

**APPLING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 1st, 2026 @ 5:30 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME/INVOCATION/PLEDGE

Appling County Board of Commissioners held the regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 1st, 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 Frank Smith led the group in the pledge. Present were Chairman Leslie Burch; Vice Chairman Chad Kent; Commissioners Randy Sellers, Jakharis Jones, and Ricky Barnes. Also, present were County Manager Reid Lovett, County Attorney Tracy Brown and County Clerk Robyn Evans. Commissioner Daryl Edwards was not present for this meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

With the addition of "Item I – Splashpad Contract", Commissioner Kent made a motion to approve the agenda; Commissioner Barnes seconded; unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes, for the following meetings, were approved on a motion by Commissioner Sellers; seconded by Commissioner Jones; and unanimously approved; Called Meeting August 4, 2026, Regular Monthly Meeting August 4, 2026, and Called Meeting August 18, 2026.

PRESENTATIONS/SPECIAL GUEST(S)/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ann Singer shared exciting news on behalf of the Heritage Center, announcing that she'd received a letter of award of a Georgia Historical Marker for "The Surrency Ghost". Mrs. Singer thanked the Board for their support of her endeavors and thanked Bryan Shipes for serving on the Heritage Board and the assistance he'd given. She stated the monument would cost \$2500 but she was not asking for these funds, just assistance from the Road Department to get it placed, once received. Singer also shared there would be a celebratory event scheduled in April 2027.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

2026 LMIG LRA Road Project Bid Award – South Fork & Dallas Roads

APAC-Atlantic, Inc. was the lowest bidder for this project, at \$405,482.49. Commissioner Barnes made a motion to approve; Commissioner Kent seconded; unanimously approved.

2024 SPLOST – Fire Truck

County Manager Lovett shared that a fire truck was located to replace the one at County Farm Fire Department for a total of \$119,800. Commissioner Kent made a motion to approve this purchase; Commissioner Sellers seconded; unanimously approved.

DNR Lease Agreement/Maintenance Agreement

County Manager Lovett shared the previously approved lease was being replaced with a Maintenance Agreement, as Department of Natural Resources already owned the boat landing area, and the County maintains it. Commissioner Sellers made a motion to approve the agreement; Commissioner Barnes seconded; unanimously approved.

Road Closure – Dallas Lane, Public Hearing Date

Lovett shared that the property owner of a portion of Dallas Road, where the cul-do-sac is located, has requested it be closed. Lovett recommended holding a Public Hearing on October 13, 2026 at 5:00 PM. Commissioner

After discussion, Commissioner Barnes made a motion to move the regular monthly meeting from October 6, 2026 to October 13, 2026 at 5:30 PM and change the Public Hearing for Road Closure to 5:00 PM on the same date; Commissioner Sellers seconded; unanimously approved.

Proposed Resolution for 180-Day Moratorium Regarding Permitting (Digital Data Centers, etc.)

After some discussion, Commissioner Jones made a motion to table this vote until Tuesday, September 8, 2026 at 5:30 PM.

Temporary Landfill Agreement

Lovett shared that a temporary agreement with Ryland Environmental Services is being drafted; this is agreement is to temporarily assist at the Landfill, due to staff shortage and Environmental Protection Division (EPD) requirements. Attorney Brown stated he is still reviewing the contract and suggested this be tabled until the next meeting. Commissioner Barnes made a motion to table; Commissioner Kent seconded; unanimously approved.

Public Hearing Date to Approve Millage Rate & Public Hearing Date FY'2027 County Budget

Lovett shared the need to have public hearings in order to set the millage rate and adopt the budget. Commissioner Jones made a motion to hold the meetings on September 17, 2026 at 5:00 PM (Millage Rate) and 5:30 PM (Budget).

Splashpad Project @ Northside Park

Lovett shared the contract for this project, with Hofstadter, needs to be signed; the project and bid award were approved in a previous meeting. Commissioner Jones made a motion to allow Chairman Burch to sign on the Board's behalf; Commissioner Sellers seconded; unanimously approved.

