

**APPLING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CALLED MEETING MINUTES
December 5, 2023 @ 5:30 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME/INVOCATION/PLEDGE

The Appling County Board of Commissioners held the regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at 5:30 PM at the Courthouse Annex.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Leslie Burch and he welcomed all those in attendance.

Mr. Frank Smith gave the invocation and Mr. Kenny Wright led the group in the pledge.

Present were Chairman Leslie Burch; Commissioners Randy Sellers, Theodore Wilkerson, Daryl Edwards, Doug Harris and Charlie Leggett. Also, present were County Manager Al Meadows, County Attorney Tracy Brown and County Clerk Robyn Evans.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Harris made a motion to approve the agenda; Commissioner Sellers seconded; unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Harris made a motion to approve minutes from regular meeting held on November 7, 2023; Commissioner Edwards seconded; unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Resignation/Appreciation – Shane Curry

County Manager Meadows shared accomplishments that Mr. Curry received during his 13 years of tenure with the Appling County Extension Services. Mr. Curry tendered his resignation effective December 31, 2023 and will continue his work experience as the Executive Director of the Vidalia Onion Committee in Toombs County. County Manager Meadows expressed appreciation for his services and presented Mr. Curry with a plaque.

B. Approval of Account for Opioid Settlement Monies

The State of GA and Appling County chose to participate in the National Opioid settlement as the result of litigation involving TEVA, Walmart, Walgreens, and CVS. These funds have been deposited into the general fund while awaiting distribution. Our Auditors have recommended we open a separate standalone checking account to better manage these funds. The current balance is \$66,855.49. There is strict guidance on the expenditure of these funds with the most common use being training of Law Enforcement, First Responders, and medical personnel, to recognize and mitigate the effects of opioid use or overdose. County Manager Meadows asked the Board for approval to open a separate checking account in order to better manage the Opioid settlement monies. The distribution is at a minimum 9.45% to the Sherriff's Department and 2% to the local Hospital Authority. Commissioner Harris made a motion to approve this request; Commissioner Edwards seconded; unanimously approved.

C. Approval of Probation Services Agreements (Magistrate Court, State Court, Superior Court)

The 2024 agreements have not changed since the current agreements. Commissioner Edwards made a motion to approve all three (3) agreements; Commissioner Wilkerson seconded; unanimously approved.

D. BOC Appointments of Expiring Board Terms

AC Board of Commissioners – Vice Chair (current Charlie Leggett)

Commissioner Wilkerson made a motion to approve Commissioner Sellers to serve in the role of Vice Chairman of the Applying Board of Commissioners, for 2024 calendar year; Commissioner Leggett seconded; unanimously approved.

AC Board of Health (current Eddie Rentz, DMD)

County Manager Meadows shared that Dr. Rentz wished to continue serving on the Board of Health. Commissioner Edwards made a motion to approve this appointment; Commissioner Sellers seconded; unanimously approved.

AC Dept. of Family & Children Services (current May Frances Joyner)

County Manager Meadows shared a letter (from DFCS Director Kacie Nencioni) with the board – stating Ms. Joyner did not wish to serve on the board any longer. Mrs. Nencioni recommended the position be filled by Robyn Evans and serve the remainder of the term through 2025. Commissioner Harris made a motion to appoint Ms. Evans; Commissioner Wilkerson seconded; unanimously approved.

County Manager Meadows mentioned that Heart of Georgia Board Member Gerry Moore does not wish to serve another term. Meadows asked that the Board consider nominees for this replacement and vote at the next meeting, January 9th, 2023.

OLD BUSINESS

2024 LMIG Contract w/GA Asphalt Prod. (Pat Lewis Rd. & Others)

The Board of Commissioners awarded the 2024 Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) road projects to Georgia Asphalt Producers at the October 17, 2023 board meeting. The contract was reviewed by Roberts Civil Engineering and County Manager Meadows and is complete and ready for signatures. County Manager Meadows requested the board to vote to accept the contract for services from Georgia Asphalt Producers to satisfy the requirements of 2024 LMIG. Commissioner Harris asked that the minor discrepancies in the contract amounts \$0.53 (the correct amount) vs \$0.50 be noted and initialed. Commissioner Wilkerson made a motion to approve; Commissioner Sellers seconded; unanimously approved.

Road Dept. – Motor Graders

County Manager Meadows shared the following with the board, “The County ordered two (2) 140M Motor graders from CAT in March of this year. The first machine is in transit from the factory in Brazil and is scheduled to be delivered by the first week in January 2024. The second machine should follow up approximately 30 days later.

