

APPLING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

CALLED MEETING MINUTES

December 5, 2022 @ 4:00 PM

The Appling County Board of Commissioners held a called meeting on December 5th, 2022 at 4:00 pm to discuss personnel. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mike Shumans. Present were Commissioner Sarah Boatright, Daryl Edwards, Doug Harris and Charlie Leggett, and Theodore Wilkerson (arrived during executive session). Also present was Interim County Manager Mike Deal, County Attorney Tracy Brown and County Clerk Robyn Evans. Kelly Turner from the Baxley News Banner was also present.

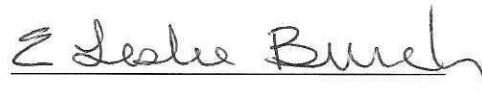
Chairman Mike Shumans welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by County Clerk, Robyn Evans.

The Invocation was given by Commissioner Charlie Leggett.

The purpose of the called meeting was to enter into Executive Session to review the top three candidates that were interviewed for County Manager/Administrator position- Allie (AI) Meadows; Thomas Barnard; and Paul Drawdy. Commissioner Harris made a motion to close the regular session and enter into Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Leggett; and unanimously approved.

After an hour or so of deliberation, the board returned. On a motion by Commissioner Edwards; second by Commissioner Harris; all approved to close Executive Session and enter into regular session of the called meeting. Commissioner Boatright made a motion to offer a contract of employment to candidate Allie (AI) Meadows. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Wilkerson; unanimously approved. Mr. Meadows was present for the meeting and immediately acknowledged acceptance of this offer with the understanding of signing an employment contract after the meeting.



Leslie Burch, Chairman



Robyn Evans, County Clerk



ATTEST:

**APPLING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APPLING COUNTY ANNEX
TUESDAY – DECEMBER 6, 2022 @ 5:30 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME/PLEDGE

The Appling County Board of Commissioners held their regular monthly meeting on December 6th, 2022 at 5:30 pm at the Courthouse Annex. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mike Shumans. Chairman Shumans welcomed all those present for the meeting. Doug Harris, Vice Chairman, led the group in prayer. Present were Commissioners Theodore Wilkerson, Charlie Leggett, Doug Harris and Daryl Edwards. Also present were County Manager Mike Deal, County Attorney Tracy Brown and Robyn Evans, County Clerk. Commissioner Sarah Boatright was absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Regular Monthly Meeting 11/01/2022

B. Called Meeting 11/17/2022 County Manager Interviews

On a motion by Commissioner Harris; second by Commissioner Edwards; these minutes were both unanimously approved.

On a motion by Commissioner Harris, second by Commissioner Wilkerson, and unanimously approved, the Board closed the regular session of the monthly meeting to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel salary.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Harris motioned to close Executive Session and re-open regular session. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion and all unanimously approved.

Commissioner Harris then made a motion to approve an employment contract with Allie (Al) Meadows for the County Manager position. The contract is for an annual pay of \$104,000 and will take place on January 1, 2023. Commissioner Wilkerson seconded; and unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Commissioner Edwards to allow Allie (Al) Meadows to work part-time at an hourly rate of \$50/hour until his contract effective date – in order to receive guidance and direction from Mr. Mike Deal, Interim County Manager. A second was given by Commissioner Harris and unanimously approved.

A motion was given by Commissioner Edwards to retain Mike Deal full-time through January 31, 2023 and to consult by phone after this date on an as-needed basis and at the current hourly rate of pay. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Wilkerson and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Board of Health Appointment (term 01/01/2023-12/31/2028)

Commissioner Harris made a motion to appoint Brenda Harris (employee at HeadStart) to replace Rebecca Ogden as she is no longer able to serve on the Board of Health. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Edwards and unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

A. DFCS Board Appointment (Ms. Artis resigned)

Commissioner Wilkerson made a motion to appoint May Frances Joiner as a replacement for Ms. Artis due to her resignation. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Harris and unanimously approved.

B. Selection of Consultant for CDGB Project (Headstart Building)

Mr. Deal announced that Robert's Civil Engineering would be the Consulting Engineer Group, citing they'd been graded in the top of their professional services group. On a motion by Commissioner Wilkerson, second by Commissioner Edwards, all unanimously approved Robert's Civil Engineering as the consultant on the CDGB project at Headstart Building.

