



**Columbia County Board of Commissioners Meeting
Minutes of Tuesday, July 15, 2025 at 6:00 PM
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
Steven Prather – Facility Services
County Staff

Members of the Media and Public

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Duncan called the meeting to order.

B. INVOCATION

Commissioner Melear gave the invocation.

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

County Manager Johnson led the pledge to the American Flag.

D. ROLL CALL / QUORUM

Chairman Duncan declared a quorum with five Commissioners present.

E. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

(E1) July 01, 2025

Commissioner Melear made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 01, 2025 Board of Commissioners meeting as presented. Commissioner Allen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

F. PRESENTATION AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

(F1) Move Consent Item H3e to Debate Item I1c1 and move Item I1a2 back to the Management and Internal Services Committee.

County Manager Johnson requested to move Consent Item H3e to Debate Item I1c1 and to remove Item I1a2 back to the Management and Internal Services Committee for more information.

G. SPECIAL RECOGNITION, PRESENTATION, AND / OR DECLARATION

H. CONSENT AGENDA

In accordance with Columbia County Code of Ordinance Section 2-81(6), the following items were voted on collectively. Commissioner Melear made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Commissioner Allen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(H1) Management and Internal Services Committee

(H1a) Independent Contractor Agreement with Leslie Morgan for Juvenile Court Citizen's Panel Review Coordinator

Approved an Independent Contractor Agreement with Leslie Morgan for Juvenile Court Citizen's Panel Review Coordinator.

(H1b) Agreement with Inmate Calling Solutions, LLC. for Inmate Telephone, Tablet and Video Visitation Services RFP# 2025018-RFP1311

Approved an Agreement with Inmate Calling Solutions, LLC. for inmate telephone, tablet and video visitation services.

(H1c) Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Grovetown for Emergency Dispatch Services

Approved a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Grovetown for Emergency Dispatch Services.

(H1d) Independent Contractor Agreement with Outdoor Oasis and Nursery for Fence Repair at Patriots Park on Fields 8-11

Approved an Independent Contractor Agreement with Outdoor Oasis and Nursery for fence repair at Patriots Park on Fields 8-11.

(H1e) Amendment to the Comprehensive Policy Manual Vehicle Safety Policy 508.1

Approved an amendment to the Comprehensive Policy Manual 508.1 Vehicle Safety.

(H1f) The Purchase of a Replacement Generator from Native Instinct, LLC. for Building F

Approved the purchase of a replacement generator from Native Instinct, LLC. for Building F in the amount of \$90,000; 3503552.601090.35531.

(H1g) Agreement with Risk Strategy Group for Physical Security Assessment of Technology Facilities

Approved an agreement with Risk Strategy Group for physical security assessment of technology facilities in the amount of \$50,000; 1011005.601081.

(H1h) Independent Contract with Penn Roofing for the Reroofing of Buildings D and E

Approved an Independent Contract with Penn Roofing for the reroofing of buildings D and E in the amount of \$181,700.

(H2) Development and Planning Services Committee

(H2a) Agency User Agreement Renewal with Georgia Crime Information Center

Approved the Agency User Agreement Renewal with Georgia Crime Information Center.

(H2b) Memorandum of Understanding with Sheriff's Office for Fingerprint Processing

Approved the Memorandum of Understanding with Sheriff's Office for fingerprint processing.

(H2c) Easement Encroachment Agreement Tax Map 075 Parcel 200.

Approved an Easement Encroachment Agreement for tax map 075 parcel 200.

(H2d) Easement Encroachment Agreement Tax Map 065 Parcel 344

Approved Easement Encroachment Agreement for tax map 065 parcel 344.

~~(H2e) Amendment #4 to Contract# 2020-1743 with Ceres Environmental Services Inc. for Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWPP) Services~~ Moved item from Consent to Debate 11c1.

This item was moved to Debate during Agenda Approval.

