

GRADY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING MINUTES

January 27, 2025, Meeting

The Grady County Board of Commissioners met on January 27, 2025, at 6:00 pm for a regular meeting. Commissioners Ray Prince, Yancey Maxwell, Sam Kines, Phillip Drew, LaFaye Copeland, Interim County Administrator/Finance Director Holly Murkerson, County Clerk John White, and County Attorney Gabe Ridley were present.

Mr. Prince asked Mr. Kines to open with prayer and the pledge to the flag.

Motion by Mr. Drew, second by Mrs. Copeland to approve the agenda as amended to include FA010-25. The motion was approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Michael Cook 184 Carr St

Mr. Cook stated that the county has a major issue concerning the property assessments. It was a failed process. Need to explain the process to the people. Need to provide additional time to appeal the appraisals. Mr. Drew stated the county remained budget neutral. Mr. Drew stated there were problems with the property assessments. He understands the frustration. We have corrected a lot of mistakes in the county. He knows the citizens are not happy and rightfully so. Mr. Drew stated he wants to make sure this does not happen again.

Mr. Prince stated that he and Keith attended training in Tifton on property taxes and property assessments and upon returning from training, they went straight to the Tax Assessors office to check on the process. The assessor's office stated they were working on them, and they were not. He is seeing inconsistencies with the assessments and plans to address them.

Mrs. Copeland stated that she and Mr. Prince are attempting to set up a meeting with GMASS to address the process and what was and was not done.

Richard Jordan, 303 Jordan Ln

Property values have changed. The budget is the driver of the taxes. Mr. Jordan urged the commissioners to become knowledgeable about HB581. You have an opportunity to help the citizens of Grady County. This bill is written to help the people who are struggling financially.

Jimmy Vinson, 2985 Stagecoach Rd

Mr. Vinson is representing Gary Allen for a Motorcycle event they want to put on in North Grady County. It is a two-day event to take place on February 22 and February 23. It is at the corner of Ridge Road and Stagecoach Road. Mr. Ridley stated that the event would qualify the property as a racetrack under the Land Use Regulations. After much discussion, the board decided to table the appeal decision to see what could be worked out as a solution.

PRESENTATIONS

Genesys Health Alliance – Sheriff Prince, Rosa Juarez, and Ashlee Hidden

They reviewed the benefits of moving to electronic records for the inmate's medical records and increasing the number of hours for medical personnel at the detention center. After some discussion, the commissioners stated they would like a chance to review the information and will discuss it further at their next meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Calendar of Events was reviewed.

Regular Board Meeting on February 4, 2025, at 9:00 AM.

Tire Amnesty Day, Saturday, January 25, 2025, 8:00 – 4:00.

JRBGC Diamond Affair, Friday, January 31, 2025, 7:00 PM.

CONSENT ITEMS

Motion by Mr. Drew, second by Mrs. Copeland to approve:

C004-25 Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes and Executive Session Minutes from 01/07/2025.

C005-25 Approval of Mileage Reimbursement Rate of \$.70 per IRS regulations.

C006-25 Approval of Cape/Kesler Plat.

C007-25 Approval of Stephen McKinnon as Fire Marshal.

The motion was approved.

FORMAL ACTIONS

FA004-25 Motion by Mr. Drew, second by Mrs. Copeland to approve re-appointing Bob Ponder to the Lake Authority. The motion was approved.

FA005-25 A Language Access Plan has been prepared to address the County's responsibilities as a recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs programs and grants funded by HUD as they relate to the needs of individuals with Limited English language skills. Interim County Administrator Holly Murkerson explained that the County needed to adopt the CDBG Language Access Plan for our CDBG Grant. Motion to approve the CDBG Language Access Plan was made by Mrs. Copeland, seconded by Mr. Drew, and unanimously approved by all Commission Members.

FA006-25 Motion by Mr. Drew, second by Mrs. Copeland to approve the copier lease renewal with Rumbles for the Clerk of Court and adding one to the Board of Elections. The motion was approved.

FA007-25 Approve/Disapprove the Racetrack appeal from Gary Allen. – The board has 10 days to make the decision.

FA008-25 Motion by Mr. Drew, second by Mrs. Copeland to table the purchase of the !3 Verticals Palm Reader until the sheriff could talk about it. The motion was approved.

FA009-25 Motion by Mr. Drew, second by Mrs. Copeland to approve the Lake Monitoring Agreement with the University of Georgia Research Foundation, Inc. The motion was approved.

