

Regular Meeting Minutes
Jenkins County Board of Commissioners
Tuesday, February 11, 2025
4:00 P.M.

1. The Jenkins County Board of Commissioners met for its Regular Monthly Meeting on Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 4:00 P.M. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room at the James L. Henry Administrative Building. Commissioners in attendance were Chairman Horace Weathersby III, Pamela Dwight, Tracie Coney, Jonathan Powell and Mike Chance. Others in attendance were County Administrator Grady Saxon, Kendall Gross, Mrs. Gwen Watson, Ms. Vivian Johnson, Mr. Sandy Miller, Mr. Emmanuel Watson, Mrs. Debra Hearn, Mrs. Sherri Chance, County Field Director Jason Oglesby, Ms. Julia Lassiter, Mr. Ralph Wadley, Chief Appraiser Vicky Patrick, Ms. Deborah Bennett, Chief Dwayne Herrington, Mrs. Cheryl Tatum, Clerk of Courts Tracey Herrington, Ms. Theola Pierce, Ms. Shanelle Carr, and Ms. Myrtis Reese.
2. Chairman Weathersby called the meeting to order at 4:00 P.M. He gave the Invocation and then led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Weathersby welcomed all those in attendance.
3. Chairman Weathersby called for the approval of the AGENDA. Commissioner Powell stated that one personnel matter needed to be added to Executive Session. Hearing no other changes, a motion was made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner Coney to approve the AGENDA as amended. The motion carried unanimously.
4. Chairman Weathersby called for the approval of the Minutes from the January 14, 2025 Regular Meeting. A motion was made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner Chance to approve the Minutes from the January 14, 2025 Regular Meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.
5. Chairman Weathersby called for the appointment of the new County Attorney for 2025. A motion was made by Commissioner Chance and seconded by Commissioner Powell to appoint Kendall Gross as County Attorney for 2025. Mr. Gross gave a brief description of his career and thanked the Board for the opportunity.
6. Under Personal Appearances, John Bragg presented quotes for a new ambulance. Quotes were as follows: Ten-8: \$319,850.00, Custom Truck and Body Works: \$306,801, and Emergency Vehicle Sales: \$240,535.00 (with no stretcher). Commissioner Powell will investigate the status of the ambulance that is currently in the shop. Attorney Gross will be provided the information necessary to determine if a Lemon Law claim is in order. The request for an ambulance was tabled until further information can be obtained and reviewed.

7. Next under Personal Appearances, Chief Dwayne Herrington presented a situation where a local citizen lives in Jenkins County but the road leading to his home is in Bulloch County. There is a concern about which county would provide public safety to the property. Chairman Weathersby will contact Ronnie Newton in the Bulloch County Tax Assessor's office to discuss the matter. It was also noted that the citizen may need to discuss the matter with the Bulloch County Commissioners.
8. Next under Personal Appearances, Mrs. Gwen Watson expressed concerns over how Hospital Authority members are selected. She asked the Board of Commissioners to get more involved and make the appointments directly. Mrs. Watson stated that it appears that the appointments are already decided before the candidate names are presented to the Hospital Authority. She also stated that the Hospital Authority members are all MEN. She requested that the Hospital Authority submit the names to the Board of Commissioners for appointment.
9. Next under Personal Appearances, Mr. Ralph Wadley from Johnson Chapel Baptist Church followed up Old Garfield Road. Field Director Oglesby stated that he would TRY to ensure that the road was scraped for church services, but a heavy rain after it was scraped created a problem with mud. He requested again that the road be paved. Mr. Wadley stated that the congregation has been dealing with this problem for 20+ years. Field Director Oglesby stated that he confers with Gene Branch when the church is having services and he tries to have the road scraped prior to the service. Mr. Oglesby also stated that the cost of paving was over \$1million per mile.
10. Finally under Personal Appearances, Mr. Kameron Mitchell with the Small Business Administration discussed the availability of low interest loan programs that are available in areas that were presidentially declared as disasters. He stated that this organization work side by side with FEMA in disaster areas.
11. Under Old Business, County Attorney Gross stated that the County must opt-in or opt-out. Counties that opt-in will limit growth of the digest to the rate of the Consumer Price Index. Ad Valorem taxes will be attached to this bill as well. Counties may have to increase millage rates to make up the difference. Counties that opt-in have the option of pursuing a Floating Local Option Sales Tax (FLOST), which is up to an additional penny per dollar on taxable items. Counties that opt-out keep the tax methodology as it is, but the county will not be eligible for the FLOST. Mr. Gross stated however that, since the economy is unpredictable, there is no way to determine the collections through the FLOST. The FLOST would have to be placed on the ballot for voters to approve. Attorney Gross stated that the decision is permanent. Chairman Weathersby called for a vote. A motion was made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner Chance to opt-in to HB 581. The motion carried with three votes in favor. Commissioners Dwight and Coney abstained.
12. Under New Business, Mr. Saxon presented three quotes for the replacement of the Family Enrichment Commission roof that was damaged during Hurricane Helene. The


quotes were as follows: Arnett Roofing: \$10,075.00, Budgett Roofing: \$13,000.00, and Anastacio Zavala: \$9,850.00. A motion was made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner Coney to approve the bid from Anastacio Zavala in the amount of \$9,850.00. The motion carried unanimously.

