

# Jasper County Board of Commissioners

March 22, 2021

## Work Session Minutes

6:00 P.M.

Commissioner Henry called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Chairman, Bruce Henry; Vice-Chairman, Gerald Stunkel; Sheila Jones; Don Jernigan; and Steven Ledford.

Staff Present: Mike Benton, County Manager and Sharon Robinson, County Clerk.

### Work Session:

#### 1. **Central Georgia EMC Broadband Initiative Presentation and Discussion-**

Chairman Henry stated that Mr. Arant was present at a previous meeting and CGEMC was looking for participation from Jasper County.

Mr. Herchel Arant (Central GA EMC Senior Vice President of Engineering and Energy Supply, stood before the board to present the Broadband initiative. He stated that he has more information about dates and timeframes. He stated that Butts County has taken action to expedite the process in their county. Right now the expedited schedule would have people here starting the engineering work late August – early September. They would expect the first customers to be connected near the end of the year and beginning of next year with an estimated completion in the fourth quarter of 2022. The end of the entire project. The fiber infrastructure will follow the flow of power. It will be consumer preference for the routers.

Commissioner Jernigan asked if there are plans to work with the other power suppliers in the county. Mr. Arant stated that they have not started specific conversations with Georgia Power but they have started discussions with other EMCs. He stated that Tri-County has announced that they have a similar project starting. Those conversations will have in time.

The fiber will be owned by CGEMC to control the power grid. Mr. Arant stated there should be a meeting to hash out expectation.

Commissioner Stunkel asked if the installation be population based or a “sweep”. Mr. Arant stated that it would be sort of a sweep. He stated that they have a plan to on where they will start how they will work their way through the county. They would not be able to cherry pick areas of density.

Chairman Stunkel stated that he see that Butts County got in for a pretty good number. He asked if Jasper County could get in for the same number. Mr. Arant stated that their pricing is based on customer density in that county for their overall investments. Jasper County is closer to the same density as Monroe County. He stated that the internet access is going to cost about an additional \$18K that he did not know about or mention before.

2. **No Littering Program Signage-** Chairman Henry stated that he had someone to reach out to him about picking up trash throughout the county. He provided a copy of the email that he received. Chairman stated that some of the green signs have been put up. He stated that we hope to put up as many signs as we can to keep from putting more post on the road.

Commissioner Jernigan stated that he feels the 18x18 is the right size for the signs. Commissioner Ledford stated that he would prefer black lettering on the white signs. Chairman Henry stated that the fine amount could be added to the signs as well. These signs will be on county roads only.

Chairman Henry stated that he received an email from Tyler Jarvis who lives in Walton County. He picks up trash for various counties on his off days. He charges by the curb mile. Chairman Henry stated that he spoke with Ms. Christine Murrell with JAG and she advised that she have enough people to do community service on the weekends.

The board talked about the possibilities of having a part-time person to oversee the Community Service Workers.

Commissioner Stunkel stated that whatever we do will have to be ongoing.

Commissioner Ledford stated that we should not need Mr. Jarvis after his initial clean-up if we get a part-time person to oversee the Community Service workers.

Chairman Henry declared the Work Session closed at 6:31 p.m.

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Bruce Henry, Chairman

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Sharon S. Robinson, Clerk