

**APPLING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
January 9, 2024 @ 5:30 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME/INVOCATION/PLEDGE

The Appling County Board of Commissioners held the regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 5:30 PM in the Courthouse Annex.

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

Commissioner Daryl Edwards gave the invocation and Vice Chairman Charlie Leggett 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. Mr. Jamie Gardner was present for media.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Additions to the Agenda included a FY'2023 Budget Amendment and a Resolution for Fire Arms Ammunition, both as New Business. Commissioner Harris made a motion to approve the amended agenda; Commissioner Edwards seconded; unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Harris made a motion to approve the minutes for the December 5th, 2023 regular meeting; Commissioner Sellers seconded; unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Resolution for 2024 CDBG Application

County Manager Meadows shared the following, "Our Heart of GA Regional Development Center representative and I held a public meeting on December 18, 2023. The purpose was to answer any questions pertaining to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) we applied for. The next step in the application is to formally adopt a resolution that states our commitment." Commissioner Wilkerson made a motion to approve the resolution; Commissioner Edwards seconded; unanimously approved.

Heart of GA Regional Commission Board Appointment (replacement for Gerry Moore)

County Manager Meadows shared, "Appling County has three seats on this commission. One from the county, one from the municipality, and one from the private sector. Our private sector representative is Gerry Moore whose term is complete. I have spoken with Gerry and he does not wish to be reappointed. Mr. Chairman, I would like to open the floor for discussions and recommendations for a replacement for Mr. Gerry Moore. Commissioner Wilkerson nominated Reverend James Futch; Commissioner Edwards seconded; unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Appling Co. Health Department Request to Revise Fee Schedule for Environmental Health Services

County Manager Meadows stated the following, "David Brown, Environmental Health Specialist for Appling Health Department, is requesting permission to update fees for services. Environmental Health provides primary prevention through a combination of surveillance, education, enforcement, and assessment programs. These services are designed to identify, prevent, and abate the environmental conditions that adversely impact human health. Services include but are not limited to drinking water sampling, food service inspections, sewage inspection and permitting, public swimming pools, rabies control and regulating tattoos and body art studios. Mr. Brown provided the Fee Proposal found in your board packet, which he states was previously discussed and approved by the Health Dept. Board. Mr. Chairman, I would like to recommend a vote to accept the Fee Proposal that is included in your packets." Commissioner Edwards is on the Health Department Board and stated the costs were aligned with surrounding county payment fees; he then made a motion to approve the fee changes; Commissioner Leggett seconded; unanimously approved.

Set Qualifying Fees for May 2024 Election

"The Qualifying Fee's for the May 2024 Election have been compiled by the County Clerk and reviewed by the County Attorney and myself", stated County Manager Meadows. "Once adopted, this document will be advertised in the local newspaper. Mr. Chairman, I would like to recommend a vote to accept the 2024 Appling County Elections Qualifying Fees document that is included in your packets." Commissioner Harris made a motion to approve the fees; Commissioner Sellers seconded; unanimously approved.

FY'2023 Budget Amendment

The Board of Commissioners adopted operating budgets for the 2023 fiscal year on September 6, 2022. These budgets were used during the fiscal year to oversee and monitor operations for the County.

Subsequent to work being performed for the fiscal year 2023 audit, the Manager was made aware of procedural requirements prescribed by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) in relation to the final closeout of CDBG project 13p-y-0001-1-5611 that was completed by the County in fiscal year 2018. The DCA requires that the County shows no expenditures over appropriations (budget overages) in any operating budgets adopted. Budget amendments are being proposed to the Commissioners in an effort to amend the final operating budgets for fiscal year 2023 in order to comply with DCA requirements. The budget amendments are as follows:

- General Fund: a total amendment up of \$139,499. Local Ad Valorem taxes budget will be increased by this amount to offset the overages seen in the total budget. Expenses will be reallocated across departments, with the additional funds needed being drawn from the revenues added.
- Jail Fund: no change to the total original budget. Expenses will be reallocated within the fund.
- Hotel/Motel Fund: an amendment up of \$105,000 to account for overages in revenue and expenses.
- ARPA Fund: an amendment to expenses of \$602,500. Due to no revenues in this fund, these expenses will be budgeted and shown as a reduction in existing fund balance.

The adoption of these amended budgets will allow the County to meet DCA requirements in relation to the final closeout of the previously completed CDBG project. The completion of the closeout will help to

ensure that the County remains in compliance with State requirements and therefore eligible for additional and future State funding sources.

Commissioner Harris made a motion to approve the amendment; Commissioner Edwards seconded; unanimously approved.

Resolution for Fire Arms Ammunition (Appling Co. Sheriff's Office)

During December's regular meeting, 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. The Board of Commissioners approved this request. A formal resolution was signed this date for the above. Commissioner Wilkerson made a motion to approve the Resolution; Commissioner Harris seconded; unanimously approved.

PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input at this meeting.

SHERIFF'S REPORT – Mark Melton

There was no report at this meeting.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Dwight Watts

No updates.

RECREATION DEPT. – Timmy McGuirt

Mr. McGuirt gave various updates for the department. He stated that over 200 kids were registered for the Basketball season; games are held at E. J. Parker Gym and the Middle School gym. Swim lessons are being offered at the Aquatic Center and on-line registration is available on the Rec. Dept. website.

