



**Fannin County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Jury Assembly Room
September 13, 2016 6:00 p.m.**

REGULAR MEETING

Chairman Bill Simonds called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 PM
Luther Patterson gave the Invocation and a citizen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Simonds asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 23, 2016 meeting.
County Clerk Rita Davis-Kirby stated that Commissioner Johnson had informed her that afternoon that he would like his portion of the last meeting verbatim but she had not had the opportunity to make the changes requested. The Commissioners did not vote to approve the minutes of the August 23rd meeting.

Chairman Simonds moved to awarding the bid on Fire Station #3 additions tabled from the last meeting.
Chairman Simonds asked if they had they had time to look that over and make a decision on it. Commissioner Johnson asked if either of the Commissioners had anything before he spoke. They both indicated for Commissioner Johnson to go ahead. Commissioner Johnson stated that he had not had the chance to ask Larry this: Why did we pick that fire station logistically because we also have 13 and? Fire Chief Thomas stated that yes 13 and 3 and that it would put the ambulance in the place it was needed most right now as far as being geographically located. We have one here in Blue Ridge and one in McCaysville and then there's one in Morganton as far as paid stations and then station 3 will be its own zone. Chief Thomas explained that station 3 crew was "camping out" at station 7 right now. Discussion continued about the geographical location of the fire stations and that the citizens would be better served to place a manned 24 hour station at station 3 due to its location. Commissioner Johnson stated that he was looking over the price it was going to cost to do some of this and was wondering if we could look some of the others as far as cost feasibility. What work we were going to have to do at this one vs. some of the others and if we had looked into that or what. Chief Thomas stated that they had looked into it and station 13 Commissioner Johnson interjected and stated that honestly Chief Thomas had not talked to him about nothing and he honestly didn't know anything and now's a real good time to ask. Chief Thomas stated right that all of our stations as far as having trucks in them they are all kind of busting at the seams and by that he means that like at station 7 where they are right now the ambulance has to be parked on the outside and what we're shooting for is to try and have it done by the winter to where that truck wouldn't have to be on the outside. Chairman Simonds asked Chief Thomas if he had the number of calls out of that station. Chief Thomas stated that he did not have them with him but he would like to get the number to them and in fact he wanted to get with Patrick to get the calls from CAD to have the exact number. Commissioner Johnson asked is there any way we can get some of that information together maybe and he didn't know about the other Commissioners but he would rather look at some information before he voted to spend \$160,000.00 dollars. Commissioner Sosebee stated he's like to look at it as well. Commissioner Johnson stated that he don't mean to postpone anything but this is kind of the result of he's been shared very little about this, sooner or later we're gonna start communicating so I'd love to between now and then to see some of those numbers and that information. Chief Thomas said that as far as the stations go they will have to be added on to if we move it to 7 or move it to 13. Commissioner Johnson made a motion to table awarding the bid until further information was received. Commissioner Sosebee made a second to the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Chairman Simonds called for a motion to approve a fine issued to Mr. and Mrs. Music for building structures without a building permit. Commissioner Sosebee made the motion. Commissioner Johnson made a second to the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Chairman Simonds called for a motion to approve Tax Assessors to contract with Duplicating Products to lease a copier at \$146.00 a month. Commissioner Johnson made the motion. Commissioner Sosebee made a second to the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Chairman Simonds called for a motion to place a hiring freeze for non constitutional officers until the personnel policy is updated. Commissioner Johnson made the motion. Commissioner Sosebee made a second to the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Chairman Simonds called for a motion to approve all invoices over \$4,500.00. Commissioner Johnson made the motion. Commissioner Sosebee made a second to the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Public Commentary:

Citizen commented on property off of Salem Road asking that it be condemned and went on to state that she lives on Twin Springs Road and although it is not a County road would like for the Commissioners to allow it to be scraped.

Joe Webb stated that at the last meeting he made an open records request of the Commissioner's regarding the specifics of the SPLOST breakdown and that was over 3 weeks ago and he has still not received an answer. He made the same request stating that the law requires an answer within 3 business days.

