

**APPLING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
June 2nd, 2026 @ 5:30 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME/INVOCATION/PLEDGE

The Appling County Board of Commissioners held the regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 2nd 2026 at 5:30 PM in the Courthouse Annex.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Leslie Burch and he welcomed all those in attendance. Deputy County Clerk LaFonda Solomon gave the invocation and Commissioner Randy Sellers led the group in the pledge. Present were Chairman Leslie Burch; Vice Chairman Chad Kent; Commissioners Randy Sellers, Daryl Edwards and Ricky Barnes. Also, present were County Manager Reid Lovett, County Attorney Tracy Brown and Deputy County Clerk LaFonda Solomon. Commissioner Jakharis Jones and County Clerk Robyn Evans were absent

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

With the addition of "Item D – Set Public Hearing Road Closure", Commissioner Sellers made a motion to approve the agenda; Commissioner Kent seconded; unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from March 3, 2026 Regular Meeting, April 14, 2026 Regular Meeting, April 22, 2026 Called/Emergency Declaration Meeting, May 12, 2026 Called Meeting/Public Hearing Road Closure, Public Hearing Animal Control Ordinance and Regular Meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Sellers made a motion to approve all minutes with no changes noted; Commissioner Kent seconded; unanimously approved.

PRESENTATION/SPECIAL GUESTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ryland Environmental Services – John Nail

John Nail gave an update on Ryland Environmental Services. The local facility is growing and creating more jobs for the area. The company covers the surrounding counties. Commissioner Edwards asked what should a customer do if they need their lid repaired or trashcan replaced due to damage. Mr. Nail said to call the office or go online to their website and submit a ticket and it will get repaired or replaced.

OLD BUSINESS

Ford Street Closure

County Manager Lovett made reference to the survey included and recommended to terminate and abandon tract six (6) and tract one (1). County Attorney Tracy Brown recommended to keep tracts two (2), three (3), four (4) and five (5). Commissioner Sellers made a motion to abandon Tract six (6) and Tract (1) and keep Tracts two (2), three (3), four (4) and five (5); Commissioner Barnes seconded; unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

A.2026 ACCG/IRMA Property/Liability Insurance Renewal

County Manager Lovett shared that he'd received the renewal for the property and liability coverage policy for 2026 in the amount of \$578,914.00 less the (\$27,750.00) safety credit bringing the total for the renewal to \$551,164.00. This is a \$50,000.00 increase from last year with coverage remaining the same. Commissioner Edwards stated that he expected it to be higher with all the claims that were filed. Commissioner Kent made a motion to allow the chairman to sign the renewal; Commissioner Edwards seconded; unanimously approved.

B. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) GEMA/Appling Co. EMA

Deputy EMA Director Alexis Knox shared that the contact information needed to be updated on the current Memorandum of Understanding in place with GEMA and Appling County. Knox stated that the updated MOU requires the Chairman's signature. County Manager Lovett made a recommendation to allow the Chairman to sign the updated MOU. Commissioner Edwards made a motion to allow the Chairman to sign the updated MOU; Commissioner Barnes seconded; unanimously approved.

C. 2024 SPLOST Phase 2 Sweetwater Industrial Drive Repair

County Manager Lovett shared that Sweetwater Industrial Drive is in need of repair. The cost of the repair is \$240,000.00. He shared that Mr. Carol Weaver has received several calls regarding the road. Lovett explained the procedures that will need to be done to repair the road. Lovett recommended to add this road to the 2024 SPLOST Phase 2. Commissioner Barnes made a motion to add Sweetwater Industrial Drive to the 2024 SPLOST; Commissioner Kent seconded; unanimously approved.

D. Set Public Hearing for Dewitt Graham Road Closure

County Manager Lovett shared that he has received the plat from the surveyor for Dewitt Graham Rd. Lovett recommended to set the Public Hearing date for July 14, 2026 at 5:00 PM for the road closure from Zion Church of God to Dixon Rd. Commissioner Kent made a motion to set the Public Hearing for July 14, 2026 at 5:00 PM; Commissioner Sellers seconded; unanimously approved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

PUBLIC INPUT

A. Joe Dykstra – absent

B. Santina Fryer – Request to Waive Ag Center Rental Fee

Santina Fryer shared information about Gents & Glam. Camp Grow is the summer camp portion of the program that provides educational activities to youth. Santina shared that they are scheduled to have a community STEM Day on June 17, 2026 featuring Mr. Edible Weather and the Science Guy. Santina asked if the Board would consider waiving the rental fee for the Ag Center for the event. County Manager Lovett stated that the Board had recently reviewed the Ag rental policy and that it is not innovative in the policy but it is not an action item on the agenda at this time.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

County Manager Lovett shared on the progress of the new county shop. The slab has been poured for the foundation with one more to go. If everything goes as planned, he is looking for it to be complete in December. Lovett shared that Lake Mayers is finally up to a safe water level and he plans to reopen the lake on Friday, June 5, 2026.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Chairman Burch shared that his only comment was that he did not know who instigated the dress code. "Blues and squares are in tonight". He shared that his wife dressed him.

Commissioner Edwards stated that he has spoken to citizens in the county and most are not in favor of implementing an animal control ordinance. He stated we should just follow what the state law says and move forward from there. He recommended implementing an MOU with the City and let the city handle any dogs within the County that are a problem. Edwards stated he would like to table the animal ordinance and follow the state law. Chairman Burch stated that this item is not on the agenda. County Attorney Brown stated that the item had previously been discussed and was tabled so it could be brought forward. Commissioner Edwards made a

motion to follow the state ordinance regarding vicious dogs and not adopt a local ordinance; Commissioner Barnes seconded; unanimously approved.

County Attorney Brown stated that he would need a motion to draft an intergovernmental agreement and begin negotiations with the city to cover the cost of housing the dogs. Commissioner Sellers made a motion to enter an intergovernmental agreement with the city to cover the cost of dogs; Commissioner Kent seconded; unanimously approved.

ADJOURN

There being no further business or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM.

LaFonda Solomon, Deputy County Clerk

Leslie Burch, Chairman

