

**APPLING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
EMERGENCY CALLED MEETING MINUTES
April 22, 2026 @ 5:30 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME/INVOCATION/PLEDGE

Appling County Board of Commissioners held an emergency called meeting on Wednesday, April 22, 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 Colby Lewis led the group in the pledge. Present were Chairman Leslie Burch; Vice Chairman Chad Kent; Commissioners Randy Sellers, Daryl Edwards, Jakharis Jones and Ricky Barnes. Also, present were County Manager Reid Lovett, and Deputy County Clerk LaFonda Solomon. County Attorney Tracy Brown and County Clerk Robyn Evans were absent.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Kent made a motion to approve the agenda as presented; Commissioner Sellers seconded; unanimously approved.

DECLARATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY

County Manager Lovett read the Declaration of Local Emergency. He stated a copy of the Executive Order signed by Governor Kemp is attached to the Declaration of Local Emergency. The Declaration of Local Emergency is to begin April 22, 2026 and end on May 22, 2026 due to the drought and fire hazards. Lovett recommended that the Board give permission for the Chairman to sign the Declaration of Local Emergency. Commissioner Edwards asked who would enforce the order and procedures. Lovett stated that all agencies would be responsible at this time but no set fines and procedures have been put in place. Commissioner Edwards made a motion to grant the Chairman permission to sign the Declaration of Local Emergency; Commissioner Barnes seconded; unanimously approved.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

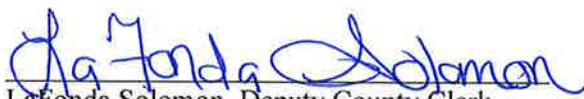
None

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Chairman Burch praised and thanked the fire departments for their hard work during the drought and multiple fires. He requested prayer from everyone for rain "This is the only thing that will break this thing."

ADJOURN

There being no further business or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.


LaFonda Solomon, Deputy County Clerk


Leslie Burch, Chairman

COUNTY SEAL



**APPLING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 14th, 2026 @ 5:30 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME/INVOCATION/PLEDGE

Appling County Board of Commissioners held the regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 14th, 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. Linton Deloach gave the invocation and Coroner Henry Jones 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.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

With the addition of the following items (Old Business: B– Ambulance order; New Business: L – Discussion to Purchase Administration Vehicle) Commissioner Edwards made a motion to approve the agenda; Commissioner Jones seconded; unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Meeting minutes for the called meeting March 3, 2026, were approved on a motion by Commissioner Sellers; seconded by Commissioner Kent; and unanimously approved.

PRESENTATIONS/SPECIAL GUEST(S)/ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

OLD BUSINESS

Animal Control Ordinance

County Manager Lovett stated that a public hearing date needed to be set regarding the draft of the Animal Control Ordinance and requested the date of May 12, 2026 at 5:00 PM. Commissioner Kent made a motion to set the date for the public hearing for May 12 at 5:00 PM; Commissioner Barnes seconded; unanimously approved.

Ambulance Request

Lovett referenced a previous approval to purchase an ambulance for the Baxley Appling County Hospital Authority, noting the delay and lead time of 12 to 18 months in receiving the ambulance after placing the order. Lovett requested approval to set 2027 budget for the purchase of the ambulance for \$319,856.00 and place the order now to get on the list. Commissioner Barnes made a motion to approve; Commissioner Sellers seconded; unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Appling County Hospital Authority Board Seat Expiration

Lovett shared that two seats are up for appointment for the county. After a short discussion, Commissioner Jones made a motion to table this item; Commissioner Kent seconded; unanimously approved.

Annual Fireworks Agreement

Lovett shared that the fireworks display will be held on July 4, 2026 this year. The price remained the same at \$15385.00. The tourism board is contributing \$10000.00 towards the event. Lovett stated that the chamber and recreation will also be involved in organizing other activities in celebration of the 250- year celebration. Sellers made a motion to approve the agreement and proceed with the 250- year celebration organization of events; Commissioner Kent seconded; unanimously approved.

ACCG Retirement (401/457) Plan Revision

Lovett stated there is no change to the fee schedule. Board approval is needed to accept the plan revisions and allow the chairman to sign the plan. Commissioner Edwards made a motion to approve the plan; Commissioner Barnes seconded; unanimously approved.

Rental Agreements for County Property

County attorney Brown stated that the Board needs to set the rental rates for the Ag Center. He presented comparison rates and agreements from other counties. Brown suggested event insurance also be required. Commissioner Jones made a motion to table this item; Commissioner Sellers seconded; unanimously approved.

Bids for Custodial Services

Lovett requested the Boards approval to draft an agreement and bid for custodial services for all county buildings. Commissioner Edwards made a motion to approve; Commissioner Barnes seconded; unanimously approved.