Marcella Osteen Spoke about the Post Commissioners obtaining authority to hire and fire department heads and she believed that it was the right thing to do. She stated it was her understanding that this week Ms. Kirby went ahead and hired her friend as her financial assistant and that it was from a reliable source. She stated that after the last meeting she understood that the Post Commissioners instructed her not to do that and she understands that Mr. Simonds denied hiring this lady and if he didn't hire her isn't it insubordination for her to go ahead and hire her friend when you Post Commissioner's warned her not to. She went on to discuss the TVA property at the Dam and understands that it is under contract negotiations between TVA and Fannin County and that the negotiations are being handled by Ms. Kirby. Is that correct? and if so are you Commissioners aware of it? She stated that she hoped and expected them to address these 2 items during Commissioner's Commentary and hope that they will exercise that equal authority that the Posts worked so hard to gain and which the tax payers footed some legal bills. Ms. Osteen went on to speak about the fire station that had been addressed and assumed it was the new fire station. The Commissioner's stated that it was not. She moved on to the fine issued and approved for no building permit and stated she would appreciate knowing how much in fines and that she agreed that there should be fines and can't believe there haven't been so far.

Ralph Garner stated he wanted to address the beating of an inmate by another inmate at the Fannin County Jail on August 14th of this year. He stated that the victim was transported out of the jail the next day and died from his injuries at Savannah Memorial Hospital on August 27th and had been held for 6 months for driving on a suspended license and this was a violation of Judge Brenda Weaver's accountability Court guidelines. He asked by what measure was a 6 month incarceration deemed appropriate for this infraction. He asked for Judge Weaver and Sheriff Kirby to conduct a press conference so that troubling questions can be asked. Mr. Garner moved on to ask the Post Commissioner why a new contract with the Chamber regarding the division of lodging revenue has not been signed. He stated that Chairman Simonds proposal of a 50/50 split was generous and that the State mandate was 40/60. He also stated that thanks to the tourism the 40 percent would be comparable to the 70-80 percent the Chamber was receiving just a couple years ago and that the County needed the additional revenue to fund for example a library. Mr. Garner's final statement was to ask the Post Commissioners with the power of their office to address the behavior of the Road Department Heads. He stated that it was unacceptable that tax payer money has been misappropriated for the payment of overtime for vacation hours and according to one source many thousands of dollars have been spent in a recent 3 month period. We went on to speak about how many thousands have been stolen over the years and the budget overages in 2013 and 2014. Mr. Garner asked the Post Commissioners to do their duty and remove the department heads that didn't have the temerity to show up at the second Commissioners meeting of the month to give a report.

With no further comments Chairman Simonds closed public commentary.

Commissioner's Commentary:

Chairman Simonds stated that there were a lot of comments made tonight that he knows people know about and it's like they get a deaf ear. He stated that there are things that are being worked on, just the Chamber of Commerce thing. We have a contract with them and theirs runs from June to June and ours goes on a calendar and we are working on that. Commissioner Johnson has met with the Chamber of Commerce lady and they are working on that. This is just some of the stuff here that may seem like you're talking on a deaf ear, you're really not. Chairman Simonds had no further comments.

Commissioner Sosebee stated that first of all he would like to know who did hire the lady? Commissioner Sosebee stated "Mr. Simonds you told me you didn't hire her" Chairman Simonds stated that he didn't hire her. Commissioner Sosebee asked County Clerk and Financial Director Rita Davis-Kirby if she hired her. Ms. Kirby stated that out of the applications she saw Commissioner Sosebee interjected that he knew what Ms. Kirby had told Mr. Simonds and what he wanted to know who brought her in to the prospective office to work and Mr. Simonds says he didn't and he is the only one that has the right to hire anyone in this office. Ms. Kirby replied that is right and that he told her to find the best person to fit her needs for the office and what she would be doing and he said he was fine with that and that he hired and fired and he was fine with my choice so that is what she did. Commissioner Sosebee stated that three weeks ago in a meeting they told her as post commissioner's they didn't want this lady hired because of nepotism coming down on this and he didn't know how much plainer they could have made it. Like the check writing in the past you know it always bundles in to a bundle of we or I didn't remember this or I forgot that. Commissioner Sosebee stated that he didn't know and that Mr. Simonds stated here in a public meeting that he didn't do this but you're telling me that he said otherwise to you. Ms. Kirby stated that all she could tell them is what she knew. Commissioner Johnson Asked "so which is it"? He stated he didn't mean to interrupt but which is it? Commissioner Sosebee said yeah which is

