Minutes
Stephens County Board of Commissioners
March 22, 2024 • 9:00 A.M.

The Called Meeting of the Stephens County Board of Commissioners was held at the Toccoa-Stephens County Airport

Present for Meeting: Chairman Tara Simmons, Vice-Chairman Chris Rickman, Commissioners Chuck Wright, Debbie Whitlock, and Dennis Bell; County Administrator Christian Hamilton; County Clerk Samantha Turner; County Finance Director James Elrod

Please silence your cell phones.

Called Meeting

Chairman Simmons called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and welcomed those present. Commissioner Wright gave the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

I. Approve Agenda

A motion was made by Commissioner Wright, seconded by Commissioner Whitlock, to approve the agenda as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

II. New Business

1. Discussion of radio system upgrade for Sheriff's Office.

   Capt. Stephen Stewart with the Stephens County Sheriff's office stated they are not trying to push the proposed system onto any other county agencies, but only as a system to works for them with the potential for future use by other agencies if that works best.
   Trey Roberts and Scott New with Southern Linc shared the benefits of using their system.
   Commissioner Wright asked what the yearly cost of this system would be, and if there were other areas in the Sheriff's Office annual budget where cuts could be made to decrease the burden on the citizens.
   Amy Jenkins and Thomas Slaughter with Motorola Solutions shared a demo using one of their radios, as well as the benefits of using their system. Commissioner Rickman asked what the basic cost would be.
   John Smith with Gunby Communications shared benefits and common concerns of using either of the above mentioned systems.
   Rick Wolchatiuk with Communications International and Jason Kahane with L3Harris also shared some about the system they can offer and would like to know more about where the County is looking to go in the future concerning radio system upgrades.

III. Citizen Comments – Time limit of three (3) minutes

Steve Nichols, Banks County Fire Chief
Deidra Moore, AmeriaMed
Danielle Rhodes, EMA/E911 Director
Commissioner Bell stated that he would like to hear from fire services. Frankie Deitz and Stacy Pulliam spoke.
Other carriers present also stated they would like to be able to offer a demonstration of how their systems work prior to any decisions that the Board make.

IV. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, on motion made by Commissioner Whitlock, seconded by Commissioner Wright, the called meeting was adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

Approved this 26th day of March, 2024.

Tara Simmons, Chair

Samantha Turner, County Clerk

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF STEPHENS COUNTY
SEAL
STEPHENS COUNTY, GEORGIA

Stephens County Board of Commissioner's Called meeting

Sign-in Sheet

March 22, 2024 9:00 a.m.

Jason Kahanc L3Harris		
Rick Wolochatiuk Comm/Intl.		
TROY PRODGETT/Southern Linc		
Trey Roberts/Southern Linc		
Scott New/Southern Linc		
Scott Dyer/Southern Linc		
Stephen Stentl/SCSO		
Quinty Jenkins/MSI		
Thomas Slaughter/MSI		