



**UPSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Regular Commission Meeting**

**May 23, 2023 - 6:00 P.M.**

**106 East Lee Street, Suite 140, Thomaston, GA 30286**

**THE MEETING WILL BE STREAMED LIVE ON YOUTUBE**

**PLEASE COPY THE LINK BELOW**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCe2eGmYc-ooba5KStmOeXkw>

**AGENDA**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Norman Allen

II. INVOCATION

III. PLEDGE

IV. ATTENDANCE

Chairman Norman Allen

Vice-Chairman Lorenzo Wilder

Commissioner James Ellington

Commissioner Benjamin Watson

Commissioner Paul Jones

County Manager Jason Tinsley

County Attorney Heath English

County Clerk Jessica Jones was not in attendance.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS – There were no public comments.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Approval of the May 3, 2023 Work Session Meeting Minutes

b. Approval of the May 9, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda.

**Motion:** Commissioner Watson **Second:** Commissioner Wilder

Commissioner Watson – Yes

Commissioner Ellington -Yes

Commissioner Jones – Yes Vice Chairman Wilder– Yes

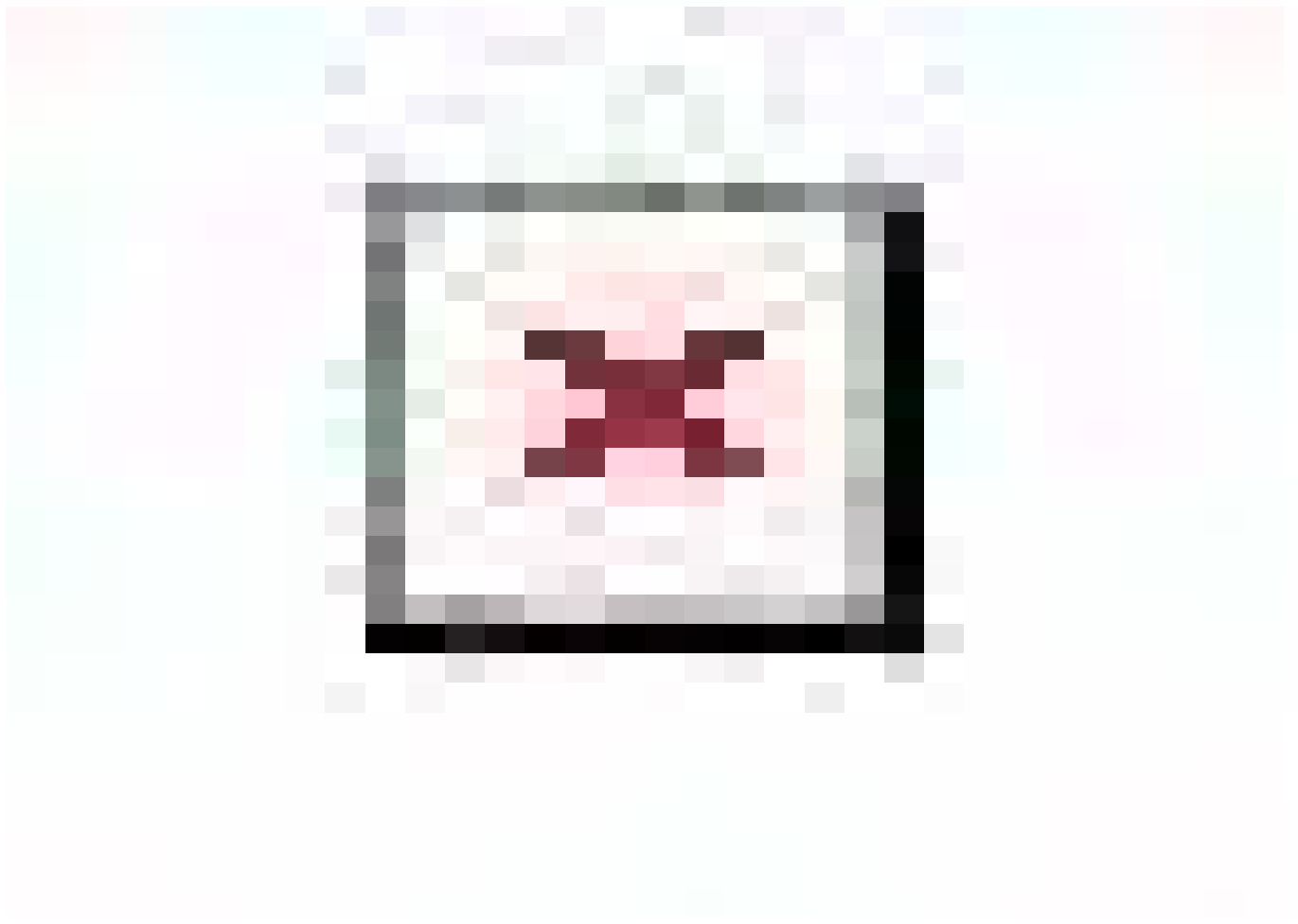
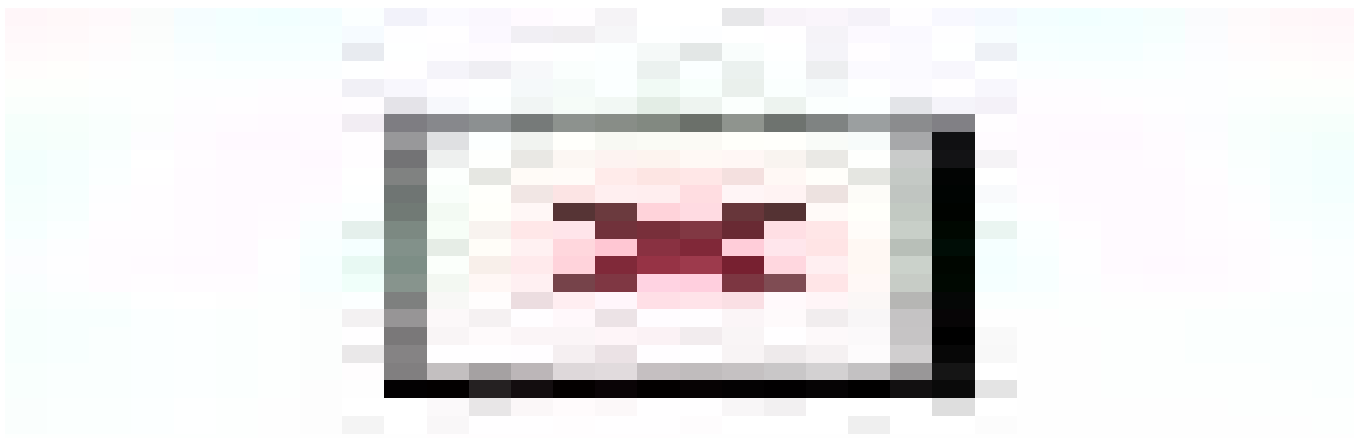
Chairman Allen – Yes