C. Recognition – Mike Deal

Mr. Deal recognized Commissioner Doug Harris as a newly "Certified County Commissioner" as he'd recently completed his last class toward a 66-hour required ACCG training. Certified County Commissioners receive a \$100 stipend.

D. Request to purchase equipment (lift) for Buildings & Grounds Dept. - D. Watts

Mr. Dwight Watts, Buildings and Grounds Manager requested approval from the Board to purchase a diesel-powered lift. This equipment would be utilized in reaching greater heights for projects such as gutters, roofs, and areas unreachable by a ladder. Mr. Watts stated that he had \$25,000 in his budget for equipment but he'd need more as the cost would be approximately \$40K-\$50K for a good used lift.

E. Updates on EMS recent fire – Jimmy Twiggs

Mr. Twiggs thanked everyone for reaching out to offer assistance during recent fire at EMS Building. He stated ambulances were not damaged but sleeping quarters were gutted and some attic damage through the firewall. They are currently being housed at the EMA Building and Mr. Twiggs looks for the board's guidance for a long-term resolution regarding their location in the future. County Attorney Brown assured Mr. Twiggs that the insurance and ownership of the building will be sorted out discussed with the Appling Co. Hospital Authority in seeking resolution of housing.

F. Surplus shelter @ old EMA building – John Mitchell

Mr. John Mitchell spoke to the board regarding a surplus shelter at the old EMA building. He gave a summary of the purpose of the American Legion and their services. Mr. Mitchell then requested the Board donate the shelter from the old EMA building to the American Legion for their entrance. Mr. Watts, Buildings & Grounds Director, spoke and stated that he'd previously expressed his need to utilize the shelter to store county equipment. Mr. Brown, County

Attorney, requests that Mr. Mitchell speak to the county manager about the request and research grant funding to assist with remodeling needs.

G. TIA Project Agreement – Reid Lovett

Mr. Lovett advised that Satilla Road was moved to Band 2 of the TIA (Transportation Investment Act/Agreement) and Ten Mile Road was moved to Band 1 priority due to the needs of the county. Commissioner Edwards made a motion to approve the change and adopt a resolution to make these changes. Commissioner Wilkerson seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

SHERIFF'S REPORT – Mark Melton

Sheriff Melton advised the board that during the most recent election events, there was a medical emergency and he commended volunteers that assisted the person until emergency personnel arrived to the scene. Sheriff Melton reported Anthony Tillman would be retiring from full-time service on 12/09/22 but he would continue to stay on part-time for court security assistance. He advised the board of some upcoming community activities and new officers graduation academy. He stated that for the first time in probably a year and half, his department is fully staffed.

RECREATION DEPT. – Timmy McGuirt

Mr. McGuirt gave updates on the Rec. Dept. stating soccer participation has tripled this year – they have 12 teams. He requested approval from the Board to retain the final payment on the pool project until all adjustments to the construction, etc. were made to the county's satisfaction. Commissioner Harris made a motion to pay \$200,000 to Swim Pro and retain \$29,990.83 until repairs were complete. Commissioner Edwards seconded; unanimously approved.

The Athletic Coordinator job description was motioned to be accepted as printed by Commissioner Edwards and Commissioner Wilkerson seconded; unanimously approved.

Mr. McGuirt introduced Emanuel Williams to the board to give a presentation regarding the sport of Pickleball – a cross of ping pong and tennis. He stated there are over 4 million players and the growth of this sport is unprecedented. Mr. Williams stated this sport is a bridge for diversity and generations and is he requested approval to move forward with plans to host some tournaments in Baxley. Mr. Williams advised the Board that this was not a CHSA yet but it's coming quickly. Mr. Mike Deal, Interim County Manager suggested that Mr. Williams be allowed to proceed with planning.

ROAD & BRIDGES – Brooks Johnson

Mr. Johnson stated he'd recently spoken with the manager at Fries Farms and he requested permission from the county to re-pave the road to his business due to damage. Mr. Johnson advised that the Dunn's Lake boat ramp was complete and waiting on DNR to push into the lake. He stated they had one mower down right now and that receiving material on a timely basis was still an issue.

Discussion was held by the Board to designate Robert's Civil Engineering as the Consultant of choice for professional services related to architecture. On a motion by Commissioner Leggett and second by Commissioner Edwards, this motion was unanimously approved.

There being no further business or discussion the meeting was adjourned.

Robyn Evans, County Clerk

Leslie Burch, Chairman


ATTEST

