Thomson & Dearing McDuffie County, Georgia

MCDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Session Meeting
Tuesday, July 15, 2025, at 6:30 PM
Government Complex Commissioner Room
MINUTES

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:
Chase Beggs, Chairman
Sammie Wilson Sr., Vice Chairman
Bill Jopling, Commissioner
Steven Hollimon, Commissioner

COUNTY REPRESENTATION:
Dave Headley, Interim County Manager
Ashtyn Goodyear, County Clerk
Ruthie Thomas, HR Director
Robert Spurlin, IT Director
Stephen Sewell, Fire/EMS Chief
Paul Johnson, Coroner
Stephanie Walker, Senior Center Director
Leslie Walker, Planning & Zoning Director

MEDIA: None

WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Beggs called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm, acknowledged a quorum of commissioners present and welcomed everyone in attendance.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Reverend Melvin Ransom from Liberty Temple Ministries, COGIC offered the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC INPUT

Becky Craven – Becky states she hates to beat this horse so bad, but that she is back again to bring attention to Bowden Pond Rd. She asked for the entire road to be paved, and was told that wasn't feasible, so she asked about Goett Rd to Fort Creek, and now that has been put off for a year. She states that something has got to be done that there are two sections that can not wait a year. She asks the board to please do something. Becky says that the gravel being put out is not correcting the issue. She states that it is getting so bad that it is going to tear up someone's car. Chairman Beggs spoke to Becky and told her that Interim County Manager Dave Headley would be meeting with her to see this area of the road. Becky says a whole section needs to be cut out. Commissioner Hollimon stated that if Becky was not available to ride with Dave, that he would be available.

Casey Phillips – Casey states that he spent 8 years in the DYB organization in Wrens, GA, and his wife and kids are a part of the McDuffie County school systems, and he wants to share why his family chose Wrens over Thomson. Casey was disappointed at how the league had changed since he was there. He says that there was no structure, discipline, and he felt like it was less teaching of the game and avoiding hard lessons and that this sets kids up failure. Casey urges the community to support Diamond Youth Baseball and to let us come together and build a strong team. He mentioned a side note that 43% (63/139) are playing in wrens but are from Mcduffie and Warren County. He says this is due to the structure that Wrens has, and that people are going there to have a better opportunity.

Austin Cooper – Austin states that he hopes everyone is doing well and that he wants to share some key points regarding the recent proposal of Diamond Youth Sports. Austin believes that the recent proposal for DYB has the potential to drive positive change, but that the proposal is not quite to the standard compared to other organizations. Austin believes that no organizations in this area thrive off volunteers or operate this way. The initial goal is to establish a nonprofit organization. Austin says that with research that the department being County ran would be the best option. He gives an update that his petition in support of improving the delivery of softball and baseball at Sweetwater and has 627 signatures and continues to grow. Austin says no matter what is decided that improvements are needed. He reiterates that he hopes to assist the community on the Recreation Advisory Board. Chairman Beggs asked Dave Headley are there any updates on any of the structural projects. Dave Headley states that we are working on getting the infrastructures fixed, but that there has been no more talk about DYB.

APPROVALS

Agenda (Current)
Chairman Beggs asked if there were any corrections to the current agenda or minutes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hollimon to approve the current agenda as written and was seconded by Vice Chairman Wilson and passed unanimously.

Minutes
Regular Session – July 2, 2025
Regular Session REVISED – April 2, 2025

Chairman Beggs asked the board to look over the minutes. Commissioner Hollimon made a motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jopling and passed unanimously.

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENT

1. Ribbon Cutting for Comcast is August 6th at 2pm. This was not on the agenda, as it was received after the agenda was prepared.

APPOINTMENT/REAPPOINTMENT None
OLD BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Consideration to Approve One-Day Liquor License for McTell Festival**
Leslie Walker presented this. Mr. Don Powers has submitted all the appropriate paperwork, but the Planning and Zoning department has not received Don's background check. The department recommends approving this license with the condition of the background check passing.

   Vice Chairman Wilson made the motion to approve this One-Day License. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jopling and passed unanimously.

2. **Consideration to Approve Emergency FY26 Sub-Contractor Coordinated Transportation Agreement**
Stephanie Walker presented this. Deanna specialists pay for the seniors to come to the center. Deanna has decided to step back, resulting in needing this Emergency agreement. The heart of Georgia of Regional Commission is going to take over. Stephanie says that Deanna was only paying $8 a trip, and the heart of Georgia will be paying $15 to bring a senior to the center. This

agreement is from July 1, 2025 – September 30, 2025. Chairman Beggs asked if they have said what they will do after September. Stephanie says no, but she is waiting on a budget total.

Commissioner Jopling made the motion to approve this Emergency Agreement. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Wilson and passed unanimously.

3. **Consideration to Approve Lexipol Master Service Agreement**
   Chief Sewell presented this. He is asking for approval to work with this service agreement company that he believes will help with the risk management portion of this department. This company provides state specific customizable policies for them and automated updates as laws and standards change. This agreement provides training, this is different than what we have now. Currently, the classes for training to do not update like they should. Augusta fire, Grovetown, and several Aiken County departments are using this service agreement. This is a line item in his approved budget. The online training we were using has not been used due to it not having updated training. Next years cost will not be as much – it is more this year including a set up fee. This goes into effect as soon as we sign the contract.

   Vice Chairman Wilson made the motion to approve this Lexipol Agreement. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jopling and passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. **Personnel**

Enter: Vice Chairman Wilson made the motion to enter executive session at 6:58pm. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jopling and passed unanimously.
Exit: Commissioner Jopling made the motion to exit executive session and return to regular session at 7:43 pm. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Wilson and passed unanimously.

REGULAR SESSION CONTINUED

There was no discussion after Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Wilson to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:44pm, seconded by Commissioner Jopling and passed unanimously.

MCDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Chase N. Beggs

Chase N. Beggs, Chairman

ATTEST: Ashtyn L. Goodyear

Ashtyn L. Goodyear, County Clerk