DEPARMENT UPDATES

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Sellers made a motion to close regular session and enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing litigation matters; Commissioner Kent seconded; unanimously approved.

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

County Attorney Brown advised the County was still in on-going litigations with the District Attorney; stating discussions are being held in regards to a tri-county for prosecuting cases in the three counties of Appling, Jeff Davis, and Wayne. He recommended the Board approve for him to begin creating/negotiating an intergovernmental agreement for same. Commissioner Sellers made the motion; Commissioner Kent seconded; unanimously approved.

PUBLIC INPUT

None

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

Lovett shared that he and the Board will be reviewing roads for Phase 3 SPLOST projects.

Then he gave clarification on the upcoming meetings:

- 9/08/2026 @ 5:30 PM Called Meeting to Vote on 180-Day Moratorium
- 9/17/2026 @ 5:00 PM Called Meeting/Public Hearing FY'2027 Millage Rate & Tax Levy
- 9/17/2026 @ 5:30 PM Called Meeting/Public Hearing FY'2027 Budget
- 10/13/2026 @ 5:00 PM Called Meeting/Public Hearing Road Closure portion of Forks Road
- 10/13/2026 @ 5:30 PM Regular Monthly Meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

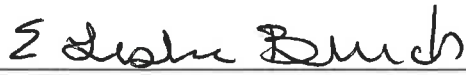
Chairman Burch shared he was happy to see the increased public attendance and interest in the County meeting.

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



**APPLING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CALLED MEETING/PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
September 1, 2026 @ 4:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME/INVOCATION/PLEDGE

Appling County Board of Commissioners held a called meeting on Tuesday, September 1, 2026 at 4:00 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 Sellers 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

Commissioner Edwards made a motion to approve the agenda; Commissioner Sellers seconded; unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

Proposed Resolution for 180-Day Moratorium Regarding Permitting (Digital Data Centers, etc.)

A sign-up sheet for public input was provided to Chairman Burch; he began by allowing City of Baxley County Manager, Keri Orvin, to speak first. Orvin spoke against a moratorium, stating that it puts a negative connotation on industries interested in Baxley and Appling County. Orvin shared that data centers would follow the same process as any other industrial development wishing to develop in the County. She encourages everyone to get educated, weigh the costs versus benefits for every project.

Doug Harris, former Commissioner, spoke in favor of the moratorium; strongly suggesting the Board develop a Land Use and Classification Ordinance. He stated the lack of rules, over utilization of land, opens the County up to entities taking advantage of the County; noting the bit coin mine previously developed, and that it's still classified as agricultural land.

Kayla Mann spoke against a moratorium stating that it's going to put a negative light on industries interested in developing here. Mann stated the timber industry has plummeted right now and this could help; stating data center development is not a threat to rural communities and are tangible benefits to be offered.

Brad Ricks spoke in opposition of data centers in Appling County; in favor of a "strong" moratorium.

Joe Dykstra spoke that temporary jobs during the construction of data centers would be good but there were negatives such as water usage, coolants that could cause environmental hazards if escaped, and energy rates would go up.

Peggy Durso spoke in support of a strengthened moratorium but noted concerns such as environmental impacts and noise.

Doug Ross stated that the Board needed to complete research, specifically noting a data center in Virginia.

Chanda Teston spoke, neither in favor or against but stating the County has got to keep moving forward and not backward. Teston stated data centers could be good for the community and encouraged the Board to become educated and hold town halls so that all of the County's communities could participate.

Julie Scarborough asked Commissioner Edwards if he was still on the Baxley/Apling County Development Authority Board, and if there had been conversations in regards to the Industrial Rail area purchased by the County with SPLOST funds. Commissioner Edwards responded by stating that Development Authority Director, Matt Carter, was present and could speak on this topic. Carter said there has been no discussions with specific companies inquiring about the location referenced. He stated several calls have been received in regards to infrastructure possibilities and if the community would be a good fit but nothing further.

Dedra Hewitt asked that the Board continue the moratorium but to also have a town hall so more people can attend outside of work hours; and to think about the children and future of the County when making decisions.

