



## BALDWIN COUNTY CALLED MEETING

October 25, 2021  
1601 N Columbia St, Suite 220  
5:00 PM

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### MINUTES

#### MEMBERS PRESENT

Henry Craig  
John Westmoreland  
Kendrick Butts  
Emily Davis  
Sammy Hall

#### OTHERS PRESENT

Carlos Tobar  
David McRee  
Cindy Cunningham

#### CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Henry Craig called the October 25, 2021 Called Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE/FISCAL MATTERS

##### Broadband Grant Application

County Manager Tobar stated information was presented on the broadband application at the October 19, 2021 Regular Meeting, and the Board voted to support the application with no matching funds being provided by the County. At the request of the Chairman, Mr. Tobar requested scoring criteria for applications and presented a breakdown of the criteria at this time. Mr. Tobar explained the estimated broadband project cost is \$1,835,833; Baldwin County will request grant funds of \$1,069,698 from Georgia's State Fiscal Recovery Fund. Mr. Tobar reported these applications are very competitive, and the more match that is provided for the project the higher the application will score. He stated \$151,782.50 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds would provide a 50/50 match for the application and improve the chance for funding.

Chairman Craig stated he felt broadband is very important to the community for education, economic development and many other ways for citizens. He feels the County should provide matching funds for the application in order to optimize the chance of approval. Chairman Craig stated Windstream will provide broadband service where no other service is available in the County.

Commissioner Kendrick Butts made a motion to authorize the expenditure of \$151,782.50 in ARPA funds for the Broadband application. Vice Chairman John Westmoreland seconded the motion.

Discussion was held regarding the County's matching funds for the submission of the Broadband application.

Commissioner Sammy Hall stated serves on the Board of Tri-County EMC who will also provide broadband in their service area. He stated he would recuse himself from voting on the motion due to that fact.

Chairman Craig called for a vote on the motion to support the Windstream application to the State Fiscal Recovery Fund by providing \$151 782.50 in matching funds. The motion passed by the following vote:

Aye: Butts, Westmoreland, Craig, Davis

Recusal - Hall

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Emily Davis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:25 p.m. Commissioner Kendrick Butts seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted



Henry R. Craig  
Chairman



Cynthia K. Cunningham  
County Clerk