

**APPLING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY-August 1st, 2023 @ 5:30 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

The Appling County Board of Commissioners held their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, August 1st, 2023 at 5:30pm at the Courthouse Annex. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Leslie Burch. Present were Commissioners: Daryl Edwards, Doug Harris, Charlie Leggett, Randy Sellers, and Theodore Wilkerson. Also present were Chairman Burch, County Manager Al Meadows, County Attorney Tracy Brown and County Clerk Robyn Evans.

WELCOME

Chairman Leslie Burch welcomed all those in attendance and reminded everyone to silence their cellular devices.

INVOCATION

Mr. Linton DeLoach gave the invocation.

PLEDGE

Chairman Burch led the group in the pledge.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Harris made a motion to approve the agenda as presented; Commissioner Edwards seconded; unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Regular Monthly Meeting 7/11/2023
- B. Called Meeting (Insurance) 7/24/2023

Commissioner Harris made a motion to approve both the regular monthly meeting and called meeting minutes. Commissioner Sellers seconded; unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Quarterly Update from Appling Hospital

CEO Andrea Graham gave a brief update on the Hospital departments. She stated that the Employee Benefits package is being updated and they created an employee engagement committee called Team Care. This team will be focusing on events and support to encourage staff. Ms. Graham stated that their Mom Prom Event was a huge success and raised \$15,000 in Queen nominations alone. She also stated that they are the recipients of a Rural State Grant in the amount of \$875,000 which will be utilized to renovate rooms and long-term debt relief. They have one year to use the funds and were one (1) of eight (8) recipients out of 25 applications across the state. CEO Graham shared that the Pavilion received notification they were the recipient of one (1) of seven (7) Silver quality awards.

- B. FY'2024 Public Defender Contract

County Manager Meadows presented the contract for services, of which Appling's annual cost share is \$144,726. These funds provide operation of an indigent defense system in criminal cases. On a motion by Commissioner Harris, second by Commissioner Edwards, this contract was unanimously approved.

C. FY'2024 LMIG Application

County Manager Meadows shared that Roberts Civil Engineering submitted a contract agreement for completing the 2024 LMIG application and consulting, etc., as our Engineer of Record. The approved 2024 LMIG formula is \$1,129,807 with a 10% local match contribution. Commissioner Edwards made a motion to approve the FY'2024 LMIG Application; Second by Commissioner Leggett; unanimously approved.

D. Set Public Hearing Date for FY'2024 County Budget Input

Commissioner Harris made a motion to set August 17th, 2023 at 5:30 PM as the date and time for the first Public Budget Hearing regarding the FY'2024 County budget; Second by Commissioner Wilkerson; unanimously approved.

E. Vote on Proposal for FY'2024 County Insurance Benefits

The recommendation from Lighthouse Benefits Advisors (LBA) for County employee benefits is to maintain the current medical provider, United HealthCare, at no increase in premiums and no changes for employee coverage. Also, to utilize Guardian Dental and Vision benefits as presented. The cost is \$3,043,206.00 for the United HealthCare Performance Contract; Commissioner Sellers made a motion to approve the contract; Commissioner Wilkerson seconded; unanimously approved.

F. Olivia Davis – Program Coordinator, Coalition for a Healthy Appling County (CHAC)

Ms. Davis gave a brief presentation on the CHAC program and how the community can support their goals. One project in particular, is the Community Garden that needs tremendous revitalization.

G. Kelsey Marchant – Appling County Young Farmer Teacher

Ms. Marchant gave a presentation to the Board regarding the Ag Center. She provided a drawing of proposed revisions to the Ag Center cattle pen area for additional pens. A quote was presented in the amount of \$29,300 and discussion held by the Commissioners. No decisions were made to approve or deny the request for improvements at this meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Request for Additional Funding on TIA Project Band 1

Additional funding was requested and approved for this project due to inflation costs. An additional \$135,774 was promised by Georgia Dept. of Transportation for Nails Ferry Road and an additional \$241,451 for Ten Mile Road. Commissioner Wilkerson made a motion to approve Roberts Civil Engineering revised TIA Budget; seconded by Commissioner Harris; unanimously approved.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Chief Gene Davis gave a report for the Sheriff's Office updating the Board regarding new officers attending various trainings.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Recreation Director Timmy McGuirt shared that the State Swim Meet held at Appling Aquatics Center was a success even though it was the hottest day of the year (117 degrees). In order to combat any heat incidents, they gave out over 1000 bottles of water. Appling County's Team won overall, with 250 total points over the 2nd place team; he attributes the success of the meet to over 100 volunteers and many, many partners assisting. Commissioner Edwards expressed appreciation for all staff involved. Mr. McGuirt also shared that the pool is now an official USA Sanctioned Pool.