Commissioner Sellers stated that passing the moratorium allows time to listen to the pros and cons and find out more, because we have no laws or policies to protect our County, at this time.

Commissioner Edwards asked Matt Carter, Development Authority Director, if Georgia Power Electric Company had a training scheduled regarding future data centers. Carter stated there was a joint meeting scheduled with the City of Baxley and the Board of Commissioners; however, this is by invitation only and not open to the public at this time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

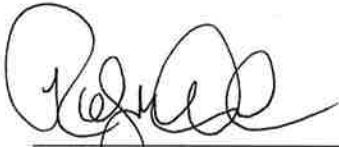
None.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

None

ADJOURN

There being no further business or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:40 PM.

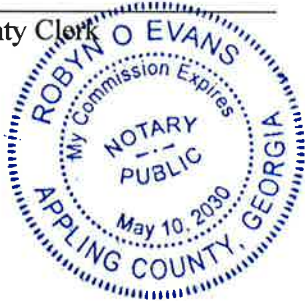


Robyn O. Evans, County Clerk



Leslie Burch, Chairman

COUNTY SEAL



**APPLING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CALLED MEETING/Adoption of Millage Rate and Tax Levies
MINUTES
September 17, 2026 @ 5:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME/INVOCATION/PLEDGE

Appling County Board of Commissioners held a called meeting, on Thursday, September 17, 2026 at 5:00 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 Sellers gave the invocation and Commissioner Jakharis Jones led the group in the pledge. Present were Chairman Leslie Burch; Vice Chairman Chad Kent; Commissioners Randy Sellers, Jakharis Jones, and Daryl Edwards. Also, present were County Manager Reid Lovett, County Attorney Tracy Brown and County Clerk Robyn Evans. Commissioner Ricky Barnes was absent.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Burch announced that we needed to move this meeting to 5:30 PM due to the prior advertised notice in the News Banner, which stated 5:30 PM. Commissioner Sellers made a motion to approve the change to the agenda to move the meeting; Commissioner Jones seconded; unanimously approved.

In regards to the second meeting, originally scheduled at 5:30, as a Public Budget Hearing, Chairman Burch announced that immediately before the meeting, he was given a memo from County Attorney Tracy Brown, in which Burch proceeded to read aloud.

"Our FY budget cycle runs from October 1 to September 30 of each year. Although a notice was placed in the legal organ (Baxley News Banner) noticing a "meeting" on 9/17/2026 to set the millage rate, the notice did not properly advise: 1. that the budget was available for inspection 2. Notice of the Public Hearing prior setting the budget.

*To cure this problem, since our first compliant budget notice cannot be published until **September 24, 2026**: the statute requires the **budget hearing itself** to occur at least one week before the budget-adoption meeting.*

The earliest clean statutory sequence is:

Action

Date

*Re-submit proposed FY 2027 budget;
place it at the designated public inspection location;
publish corrected combined budget notice*

September 24

Budget public hearing

October 1

Budget adoption meeting

October 8"

County Attorney Brown stated this would cure the defect of the publication and allow the limited gap only to preserve continuity of essential, already-authorized operations and obligations-payroll, debt service, legally required benefits, utilities, and existing contractual obligations; to not approve new discretionary programs, new procurements, or expenditures outside existing obligations until the FY 2027 budget is adopted; have the minutes state that adoption is postponed solely to cure the notice defect and that County staff are directed to maintain only necessary continuity of government operations pending the October 8 vote.

Attorney Brown stated he'd need a motion to approve the continuity of operations of the County and for the date and time of the Public Budget Hearing. Commissioner Edwards made a motion to move this meeting to 5:30 PM on today's date, September 17, 2026, and to hold a Public Budget Hearing meeting on Thursday, October 1, 2026 at 5:30 PM. Commissioner Sellers; unanimously approved.

