

**APPLING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
May 8th, 2025 @ 5:30 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME/INVOCATION/PLEDGE

Appling County Board of Commissioners held the regular monthly meeting on Thursday, May 8th, 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. Commissioner Randy Sellers gave the invocation and Linton DeLoach 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

A new item was added as "I" – Repair Quotes at Lake Mayers; Commissioner Kent made a motion to approve the agenda; Commissioner Barnes seconded; unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the Regular meeting, April 1st, 2025 and Called Meeting April 8th, 2025 were reviewed with no changes noted. Commissioner Sellers made a motion to approve the minutes; Commissioner Kent seconded; unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

Board Appointments Expiring or Vacant (Various County Boards)

Tax Assessor Board - County Manager Lovett shared that Mr. Eddie Cleland's term had expired but he is willing to serve again. Commissioner Barnes made a motion to appoint Mr. Cleland for another term; Commissioner Edwards seconded; unanimously approved.

Development Authority Appling County - County Manager Lovett shared that Guyton "Mickey" Bass, James Clark, and James Futch were willing to serve again; however, Andy Orvin did NOT wish to serve. Commissioner Kent made a motion to approve another term for Bass, Clark, and Futch; Commissioner Sellers seconded; unanimously approved. County Manager Lovett shared that Jonathon Mann's name was mentioned as a possible candidate to fill the vacancy left by Mr. Orvin. Commissioner Barnes made a motion to approve Mr. Mann; Commissioner Kent seconded; unanimously approved.

Heart of GA Altamaha Regional Commissioner – County Manager Lovett shared that two (2) nominees were needed to fill the vacancies and he mentioned names given to him: Charlene Jones and Altamese Harris. Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve both appointments; Commissioner Sellers seconded; unanimously approved.

2025 Fireworks Display Contract

County Manager Lovett shared that he'd received a new contract from Falcon Fireworks; the same vendor utilized last year for Fourth (4th) of July Fireworks Display. He also stated that they honored the same price as the past two previous years. The Fireworks display will be held on Saturday, June 28th, 2025 and cost of contract is \$15,385.00. Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the contract and date; Commissioner Kent seconded; unanimously approved.

Recreation Dept. Fence Repairs

County Manager Lovett shared that two (2) quotes were received for fence repairs at various locations of the recreation areas, damaged by Hurricane Helene; Engineered Outdoor Products \$48,971.00 and T&T Fencing Company \$40,504.00. He recommended the lowest bid from T&T Fencing Company. Commissioner Edwards made a motion to approve the bid by T&T Fencing Company; Commissioner Edwards seconded; unanimously approved.

Max Deen Lighting Project

County Manager Lovett shared with the Board regarding a quote for a lighting project at the tennis/pickle ball courts at Max Deen Park. The project will be completed in-house and costs for lights and materials in the amount of \$10,476.68. Commissioner Edwards made a motion to approve; Commissioner Barnes seconded; unanimously approved.

Local Road Assistance Projects

County Manager Lovett informed the Board that additional monies will be received from Georgia Department of Transportation for Local Road Assistance projects, in the amount of \$1,414,528.49. There is not local match required for utilizing these funds. Commissioners reviewed a preliminary list of roads in need of repairs, including portions of the following: Spring Branch Road, MLK Drive, Cadillac Drive, Sumner Road, Holmesville Road, and Prentis Road. Commissioner Barnes made a motion to approve the list; Commissioner Edwards seconded; unanimously approved.

Striping Project Amendment

County Manager Lovett advised the Board of the originally approved list in their meeting packets. He stated that TIA (Transportation Investment Act) Discretionary Funds could be utilized to complete the project list, in its entirety. He did mention that Commissioner Sellers requested to change Asbury Road to Deen's Landing Road due to plans to pave Asbury soon. Commissioner Sellers made a motion to approve as amended; Commissioner Kent seconded; unanimously approved.

2025 Revised Salary Plan

County Manager Lovett advised the Board that a copy of the Proposed Salary Plan, with Job Titles, Grades and Steps, was in their packet for review and approval. Each "step" is a 1.5% increase in salary and that the title for Chief Magistrate Judge would be corrected to Chief Deputy Magistrate Judge. Commissioner Edwards made a motion to approve; Commissioner Barnes seconded; unanimously approved.