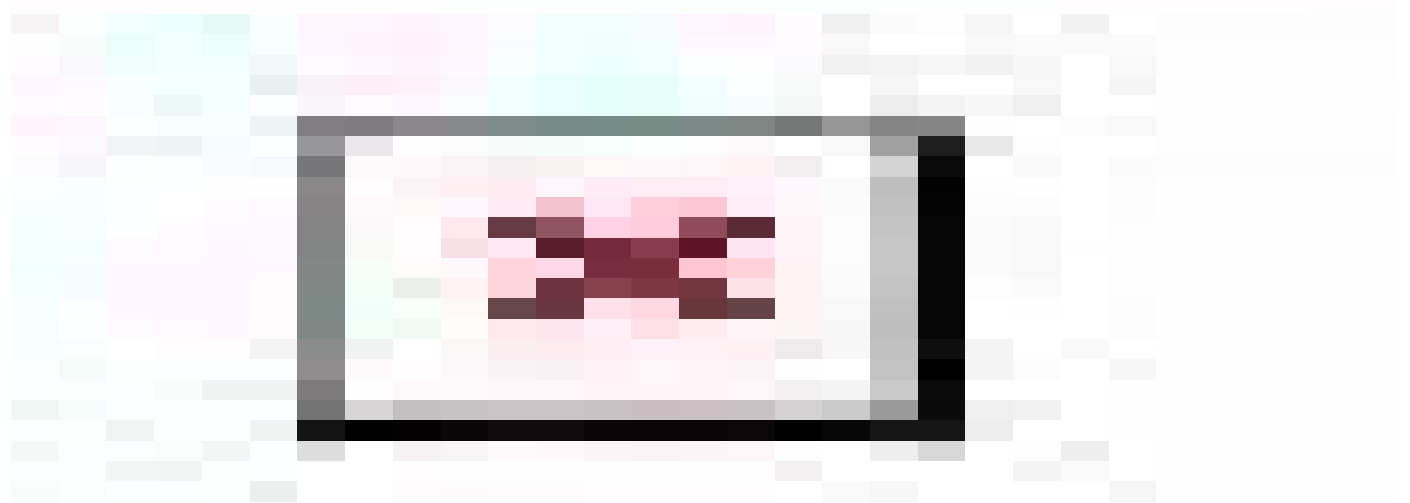
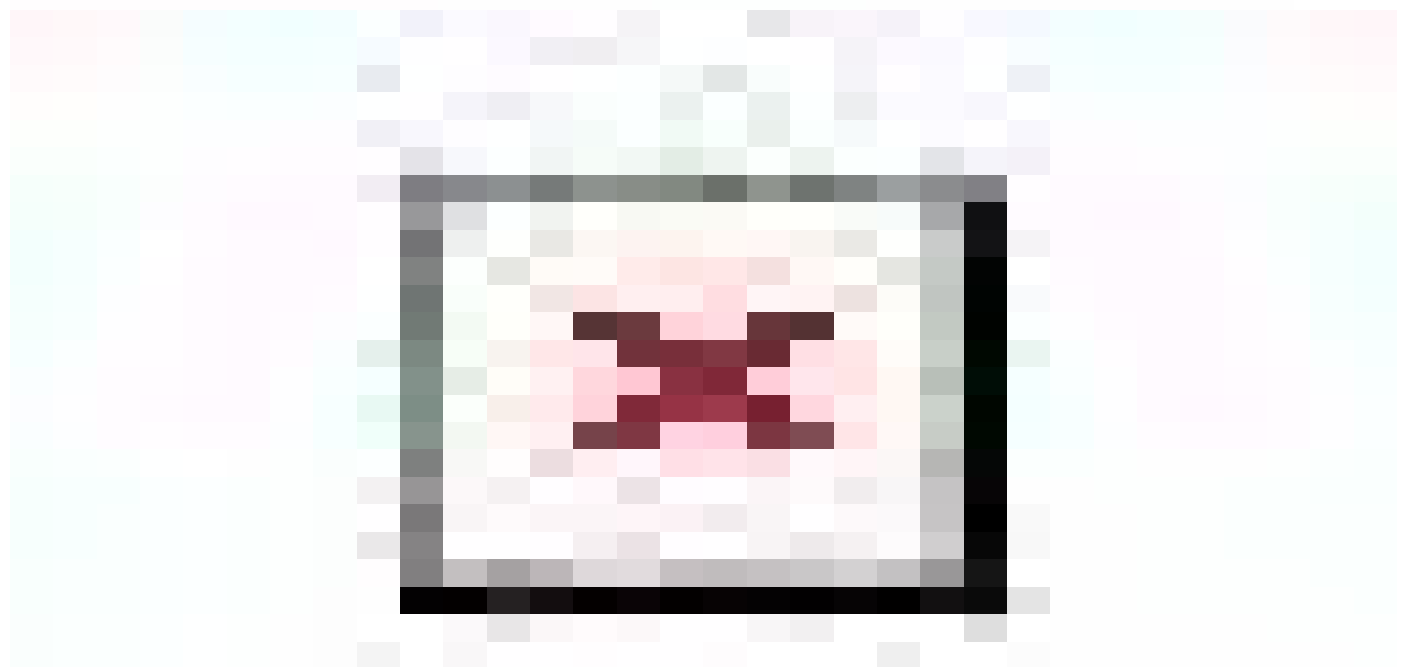