it? I'd like to know which it is cause Mr. Simonds didn't hire her. Chairman Simonds stated that we had it in the paper, we had six or eight applications and I told Ms. Kirby to pick two or three of them. This young lady hers seem always to wind up back in front. We talked about it what was said at the last meeting you and you and said no more people from the Sheriff's Department in the Commissioner's office which is all well and good with me and I didn't have no problem with that anyway it comes down to it that the young lady was hired and to me she wasn't the best qualified. He went on to say that you guys read the resumes. Commissioner Johnson stated that he read three of them and was questioned by two people of who we ever hired and they both of them said they didn't get interviewed. Commissioner Johnson then asked how many we did interview? Chairman Simonds stated that we didn't interview anybody. Commissioner Johnson stated so out of all those applications you didn't interview anybody. Ms. Kirby stated that she spoke to people and asked the Chairman Commissioner Johnson interjected no, no, no, I'm talking about sit down formal interview look for the best qualified employee. We didn't interview anybody? Ms. Kirby stated that she had spoken with a gentleman named Keith from Florida Commissioner Johnson interjected how many interviews how many people came in and we interviewed them? Ms. Kirby stated that they had not interviewed them Commissioner Johnson interjected again stating no not your Ms. Kirby stated that she was just saying Commissioner Johnson interjected stating that we are going around the world here. Ms. Kirby stated that she did what she was told by the Chairman. Commissioner Sosebee stated that we sit right here in these meetings and told you not to and this check signing this last aversion of check signing you was aware of that as well nothing was ever said it was just kind of covered up under the table. But this insubordination has went to far as far as I'm concerned and a you know it just can't keep a going on and on and on and it has for eight years and just run amuck with whatever it is you chose to do. Ms. Kirby stated that she respectfully disagreed and she just tries to do the best job she can for this County and she was sorry. Commissioner Sosebee stated but this is something and that these people knew more about this than he did and this lady right here knew more about it than he did and he came in last Wednesday and this young lady was up here and we had just gotten out of a meeting a week before and thought well were spitting in the wind here so a this can't continue it just can't not under this administration so a Commissioner Johnson stated if you don't mind me interrupting do you mind? Commissioner Sosebee stated not at all. Can we get to the bottom of this before it just dies off again I want to know because here is what bothers me. He said it I said it you don't work for just the Chairman and you say you were doing what the Chairman said at what point where you going to call me because you see I had to speak to this lady today and her husband yesterday in my office take time out of my day and I didn't have anything to do with it. Commissioner Johnson stated that he didn't think what happened was right but he is saying that he didn't hire em and she even admitted that she never even met the man. Ms Kirby stated because Commissioner Johnson interjected again that she had never even met the man and he doesn't understand how somebody can think they are hired unless somebody is way overstepping their boundary's so Ms. Kirby interjected that she had asked Bill several times if he wanted to interview, who he wanted to interview because if he didn't want this girl in here, She was her choice yes but there were also application that came in. She stated that she talked to him before she went on vacation twice and even said the last time Commissioner Johnson interjected stated what about what I said, what about what I said Ms. Kirby ask about what Commissioner Johnson stated what about what I said about not hiring anybody out of the Sheriff's Office I made it real clear and this girl shouldn't have been mistreated Ms. Kirby stated it was not her decision it was his Commissioner Johnson stated it was yours you hired her. Ms. Kirby stated but he told me to hire whoever I wanted to because it was his decision Commissioner Johnson interjected that she put in her three week notice, she put in her three week notice in our last meeting she had already told her last job that she already had the job three weeks prior to that she put in a three week's notice. Commissioner Johnson stated so here's the thing it's all coming out and here's the bottom line, I don't know what it's going to take I mean it's just like the fire house were up here getting ready to or wanting to vote on \$154,000.00 dollars and it's kinda like people really just don't get it yet and ya'll are all right I don't agree with you all the time probably not twenty percent of the time but I do agree with you on one thing there was a lot of money spent to get where we are right now ok. I thought you were full of bull at our last meeting citizen interjected really? Commissioner Johnson said because you were sitting there and I'm just going to interact with you just a minute cause I'm going to tell you how embarrassing this is for me. How embarrassing it was for me for you to sit somewhere over there and the three of ya'll start talking about hiring someone and I'm sittin over here like a mushroom in the dark gettin feed a bunch of bull. All ya'll know what's going on and I have to ask what's going on. Citizen states just call me up followed by laughing. Commissioner Johnson stated that he didn't understand people like yourself, I mean maybe your more My problem is I do have to work a lot but I don't understand how you know more than I do where we have people that are suppose to report to us. Our Fire Chief is suppose to tell us why we're going to spend \$154,000.00 dollars. But it really hadn't sunk in yet and I made it very clear at the last meeting that no more family, not just at the Sheriff's Office any office so we're puttin stuff on the Sheriff that's not true it's not to do with the Sheriff's Office and that's what I told the lady and the husband that was concerned. It's nothing to do with the Sheriff's Office. It's to do that with that we don't need two Sheriff's people wives working in our office. That's how I feel about it and I thought I made that clear but it got done anyway just so happen it got done on the day you got back from vacation. She said she never met the man cause I asked her have you ever met Bill Simonds and she said no not until he came in there to fired me. So that tells me that our Chairman didn't hire her. She was told undoubtedly three weeks prior she had a job cause she put in a three week notice so what that tells me is until this day you haven't called me or contacted me or nothing that tells me how much you respect me and what I think. That's what I'm going to say and it does hurt my feelings cause I've tried working good with all ya'll even though we haven't agreed for four years and nobody calls me. If the man and woman hadn't came by my office and I hadn't taken my own sweet time to talk with them I would know