ROADS & BRIDGES UPDATES

Road Superintendent Brooks Johnson gave an update to the Board. He stated the storms have numerous trees down in the past week; fourteen (14) across roads. He expressed appreciation for the department's staff and their dedication to responding during storms. Mr. Johnson stated the litter pickup service was almost complete, with 134 roads cleaned so far. He also mentioned a temporary road closure to replace a pipe on Lake Mayers Road. The date will be posted on website and social media.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Meadows advised the board that a representative from the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) performed a routine compliance inspection at the Appling County Landfill. No major deficiencies were found and our score was 90 out of 100. Two minor deficiencies were erosion control measures due to the amount of rainfall and loose litter observed in a certain area. The deficiencies are being addressed and a written report/corrective action plan will be provided to EPD by County Manager Meadows.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

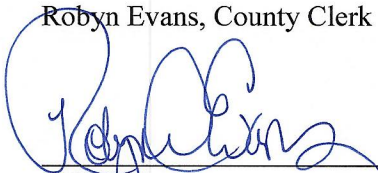
Chairman Burch stated that he and County Manager Meadows participated in a Plant Hatch Drill exercise this morning and he has a new appreciation for the county employees working in all the different areas.

ADJOURN

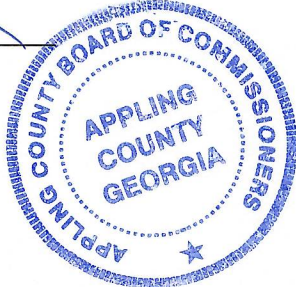
There being no further business or discussion the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM.

Robyn Evans, County Clerk

Leslie Burch, Chairman


ATTEST





**APPLING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CALLED MEETING/PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING
THURSDAY-August 17th, 2023 @ 5:30 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

The Appling County Board of Commissioners held a called meeting for Public Budget Hearing on Thursday, August 17th, 2023 at 5:30 PM at the Courthouse Annex. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Leslie Burch. Present were Commissioners: Daryl Edwards, Doug Harris, Charlie Leggett, Randy Sellers, and Theodore Wilkerson. Also present were Chairman Burch, County Manager Al Meadows and County Clerk Robyn Evans. Attorney Terry Turner filled in for County Attorney Tracy Brown, whom was absent.

WELCOME

Chairman Leslie Burch welcomed all those in attendance and reminded everyone to silence their cellular devices.

INVOCATION

Commissioner Edwards gave the invocation.

PLEDGE

County Manager Meadows led the group in the pledge.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Edwards stated that he was under the impression that Executive Session would be on the agenda, to discuss personnel/salaries. Chairman Burch stated that according to discussion with Attorney Terry Turner, the topic was not something allowed to be discussed in Executive Session. Commissioner Harris made a motion to approve agenda as written. Commissioner Sellers seconded; Commissioner Wilkerson voted in favor; Commissioners Leggett and Edwards opposed approving the agenda as written.

NEW BUSINESS

Voting Delegate

ACCG requested a voting delegate for the 2023 Legislative Leadership Conferences to be held in October at Jekyll Island. Commissioner Edwards made a motion to nominate Commissioner Harris at the delegate. Commissioner Wilkerson seconded; Commissioner Sellers and Leggett voted in favor; Commissioner Harris abstained from voting.

Public Input Requests regarding Proposed FY'2024 Budget from Dedra Hewitt and John Mitchell

Ms. Dedra Hewitt spoke regarding several line items in the budget and had questions regarding contract road clean-up, 911 road signs, hospital funds, floating dock, firefighter pay, etc. She also thanked the Board for their assistance in answering her questions, helping her understand processes, and for their transparency.

Mr. John Mitchell stated majority of the budget increased and never went down. He challenged the Board to decrease spending, be more engaged, and have the same consideration as if they were running their own households' budgets. Mr. Mitchell still requested that the firefighter pay be increased.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Review of FY' 2024 Proposed Budget

County Manager Meadows shared several items for discussion and review by the Commissioners. More information is attached to these minutes.