FA010-25 Motion by Mr. Drew, second by Mrs. Copeland to appoint Rick Sellars to the Planning Commission. The motion was approved.

NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

HB581 The feels as if need to hold the hearings. First hearing must be at least 7 days after the notice of hearing. The board decided to have two meetings at night. FA011-25 Motion by Mr. Kines, second by Mrs. Copeland to hold the hearings on HB 581 on Monday, February 17, 2025 at 6:00 pm, Tuesday, February 18, 2025 at 9:00 am and Tuesday, February 18, 2025 at 5:00 pm. The motion was approved.

Administrator Matters – Mrs. Murkerson stated that Andy Barber has been promoted to the position of Animal Control Director. We are now advertising to fill Andy's position. The Preconstruction meeting for Long Branch Church Road will take place on Thursday, February 6, 2025 at 11:00 am. Patching of all roads will begin in February, 2025 and Collins Road will begin in April. Mrs. Murkerson stated we have received the MOU for the bridge replacement over Brumbley Creek and DOT will let the bids out for the Pine Park Road bridge in 2027. Will meet with Enterprise on Thursday to go over the truck leases for the admin trucks.

Commissioners Matters – Mr. Prince stated that C & R farms and Powe farms helped spread sand on the bridges in the county before the storm at no cost to the county. The board then discussed back pay for the Board of Elections members. FA012-25 Motion by Mr. Drew, second by Mr. Kines to pay the Board of Elections for October, November, and December of 2024. The motion was approved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Personnel. Motion by Mr. Drew, second by Mr. Kines to enter Executive Session at 8:04 pm to discuss Personnel. Motion by Mr. Drew, second by Mr. Kines to come out of Executive Session at 9:02 pm.

REPORTS

- A. Attorney's Report – None
- B. Tired Creek Lake 12-24
- C. Code Enforcement End of Year Report 2024
- D. Buildings and Grounds End of Year Report 2024

RESOLUTIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND AGREEMENTS

Regular Board of Commissioners Meeting Agenda

January 27, 2025, 6:00 PM

- I. Executive Duties
- A. Call to Order –6:00 PM
- B. Invocation/Pledge

- C. Adoption of Agenda
 - D. Public Comments
 - II. Presentations
 - Genesys Health Alliance
 - III. Correspondence
 - A. Calendar of events
 - Regular Meeting February 4, 2025 at 9:00 AM
 - Tire Amnesty Day, Saturday, January 25, 2025, 8:00 – 4:00.
 - JRBGC Diamond Affair, Friday, January 31, 2025, 7:00 PM.
 - IV. Consent Items – (One motion)
 - C004-25 Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes and Executive Meeting Minutes from 01/07/25.
 - C005-25 Approval of Mileage Reimbursement Rate of \$.70 per IRS regulations.
 - C006-25 Approval of the Cape/Kesler Plat.
 - C007-25 Approval of Stephen McKinnon as Fire Marshall.
 - V. Formal Actions
 - FA004-25 Approve/Disapprove re-appointing Bob Ponder to the Lake Authority.
 - FA005-25 Approve/Disapprove the Grady County Language Access Plan Resolution.
 - FA006-25 Approve/Disapprove the renewal of copier lease with Rumbles for the Clerk of Court and Board of Elections.
 - FA007-25 Approve/Disapprove the Racetrack appeal from Gary Allen.
 - FA008-25 Approve/Disapprove the !3 Verticals Palm Reader.
 - FA009-25 Approve/Disapprove the Lake Monitoring Agreement.
 - VI. New and unfinished Business
 - HB 581 discussion
 - Administrator Matters
 - Commissioner Matters
 - VII. Executive Session
 - Personnel
 - VIII. Reports
 - a. Attorney’s Report
 - b. Tired Creek Lake 12-24
 - c. Code Enforcement End of Year report 2024.
 - d. Buildings and Grounds End of Year report 2024
 - VIII. Adjournment
- Individuals with disabilities who require certain accommodations to allow them to observe and/or participate in this meeting, or who have questions regarding the accessibility of the meeting, or the facilities are required to contact the ADA Coordinator at 229-377-1512 promptly to allow the County to make reasonable accommodations for those persons.

The motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Drew and second by Mrs. Copeland. The motion was approved.

ATTEST:

JOHN WHITE, COUNTY CLERK

Ray Prince, CHAIR

LaFaye Copeland, VICE-CHAIR

Yancey Maxwell, COMMISSIONER

Sam Kines, COMMISSIONER

Phillip Drew, COMMISSIONER