ROADS & BRIDGES – Brooks Johnson

Mr. Johnson gave updates for the Road Department; no damage or roads closed from the day's storm. Sunshine Drive opened last week and signs are up; Hunter Road paving is complete but still needs striping; Pretty Ford Road is in progress; Nails Ferry and Ten Mile Roads are under construction. Commissioner Wilkerson asked about the status of Old Surrency Road, to which Mr. Johnson replied that it's on the 2024 upcoming list, along with Holland, Pat Lewis, and Lamar Crosby. Commissioner Harris inquired about striping for Bobby Morris Road, stating it's non-existent.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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

PERSONNEL

County Manager Meadows announced that discussion was held for Robert Eunice to be promoted as the Interim Supervisor at the County Landfill. Commissioner Leggett made a motion to approve; Commissioner Harris seconded; unanimously approved.

Discussion was held regarding 0.25 acres on US#1 South joining Cauley Road; in previous years, the County was involved with a quit claim deed during a State Dept. of Transportation project. The owner is requesting this portion of land be deeded back to him. Commissioner Harris made a motion to approve a quit claim deed to return the property to the subsequent land owner. Commissioner Sellers seconded the motion; unanimously approved.

COUNTY MANAGER’S REPORT

County Manager Meadows shared updates below:

Road Projects Update

Crosby Chapel – Complete

Sunshine Drive - Complete

Ten Mile and Nails Ferry – 95%

Pool Parking – 95% complete – Minor adjustments

Pretty Ford – 50% - Closed to thru traffic starting December 6th for paving, until further notice

Hunter Road – 50% Closed to thru traffic starting December 13th for paving until further notice

Motor Grader

“We received one of our 2023 motor graders from CAT the week before Christmas and should take delivery of our second 2023 grader in the next six weeks. (200,621 plus trade in).”

The Board of Commissioners will have a work session on February 6th at 3pm until 5pm. The topics will be 2018 SPLOST projects and 2024 SPLOST road projects. The regular monthly Board of Commissioners meeting will be held the same day at 5:30 pm.

CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS

Chairman Burch thanked everyone for attending.

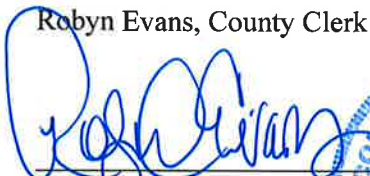
Commissioner Harris mentioned that one of the prayers at the Community Wide Prayer hosted by the Sheriff’s Department, was safety for citizens’ during today’s storms and that prayer was answered.

ADJOURN

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

Robyn Evans, County Clerk

Leslie Burch, Chairman


ATTEST





**APPLING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CALLED MEETING MINUTES
2024 SPLOST WORK SESSION
January 25, 2024 @ 9:00 A.M.**

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME/INVOCATION/PLEDGE

The Appling County Board of Commissioners held the regular monthly meeting on Thursday, January 25, 2024 at 9:00 AM in the Courthouse Annex.

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

Commissioner Leggett gave the invocation and Mr. Wayne Canady led the group in the pledge.
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Present were Chairman Leslie Burch; Commissioners Randy Sellers, Theodore Wilkerson, Daryl Edwards, Doug Harris and Charlie Leggett. Also, present were County Manager Al Meadows and County Clerk Robyn Evans.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

NEW BUSINESS

Appling County 2024 SPLOST (Special Local Option Sales Tax) Projects
County Manager Meadows shared a report with the Board regarding available fund sources to complete 2024 SPLOST projects and additional road projects.

Discussion was held amongst the Board regarding projects.

- Commissioner Wilkerson asked about the status of Old Field Cemetery Road. County Manager Meadows shared that he was still dealing with 3 landowners in regards to easements, etc. and that Attorney Tracy Brown was assisting.

County Manager Meadows provided a spreadsheet to the Board, created by Hayden Rozier (Roberts Civil Engineering). The spreadsheet was reflective of the worse roads in each district of the county, the type of work necessary to repair the roads, and a preliminary cost of each.

- Commissioner Leggett suggested each commissioner get equal amounts of money for their district to repair roads, seems to be the fairest.
- Commissioner Harris stated that geographics be included in fairness, as he has much longer miles of roads in his district.
- Commissioner Edwards stated the board should rely on the County's Engineering firm for prioritized roads.
- Commissioner Wilkerson stated he's had no work "completed" for 2018 projects, except for Dunns Lake Road and that this should be a shared district project and not just his, since the district line falls down the center of this road.
- Commissioner Sellers asked wasn't it still each commissioner's decision to prioritize roads in their own district.
- Commissioner Harris stated the decision should be related to safety concerns and that's why the County pays Roberts Civil Engineering to analyze roads.

After lengthy discussions amongst the Board, Chairman Burch suggested that each commissioner prioritize roads in their district based upon the list provided by Robert Civil Engineering and return this to County Manager Meadows.

PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input at this meeting.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

County Manager Meadows reminded everyone there will be a Called meeting before the regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 6th, 2024 at 3:00 PM.

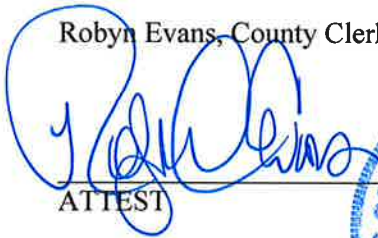
CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Chairman Burch thanked everyone for attending.

ADJOURN

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

Robyn Evans, County Clerk



ATTEST



Leslie Burch, Chairman