nothing more than what she mentioned at the last meeting and I would think more of you and not just because you're our Clerk but because of who you are you would respect my views and my feelings about certain situations a lot more but instead this is what we get open forum everybody asking questions nobody even knows then ya'll don't even know who hired her the girl never even met the man. Citizen stated that it was illegal to hold sham Commissioner Johnson interjected stating that he is not done yet and if they would please let him finish and ask did anybody hear him make a peep in public comments. He thanked her for interacting a minute ago but he was just trying to prove a point it's sad when a citizen knows more that he does because that's how much he is respected just so everyone knows. Cause we thought we was going to slide one in here it was all going to be ok and I don't hear about it until she comes to my office and that was yesterday and this happened on what day. Commissioner Sosebee stated it was last Wednesday. Commissioner Johnson stated then she comes to my office yesterday and that's how much I'm respected as a Commissioner in this County, that's how much I'm respected by a department head, for peats sake if I knew and we sat here and were that clear about everything and I knew that the Chairman said hire her I believe that if I were you I would number one you're our Financial Director I don't know when you got to be Human Resources I don't know why in the paper it says to contact Rita Kirby maybe that's why nobody got interviewed because we already knew who we wanted anyway that's what it seemed like to him. Ms. Kirby stated that she handed all the resume's to Commissioner Johnson interjected well how many of those people got interviewed and Ms. Kirby kept speaking stating that she handed all those resumes to Renee Commissioner Johnson asked how many of those people got interviewed and Ms. Kirby stated that she handed the resumes over to Renee and to Bill Commissioner Johnson stated that two people ask him not to repeat their name because they had a job right now but I haven't been called or interviewed either so how many people were interviewed? Ms. Kirby again said she handed the resumes over to Bill and Renee. Commissioner Johnson asked how many people were interviewed. Ms. Kirby stated she did not know. Commissioner Johnson stated none. Commissioner Sosebee started to speak. Commissioner Johnson stated so the answer to that is none for the record in the minutes for everybody to understand no one was interviewed except this one person ok one person. Just so happens it's family and I can't help that and I think these two people were good people I hate that this happened to that girl I really do I hate it because I didn't feel like it was fair and I told her that and I told her husband that and she should have never been put in this position. She should have never been told by you to come in without him telling her. Because our local legislation we all know that because you read t back and forth trying to help him win back when it was happening you should know the only person that can hire is the Chairman. This is the reason why the department heads working for the board, Ms. Kirby interjected and stated why do you think I would ever do that? Commissioner Johnson continued if the department head is working for the board is this way for a reason so let's refresh this so Larry this another good example I would like for you to hear it, Renee you hear it and any other department head that's here to hear it. If anyone is hired or anyone if fired it doesn't matter who has the ability to do so I expect each and every one of you to keep me you department heads in the know as to what's happening in our County ok so when there is a decision being made I want to be in the know ok because if you keep talking to the Chairman and the Chairman alone I'm pretty sure you're not going to get anything ok. That's the whole reason this changed. He don't have time to let me know everything ya'll are getting paid to let me know ok. If we're hiring someone who I said I didn't want to be hiring Ms. Kirby I would expect a phone call saying Commissioner Johnson or just ole Earl you know this is the best qualified candidate for the job and just wanted to let you know even though you disagree with it Bill has told me to hire her I want to let you know but undoubtedly you still think you work for Bill or actually Bill works for you cause you hired her Ms. Kirby stated that was not the case. Commissioner Johnson continued and stated that she even admitted that the only person she talked to was you and she never met that man until he walked in her office that evening and just so happens it's a deputies wife and it don't look good and if it don't look good it don't smell good and if it don't smell good it really ain't good for none of us involved and I thought it was clear but I'm gonna make sue sure it's double dog gone clear this time because it puts me in a hard position. I think the world of you and your husband, I like everybody I work with so I hope everybody understands that. I have no vendetta here whatsoever but at this point I've got to do my job because you see I got two other people who applied for that job who are qualified I guarantee you but right now they hold jobs and they don't want their current employer to know that they applied for a job with the County so they said without using my name can you please find out if that position has been filled. Absolutely. I didn't know all this had happened so you see how silly this makes me look now cause I'm sure they're probably gonna watch this meeting or one of you are going to tell these people about it and they're going to be like how do you not know these things. did ya'll not spend a bunch a money trying to get the department heads working for you just like she just said. He stated that we are not all going to agree all the time but there was a lot of money spent and at some point in time the department heads will have to understand that we have cell phones, text, email and I get all the silliest emails from this office that don't even pertain to nothing then there's emails that are none of my business that I still get but I can't get contacted about something like this, it's really a shame and I hope it stops because I'm telling you it's going to stop one way or another one way or another it's going to stop because I'm in favor of stopping it. Whether it's with the personnel we have or if we have to find new it doesn't matter to me cause it's been a year now and we've all been gettin into the groove of things but just like and I'm not picking on you Larry if Robert was here I'd be telling him the same thing we got to communicate cause I'm not spending a \$150,000.00 dollars of other people's money without knowing what I'm spending it on and why so I hope I'm very clear now. And this policy we need to get working on it right away, right away and I think we've got to make sure it's legal and lawful and make sure we adhere to no more hires. And if we're a Financial Director we need to be a Financial Director not HR. Commissioner Johnson then asked Renee Hamby what her involvement in this new hire. Ms. Hamby stated that