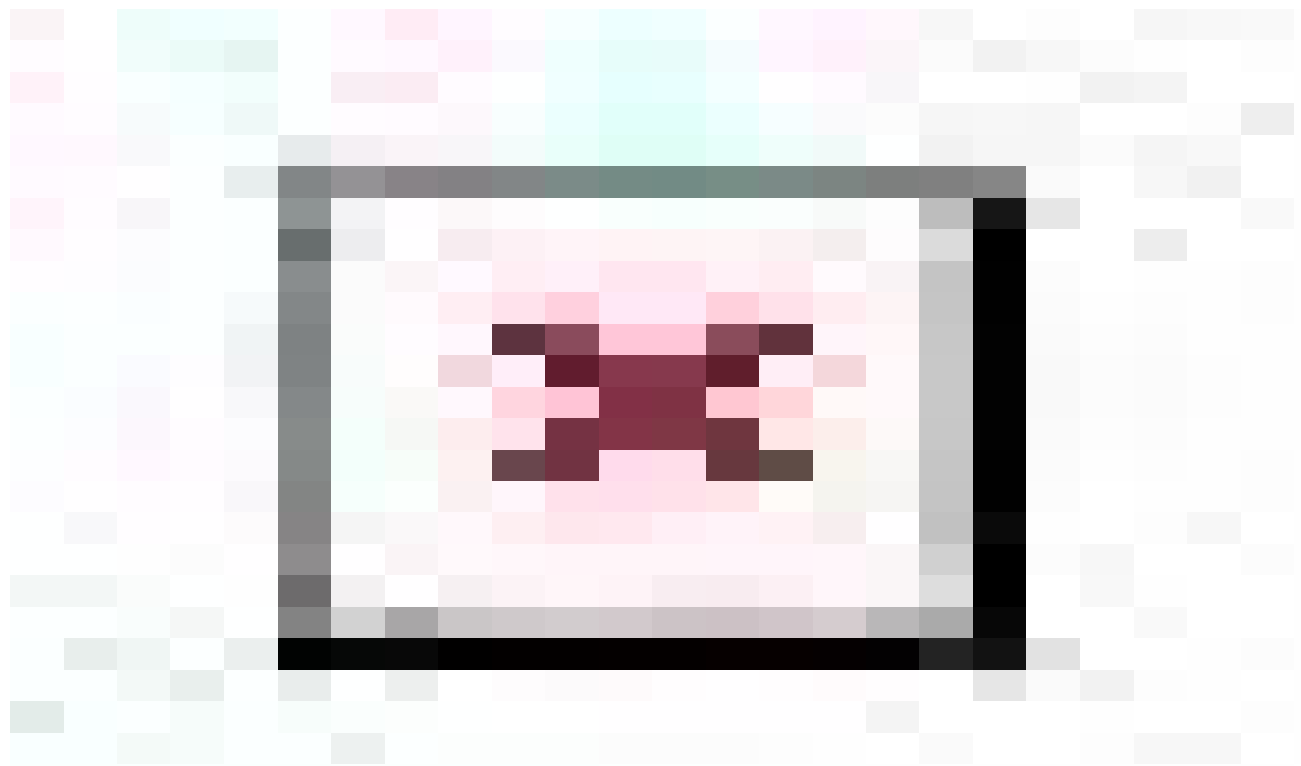
VII. NEW BUSINESS