13. Next under New Business, the Board discussed Hospital Authority recommendations to fill the expiring terms of Robin Scott and Wade Parker, whose terms end in March, 2025. Commissioner Chance recommended Wade Parker, Robin Scott, and Cassandra Hamilton. Commissioner Coney recommended Clarissa Young and Wanda Dwight. Commissioner Dwight recommended Jasmine Watson. A motion was made by Commissioner Coney and seconded by Commissioner Powell to submit these six recommendations to the Hospital Authority. The motion carried unanimously.
14. Finally under New Business, Mr. Saxon stated that the Superior Court Judges had requested a budget increase for the Juvenile Court. He stated that the Commissioners currently provide \$1,223.07 per month for Juvenile Court. The Court has requested an increase to \$1,497.36 per month. State law says that any increases in the court budgets must be approved by the Counties. The Board tabled a request for a budget amendment for Juvenile Court until Judge Muldrew could explain the need for the request.
15. Under Field Director's Report, Field Director Jason Oglesby discussed maintenance needs at various County facilities. He discussed multiple roads that had been repaired recently, including Proctor Road and Lewis Church Road. Grapevine Road, Joe Waters Road, Rabitsch Road, Mays Road, and Harriet Miller Road were still impassible from Hurricane Debby. Old Louisville Road needed additional repairs near the peach farm. Mr. Oglesby stated that these roads were being reviewed by FEMA, who will be visiting the sites tomorrow.
16. Under County Attorney's Report, Attorney Gross thanked the Board for the appointment.
17. Under Administrator's Report, Mr. Saxon reminded the Board that the Legislative Breakfast would be held on Saturday, February 15, 2025 at 9 A.M. at the Café on Cotton. Legislators scheduled to attend are Congressman Rick Allen, Senator Max Burns, Representative L.C. Myles, and a representative from Senator Raphael Warnock's office.
18. Next under Administrator's Report, Mr. Saxon stated that he now has access to the Chamber of Commerce website. Agendas and Minutes will be posted there.
19. Next under Administrator's Report, Mr. Saxon reminded the Board that the ACCG Annual Conference in Savannah will be held on April 24-27, 2025. Mr. Saxon will need additional information for those Commissioners planning to attend.
20. Next under Administrator's Report, Mr. Saxon reported that work has begun for the new Helipad at the Hospital.


21. Next under Administrator's Report, Mr. Saxon reported that the County had filed for an extension to complete the CDBG 2022 project, which includes BB Lane. The new deadline for completion is May 30, 2025.
22. Next under Administrator's Report, Mr. Saxon reported that the Commissioners had been invited to the grand opening of ROX Foundation, Inc. on March 8, 2025 from 10-noon at 811 Cotton Avenue. This is a nonprofit service organization founded by Krystal Coney. Their mission is to offer resources including job fairs, hygiene products, and engaging events.
23. Next under Administrator's Report, Mr. Saxon announced that Chairman Weathersby and Mr. Saxon had recently met with Mayor King Rocker and City Manager Jeff Brantley regarding landfill expenses and other concerns. They would like to set up a joint meeting between the full Board and City Council soon in order to discuss these matters. More details will be forthcoming.
24. Next under Administrator's Report, Mr. Saxon reported that a fraud attempt had occurred on one of the County's secondary accounts about a month ago. Another attempt was made on the same account on January 31, 2025. The bank recommended closing the account and open a new one. New signature cards will be presented to the Board today.
25. Finally under Administrator's Report, Mr. Saxon reported that the Extension Office AC install is complete and the staff is working comfortably.
26. Under Chairman's Report, Chairman Weathersby stated that he would not be present at the March 11 meeting.
27. A motion was made by Commissioner Coney and seconded by Commissioner Powell to enter Executive Session at 5:35 P.M. The motion carried unanimously.
28. A motion was made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner Coney to exit Executive Session at 5:53 P.M. The motion carried unanimously. All commissioners signed an affidavit stating that only two personnel matters and one matter of potential litigation were discussed.
29. A motion was made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner Coney to promote Molly Arnold to full time and to increase the annual salary of Wanda Burke (Magistrate) by \$5,000. The motion carried unanimously.
30. Chairman Weathersby adjourned the meeting at 5:55 P.M.


Chairman Horace Weathersby III

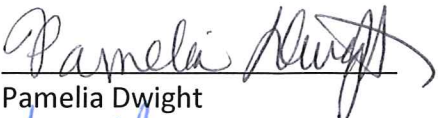

Mike Chance



Tracie Coney



Jonathan Powell



Pamela Dwight



Attest: Grady Saxon, Administrator