

**APPLING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
February 3<sup>rd</sup> , 2026 @ 5:30 P.M.**

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

Appling County Board of Commissioners held the regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> , 2026 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. Mayor Adam Thomas gave the invocation and Chairman Burch 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**

With the addition of "Item F – Ambulance Purchase", Commissioner Sellers made a motion to approve the agenda; Commissioner Edwards seconded; unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Meeting minutes for the regular meeting January 6, 2026, called meetings January 20, 2026 and January 27, 2026, were approved on a motion by Commissioner Sellers; seconded by Commissioner Barnes; and unanimously approved.

**PRESENTATIONS/SPECIAL GUEST(S)/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS**

**Tax Assessor Board Appointment**

Commissioner Sellers made a motion to appoint Daniel B. Carter to fill the remaining term of incumbent, Eddie Cleland (deceased); Commissioner Edwards seconded; unanimously approved.

**March Regular Meeting**

After some discussion regarding a quorum for the March meeting, it was determined that the meeting date will remain as previously scheduled.

**Transfer of Property**

County Manager Lovett shared that Appling County Board of Education is willing to transfer the property, formerly known as the Tuten Environmental Park (twenty-six (26) acres located behind Ag Center/Middle School), to the County. Commissioner Sellers questioned why the BOE wanted to transfer it – was it the liability of it – especially with it being mostly wetland and was the County going to benefit from it with the added costs of liability of owning the property. After more discussion, Commissioner Jones made a motion to table the vote until March meeting for further review. Commissioner Sellers seconded this motion; unanimously approved.

### Transfer of Property

County Manager Lovett shared his recommendation, to transfer approximately seventy-two (72) acres of County property in Graham, to the Appling County Development Authority for potential further development. Lovett shared that forty-eight (48) acres are usable, dry land and has rail access. Commissioner Sellers asked if there was a possibility of a claw-back if the property was not developed. Development Authority Director Matt Carter stated that a claw-back could be placed on the transfer and he recommended the standard of five (5) years. Commissioner Sellers made a motion to approve the transfer with this condition; Commissioner Jones seconded; unanimously approved.

### Parks & Recreation Project Request

Lovett shared that Parks and Recreation presented quotes for the purchase of new playground equipment and a mobile concessions trailer to be utilized for various events, amongst the recreational properties. He pointed out the photos provided in their packets, that revealed rusted and unsafe playground equipment and that the mobile concessions could also be used for delivering water/meals to County employees or others, if needed, in times of disaster or emergencies. Lovett stated the playground equipment total would be \$24,930.25 and trailer \$61,637.58; and both are budgeted under capital expenses for a total cost is \$83,567.83. Commissioner Sellers made a motion to approve the purchase as budgeted; Commissioner Jones seconded; unanimously approved.

### Ambulance Purchase

County Manager Lovett shared with the Board that he'd discussed an ambulance purchase with Appling Healthcare Staff, Robin Crosby and Shanna Martin. Discussion was held in regards to purchasing just the chassis and remounting to the current one. Commissioner Sellers made a motion to table this item until further clarification could be made; Commissioner Kent seconded; unanimously approved.

Further information was given in regards to the need for Life packs, portable monitors/defibrillators, which will be unsupported by the end of this year. Ronnie Jowers asked if those could be approved for purchase now, because they can be transferred to new ambulances once that's reviewed and approved. Commissioner Sellers made a motion to approve the purchase of four (4) Life packs with a total of \$157,048.00; Commissioner Kent seconded; unanimously approved.

### **DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

County Manager Lovett shared the Extension Services updates were included in the board packets. He also thanked Al Meadows, EMA Director and Carol Weaver, Road Department Supervisor and employees for their assistance during the ice storm.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

### **PUBLIC INPUT**

Joe Dykstra – Animal Shelter/Dog Pound

Mr. Dykstra presented information, encouraging the County to build an animal pound, with potential location suggestions; along with passing an ordinance for animal control.

County Manager Lovett stated that in order for the County to adopt an ordinance, regarding animal control, a work session must be held, then two (2) public input hearings before adoption of the ordinance, in order to hear from the citizens. Discussions were continued amongst the Board and public in attendance. Lovett stated that the City of Baxley would be open to cooperating but their current facility only holds about fourteen (14) dogs and stays full. After further discussion, Lovett suggested dates for a work session. Commissioner Barnes made a motion to approve a work session at 4:00 PM, before the regular monthly meeting on March 3, 2026; Commissioner Edwards seconded; unanimously approved.

DAP Services, LLC. - Litter Pick-Up and Janitorial Contracts

Peggy Smith Burton spoke to the Board in regards to janitorial contracts not being bid for several years. She stated the current contractor had been continuously renewed and not open to the public and she'd like to be able to bid for those services. She also stated that county-wide roads were piling up with litter again and asked to bid on that, as well. County Manager Lovett stated some areas are currently being cleaned by County Road Department employees.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

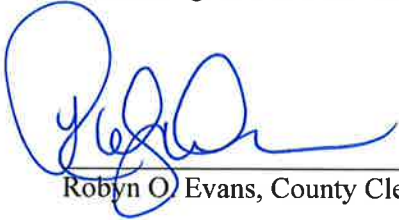
Lovett shared the Board had updates for County projects in their board packets and thanked them for approving the needed projects.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Chairman Burch had no comments.

ADJOURN

There being no further business or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.



Robyn O. Evans, County Clerk



Leslie Burch, Chairman

COUNTY SEAL