c. Discussion and Consideration for Employee Health Insurance Renewal

Matt Bidwell with MSI gave an overview of the Employee Health Insurance Renewal.









A motion was made to move the employee health insurance coverage from Anthem to Cigna effective July 1, 2023.

**Motion:** Commissioner Watson **Second:** Commissioner Jones

Commissioner Watson – Yes                      Commissioner Ellington -Yes  
Commissioner Jones – Yes      Vice Chairman Wilder– Yes  
Chairman Allen – Yes

d. Discussion and Consideration of the Lease Agreement with Department of Juvenile Justice



The County Manager explained to the board that they had discussed doing a surplus on 601 W. Gordon Street. He added that there is not a need for the county to continue owning the building. Commissioner Ellington advised that they research the deed before declaring it surplus, because the building previously belonged to the state. They County Manger recommended going ahead with the lease with Department of Juvenile Justice because there is a 120 days termination clause for either party.

A motion was made to approve the renewal with the Department of Juvenile Justice.

**Motion:** Commissioner Jones      **Second:** Commissioner Wilder

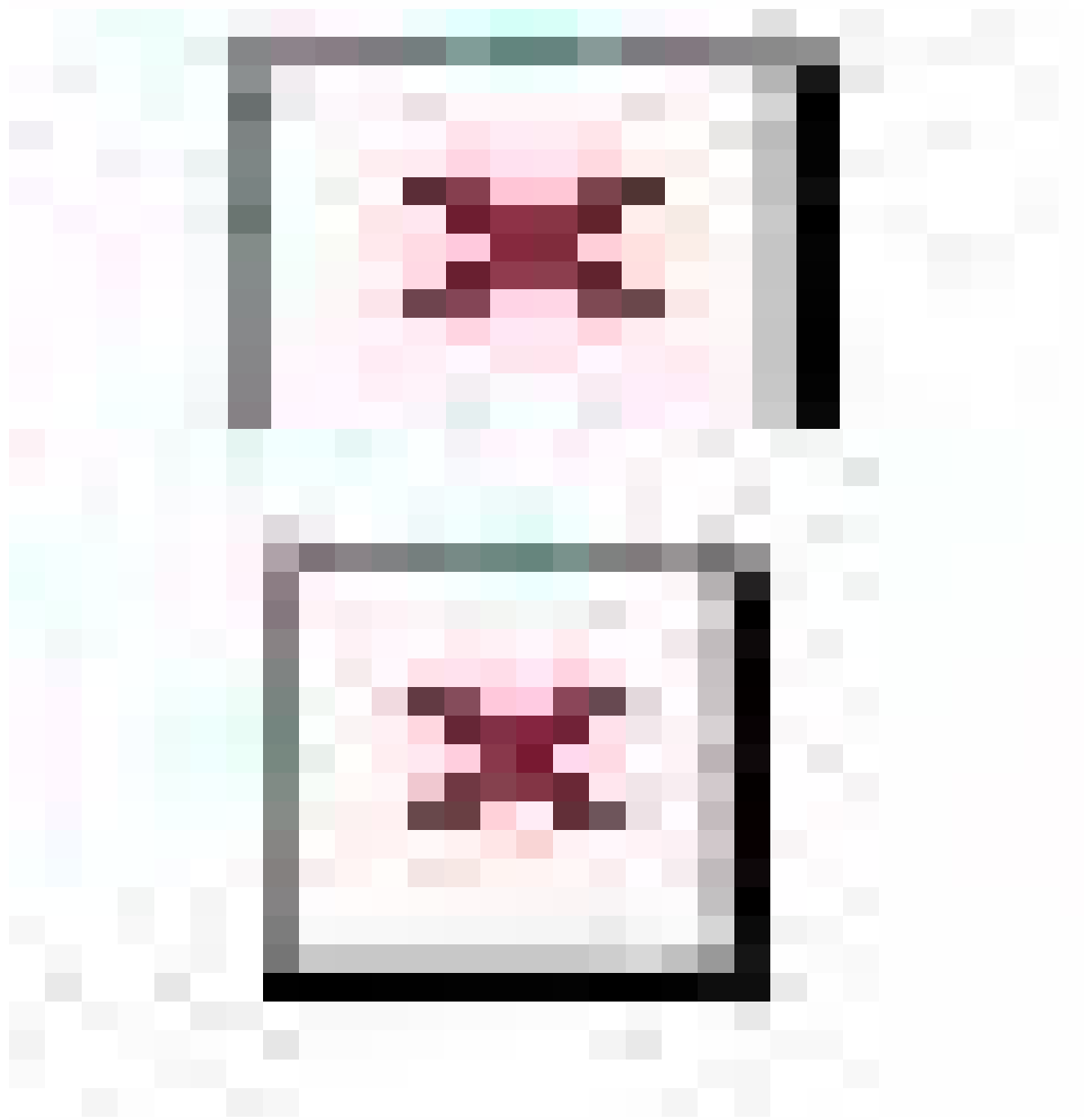
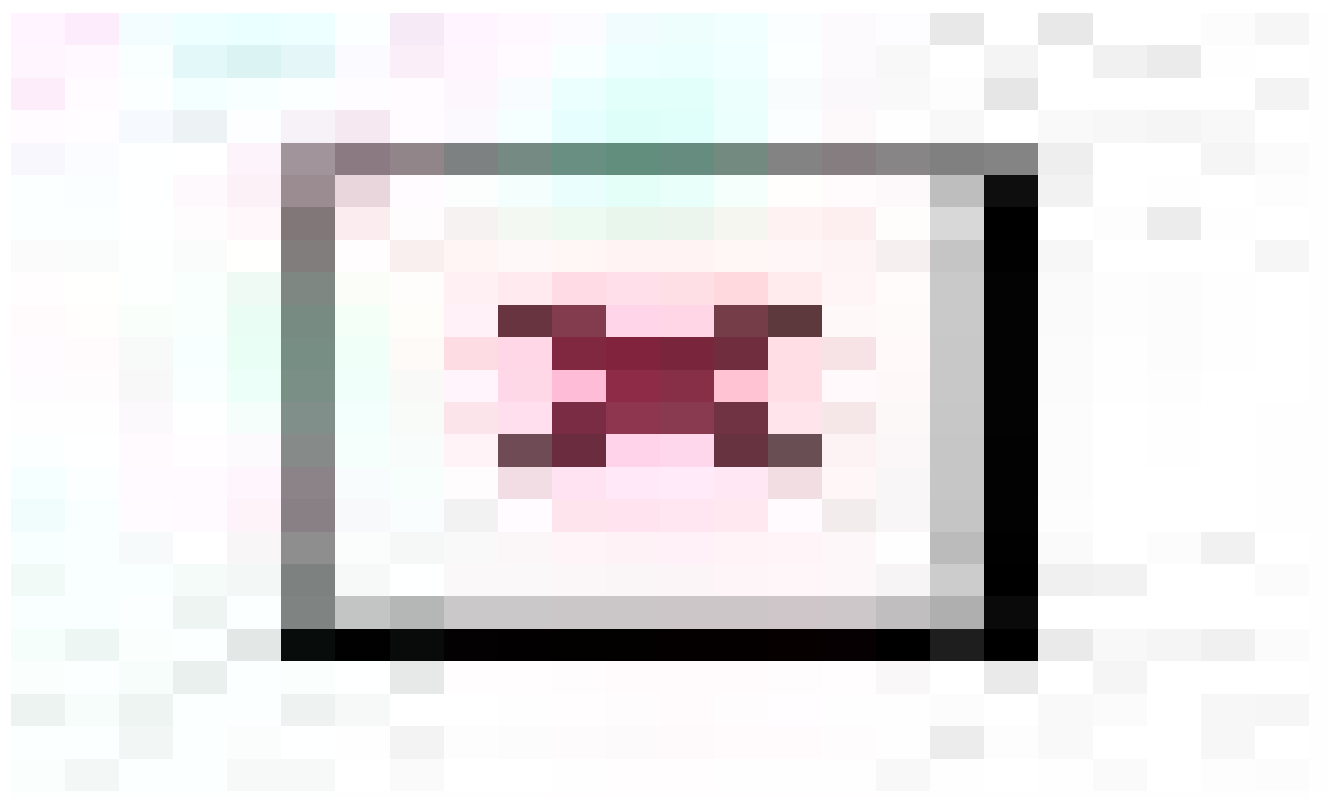
Commissioner Watson – Yes                      Commissioner Ellington -Yes  
Commissioner Jones – Yes      Vice Chairman Wilder– Yes  
Chairman Allen – Yes

