

HEARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSION
May 17, 2022 – 5:00 P.M.

The Heard County Board of Commissioners held a work session on May 17, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. in the Commission Chamber of the Heard County Administration Building to discuss SPLOST Projects and other matters as needed. In attendance at the meeting were Chairman Lee Boone, District 1 Commissioner Larry Hooks, District 2 Commissioner James Perry, District 3 Commissioner Caldwell, District 4 Commissioner Larry Hammond, and District 5 Commissioner David Walls. Chairman Boone opened the meeting by asking Felicia Adams, Finance Director, to share with the Board information that has the potential to impact the budget. Mrs. Adams started the discussion with the Board by addressing PILT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) payments. Mrs. Adams has estimated that PILT will come in close to a million dollars short. She also explained to the Board that the Senior Center used to provide meals for the Coweta County Meals on Wheels program, and Coweta has decided to use their correctional facility to cook meals provided by Meals on Wheels, so the Heard County Senior Center has lost that revenue. In total the budget looks like it will come in at 1.48 million less than last years budget. Chairman Boone then confirmed with the Board that they could all be here on Tuesday, May 24, 2022 at 1:00 pm. Next Chairman Boone had Jim Short, Heard County Fire Chief, come to the podium to discuss his budget and other needs. Chief Short explained that they are 15 positions short at the fire and that overtime is killing their budget. Since January 2020 the fire department has lost 40 employees. Chief Short informed the Board that they were taking classes from the insurance company to ensure everything is documented correctly to ensure no money is missed with Medicare and Medicaid. Since March 14, 2022 – fire stations have been closed on 15 different days, many times there are two fire stations closed. ISO ratings can be affected by these closures. Chief Short then discussed with the Board the upcoming retirement of Scott Parrott who has

close to 40 years of experience, and he is being replaced with someone with 7 years of experience. The next person set to retire has over 30 years of experience and would have to be replaced by someone who has been with the county for two years or less. Chairman Boone suggested to the Board to have the cities pay for their fire fighters, not just the buildings, building maintenance, and utilities. Chief Short said the cities use to pay but have not since each city built their building. Chief Short then discussed the attached handout with the Board. With there being no further business, the work session was adjourned.