she signed her up. Commissioner Johnson stated so you signed her up and then said would you not in your position as HR feel like you probably should be involved when new hires come in and work for the Commission Board. Ms. Hamby stated yes. Commissioner Johnson stated he would think so if she need to know. If not why would we need someone in HR. Commissioner Johnson asked Ms. Hamby if she was aware of any interviews or anyone that has applied. Ms. Hamby stated that she had the resumes, the ones that were emailed in and applications. Commissioner Sosebee said interviews that was what he was asking you, were there anymore interviews. Commissioner Johnson said it doesn't matter to me. People that sat down in front of somebody. Ms. Hamby stated that she was not personally present at any interviews. Commissioner Johnson stated ok and Commissioner Sosebee stated there we go. Commissioner Johnson stated so no one was interviewed. Commissioner Sosebee stated this goes back to, excuse me Earl. Commissioner Johnson Stated no he was finished. Commissioner Sosebee stated this goes back to even the TVA property out there for some slight reason here come DNR wanting to slide in wanting to get boat docks out there and as far as I'm concerned with this TVA property we can put a fence out there to keep all the public out cause it's nothing but a liability anyway and as far as Fannin County taking care of the DNR situation he stated that DNR being State funded they can take care of themselves. But on this situation as far as hiring and firing you know this couldn't have been put any more plainer Commissioner Sosebee stated he didn't care if you stood up on this table and jerked your shirt off and danced it couldn't have been put any plainer and insubordination is desperately think in this personnel policy we have and that a warning should be posted in your personnel file. Commissioner Sosebee made a motion that they give her a written warning on this for whatever good it'll do. Chairman Simonds acknowledged the motion and to hear a second. Commissioner Johnson asked form of motion. Commissioner Sosebee stated for insubordination. Commissioner Johnson said fine with me. Chairman Simonds called for all in favor. Commissioner's Johnson and Sosebee responded with I. Commissioner Sosebee asked Chairman Simonds if he was abstaining. Chairman Simonds stated that he was abstaining. Commissioner Johnson stated that before we move Commissioner Sosebee I understand your view on the TVA property and just to let both ya'll know where I stand I would be in favor of using for boat docks but nothing for law enforcement. Some people want to do something out there and some don't. He stated that he felt like we need to use the property but he doesn't think it needs to be anything for law enforcement that it needs to be for the public. He stated that he didn't know a person that's not uh I know every time I go out on the lake I never cease to not run into law enforcement so I don't know if but I don't know what is proposed and that's what I hope is kinda at some point get the plan of what was proposed. Chairman Simonds stated that the thing is nobody knows. TVA don't know they're just like DNR they'll spend \$50,000.00 dollars TVA will spend \$50,000.00 so the County would go in there and spend \$250,000.00 dollars to make this thing work to build a boat dock like they're talking about. Commissioner Johnson asked are they wanting it for the DNR. Chairman Simonds stated that DNR wants it. Commissioner Johnson stated is TVA have it in their stipulations. Chairman Simonds stated