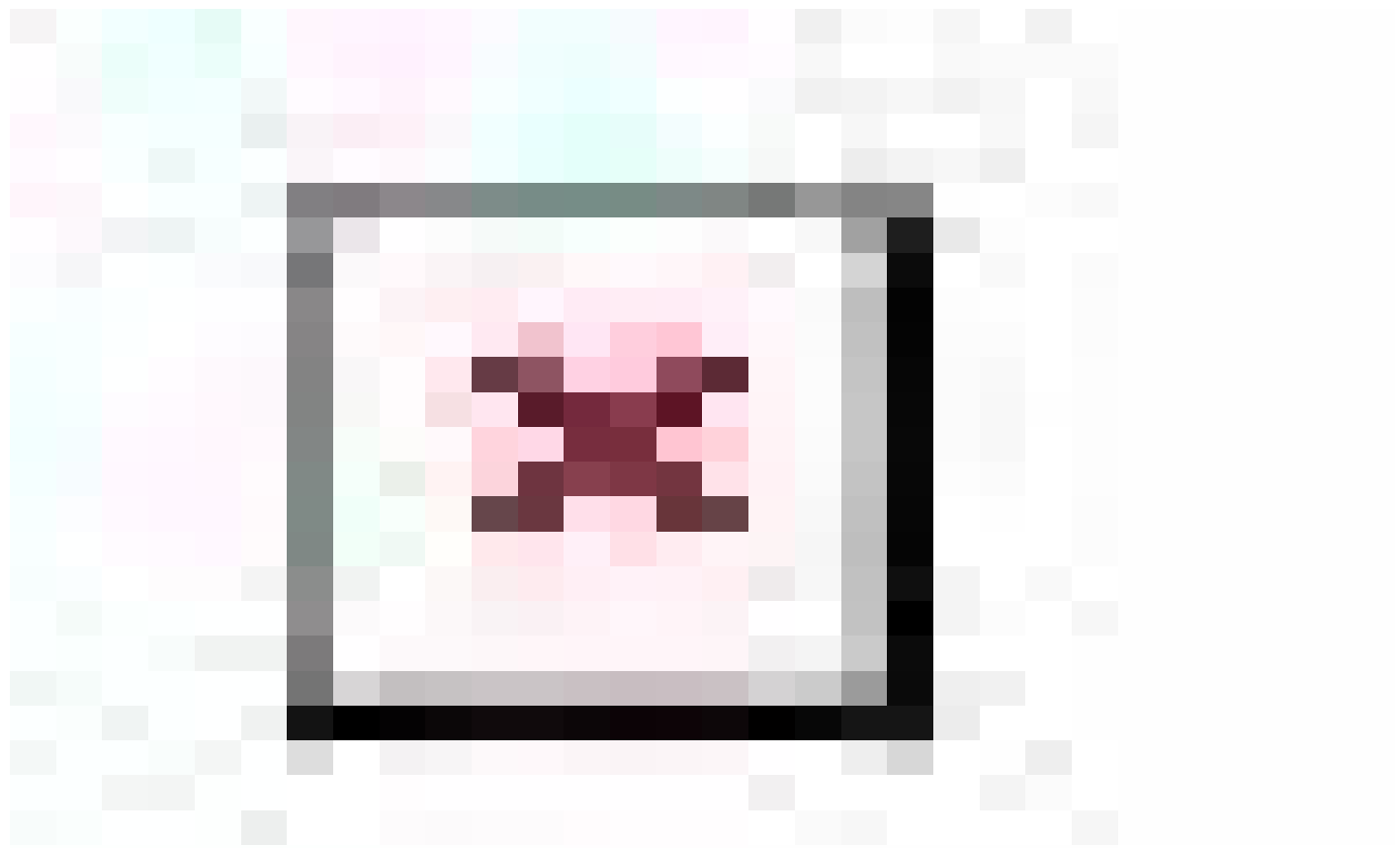
A motion was made to researching the deed to the 601 W. Gordon Street property for a reversion clause and to explore the option to surplus the property to include contacting the state about purchasing it.

