won't freeze. Wombles stated the first quote is for 12 x 27 with a 6" slab and to move the existing side wall out to accommodate the new truck in the amount of six thousand three hundred dollars (\$6,300.00), and the other quote was for 10 x 27 in the amount of five thousand six hundred dollars (\$5,600.00). Wombles stated the reason why he suggested the 14 x 27, is so hopefully we never will be back in this shape if we upgraded trucks again. Chairman James L. McAfee, Jr. asked where will the funds come from, and County Administrator Bill Lindsey stated that there are some funds in the 2013 SPLOST account that would cover this project. Vice-Chairman Ron Darrisaw made a motion to approve to enlarge Moore's Chapel Fire Station 14' x 27" in the amount of six thousand nine hundred dollars (\$6,900.00). Commissioner Larry Pope seconded the motion. The vote to approve to enlarge Moore's Chapel Fire Station 14' x 27" in the amount of six thousand nine hundred dollars (\$6,900.00) was approved unanimously 5-0.
- J. Development Authority Report- Development Authority Executive Director Hugh Darnley stated to the board it has been a busy winter, and he was looking for a busy spring in assisting with exports and job training. Darnley stated he is working on setting up a job fair that will be coming up soon, hoping we can get an employer of the county to be a part of that. Darnley stated he has talked with some companies, and he would like

them to be aware of the job fair. Darnley stated they will be working on that sometime in mid-March or early April. Darnley stated he needed a location to hold the job fair. Darnley stated that Main Street is hosting the In the Red Clay event, and Stoney Birt and the podcaster Sean Kipe will be here March 23, 2024. Darnley stated the Farmers Market is returning to the courthouse April 13, 2024. Darnley stated he is needing a location for the job fair. It started out as a small event but has grown bigger, hence the need for more space. Darnley stated he is hoping he can host more events like this, but he is needing more working space to host these type events. Darnley stated they hold their Development Authority board meetings at the Depot each month. He thought if there's not steady traffic at the Depot, it was going to start deteriorating back to the condition like it was before it was renovated. Darnley asked the board for approval for the Development Authority to use the Depot for both office space and event space. Darnley stated the inside of the depot is fine and great for events. He is going to need to use that for the job fair, due to not having any other size space to hold that many people. Darnley stated he is looking at it as an opportunity to preserve the building. He stated he hasn't worked out all the details, but he is considering if the board will approve for both the Development Authority and Main Street to rent that space out in the future.

Darnley stated it will only be used by non-profits that are registered with the Secretary of State and will have to have some kind of business license, and events will only be held during normal business hours and not late hours like birthday parties. Darnley stated it will be a business opportunity and no alcohol or late hours will be allowed. He stated he hasn't worked out all the details on any kind of lease or an agreement. Darnley stated he thought it was a great opportunity to provide more income into the Development Authority and Main Street for them to continue the work they are doing. Chairman James L. McAfee, Jr. stated we need to put the building to good use, and this will be the ideal way to do that. Commissioner Mike Keene stated if we do go ahead and do it, then we need to fix the porch on the back side where we don't get into trouble with some kind of liability. County Administrator Bill Lindsey stated he had talked to Frank Brantley about getting quotes from different contractors so we could contract the work out. Darnley stated it was his understanding the Depot was initially renovated with a grant. Having his background in grants, he stated it is better to keep what you have now because grants like that do not exist anymore. They could return but as it stands right now, you cannot rely on grants to do those major projects. Commissioner Keene suggested getting a quote from DOC so that we might get a better price. Chairman McAfee stated we need to go on and get it fixed and not wait on it. Chairman James L. McAfee, Jr. asked the board if they all agree to let the Development Authority and Main Street use the Depot, and all board members agreed.

- K. EMS Report- EMS Director Jeff Soles presented to the board the EMS report. Soles stated that Johnson County EMS responded to one hundred forty-nine (149) calls in the month of February. Soles stated they had a collection total of twenty-six thousand nine hundred and two dollars and ninety-nine cents (\$26,902.99). Soles stated M4 vehicle had some major repairs. Assistant EMS Director DJ Clark stated on M4 vehicle, it went to the shop for a recall which didn't cost us anything. While M4 vehicle was at the shop, they

found another issue with some electrical problems. He thought it was around nine hundred dollars to repair it, and we have it back with no issues so far. Clark stated the company from which the new ambulance has been ordered has let him know they have to have the chassis on the ground. We are waiting on the company to build the box to go on the back of the ambulance. Clark stated the company is so backlogged and stated we should get it sometime at the end of the year. Clark stated he did get a new quote on another ambulance that is identical to the other one, and the last one was one hundred ninety-five thousand dollars (\$195,000.00). The other new ambulance that Clark looked at was in the amount of two hundred fifty-nine thousand six hundred dollars (\$259,600.00). Clark stated he was working on getting another quote from another company, so that we could compare the two ambulances, before he presents to the board. Clark stated it is such a delay in ordering chassis and getting the ambulances built. Clark stated Emanuel County just got a new ambulance, and they have waited for it for eighteen months. Clark stated to the board that Laurens County just got a few ambulances, and they have waited almost two years. Johnson County has been waiting over a year now.

