

**APPLING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 9th 2025 @ 5:30**

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME/INVOCATION/PLEDGE

Appling County Board of Commissioners held the regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 9th, 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. Honorable Judge Stephen D. Kelley gave the invocation and Commissioner Rickey Barnes 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 Deputy Clerk LaFonda Solomon. County Clerk Robyn Evans was absent.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Leslie Burch noted additions to the agenda adding the following under "Presentations/Special Guests/Announcements", the first item will be CDBG Presentation; under "New Business" add Item C- Appling Recreation Memorandum of Understanding and Item D – Set Meeting to Approve the 2026 Budget. Commissioner Edwards made a motion to approve the agenda with additions; Commissioner Kent seconded; unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting August 5th, 2025

Commissioner Sellers made a motion to approve the Regular August 5th, 2025 Meeting minutes; Commissioner Jones seconded; unanimously approved.

PRESENTATIONS/SPECIAL GUESTS/ ANNOUCEMENTS

Department of Community Affairs

Representatives on behalf of the Department of Community Affairs presented a check for \$1 million to the Board for street paving and drainage. The county's CDBG application was approved.

Honorable Judge Stephen D. Kelley

Honorable Judge Stephen D. Kelley shared information about drug court. He explained that drug court is a 2-year intense program offered to drug addicts in lieu of jail time. The program is designed to save the county money by rehabilitating high risk users instead of housing them in jails. The participants must pay \$100 per month, gain employment and pass routine drug tests. The closest drug court program offered to Appling was Wayne County and many prospective participants were unable to attend due to transportation issues. Judge Kelley along with Sheriff Mark Melton and Nurse Practitioner Knicole Lee have worked together and gained grant funding to provide the services in Appling County at the Pineland Health facility. Attendees from Hazlehurst can partake in the drug court. All fees are paid to the Clerk of Court and are required to be used for the purpose of the drug court. Judge Kelley also stated that money received from the National Opioid Settlement can also be used to fund the drug court.

NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

A. Air MedCare Network – Municipal Site Agreement Renewal

County Manager Lovett recommended that the Board renew the agreement with AirMedCare for air ambulance services at the rate of \$70,024.00. This agreement will save each household \$44. Commissioner Sellers emphasized that the county's payment does not provide free flights to uninsured citizens. He stated that you must purchase an additional plan to get a fully covered flight. Commissioner Edwards made a motion to renew the AirMedCare Network agreement; Commissioner Sellers seconded; unanimously approved.

B. TIA Bid Award – Satilla Church & Ten Mile Road

County Manager Lovett shared that the bid opening for the TIA project was held on August 26, 2025. Four bids were submitted. The lowest bid received was from Scruggs Company at a total of \$3,438,614.11. This project will pave Satilla Church Road in its entirety and the portion of Ten Mile Road beginning at the last pavement joint and ending just pass the county landfill. County Manager Lovett recommended the lowest bid from Scruggs Company to be accepted. Commissioner Jones made a motion to accept the lowest bid; Commissioner Kent seconded; unanimously approved.

C. Appling Recreation Memorandum of Understanding

County Attorney Tracy Brown shared that the Appling Bullpen, a booster club of the Appling County swim teams, has offered to donate \$7723.25 towards the purchase of an electronic touchpad to be installed at the Appling County Aquatic Center. The total cost of the touchpad system is \$21688.00. The Appling Bullpen would also like to relinquish ownership of a timing system valued at \$4,919.00. The remaining balance of the system of \$9,046.00 would come from the Recreation Department current budget. Attorney Brown explained that in order for the Recreation Department to accept any donation from a private entity, the board has to vote to accept the funds and equipment and allow Chairman Burch to sign the letter of memorandum that he will draw up between the two (2) parties. Commissioner Edwards made a motion to accept the \$7723.25 donation and timing system and allow Chairman Burch to sign the Memorandum of Understanding; Chairman Sellers seconded; unanimously approved.

D. Set 2026 Budget Approval/Adoption Meeting

County Manager Lovett recommended the budget approval meeting be held on Monday September 29, 2025 at 5:30 pm. After a short discussion, Commissioner Kent made a motion to schedule the meeting for September 29, 2025 at 5:30 pm; Commissioner Edwards seconded; unanimously approved.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

County Manager Lovett provided a UGA Extension Commissioner Report to the board on ongoing projects that the County Extension Center is currently involved with. He shared updates on the Recreation department and the various extracurricular programs currently taking place. Lovett emphasized the positive feedback from the community regarding the new amazing athletes program. The road department is continuing their mowing routes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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

County Manager Lovett announced that no action taken.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

Lovett shared that he along with the EMA Director and first responders attended a drill at Plant Hatch. A second drill will follow in November to cover training on the possibility of an intruder entering the facility. Baxley will celebrate 150 years this year and a celebration is planned for November 15, 2025. Further information will be provided in the upcoming weeks.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Chairman Burch thanked everyone for attending. He announced the Truck and Tractor Pull events.