**APPLING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CALLED MEETING/Adoption of Millage Rate and Tax Levies
MINUTES
September 17, 2026 @ 5:00 P.M.**

PUBLIC INPUT

Brad Ricks spoke, stating he had several concerns, the first being Open Records Requests with numerous items outstanding and two of the requests have now been reported to the Attorney General's office. Ricks asked the Board to implement a process for budgeting, open records request, and make it transparent to all citizens; further stating that a citizen should not have to learn how to construct a reconciliation matrix. Ricks also asked the Board to think about the trust that citizens place in them and the lack of transparency that exists.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

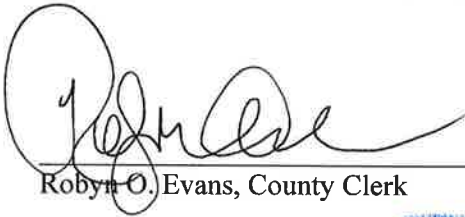
None

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

None

ADJOURN

There being no further business or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:20 PM.



Robyn O. Evans, County Clerk



Leslie Burch, Chairman

COUNTY SEAL



**APPLING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CALLED MEETING/Adoption of Millage Rate and Tax Levies
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September 17, 2026 @ 5:30 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME/INVOCATION/PLEDGE

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

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chairman Burch reminded those present, this was the Adoption of Millage Rate and Resolutions for 2027 Tax Levies meeting, previously scheduled at 5:00 PM. Commissioner Sellers made a motion to adopt the revised agenda as follows: (A) Adoption of FY'2027 Millage Rate (B) Resolution for County Maintenance & Operations Tax Levy and (C) Resolution for County School Tax Levy; Commissioner Kent seconded; unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

ADOPTION OF MILLAGE RATE/TAX LEVIES

County Manager Lovett shared in reviewing the tax digest, he believes the millage rate can be reduced by 0.20%. Commissioner Edwards made a motion to approve the County Maintenance & Operations Tax Levy for 10.923 mills, a total of \$16,221,809, to be levied on taxable property. Commissioner Jones seconded; unanimously approved.

Lovett also indicated the need for a motion on the County-Wide School Maintenance tax levy. Commissioner Sellers made a motion to approve 11.273 mills to be levied on taxable property, for a total of \$16,835,375. Commissioner Edwards seconded; unanimously approved.

Attorney Brown stated a motion was also needed in order to allow Chairman Burch to sign resolutions on behalf of the board. Commissioner Kent made a motion to approve; Commissioner Jones seconded; unanimously approved.

PUBLIC INPUT

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

None

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Reminded those in attendance: Public Hearing for the FY'2027 County Budget will be held on Thursday, October 1, 2026 at 5:30 PM and adoption of the budget will be considered during the regular monthly meeting scheduled on Thursday, October 8, 2026 at 5:30 PM.

**APPLING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CALLED MEETING/Adoption of Millage Rate and Tax Levies
MINUTES
September 17, 2026 @ 5:30 P.M.**

ADJOURN

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



Robyn O. Evans, County Clerk



Leslie Burch, Chairman

COUNTY SEAL



**APPLING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CALLED MEETING MINUTES
September 8, 2026 @ 5:30 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME/INVOCATION/PLEDGE

Appling County Board of Commissioners held a called meeting on Tuesday, September 8, 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. Carroll Weaver gave the invocation and County Manager Reid Lovett 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

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

OLD BUSINESS/ACTION ITEM

Proposed Resolution for 180-Day Moratorium Regarding Permitting (Digital Data Centers, etc.)

No discussion was held in regards to the Resolution. Commissioner Sellers did clarify the following with Attorney Brown: 180 days of the moratorium will not be consecutive with previously approved forty (40) days, rather a total of 180 days, effective August 4, 2026 thru January 31, 2027.

Commissioner Sellers made a motion to pass the 180-Day Moratorium; Commissioner Barnes seconded; unanimously approved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

None.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Chairman Burch announced he was happy to see everyone in attendance and wished it was like this every meeting.

ADJOURN

There being no further business or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:34 PM.



Robyn O. Evans, County Clerk



Leslie Burch, Chairman

COUNTY SEAL

