

**APPLING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
July 21st, 2026 @ 5:30 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME/INVOCATION/PLEDGE

Appling County Board of Commissioners held the regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, July 21st, 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 Joe Ferguson led the group in the pledge. Present were Chairman Leslie Burch; Vice Chairman Chad Kent; Commissioners Randy Sellers, Jakharis Jones, and Daryl Edwards. Commissioner Ricky Barnes was absent. Also, present were County Manager Reid Lovett, County Attorney Tracy Brown and County Clerk Robyn Evans.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

With the addition of "Item J – Extension Services Request to Fill Vacancy", Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the agenda; Commissioner Edwards seconded; unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Meeting minutes, for the Regular meeting June 2, 2026 and Called meeting, July 14, 2026, were approved on a motion by Commissioner Sellers; seconded by Commissioner Kent; and unanimously approved.

PRESENTATIONS/SPECIAL GUEST(S)/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chanda Teston gave a re-cap of the Appling County America 250, Fourth (4th) of July Celebration. She thanked the Commissioners and County Manager; gave more appreciation for community partners, food vendors, volunteers, and all those who assisted in the event. Teston stated that everyone seemed to enjoy the parade, farmers' market, exhibit in the Annex building, inflatables, water slides, vendors, and fireworks; she looks forward to building upon this year's memorable celebration in the future.

Teston ended with a request to the Board: to consider improvements at Appling County Heritage Center – "it needs a lot of work". She stated that it's a shame to see parts of Appling County history sitting under insulation that's falling from the ceiling.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

Resolution – Heart of GA Hazard Mitigation Plan

Lovett explained that every four (4) to five (5) years, an update is required for the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Commissioner Edwards made a motion to adopt the resolution and allow Chairman Burch to sign same; Commissioner Jones seconded; unanimously approved.

Resolution & Deed of Abandonment - Portion of Dewitt Graham Road

Lovett shared that requirements were published, public hearing held, and this portion can now be abandoned. Commissioner Kent made a motion to adopt the resolution and deed to abandon; Commissioner Sellers seconded; unanimously approved.

2027 Lease Agreement – Pineland (Main Street Building)

Lovett shared the lease is an annual agreement and noted no changes. Commissioner Sellers made a motion to approve the agreement; Commissioner Kent seconded; unanimously approved.

2027 Lease Agreement – Pineland (Appling -Jeff Davis Service Center)

Lovett shared the annual lease is for the “Sunshine Center” located behind Appling County Department of Family and Children Services and noted no changes. Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the agreement; Commissioner Edwards seconded; unanimously approved.

Splashpad Bid Award

Lovett shared that bids were received and tallied by Hofstadter and Associates, whom recommended the lowest bid by Altamaha Building Systems, in the amount of \$612,470.00. Lovett shared this item is a 2024 SPLOST project and approximately \$580,000 was budgeted for this project. Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the lowest bid; Commissioner Kent seconded; unanimously approved.

Intergovernmental Agreement – Tax Collection of City Ad Valorem Taxes

Lovett shared this agreement is between the City of Baxley and Appling County Tax Commissioner for the billing, collection, and remittance of City taxes. For these services, payment in the amount of \$19,000 annually, which would be paid directly to the Tax Commissioner; contract beginning February 1, 2027 and expiring June 1, 2031. Commissioner Sellers had concerns that the County would not be reimbursed, should the Tax Commissioner utilize County employees or resources in performance of those services. County Attorney Brown read from the contract stating that the services provided are only performed by the Tax Commissioner such as preparing the property digest. However, Brown stated that if it was the Board’s wish to table the agreement and ask the Tax Commissioner to be present at the next meeting to answer these questions, so be it. Commissioner Sellers made a motion to table this item; Commissioner Jones seconded; unanimously approved.

DFCS Board Appointment

Lovett shared that Amy Redigar was previously appointed to fulfil the remainder of Jimmy McMillian’s term and would need to be reappointed, if the Board desired; Redigar is willing to serve an additional term, June 1, 2026 - June 30, 2030. Commissioner Edwards made a motion to reappoint Redigar; Commissioner Kent seconded; unanimously approved.

Replacement Mower

Lovett shared that Carroll Weaver, Road Superintendent, obtained quotes for a mower replacement; bids were received by Appling Motors in the amount of \$29,900 and Ag Pro in the amount of \$33,000. Lovett recommended the Board approve the lowest bid from Appling Motors for \$29,900. Commissioner Sellers asked if this was a budgeted item and Lovett shared that it was, that they were actually under budget. Commissioner Kent made a motion to approve the lowest bid; Commissioner Jones seconded; unanimously approved.

Set Budget Workshop

Lovett shared that he’d like to schedule a Budget Workshop before the next regular monthly meeting, Tuesday, August 4, 2026 at 4:00 PM, but was open to suggestions. He’d like department heads to be present to discuss their requested budgets and capital projects. Commissioner Kent made a motion to approve this date and time; Commissioner Sellers seconded; unanimously approved.

Extension Services Request-to-Fill Vacancy

Lovett shared that Carrie Vanderver accepted a position as the K-3 Agriculture Education teacher at Appling County Primary School; thus, leaving a vacancy effective July 31, 2026. The County pays for a portion of this position with the UGA Extension office and would need to approve a request to fill. Commissioner Sellers made a motion to approve; Commissioner Edwards seconded; unanimously approved.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

County Manager Lovett shared that updates from the County Landfill and Extension Services were included in the Board packets.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Burch stated he understood there was a need for executive session, to discuss personnel. He deferred to County Manager Lovett and County Attorney Brown, whom both stated no, there was not a need for executive session.

PUBLIC INPUT

Suronda McDonald spoke to the Board, in regards to assistance in maintaining Bethel Freewill Road, where she resides. Ms. McDonald stated she was not aware of the road being private, when she first moved there. However, she is asking that the County take over maintenance. Lovett shared that work was being completed to determine right-of-ways and the road will need to be built-up and ditched.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

Lovett thanked Chanda Teston and Appling EMA staff for their assistance during the America 250 celebration.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Chairman Burch had no comments.

ADJOURN

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



Robyn O. Evans, County Clerk



Leslie Burch, Chairman

COUNTY SEAL