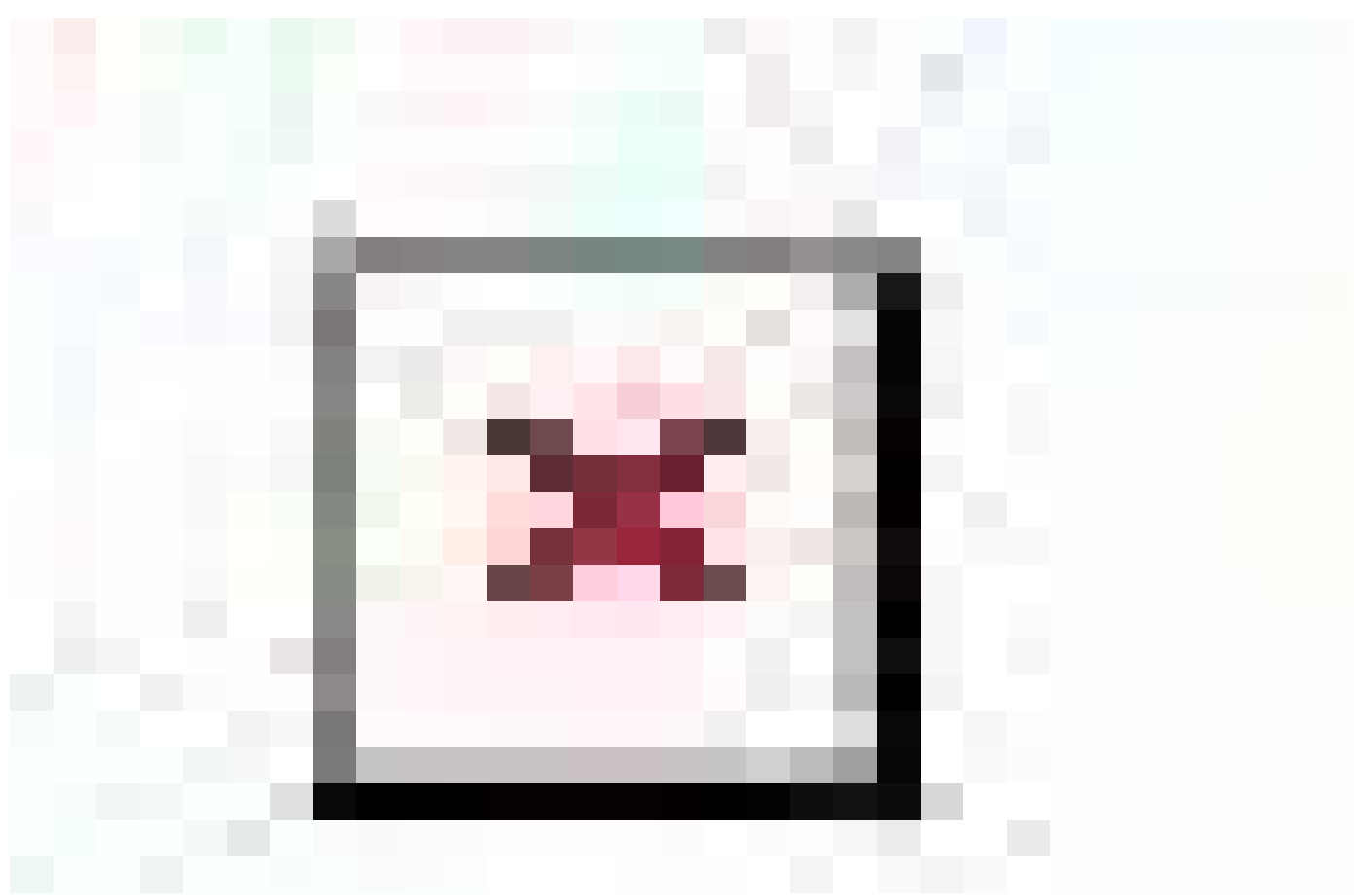
**Motion:** Commissioner Ellington                      **Second:** Commissioner Jones

Commissioner Watson – Yes                      Commissioner Ellington -Yes  
Commissioner Jones – Yes      Vice Chairman Wilder– Yes  
Chairman Allen – Yes

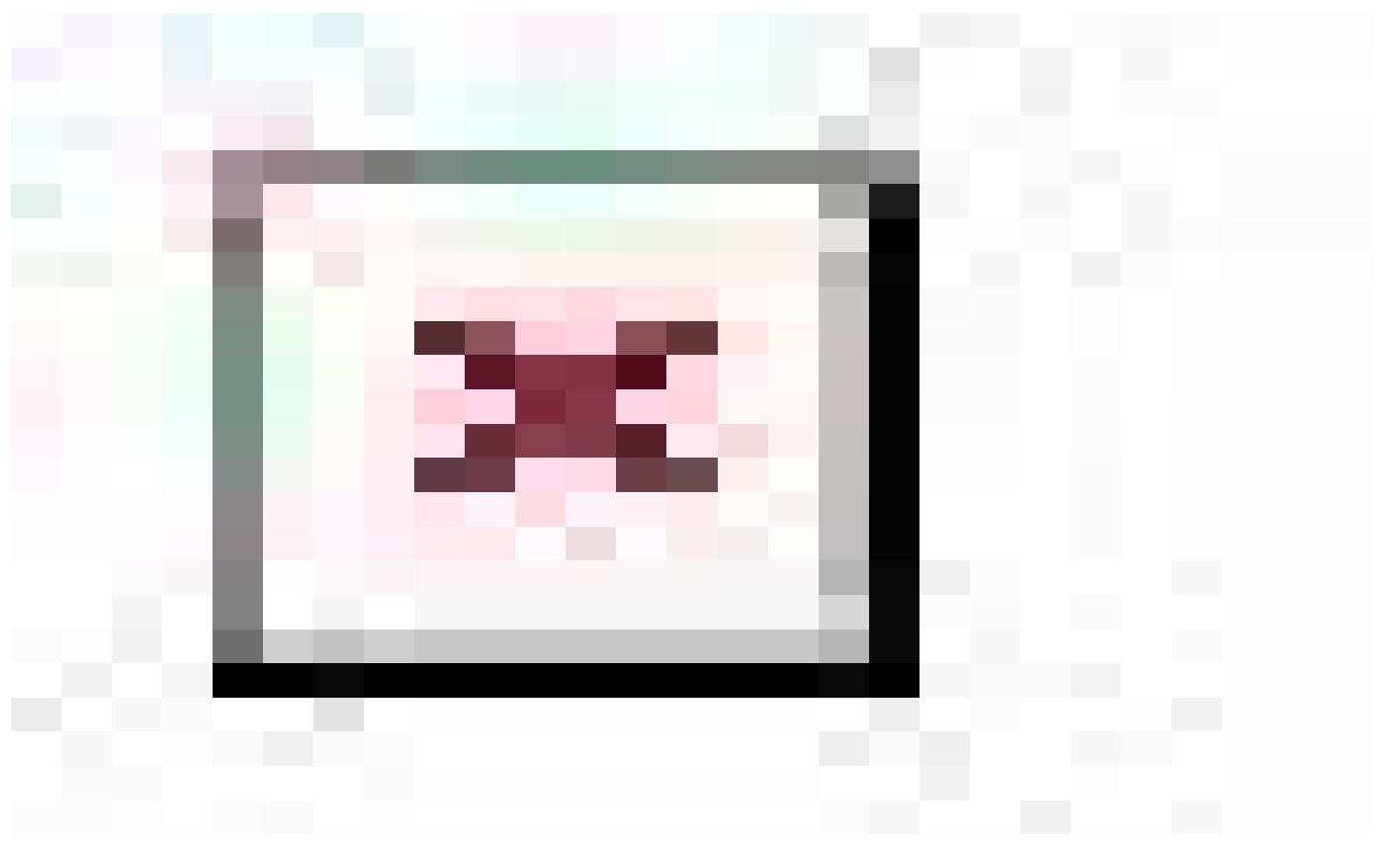
- e. Discussion and Consideration for the third-party material testing at the Judicial Center  
The county manager reviewed the proposal for third party testing. He advised the IPG recommended the low bidder Terracon.  
Commissioner Ellington had some concerns on why they were not going with the local bidder.