that TVA agreed it would be ok if it were there and Commissioner Johnson stated that that don't mean we have to let them be there right. I guess if they pull up to it they can if it's a public dock. Chairman Simonds stated that no they want their own covered dock and the whole bit. Commissioner Johnson stated that they weren't expecting us to pay for that were they. Chairman Simonds stated well what he was saying is that TVA was giving \$50,000.00 and Commissioner Johnson stated is that for a public dock though. Ms. Kirby stated that Keri Chartrand had been in contact with her regarding the \$50,000.00 and she stated that Ms. Chartrand also has the Commissioner's contact information and they have hers through emails that have been sent regarding the TVA property and that the money could be spent on whatever the Commissioner's decided. Ms. Kirby stated that she started this about a year ago just trying to see if there was any way possible to use this property for the citizens of the County and thought that everyone was on board with that here just as a gesture that yes we still want to keep the property and the Chamber of Commerce was involved and different people involved in talking about what could be done out there and TVA did say they could possibly front some money for clean up and the County can contribute in kind and DNR also got wind of it and TVA and came and talked to me about a shed just on the property but then they got approved for a floating dock separate if we would allow them access to the lake across the property and they would help with clean up and access. Essentially there would be three floating docks out there, a fishing pier, a courtesy dock and then over out of the way a DNR dock. That's what DNR was asking and that's when I said I don't have the authority to do any kind of negotiations. The County would like to do a fishing pier and a courtesy dock and this is the approximate location. Commissioner Johnson asked if we have to let the DNR go in there and Ms. Kirby stated no Commissioner Johnson stated cause if DNR is there nobody is gonna want to go there. Ms. Kirby stated that TVA was in favor of it because you would have law enforcement presence right there at the Dam and that's what they care about but as long as we're under a license agreement with them they are ok with and would speak to ya'll about whatever you ya'll would like to do. Chairman Simonds stated that TVA is wanting to give \$50,000.00 dollars. Commissioner Sosebee asked for what reason and Chairman Simonds stated that \$50,000.00 dollars wouldn't touch nothing out there. Commissioner Sosebee asked again for what and Chairman Simonds stated to just put in the pot and we'd do all the work and all the houses and stuff. Chairman Simonds stated they need to put a lot more than that because they got a lot of security out there that they need. Commissioner Sosebee stated that the major players in the boat dock industry up here is Jon and Cindy Pack and called them the elite of boat dock builders and wanted to know if anyone had contacted them to see what kind of money we're talking about. Sheriff Kirby stated that it was his understanding after meeting with DNR out at the property that they would be in charge of building their own dock and that they already had a set of plans that they had used on different lakes and they would build the same model if they got approved and it would be up to them who they contracted with and they didn't mention anybody. Commissioner Johnson stated that we could end it right here. He stated that he was in favor of doing a