1st Motor Grader Price:	\$350,621
Trade:	\$70,000
Price:	\$280,621
2 nd Motor Grader Price:	\$350,621
Trade:	\$150,000
Price:	\$200,621
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Total	\$481,242

These graders were budgeted in the 2023 budget, which has been closed out and the audit has just been completed. We have two options on how we fund these purchases: General Fund **OR** the American Recovery Fund (Balance as of November 28, 2023 \$1,625,941.74)

Our Auditors recommended that we use the American Recovery Fund to purchase the two graders. The general fund may be used for any approved purchase but the use of American Recovery Fund is more restrictive in how it is spent. Capital purchases such as the two motor graders are an authorized expenditure.” Commissioner Leggett made a motion to approve using American Recovery Funds to purchase the graders; Commissioner Sellers seconded; unanimously approved.

PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input at this meeting.

SHERIFF’S REPORT – Mark Melton

Sheriff Melton shared that his department collects weapons (knives, guns, etc.) that can’t be returned due to various reasons in relation to crimes. Their policy is to dispose of these weapons when the evidence locker is full. He stated they sold \$4774 of the evidence and asked the Board to allow the Sheriff’s Department to retain those funds, rather than turning them into the Commissioners’ office. He stated funds would be used to purchase ammo for officers during firearm trainings. Commissioner Leggett made a motion to approve this request; Commissioner Wilkerson seconded; unanimously approved.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Dwight Watts

No updates.

RECREATION DEPT. – Timmy McGuirt

Mr. McGuirt gave various updates for the department; stated he was attending a State Athletics Meeting on 12/06/2023 and requesting to host games/meets for basketball, softball, and swim in 2024. He stated there are currently 21 soccer teams and approximately 230 kids participating.

ROADS & BRIDGES – Brooks Johnson

Mr. Johnson gave numerous road updates for each district and also stated the second round of litter pickup is complete but crew is still assisting road department with pipe debris clean-up.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Leggett made a motion to close regular session and enter into executive session; Commissioner Sellers seconded; unanimously approved.

Discussion was held regarding county owned property but no action was taken.

Personnel items were discussed in relation to the retirement of Joe Williams, current Landfill Supervisor. Mr. Williams tendered his resignation effective January 15, 2024. The anticipated vacancy will be announced internally for two (2) weeks; position is salaried and overtime exempt.

The County Manager contract calendar year 2024, was discussed and approved by all commissioners and accepted by Al Meadows. Details of the contract will be made public as soon as all parties have signed the contract.

Commissioner Leggett made a motion to close executive session and re-open regular session; Commissioner Harris seconded; unanimously approved.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

County Manager Meadows shared updates below:

Landfill

County landfill was recently inspected by the Environmental Protection Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and scored 95 out of 100. This is exceptional and the only discrepancy was from erosion caused by a recent rain, which has been corrected and a report filed with the Environmental Protection Division. The landfill team prides themselves in keeping the county in compliance.

Road Projects

Ten Mile and Nails Ferry – 75% complete (top coat, striping and clean-up)

Crosby Chapel – 90 % complete (road signs and clean-up)

Pool Parking – 50% complete (paving and paint)

Pretty Ford – Closed to thru traffic starting December 6th, 2023 for paving until further notice

Hunter Road – Closed to thru traffic starting December 13th, 2023 for paving until further notice

CDBG (Community Development Block Grant)

As part of the CDBG grant application process, Heart of Georgia Regional Development Center representative will hold a public meeting on December 18th, 2023 at 1:00 pm to answer any questions the public may have on the two road projects identified.

2018 SPLOST

Auditors and County Manager Meadows are compiling the 2018 report, which will be complete prior to December 31, 2023. The results will be posted in the News Banner and on the Board of Commissioners' social media page.

2024 SPLOST

The Board of Commissioners and County Manager Meadows will decide on a suitable date in the first quarter of 2024 in which to conduct a work shop to discuss and prioritize 2024 SPLOST Projects.

Al Meadows spoke to the board and stated, "As we close out 2023, I would like to thank the Board of Commissioners for allowing me to continue as your County Manager."

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Chairman Burch shared a memo stating that Mr. Randy Sellers was now officially a Certified Commissioner, as he'd completed all required courses.

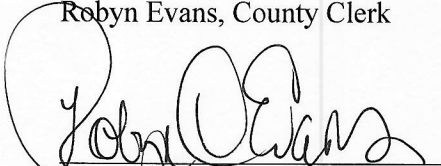
Chairman Burch reminded those in attendance about the Christmas Parade and Winter Wonderland to follow on Saturday, December 9th, 2023.

He asked the public if anyone had any comments and Ms. Barbara Reynolds thanked County Manager Meadows, Commissioner Sellers, and Chairman Burch for their participation with the Veteran's Parade.

ADJOURN

There being no further business or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Robyn Evans, County Clerk


ATTEST

Leslie Burch, Chairman

