

**APPLING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025 @ 5:30 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME/INVOCATION/PLEDGE**

Appling County Board of Commissioners held the regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 5:30 PM in the Commissioners' meeting room of the Courthouse Annex.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Leslie Burch and he welcomed all those in attendance. Mr. Joe Taylor gave the invocation and Attorney Tracy Brown led the group in the pledge. Present were Chairman Leslie Burch; Vice Chairman Chad Kent; Commissioners Randy Sellers, Jakharis Jones, Daryl Edwards and Ricky Barnes. Also, present were County Manager Reid Lovett, County Attorney Tracy Brown and County Clerk Robyn Evans.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. Regular Meeting June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025**

Commissioner Kent noted a minor change on the minutes to include the price of Firetruck being purchased with SPLOST funds and then made a motion to approve with said change; Commissioner Barnes seconded; unanimously approved.

**B. Called Meeting June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

Commissioner Sellers made a motion to approve these minutes; seconded by Commissioner Kent; unanimously approved.

**C. Amendment to May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Minutes**

Commissioner Edwards made a motion to approve these minutes; Commissioner Jones seconded; unanimously approved.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS**

**A. Resolution House Bill 223**

County Manager Lovett explained the resolution regarding House Bill 223, for a Temporary Property Tax Relief for Eligible Standing Timber Located in a Disaster Area in Appling County; sharing that it provides a relief of burden for the citizens but the County can apply for grant funds to make up the taxes. Commissioner Sellers made a motion to approve and enact this Resolution; Commissioner Edwards seconded; unanimously approved.

**B. My EMA App**

County Manager Lovett shared that he, along with Emergency Management Agency (EMA) Director and Assistant, have met with developers on numerous occasions, in regards to creating an App for Appling County residents. Lovett discussed the huge need for communication to citizens, as learned from experiencing Hurricane Helene and Tropical Storm Debby. The app would be a way for all residents to receive pertinent information throughout the County. This app, somewhat similar to Code Red, will be free for citizens to download and would allow individualized alerts/notifications to be disabled, if desired. Lovett made note that he was currently seeking

reimbursement from Southern Nuclear for annual costs incurred by the County, in regards to the App. The App will include notifications from City of Baxley, Surrency, and Graham and links to partnered entities' websites such as school closings. Services such as Road work, school closings, emergency shelter information, community power outages, weather, and administration (Commissioners) would all be included; as well as, tourism and chamber events, etc. Lovett shared there will be processes in place for "whom" is allowed to submit and push specific notifications and he hopes to implement by September for weather, emergencies, and road closures. He stated there is a fee to build the app, \$16,609.85 for the first year and an annual cost of \$7,608.35 for a three (3) year commitment. Lovett shared that we (County) would name and own the App and the annual costs include customer service and support; and personal identification information is not tied to the App. Commissioner Sellers made a motion to approve the purchase costs and proceed with the App development and implementation; Commissioner Jones seconded; unanimously approved.

C. Set Proposed FY'2026 Budget Workshop

County Manager Lovett addressed the board with the need to set a budget workshop date to review the proposed budget. Discussion resulted in a motion by Commissioner Jones to have a called meeting on Tuesday, July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 5:30 PM; seconded by Commissioner Edwards; unanimously approved.

**DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

Lovett shared the Recreation Department just wrapped up baseball and softball season; with the 8U Girls Softball winning the State Championship title; as well as several teams placing as State runner-up. Lovett would like to have a recognition of State Winners in the August meeting. He shared there's an update for the Extension Services in the Board's packets. Road Department – had some downed-equipment but has since been repaired and playing catch-up on shoulders, ditches and getting roads built back up. Landfill – Reopened today and staff have been hauling massive amounts of cover-dirt and preparing grounds to open a new cell, pending Environmental Protection Division certification due to slope issues. There's also a need to go ahead and open more cells due to continual increases in debris inception.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Commissioner Edwards made a motion to close the Regular meeting session and enter into Executive session; Commissioner Barnes seconded; unanimously approved.

Commissioner Kent made a motion to close Executive session and re-enter the Regular meeting session; Commissioner Barnes seconded; unanimously approved.

**PERSONNEL**

County Manager Lovett made a recommendation to approve hire of Billy Davis as the Fleet Maintenance/County Shop Supervisor; a department  
Barnes; Kent

Attorney Brown shared that in regards to the elections lawsuit filed by Mr. Ryan Taylor, an appeal has been filed appealed and Brown will need to ask the Court for co-council, since a conflict remains in which Attorney Brown still represents Judge Bailey and former Elections Supervisor, Shonda Carter for the County. Commissioner Sellers made a motion to approve continued co-council for this matter; Commissioner Jones seconded; unanimously approved.

County Manager Lovett recommended approval for the County Attorney to begin process of closing easement and abandoning a road that has not been maintained, presently know as Ford Street. Commissioner Kent made a motion to approve the recommendation; Commissioner Jones seconded; unanimously approved.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

Allen Lamb – Dogs Running at Large

Mr. Lamb shared that he has a thirteen-year-old that can't even play outside due to fear of vicious packs of dogs roaming the streets. He stressed to the Board that animal control was desperately needed and asked why can't something be done about this problem as it's continuously getting worse. He offered various solutions but wanted answers and to know that "all" children of the county are respected and considered.

Chairman Burch advised Mr. Lamb that discussion is being held in regards to this matter and thanked him for coming and speaking tonight.

**COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT**

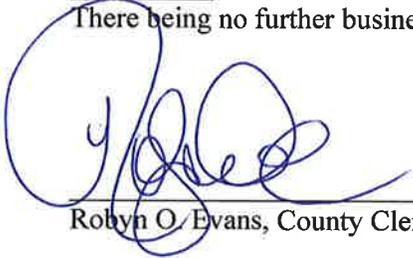
Lovett shared that he was in the budget season and going through financials and will be happy to have the budget finished. He asked that everyone continue to remember those involved in the tragedy in Texas and to even keep our workers in those prayers; stating we have people in all departments that are doing a good job and truly care.

**CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS**

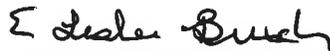
Chairman Burch reiterated the need for prayers for the Texas situation.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 PM.



Robyn O. Evans, County Clerk



Leslie Burch, Chairman