Sheriff's Office Training Position: This position was requested by Sheriff Melton and requires a vote by the board to accept or deny the request. Commissioner Sellers spoke against the position. Commissioner Harris shared that he'd spoken with the Sheriff, and he'd indicated the position would offset some expenditures and overtime expenses in relation to staff traveling out of town for training versus being able to complete those trainings locally. Commissioner Edwards stated the Sheriff indicated the position would offset expenses paid to find coverage for shifts when deputies were out of town attending training. He stated that a deputy could attend training locally and still cover his/her shift. Commissioner Legett stated that he'd like to see the savings shown in writing and the budget included in the next draft of the budget. Commissioner Edwards made a motion to approve the position. Commissioner Leggett seconded; approved by Commissioners Harris and Wilkerson; Commissioner Sellers opposed.

Backhoe (Landfill)

There is a request for a backhoe for the landfill at \$80,000. County Manager Meadows would like to remove the backhoe and replace with a deep well. The dozier currently used is in need of repairs that could have been avoided had the excess dirt and debris been removed by a pressure washer. Manger asks that \$5000 be included for equipment and \$15,000 for deep well; and possible repair for dozier of \$43,394. Commissioner Leggett asked where the price for the deep well came from and stated he just priced one this week and it was \$22,000. Commissioner Edwards made a motion to move \$45,000 into this for equipment purchase and deep well. Commissioner Leggett seconded; unanimously approved.

Rural Firefighters' Pay

County Manager Meadows proposed to increase this pay, which would increase the budget by \$45,000. Commissioner Sellers motioned to accept this change; Commissioner Harris seconded; unanimously approved.

Floating Dock at Lake Tara

Commissioner Harris motioned to leave \$35,000 in the budget for a stationary dock and/or restrooms at Lake Tara and to change description to "Docks and Improvements". GA Dept. of Natural Resources will be installing (free of charge) a floating dock at Carter's Bight. Foundation work will begin this winter and plans to be in place by summer of 2024.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

County Manager Meadows stated the Tax Commissioner will complete the Tax Consolidation sheet by tomorrow and the 5-year History will be posted in the Baxley News Banner for the August 29th, 2023 edition. A second Public Budget Hearing will be held on August 31, 2023 at 5:30 PM, and anticipate the budget be approved and set the mil rate on September 12, 2023 meeting. County Manager Meadows proposed a called meeting to discuss and prioritize the remaining 2023 and 2024 projects on August 24, 2023 at 10:00AM.

ADJOURN

There being no further business or discussion the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Robyn Evans, County Clerk

ATTEST

Leslie Burch, Chairman



Leslie Burch

**APPLING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CALLED MEETING/WORK SESSION (County Projects)
THURSDAY-August 24th, 2023 @ 10:00 A.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

The Appling County Board of Commissioners held a called meeting for County Project Work Session on Thursday, August 24th, 2023 at 10:00 AM at the Courthouse Annex. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Leslie Burch. Present were Commissioners: Daryl Edwards, Doug Harris, Charlie Leggett, Randy Sellers, and Theodore Wilkerson. Also present were Chairman Burch, County Manager Al Meadows, County Attorney Tracy Brown and County Clerk Robyn Evans.

WELCOME

Chairman Leslie Burch welcomed all those in attendance and reminded everyone to silence their cellular devices.

INVOCATION

Commissioner Harris gave the invocation.

PLEDGE

Commissioner Wilkerson led the group in the pledge.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Harris made a motion to approve the agenda as written; Commissioner Edwards seconded; unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

FY'2023-2024 County Roads and Projects

Appling Co. Board of Commissioners has recognized Roberts Civil Engineering as the Engineer of Record. As such, Roberts Eng. is charged with preparing, administrating, coordinating, advertising, inspecting, and any and all oversight as related to construction of agreed upon projects.

2023 LMIG

Appling County has currently issued the Notice to Proceed to Roberts Eng. The Notice to Award is being finalized and will be issued to the contractor (Ga. Asphalt Producers, Inc.) for the previously approved 2023 LMIG projects. Paving is planned to begin in Oct.
(Bid amount - \$2,123,077.37)

2024 LMIG

I have submitted the 2024 LMIG Application request to Mr. Troy Pittman, District Engineer, for the Ga. Dept. of Transportation. The request consists of 9.202 +/- miles of patching, leveling, and resurfacing on Pat Lewis Road, Lamar Crosby Road, and Old Surrency Road.