Commissioner Barnes thanked the County Manager and Recreation Director for dealing with the public in a continuous professional way. Commissioner Kent added thanks to the Tax Assessors and Tax Commissioner's office for handling all the incoming questions and concerns with continued professionalism.

ADJOURN

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

LaFonda Solomon, Deputy Clerk

Leslie Burch, Chairman

LaFonda Solomon

Leslie Burch



**APPLING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CALLED MEETING MINUTES
September 29th, 2025 @ 5:30 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME/INVOCATION/PLEDGE

Appling County Board of Commissioners held a called meeting on Monday, September 29th, 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 Daryl Edwards gave the invocation and Vice Chairman Chad Kent 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

The agenda was approved with no changes on a motion by Commissioner Sellers; seconded by Commissioner Jones; unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval/Adoption of FY'2026 County Budget

County Manager Lovett shared there were no changes made to the budget from the prior meetings/hearing. He did mention that LMIG funds, previously separated, were moved back into the general fund budget. Commissioner Barnes made a motion to approve the FY'2026 County Budget as previously presented; Commissioner Kent seconded; unanimously approved.

B. Brunswick Judicial Circuit – Court Reporter Stipend

County Manager Lovett shared that discussion was held several times in the past, regarding an increase from fifty dollars (\$50) to one hundred dollars (\$100) monthly stipend, for court reporters in the Circuit. However, he'd not seen this approved or recorded in the minutes. He made a recommendation to the Board that this be approved and retroactive to January 1, 2025, as all other Counties in the Circuit have previously approved. County Attorney Brown stated this increase would only apply to Court Reporters assigned to Superior Court Judges serving in Appling County. Commissioner Sellers made a motion to approve the retroactive increase as stated; Commissioner Jones seconded; unanimously approved.

C. COLA County Employees

Lovett shared that the three percent (3%) Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for full-time employees was accounted for when creating the FY'2026 County Budget; but a formal approval is required. He added this would only be applied to salaries of full-time (salaried and hourly), non-elected employees. Commissioner Edwards made a motion to approve; seconded by Commissioner Barnes; unanimously approved.

D. Building Renovation – Oak Street Complex

County Manager Lovett shared that this renovation was for new flooring in the offices previously occupied by the USDA agencies and quotes were received for Vinyl Plank Flooring, 30-year Warranty.

ACA Cabinets & Flooring, LLC, 2	\$14,706.81
Tom Davis Flooring	\$14,475.00
Davis' Carpet World (9248.25 flooring)+(6771 installation)	\$16,019.25

Commissioner Edwards asked if the owner of Tom Davis Flooring lived in Appling County and Lovett shared that he did; Commissioner Jones asked if Lovett had seen any prior work of his and Lovett stated that he'd not but

had spoken with several folks that favored them and they'd been in business for many years. Commissioner Kent made a motion to approve the lowest quote from Tom Davis Flooring \$14,475; Commissioner Sellers seconded; unanimously approved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

PUBLIC INPUT

None

COUNTY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

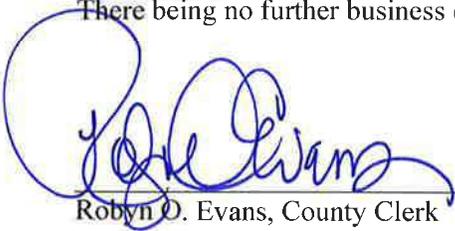
Lovett shared that he was working on a grant for the Recreation Department in relation to rubberized mulch; that the new app, called "Appling Ready" is live and downloadable from Google and Apple. He, also, shared that the app/system has not been promoted or "pushed-out" to citizens, yet, as they are still tweaking some minor details and have not received administrative rights yet. Lovett stated that once administrative rights are allowed, there will be a big promotion.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Chairman Burch mentioned that it had been one year since Hurricane Helene and there were so many people to thank, for their efforts during the storm and revitalizing the community afterwards: Katie Carmichael (WBYZ), EMA, Road Department, Fire/First Responders, etc. Chairman Burch said he was proud of the way our community came together.

ADJOURN

There being no further business or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:40 PM.


Robyn O. Evans, County Clerk




Leslie Burch, Chairman