

The Turner County Board of Commissioners met on Monday, March 7, 2022, at 4:30 p.m. at the Turner County Courthouse Annex Building for a Called “advertised” Meeting with Commissioners Burgess, Calhoun, Denham, Weaver and Whiddon present. Staff present was Latrice Wilson, County Clerk. Others present were Dustin Beaty, Public Works Director, Robby Royal, EMS Director, Mark Robinson, Fire Chief/EMA Director, Sheriff Andy Hester, Charles Dean, Chief Deputy, Dustin Land, Ben Baker, Editor of Wiregrass Farmer, Ashley Miller, Chamber of Commerce Director, Jimmy Whiddon, Lynn Davis, Extension Coordinator, Janet Winter, Election Superintendent, Blake Christian, Magistrate Judge, Mary Lee Green, Clerk of Superior Court, and others.

Madam Chair Whiddon called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Mr. Ben Baker gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

Motion by Commissioner Calhoun seconded by Commissioner Burgess to adopt the agenda as printed, motion passed with Commissioners Burgess, Calhoun, Denham, Weaver and Whiddon voting in favor of the motion.

Motion by Commissioner Denham seconded by Commissioner Calhoun to approve contribution of \$4,000.00 to the Fire Ant Festival, motion passed with Commissioners Burgess, Calhoun, Denham, Weaver and Whiddon voting in favor of the motion.

Commissioners discussed County Manager position. Commissioners agreed to make corrections to County Manager’s job description.

Motion by Commissioner Calhoun seconded by Commissioner Burgess to appoint Commissioner Denham to serve in the role as interim county manager, without compensation, until position is filled, motion passed with Commissioners Burgess, Calhoun and Weaver voting in favor of the motion. Commissioner Whiddon opposed the motion and Commissioner Denham abstained.

Commissioner Whiddon made a statement to the board stating: “In the past when the county manager position became vacant the Chair (regardless of experience) assumed the duties until it was permanently filled. Why change now? What’s different? The fact is nothing is different. As the Chair and Chief Executive of the Board, I should, as other Chairs in this similar situation have, assume the county manager’s duties. There is no argument that can be made that I don’t possess the experience, qualifications, or education to do the job. For the record, I meet all the qualifications to serve as a county manager because of my qualifications are much more than just the last year. But none of you really care to know that because if you did you would have included me in last week’s conversations. Instead, you choose to deliberately exclude me. This isn’t about what’s best for the County and everyone in this room knows it. This is about power, control and protecting certain individuals. I believe this is an illegal appointment as Members of the governing authority are ineligible to serve as the county manager or administrator. What local legislation are you relying on for this appointment?”

Madam Chair Whiddon adjourned the meeting at 4:42 p.m.

Dana L. Whiddon, Madam Chair

Attest: _____
Latrice L. Wilson, County Clerk