

**Baldwin County Commissioners**  
**Work Session**  
**January 6, 2015**  
**5:15 p.m.**

A Work Session of the Baldwin County Commissioners was held Tuesday, January 6, 2015 at 5:15 p.m., Baldwin County Courthouse, Suite 319, 121 North Wilkinson Street, Milledgeville, Georgia with Chair Sammy Hall presiding.

Members Present: Emily C. Davis  
Tommy French  
Sammy Hall  
Henry Craig  
Johnny Westmoreland

Also Present: David McRee  
Ralph McMullen  
Dawn Hudson  
Cindy Cunningham

Call to Order

Chair Sammy Hall called the Work Session to order at 5:15 p.m.

Information Technology Assessment and Strategic Plan

Nick Kouloungis, of the Regional Commission, discussed the assessment and strategic plan of the information technology operation and resources of the County. The plan outlines strategic IT recommendations designed to address existing areas of concern and the support of county operations now and in the future.

Mr. Kouloungis presented the following recommendations: creation of an Information Technology Department with professional IT manager and support staff; establishment of an enterprise class datacenter; upgrade of existing network cabling; engagement of a professional website development firm; empowerment of County departmental users to make updates to website for their own department; and re-evaluation of service contract with web-host and domain provider.

Mr. Kouloungis discussed a proposed implementation timeline and estimated costs to address the County's technology needed to improve the overall IT operations.

Commissioners and County Management Staff thanked Mr. Kouloungis for his report and stated these recommendations will be reviewed.

Ethics Ordinance

Chair Sammy Hall stated the Board feels it is prudent to be pro-active in developing and adopting an ethics policy for the County.

County Attorney David McRee presented a draft Ethics Ordinance for the Board's discussion. He stated this draft reflects comments from Commissioners about the designation of a Hearing Officer to address any ethics complaints. Mr. McRee reported Section 2-196 (a) specifies that the Hearing Officer shall be a law professor selected by the Dean of Mercer Law School.

Commissioner Craig expressed his concern that the Dean of Mercer Law School must select a law professor as the Hearing Officer.

After discussion, Commissioners requested Mr. McRee revise the ordinance to include limited direction as to the selection of Hearing Officer, i.e., qualifications and experience with ethics policy and complaints.

Attorney McRee stated he will revise Ethics Ordinance and present to Board for their consideration.

#### Emergency Notification System Grant and Emergency Application

Fire Chief Troy Reynolds stated the County is eligible to submit a full application to GEMA for an emergency notification system. This grant provides 85% funding with 15% required County participation for the first year of the program. He stated an annual contract for the provision of this service would be in the range of \$15,000 - \$20,000, depending on the vendor. He stated citizens would register to receive notifications on their home and cell phones for emergencies such as weather warnings, natural disasters and also County information regarding water breaks, boil water notices, road closings, etc.

Chief Reynolds also presented information for a GEMA application to purchase six generators to be placed at fire stations and used for emergency situations. He stated this funding also requires a 15% County match. The total for six generators is estimated at \$177,000 with a required County match of \$26,550.

#### Old Business

There was no old business to come before the Board.

#### New Business

County Manager Ralph McMullen introduced Mr. Dennis Lee who has been hired as Baldwin County Chief Appraiser.

#### Adjournment

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to adjourn the Work Session at 6:55 p.m. Commissioner Tommy French seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sammy Hall  
Chair

Cynthia K. Cunningham  
County Clerk