TIA

Appling County has currently issued the Notice to Proceed to Roberts Eng. The Notice to Award is being finalized and will be issued to the contractor (McClendon Enterprises) for the previously approved 2023 TIA projects.

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|---------------------|---|
| Original TIA Budget | \$2,720,828. |
| Revised TIA Budget | \$3,098,053. (Approved Additional Funds \$377,225.) |

Roads

1. Sunshine Drive

Sunshine Rd Begins at SR 27/341 and ends at Azalea Road. It consists 600 +/- ft. paved/1835 +/- ft. unimproved consisting of 24 ft. travel lanes with 2 ft. paved shoulders Lt/Rt for a total width of 28 ft. Preliminary dirt work has been completed and the water main installed. The project is ready to be put out for bid.

2. Old Field Cemetery

The plan to pave Old Field Cemetery Rd have been on the books for several years. Our attorney and I are working to secure the acceptance of the land owners that border the current road. At this time there are two land owners that are opposed but negotiations continue.

3. Crosby Chapel

Littlefield Construction has completed the preliminary dirt work for Crosby Chapel and has been paid for that service. Littlefield agreed to let the road sit for a few months to settle prior to paving. Littlefield plans to begin the paving process in October.

Projects for Discussion (Projects 1&2 are ready to be advertised for bids)

1. Pool Parking

Roberts has provided plans to pave the Aquatic Center parking lot. I requested a quote from J. Hiers Company for an estimate for the paving. (\$139,999.)

2. Bleachers -Tractor Pull Area (2018 SPLOST Item)

The current bleachers at the tractor pull area were recycled from the Appling County High School many years ago and are in poor condition. The current bleachers have a seating capacity of 1568. I have contacted the Hodge Company from Cumming Ga to provide plans on replacing the current bleachers and maintaining the current seating capacity. The estimated price is \$335,000 for the bleachers. These will be built on site and will require a concrete footer, not part of the quote, as the base.

3. Concession Stands

The concession stands at the tractor pull area is in need of structural repairs and modernization. Roberts has provided a preliminary plan for consideration.

4. Cow Panels

The Young Farmers have requested to replace the pens in the NE hall at the Ag Center with panels that would accommodate cows. Complete information is included in your packet from last meeting. My recommendation is to install 8-10 cow panels in the open area in the NE hall.

5. County Barn (2018 SPLOST Item)

A new County Barn is included in the 2018 SPLOST. A location has been chosen and preliminary plans have been drafted. I recommend we discuss with Roberts Eng. to determine the amount we want to allocate from the 2018 SPLOST for construction for a new county barn.

Assets Available for Stated Roads/Projects

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. American Recovery Fund | \$1,680,616. |
| 2. TSPLOST | \$2,824,197. |
| 3. 2023 LMIG | \$1,051,992. |
| 4. 2018 SPLOST (A/C Infrastructure) | \$2,435,698. |

*2018 SPLOST Overages as of Aug \$500,212.

*Est. Year End Overages (Sept-Dec) \$956,000.

Estimated 2018 SPLOST A/C Infrastructure \$3,891,910.

*- SPLOST Overages are split, with the City receiving 26% and the County receiving 74%. It is estimated the County will receive \$1,456,212 in SPLOST Overages by the end of the year.

OLD BUSINESS

Clarification on Pay Increase for Volunteer Firemen/First Responders

County manager requested to include First Responders to the increase previous requested for volunteer firemen. The proposal will be an additional increase of \$13,300 in the budget costs.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Edwards made a motion to close regular session and enter into executive session to discuss personnel and real estate. Commissioner Harris seconded; unanimously approved.

Commissioner Harris made a motion to close executive session and re-enter into regular session. Commissioner Edwards seconded; unanimously approved.

After discussion in executive session, Commissioner Harris made a motion to approve a salary increase for Brent Carter, Assistant Director, EMA, in the amount of \$3.03/hour. Commissioner Wilkerson seconded; unanimously approved.

County Attorney Tracy Brown stated the Board also discussed possible sale of real estate but no actions were taken.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

County Manager Meadows stated the Tax Commissioner will complete the Tax Consolidation sheet by tomorrow and the 5-year History will be posted in the Baxley News Banner for the August 29th, 2023 edition. A second public hearing will be held on August 31, 2023 at 5:30 PM.