(H3) Public Works and Engineering Services Committee

(H3a) Award Bid 2025020-BID5100 and Contract to Blair Construction for the 2025 Water System Improvements Cleaning Program Phase I

Approved awarding bid and contract to Blair Construction for the 2025 water system improvements cleaning program phase I in the amount of \$4,021,444.78; 57037.25.015.695.

I. DEBATE AGENDA

(I1) New Business

(I1a) Management and Internal Services Committee

(I1a1) Resolution 25-19 to Establish a Millage Rate for Purposes of Computing Ad Valorem Taxes on Property in Columbia County, Georgia for Calendar Year 2025

Commissioner Melear made a motion to approve Resolution 25-19 as presented and authorize the Chairman to sign all required forms and documents. Vice Chair Couch seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(I1a2) Agreement with C3 AI for Property Appraisal Assistance for the Board of Assessors - move back to the Management and Internal Services Committee

This item was removed during the Agenda Approval and sent to the Management and Internal Services Committee for additional information.

(I1b) Development and Planning Services Committee

(I1b1) Ordinance 25-05 Amending Chapter 78, Taxes, Article V, Occupational Tax and Licenses, Section 149 When Tax Due and Payable - First Reading

Commissioner Allen made a motion to approve the First Reading of Ordinance 25-05 Amending Chapter 78, Taxes, Article V, Occupational Tax and Licenses, Section 149 When Tax Due and Payable. Vice Chair Couch seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(I1b2) Ordinance Number 25-06 Amending Chapter 34, Environment, Article I, Grading, Section 34-1 Major Site Grading - First Reading

Commissioner Allen made a motion to approve the First Reading of Ordinance Number 25-06 Amending Chapter 34, Environment, Article I, Grading, Section 34-1 Major Site Grading. Vice Chair Couch seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(I1b3) Resolution 25-21 Adopting the Fee Schedule for Alcoholic Beverage Licenses - First Reading

Commissioner Allen made a motion to approve the First Reading of Resolution 25-21 Adopting the Fee Schedule for Alcoholic Beverage Licenses. Vice Chair Couch seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(I1b4) Resolution 25-22-Planning Services Fee Schedule Revision - First Reading

Commissioner Allen made a motion to approve the First Reading of Resolution 25-22 Planning Services Fee Schedule Revision. Commissioner Carraway seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(I1c) Public Works and Engineering Services Committee

(I1c1) Amendment #4 to Contract# 2020-1743 with Ceres Environmental Services Inc. for Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWPP) Services

Vice Chair Couch made a motion to approve Amendment Number 4 to the Contract with Ceres Environmental Services Inc. for Emergency Watershed Protection program services. Commissioner Carraway seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

J. REQUESTS FOR REVIEW BY COMMITTEE

K. PUBLIC COMMENTS

(K1) Ashley Keller, Karin Parham, Marlena Bergeron, Howard Johnson and Andres Smith expressed their concerns about what was happening at the Columbia County Library.

L. EXECUTIVE SESSION

(L1) Property

(L1a) David & Deloris Anderson parcel 060061, John Carter II parcel 060054A, William Jr & Bonnie O'leary parcel 067101, Charles Durand parcel 072249 and Gilliam & Kathy McKinnon parcels 072163, 072164 & 072249 to obtain right of way and/or easements for the Hereford Farm Road widening project.

Vice Chair Couch made a motion to approve \$26,700 to David & Deloris Anderson parcel 060061, \$43,800 to John Carter II parcel 060054A, \$24,500 to William Jr & Bonnie O'leary parcel 067101, \$8,000 to Charles Durand parcel 072249 and \$11,900 to Gilliam & Kathy McKinnon parcels 072163, 072164 & 072249 to

obtain right of way and/or easements for the Hereford Farm Road widening project. Commissioner Carraway seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

M. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Couch made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:38 p.m. Commissioner Carraway seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.



Douglas R. Duncan, Jr., Chairman



Patrice R. Crawley, County Clerk