2024 SPLOST Ph 2 Asbury Church R. & Others – Bid Award

Lovett shared that bids were received and reviewed for the Phase 2 project and recommended that Georgia Asphalt Producers to be awarded the bid at \$3,261857.10. Commissioner Sellers made a motion to award the bid to Georgia Asphalt Producers; Commissioner Kent seconded; unanimously approved.

2024 SPLOST- Northside Park Splash Pad Project

Lovett shared a drawing and plans and cost estimate of \$560,000.00 from the engineer for the splash pad and bleacher project at Northside Park. Lovett stated that \$500000.00 is allocated in the 2024 SPLOST for this project and said the \$60,000 could be revised or covered from the general fund if needed. Lovett requested approval from the Board to allow the engineer to proceed with bidding the project out. Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the project to proceed; Commissioner Sellers seconded; unanimously approved.

2026 SWFT Grant Rubber Mulch Playground Surfacing- Bid Award

Lovett shared that 8 bids were received for the rubber mulch playground project. The lowest bid received was Kor Cap Playground in the amount of \$188322.85. Commissioner Kent made a motion to accept the lowest bid from Kor Cap Playground; Commissioner Edwards seconded; unanimously approved.

Set Public Hearing – Ford St & Dewitt Graham Rd.

Lovett recommended setting the public hearing for May 12 at 4:30PM for Ford St. He stated that Dewitt Graham Rd has not been surveyed yet and will not be included in the hearing. Jones made a motion to set the meeting for Ford St for May 12, 2026 at 4:30 PM; Commissioner Barnes seconded; unanimously approved.

UGA Cooperative Extension Agreement

County Manager Lovett stated there is no changes to the agreement but increase in TRS with the University of Georgia due to the difference in their fiscal year. Approval is needed for the Chairman to sign the annual agreement. Commissioner Kent made a motion to approve the Chairman to sign the agreement; Commissioner Edwards seconded; unanimously approved.

EMA Deputy Director Position

Lovett shared that interviews were conducted by himself and Director Al Meadows on March 23 for the position of EMA Deputy Director. Seven candidates applied for the position. Lovett recommended Alexis Knox as the candidate to hire for the position. She currently works with GEMA and has assisted Appling EMA before with grants. Commissioner Jones made a motion to accept the recommendation to hire Alexis Knox for the position of EMA Deputy Director; Commissioner Kent seconded; unanimously approved.

Alexis Knox thanked the Board and stated she is excited to begin her new role and is looking forward to working with the county.

Purchase of Administration Vehicle

Lovett stated that the previous administration vehicle had been repurposed to another department. The county received reimbursement from FEMA for expenses incurred from hurricane Helene. Lovett requested to replace the administration vehicle for use during training and conferences. Lovett presented quotes and the lowest is a 2026 Ford Expedition at \$68864.00 at government price. Commissioner Barnes added that an administration vehicle is needed for use for the manager as well as travel. Commissioner Barnes made a motion to approve the purchase of the Ford Expedition; Commissioner Kent seconded; unanimously approved.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Lovett requested permission from the board to allow himself and the county attorney to draft policies and procedures to join the fire and rescue as a stand-alone department. He stated Appling is behind in the state in the way it is currently set up. Commissioner Barnes made a motion to proceed with the draft; Commissioner Kent seconded; unanimously approved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Personnel

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

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

County Attorney Brown stated that the issue was personnel concerning the divorce of a county employee and the impact on the county. No action taken.

PUBLIC INPUT

Joe Dykstra – Animal Control Ordinance

Mr. Dykstra was not present

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

Lovett requested to move the May 5th meeting to May 12, 2026 due to scheduling conflict. Commissioner Jones made a motion to move the meeting to May 12; Commissioner Barnes seconded; unanimously approved.

Lovett presented a list of items that had been approved during the budget process. He requested that the list of items be ratified and approved as an itemized list.

1. Cat 150 Ditcher	\$414000.00
2. Cat 140 Grader	\$310896.00
3. Cat 140 Grader	\$310896
4. Mower Max	\$228330.00
5. MWI Pump	\$55000.00
6. Skid Steer Mower Head	\$19500.00
7. Freightliner Dump Truck	\$178400.00
8. Freightliner Dump Truck	\$178400.00
Total	\$1695422.00

Commissioners Sellers made a motion to approve the itemized list; Commissioner Kent seconded; unanimously approved.

Lovett shared that he is working with the Chamber to set up a ground breaking ceremony for the new county shop sight on May 8 and will confirm the time. Commissioner Sellers added that the purchase of this equipment will allow the road departments to better serve the community. Commissioner Kent added that he would like to thank the department heads and the volunteer fire fighters for the work they are doing during this drought.

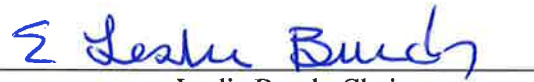
CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Chairman Burch thanked the fire chief and volunteers for their service.

ADJOURN

There being no further business or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 PM.


LaFonda Solomon, Deputy County Clerk


Leslie Burch, Chairman

COUNTY SEAL