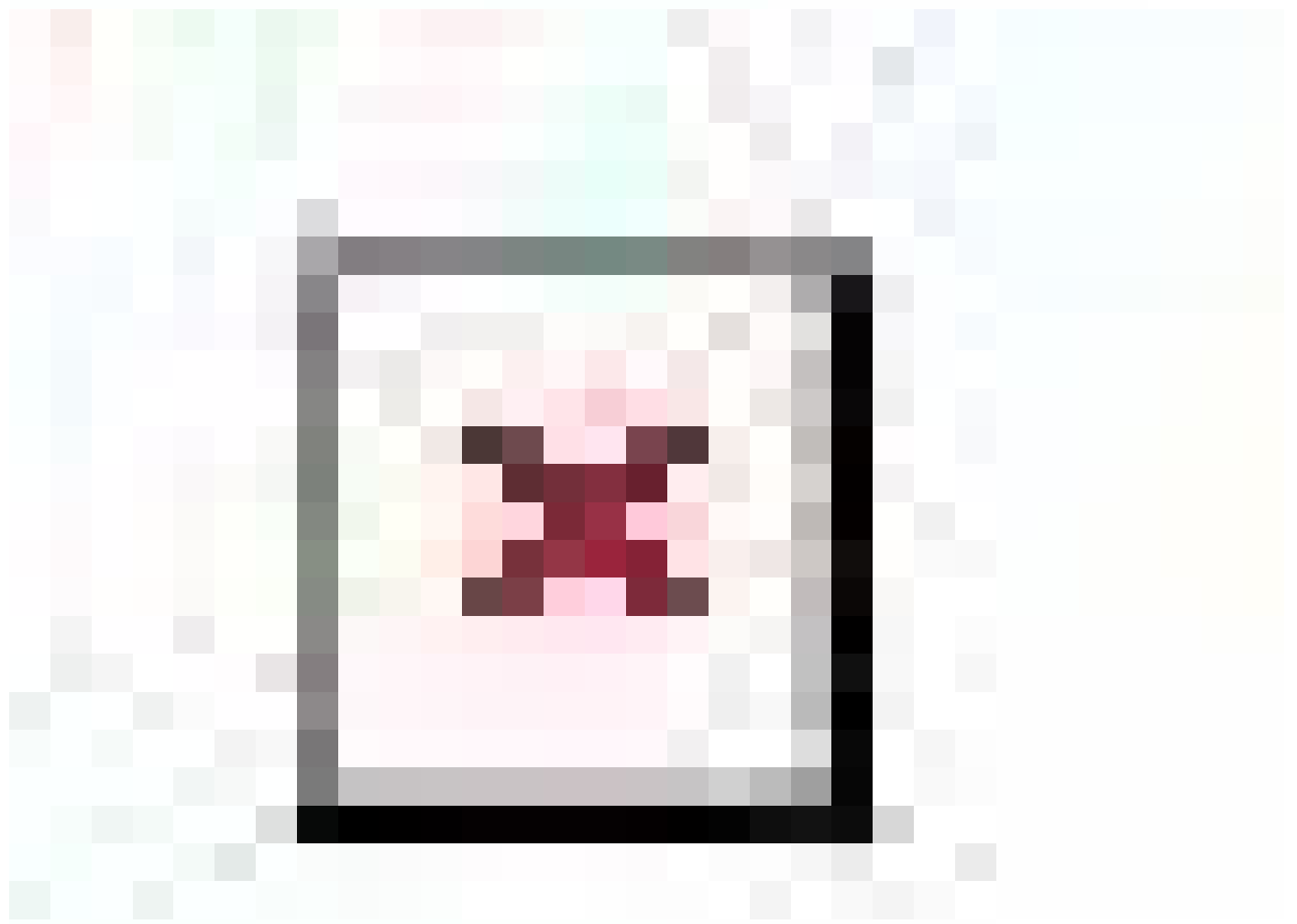
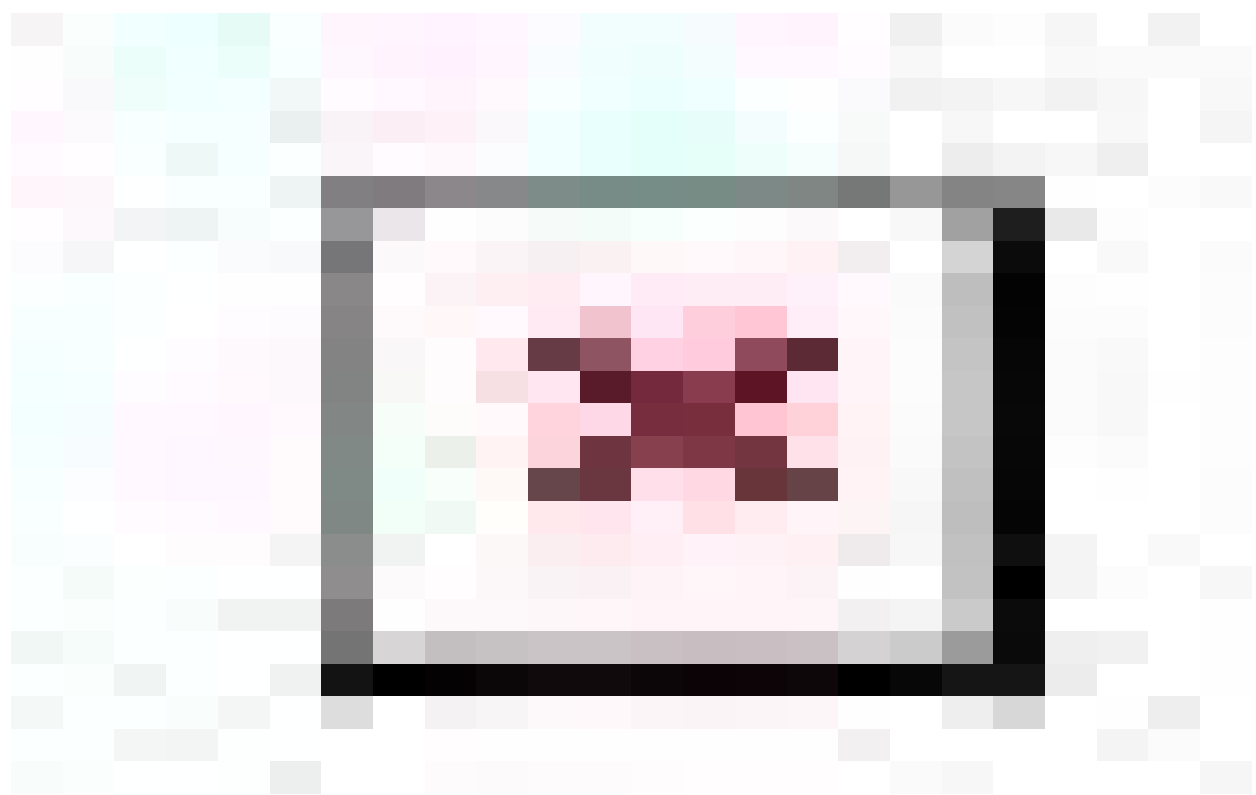














