



Columbia County Board of Commissioners
Public Hearing on House Bill 581 Homestead Exemption
Minutes of Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at 10:00 AM
Evans Government Center Auditorium, Evans, Georgia

Present at the meeting included:

Chairman Douglas R. Duncan, Jr.
Vice Chairman Alison G. Couch
Commissioner Connie M. Melear
Commissioner James E. Allen, III
Commissioner Michael W. Carraway
County Manager Scott Johnson
Deputy County Manager Matt Schlachter
Deputy County Manager Glenn Kennedy
County Attorney Chris Driver
County Clerk Patrice R. Crawley

Division Directors:

Scott Sterling – Planning Services
Michael Blanchard - Technology Services
Leanne Reece – Internal Services
John Luton – Community Services
County Staff

Members of the Media and Public

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Duncan called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

D. ROLL CALL / QUORUM

Chairman Duncan declared a quorum with five commissioners.

E. PRESENTATION AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chairman Duncan presented the agenda.

F. DISCUSSION OF THE IMPACTS OF HOUSE BILL 581 HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

Chairman Duncan made a statement concerning House Bill 581. He also announced that these public hearings are being live-streamed.

County Manager Johnson explained the details of House Bill 581. The law imposes a strict deadline for the Board to make a decision, which is why three hearings have already been scheduled. No decision has been made, and the board is seeking citizen input.

G. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PARTICIPATION

(G1) Opening of the Public Hearing

Chairman Duncan opened the public hearing. Doug DeArolph, Russell Wilder, Mayclare Scherer, Anne Marie Harvey, Ronald Bynes, Bob Willis, Lisa McCleave, Steve Losgar, Steven Jarnagin and Ed Burr provided their opinions and asked questions about House Bill 581.

H. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Duncan adjourned the meeting at 11:11 a.m.

Douglas R. Duncan, Jr., Chairman

Patrice R. Crawley, County Clerk