Christmas Tree Purchase (Courthouse)

Lovett requested a budget parameter for purchasing a Christmas tree to be placed on the Courthouse lawn. He will search for options after measuring the area on lawn. Commissioner Jones made a motion for the purchase not to exceed \$30,000; Commissioner Kent seconded; unanimously approved.

Repair Quotes for Lake Mayers

Lovett shared that he'd received quotes to replace the shelters/buildings at Lake Mayers, previously destroyed by Hurricane Helene. Quotes were as follows: Bennett Buildings \$16,899; J&S \$15,280 (does not include wrap); and J&J Roofing and Construction \$18,500. Commissioner Barnes made a motion to approve the lowest bid, which included wrap by Bennett Buildings \$16,899; Commissioner Jones seconded; unanimously approved.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

County Manager Lovett gave updates for departments including: Recreation Department had two (2) kids from Appling place as State Champions in Track and Field competitions; Landfill construction and demolition debris has reduced significantly/by half; and the Road Department personnel are staying on top of routine maintenance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Personnel, Litigation, & Real Estate

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

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

County Attorney Brown shared Executive Session discussions as follows.

The audit firm completing a district-wide financial audit for the District Attorney’s office may require additional funding than originally approved up to \$100,000. Commissioner Edwards made a motion to approve this amount if needed; Commissioner Kent seconded; unanimously approved.

Brown shared that he’d need approval from the Board to authorize Chairman Burch to sign agreements to proceed, along with Camden, Glynn, and Wayne counties, in filing a joint complaint regarding irregularities in expenses utilizing funds from those counties. Commissioner Sellers made a motion to approve this request and join the other counties; Commissioner Jones seconded; unanimously approved.

County Manager Lovett read a letter submitted by Tena Dyal, County Shop Foreman, retiring with thirty (30+) plus years of service to Appling County. Commissioner Kent made a motion to accept her resignation for retirement; Commissioner Barnes seconded; unanimously approved. Commissioner Barnes made a motion to open this position for advertising and hire; Commissioner Edwards seconded; unanimously approved.

Lovett requested approval for the Chairman or himself to sign an Intergovernmental agreement with City of Baxley to utilize the County’s burn site for Hurricane Helene debris. Commissioner Sellers made a motion to approve the agreement and allow Chairman Burch to sign; Commissioner Jones seconded; unanimously approved. Commissioner Edwards made a motion for City of Baxley to utilize the County’s current Burn Permit at the approved location; Commissioner Kent seconded; unanimously approved.

COUNTY MANAGER’S REPORT

County Manager Lovett shared that he and the newest Commissioners attended the ACCG Conference in April at Savannah Convention Center; reminded everyone of the Mayor’s Prayer Breakfast and National Day of Prayer events. He also shared that GA Department of Transportation had given the “go-ahead” for TIA Band 2 projects on Ten Mile and Satilla. Lovett also shared that he’d begun meeting with Department Heads regarding FY’26 Budget planning.

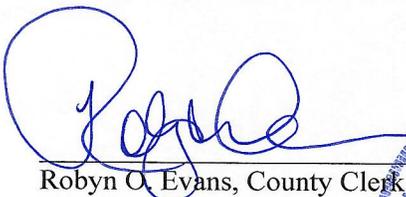
CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS

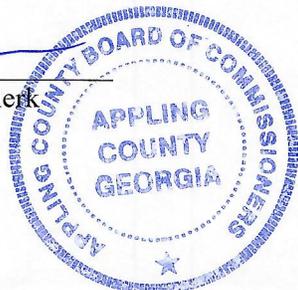
Chairman Burch thanked everyone for their attendance.

Sheriff Melton reminded those present about fundraiser for Kenny Wright on Saturday, May 10th, 2025 from 5-8 PM at the Ag Center.

ADJOURN

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


Robyn O. Evans, County Clerk




Leslie Burch, Chairman

**APPLING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AMENDMENT/ADDITION TO MINUTES
May 8th, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes**

Recently brought to our attention, in regards to discussion in Executive Session and returning for a vote in public, the County Clerk inadvertently left off a topic from the minutes.

Commissioner Sellers made a motion to allow Chairman Burch to sign a quit claim deed, prepared by County Attorney Tracy Brown. This deed is to transfer the building on County property (currently occupied by Appling County Sheriff's Department Investigators) on Oak Street, to the City of Baxley as negotiated in 2024 SPLOST negotiations. The building will be renovated and utilized by the City Police Department. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.



Robyn O. Evans, County Clerk



E. Leslie Burch, Chairman