public boat dock free to the public how feel either of you. He went on to state that he felt like we need to use the property for something. Chairman Simonds stated that we need to see how much it's going to cost and what they want. Commissioner Johnson stated that was fine. Chairman Simonds discussed a public dock floating or a stationary dock and we need to do some more research on it. Commissioner Sosebee commented on the liability of it. Commissioner Johnson stated that was why he was in favor of maybe seeking a price on a dock that they'll allow us the size they'll allow us to build if ya'll are interested in seeking a price. Chairman Simonds said yes if they will chip in some money then yea. Commissioner Johnson stated that they were already at \$50,000.00 right. Ms. Kirby stated that back months ago she was told that a dock would cost around \$150,000.00 but did not have specific's. Chairman Simonds stated let's see if we can come up with some prices and see if we can get these folks to chip in more money and he felt it would cost at least a quarter of a million dollars to do what their wanting to do out there. He stated that the houses are in terrible shape. Ms. Kirby stated that TVA took the houses off the table until a study could be done. Commissioner Johnson asked if we had to maintain them and Chairman Simonds stated that we did. Commissioner Johnson stated that he would like to get all the particulars and put all that together. It's nice shoreline to just give up it be county and free for people and it's no more liability than the river and we've got two parks on the river and that water rises without even knowing it and I don't think liability wise it's different. Commissioner Johnson stated that he just wanted them to know how he felt about it if it didn't cost too much and was cost prohibitive as long as we're not responsible for the houses. He went on to state that there was a rumor that somebody was going to try and sublease it from the County and I'd like for everyone to know that that's not in anybody's interest is it? Chairman Simonds and Commissioner Sosebee both stated that it was not. Commissioner Johnson stated that then we can say that it is not right that no one is subleasing anything from the County at the TVA property right. All the Commissioners agreed. Commissioner Johnson stated maybe that rumor will die and other than that he'd be interested in Chairman Simonds interjected and stated we'll see and he's bet that it would cost a quarter million dollars to do all that and TVA will chip in they say and right now they're going through the budget process. Commissioner Johnson stated that there was one last thing and that there have been negotiations going on with the Chamber of Commerce and we're trying to work on that and as he said earlier it's not on deaf ears. He went on to say that he has spent quite a bit of his time trying to deal with them and hopefully very soon they will come to an agreement. Commissioner Sosebee stated that the only other thing he had was in response to Mr. Garner's comment about the Road Department and the overtime. He stated that we have long since put a stop to all that that's went on out there and the money you're talking about come up when we had all that flooding we had to work over and I can assure you that the guys out there work hard for the money that they get and I don't consider them crooks whatsoever that's my input on it just so you know I don't consider anybody out there a crook. they're hard working everyday people that works out there and we've long since taken care of that situation a long time ago and it keeps a rising every time you come to the podium you always bring it up but there's nothing else going on out there and everything should be working fine. Because when you need them they come, when a limb blow out of a tree o tree blows down across the road they come get it out. Mr. Garner stated that was not the issue. Chairman Simonds stated that during Christmas we had nine roads wash out we received \$142,206.87 from FEMA to cover that over time you're