ADJOURN

There being no further business or discussion the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Robyn Evans, County Clerk



ATTEST



Leslie Burch, Chairman



**APPLING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CALLED MEETING/PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING
THURSDAY-August 31st, 2023 @ 5:30 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

The Appling County Board of Commissioners held a called meeting for Public Budget Hearing on Thursday, August 31st, 2023 at 5:30pm at the Courthouse Annex. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Leslie Burch. Present were Commissioners: Daryl Edwards, Doug Harris (late arrival), Charlie Leggett, Randy Sellers, and Theodore Wilkerson (late arrival). Also present were Chairman Burch, County Manager Al Meadows, County Attorney Tracy Brown and County Clerk Robyn Evans.

WELCOME

Chairman Leslie Burch welcomed all those in attendance and reminded everyone to silence their cellular devices.

INVOCATION

Mr. Joe Taylor gave the invocation.

PLEDGE

Chairman Burch led the group in the pledge.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Additions were added to the agenda for Public Input regarding increased salary requests by Roger Branch, Chairman of the Board of Tax Assessors and Rodney Williams, Chairman of the Board of Elections. Also Judge Ronnie Lewis spoke on behalf of himself and his Associate Judge Andrea Bass in regards to increased salary. Commissioner Edwards made a motion to approve the agenda with the additional speakers; Commissioner Leggett seconded; unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

FY'2024 Budget – Public Input

John Mitchell – First spoke by thanking the county emergency workers during the response for Hurricane Idalia. He then stated that he had concerns regarding the revaluation and public notices not being sent out to citizens. He asked the Board what the plans were to communicate this information to the citizens since he'd not seen any articles in the newspaper, social media, radio etc. Commissioner Edwards acknowledged his concerns and asked if he'd spoken to his district Commissioner regarding these concerns and suggested that he do so to gain more information. Commissioner Edwards did give a brief explanation of the revaluation and the process required.

Wayne Canady- Mr. Canady expressed his concerns to the Board regarding the revaluation and why there'd not been any discussion regarding freezing the tax digest. He also asked why not utilize the certificates of deposit for payment of the revaluation assessment instead of increasing taxes. Mr. Canady then stated his concern for the electricity amount budgeted. He asked that Board to reassess the increase in budget for this item. He also objected to money being budgeted locally and paid by tax payers for the elections. He stated that it was the responsibility of the Board of Commissioners, as trustees of the county's money to utilize it correctly. He didn't believe that using the current voting machines was responsible and the board should choose to use paper ballots instead.

Roger Branch, Board of Tax Assessors Chairman

Mr. Branch presented the Board of Commissioners with a proposal for salary increases in the department and for the Board of Tax Assessors members. The proposal is attached to the minutes.

Rodney Williams, Board of Elections Chairman

Mr. Williams presented the Board of Commissioners with a proposal for salary increases for the Board of Elections members and the Elections Supervisor, Shonda Thornton. Mr. Williams stated it's almost impossible for their board to reach a quorum of members at meetings due to absences. He asked that the rates be increased to match the other boards and that they be reimbursed for training time.

Judge Ronnie Lewis

Judge Lewis presented the Board of Commissioners with a request for increased salary for himself and his Associate Judge, Andrea Bass.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Commissioner Leggett, second by Commissioner Edwards, it was unanimously approved to close regular session and enter into Executive Session for discussing personnel.

Commissioner Sellers made a motion to close Executive Session and reopen regular session; second by Commissioner Edwards, unanimously approved.

No action was taken at this time.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

County Manager Meadows informed those in attendance that the County and City entered into a Local State of Emergency due to an event of critical significance, Hurricane Idalia. He estimated that 300 personnel assisted in some capacity with emergency response and clean-up after Hurricane Idalia. He commented that everyone performed phenomenally.

Due to continuing efforts to assess and repair county roads, County Manager Meadows suggested that we remain in State of Emergency for now.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Chairman Burch stated that he and County Manager Meadows participated in a Plant Hatch Drill exercise this morning and he has a new appreciation for the county employees working in all the different areas.

ADJOURN

There being no further business or discussion the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Robyn Evans, County Clerk

Leslie Burch, Chairman


ATTEST