A motion was made to accept the recommendation from IPG and use the lower bidder Terracon for Third Party Testing for the Judicial Center in the amount of \$76,925.

**Motion:** Commissioner Watson                      **Second:** Commissioner Jones

Commissioner Watson – Yes                      Commissioner Ellington -No  
Commissioner Jones – Yes                      Vice Chairman Wilder– Yes  
Chairman Allen – Yes

f. Discussion and Consideration on an Addendum to the Probation Services Agreement

County Attorney explained that this addendum is aligning the contract with state law. The recommendation is to approve the addendum. Chairman Allen would like the board to discuss the contract in a work session to see how community service is be handled.

A motion was made to

**Motion:** Commissioner Jones                      **Second:** Commissioner Watson

Commissioner Watson – Yes                      Commissioner Ellington -Yes  
Commissioner Jones – Yes                      Vice Chairman Wilder– Yes  
Chairman Allen – Yes

g. County Manager, Commissioners, and County Attorney Comments

**County Manager Jason Tinsley** congratulated the Chief and Thurston Volunteer Fire Department for being awarded a FEMA grant for 12 self-contained breathing apparatuses including masks and bottles totaling \$156,399. The county will match \$7,800.



**County Attorney Heath English** stated that they have had some good terms in Probate Court and they are moving some cases. He is now attending Magistrate Court.

**Chairman Allen** stated that there was a good turnout at the open house for the Comprehensive Plan, that information is now available virtually and they are looking for feedback. He went on a ride with EMC on some high-density roads, for a potential project.

**Commissioner Watson** thanked Travon Walker for supporting his hometown. He added that he will be having a free football camp on June 16, 2023.

**Commissioner J. Ellington** congratulation and thank you to Thurston Volunteer Fire Department and EMA. Congratulation to the Upson Lee 2023 Seniors.

**Commissioner Jones** grateful that Commissioner Ellington is up and walking around.

**Commissioner Wilder** stated that the Emancipation Celebration is the upcoming weekend. The parade begins at 11:00 am and the speaking will follow in Lincoln Park. Mrs. Sandra Trice will be the guest speaker.

**County Clerk Jessica Jones** was not in attendance.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Real Estate Acquisition and Personnel

A motion was made to exit regular session to go into executive session.

**Motion:** Commissioner Jones      **Second:** Commissioner Ellington

Commissioner Watson – Yes                      Commissioner Ellington -Yes  
Commissioner Jones – Yes      Vice Chairman Wilder– Yes  
Chairman Allen – Yes

A motion was made to exit regular executive session back into regular session.

**Motion:** Commissioner Jones      **Second:** Commissioner Ellington

Commissioner Watson – Yes                      Commissioner Ellington -Yes  
Commissioner Jones – Yes      Vice Chairman Wilder– Yes  
Chairman Allen – Yes

IX. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Watson with a second from Commissioner Ellington to adjourn the meeting.

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Chairman Norman Allen

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Commissioner James Ellington

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Commissioner Benjamin Watson

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Commissioner Lorenzo Wilder

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Commissioner Paul Jones