Clark invited the board to the graduation of the EMT class on March 23, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Depot. Clark stated there are fourteen students that will be graduating, and hopefully after this graduation they can pass the national registry, so that we might get some new employees. Clark stated for the past year or so we have been getting an allocation of Narcan medication, and he stated he has given some to Johnson County Sheriff's Office and the Wrightsville Police Department to have in their patrol cars, just in case we end up with an opioid overdose, they can go ahead and give the Narcan to the patient before EMS gets there. Clark stated someone had to use the medication about a week ago. Clark stated we have an application in the mail for another allocation of Narcan and that was in December and they do it quarterly.

- L. Fire Report- EMA/Fire Director Shawn Wombles presented to the board a copy of the fire report for the month of February. Wombles stated they had forty-five (45) calls for the month of February. Wombles stated that twenty-one of those calls were brush fires, which is a little bit higher than we have had in the past five years. A lot of that has to do with the type of run we had and people doing controlled burns during the month of February and March usually trying to get their land burned off. Chairman James L. McAfee, Jr. stated he and Wombles had discussed that if a fire gets out and Georgia Forestry has to be called, they will bill the land owner. Wombles stated if the property owner doesn't have a burn permit and the fire department has to call them, Georgia Forestry will issue a suppression charge for the trucks and dozer to come out and plow break around that fire. Wombles stated we have had a couple of instances where people did not have a burn permit, the fire got out of control, and the fire department was called. When they get there, people state they do not know how the fire got started. When Georgia Forestry gets there, they will investigate it and figure out where it came from. Wombles stated there was some misunderstanding about the burn permits. If you have a hand pile of leaves in the unincorporated area of the county, you can burn it without a permit. Wombles stated if you have acreage that you are going to burn, then you will have to have a burn permit. Basically, the burn permit does not release you from liability. You are still responsible for your fire and smoke, and if it gets away from you and goes

on your neighbor's land, you are still responsible for that. Wombles stated if it is a machine pile, you still have to have a burn permit. Wombles stated the fire department always recommends to go on and get the burn permit.

- M. Stoney Birt Appearance Planned for March 23, 2024 at Courthouse Square- County Attorney Joseph Sumner stated that Development Authority Executive Director Hugh Darnley has done a really good job of getting information out to the public on this event. Sumner stated he spoke with Sean Kipe, the producer, and he stated you will be surprised at the people that will show up to this event. Sumner stated Hugh Darnley has put out the word to local restaurants and food trucks. Sumner stated he thought this is going to be a really great event. Commissioner Mike Keene wanted to know does the board need to let EMS know to be at the courthouse for this event and Sumner stated he wasn't sure. Sumner stated that Kipe said this is the only event they have had outside the Atlanta area, and he was just trying to give us a heads up that those events have drawn a lot of people. Sumner stated Kipe said you might not have that much here, but you will be surprised at how many do show up. Assistant EMS Director DJ Clark stated they will plan on having staff and a vehicle there for this event.

Commissioners Comments


Chairman James L. McAfee, Jr. stated that the 2022 audit was completed sometime in February, and it took the Bellevue Firm eight months to complete. Chairman McAfee asked the board do we want to use the same firm next year, or does the board want to put it out for bids. Commissioner Mike Keene stated that he recommends to put it out for bids, and the law states to contract it out yearly, and since we have had some problems with this firm we should see who else is out there that may be interested in it. Chairman James L. McAfee, Jr. stated the county has been with the Bellevue Firm for over twenty-four years. Chairman McAfee stated for County Administrator Bill Lindsey to put the bid out as soon as possible. County Attorney Joseph Sumner stated that the bid needs to include an agreement that the audit needs to be completed by a certain date or have the firm to sign the agreement that states it's due on a certain date. Chairman James L. McAfee, Jr. stated it wasn't the county's fault that we lost a bunch of grants due to them being behind on our audit.

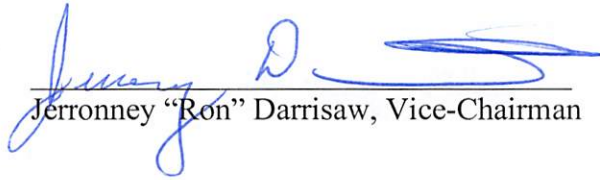
Public Comment(s) **Limit Five Minutes**- No public comments were made.

Commissioner Larry Pope made a motion to adjourn this Regular Monthly Meeting. Vice-Chairman Ron Darrisaw seconded that motion. The vote to adjourn the meeting was unanimous 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Commissioners present for this Regular Monthly Meeting: Chairman James L. McAfee, Jr., Commissioner Mike Keene, Commissioner Larry Pope, Vice-Chairman Ron Darrisaw and Commissioner Felice Pullen.

Commissioners absent from this Regular Monthly Meeting: None


James L. McAfee, Jr., Chairman


Jerronney "Ron" Darrisaw, Vice-Chairman