talking about that Mr. Graham reported at the last meeting. Commissioner Johnson asked the Chairman if that was to help cover some of that cost and the Chairman said yes that is what it was for. Ms. Kirby stated that we receive a \$39,000.00 dollar check last week for reimbursement for workers comp. and Chairman Simonds confirmed that he did receive the \$39,000.00 check. Commissioner Johnson stated that he couldn't believe he was going to say this but to some of the concerned people or the people who seem concerned look some of the things we're dealing with we are drinking from a well in which we did not dig all of it ok some of the things has happened in this County for I don't know probably since its inception but I promise you one thing as hard as its been we're coming into the 21st century whether it be not whole families working here at the courthouse, whether it be not a dictatorship, whether it be all these things that everyone has seem all these struggles over in Fannin County is because we're coming into the 21st century and for some people that's not so easy. None of us like change, I don't like change and I say oh no what s going to come with it. Sometimes there's assumptions made about this board or even its workers or department heads or people at the Road Department. We can't bundle it all together because everyone is not evil and everyone is not crooked. I'm not saying anyone is crooked I just think that some people have done things so long they start justify it. Now's the time to get out of the 20th century and come into the 21st century and that's what we are doing and it's not easy for some people. I mean look I just had a situation week before last that another department head ask me if a family member could come work for the County and I had to say do I have to tell you no after what you heard. But you know it's just hard because it's been that way for forty years I mean there've been whole families working here in one department or another. Do I think it's right. No. You've heard me rail against it for a long time. I can share a personal experience my wife who at the time was my girlfriend wound up coming to Rita one day or somehow or another asking for a job at the courthouse and she can attest to this. I didn't know she did it but she moved up here from Pickens County and she was seeing what her options were. When she told me about it I told her you better not hire her anywhere in the courthouse. So if I feel that strongly about my wife I feel that strongly just about anyone. It's very hard to work with family. It's hard enough to get along anyway much less with family. My family reunion last no longer than ten minutes cause everybody's in a fight and we're leaving so I couldn't imagine working with any of them so that's why I'm kind of biased when it comes to working with family cause it's 10 minutes tops for my reunion but some people are different some people love each other my family tends to love then hate each other so I'm not in favor of any of it. We are changing and some people don't like it and we are getting better and I'm proud of the changes that have been made I just hate that it's taken this much work and this much effort spending time and that much

money but we're getting better and I think things are a lot brighter than they used to be but we can't bundle everyone together and say this department is no good or that department is no good. It's just change an along with change comes pain and I happen to be proud of most of the way we're moving and I hope ya'll are as well so please no one bundle department together because I think the majority of all the people that work here they're real good people and that's all I have.

With no executive session needed Chairman Simonds called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Sosebee made the motion. Commissioner Johnson made a second to the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

William C. Simonds, Chairman

Earl Johnson, Post One Commissioner

Larry Joe Sosebee, Post Two Commissioner

Attest:

Rita D. Kirby, County Clerk