



MCDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Work Session Meeting

Monday, August 4, 2025, at 6:30 PM

Second Floor Training Room

MINUTES

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Chase Beggs, Chairman
Sammie Wilson Sr., Vice Chairman
Bill Jopling, Commissioner
Fredrick Favors, Commissioner
Steven Hollimon, Commissioner

COUNTY REPRESENTATION:

Dave Headley, Interim County Manager
Ashtyn Goodyear, County Clerk
Ruthie Thomas, HR Director
Pam Workman, Finance Director
Stephen Sewell, Fire/EMS Chief
Trevor Welcher, Recreation Director
Leslie Walker, Planning & Zoning Director
Paul Johnson, Coroner

MEDIA: None

WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Beggs

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Beggs

COMMISSIONERS' WORK SESSION

All agenda items are for discussion only. No action was taken during the meeting.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Discussion Concerning Adopting Resolution for Temporary Tax Relief for Timber

Dave Headley presented this and explained to the Commissioners information regarding the temporary tax relief for timber. Headley explained this is not mandatory. The Georgia timber tax proposals include the TREES Act, which aims to provide temporary tax relief for timber property severely damaged by Hurricane Helene. The act allows local governing authorities to grant tax exemptions for eligible standing timber during the last quarter of 2024 and all of 2025. Timber property owners can apply for this relief by submitting a certification form from the Georgia Forestry Commission that verifies their land was significantly damaged. The state will provide grants calculated based on previous timber tax revenues and estimated damage to help local governments offset potential timber tax revenues and estimated damage to help local governments offset potential revenue losses. The bill defines "severely damaged" timber as requiring salvage thinning or clear-cutting and establishes criteria for assessing timber damage.

This item needs to be looked over more and will be added to the agenda for Tuesday, August 19, 2025, meeting.

2. Discussion Concerning Appointing Tax Commissioner Stacey Thomas to Authorize the Grants for Timber Relief

Dave Headley presented this and explained that if the Board of Commissioners decide to go forward with the Grant for Timber Relief that Tax Commissioner Stacey Thomas would be appointed to handle the applications for this grant.

This item will be added to the agenda for Tuesday, August 19, 2025.

3. Discussion Concerning Appointing Commissioner Favors to the IDA Board

Chase presented this. Gloria Thompson was on the board and recently resigned. Commissioner Favors showed interest in being on this board.

This item will be added to the next meeting agenda.

4. Discussion Concerning Appointing Commissioner Hollimon to the Recreation Advisory Board

Chase presented this. Commissioner Favors would like to give his seat to the Recreation Advisory board to Commissioner Hollimon.

This item will be added to the next meeting agenda.

5. Discussion Concerning Reappointing Michelle Parnell to the Library Board

Chase presented this. Michelle's term expired the end of July. She has been a great asset to the board, and we would like to reappoint her.

This item will be added to the next meeting agenda.

6. Discussion Concerning Recognizing Animal Services Director Catherine Kirby

Chase presented this. Catherine received a "No Kill" plaque and deserves to be recognized for her and her staff for their hard work.

This item will be added to the next meeting agenda.

7. Discussion Concerning Recreation Advisory Board Updates

Director Welcher presented this. He was asked to present this board with new Bylaws and Ordinance. Welcher's recommendation is for the board to look over the proposed Bylaws and Ordinance. These documents are being discussed and have not been adopted.

This item needs further discussion before it will be added to the next agenda.

8. Discussion Concerning Adding Eubanks Building Rental Fee to the Schedule of Fees

Director Welcher presented this. We did not have any rental fees added into our schedule of fees for Eubank Park.

This item will be added to the next meeting agenda.

9. Discussion Concerning Ordinance Amendment 25-02 to Establish Revised Fees for Lighting Districts

Pam presented this item and explained the new prices vs last years prices.

This item will be added to the next meeting agenda

10. Discussion Concerning Coroner Paul Johnson's Request to Build a Morgue

Coroner Johnson presented this item. He stated he has been trying to get approval for a morgue for approximately 8 years. Coroner Johnson expressed he takes great pride in his job, and he wants to be able to do his job respectfully, and that involves having a morgue. Coroner Johnson shared a few stories explaining the need for this to be built. Interim County Manager is in contact with an architect to get some plans together.

This item needs further discussion before being added to the agenda.

11. Discussion Concerning the McDuffie Transit Procurement Policy

Pam presented this. She explains that the State is very specific on the verbiage of this agreement and that there was a change to section 5.2.2 which is regarding who can approve purchases at a certain dollar amount. This policy mirrors page 19 of the current policy. Pam stated if there are any questions to call her.

This item will be added to the next meeting agenda.

12. Discussion Concerning the School Affiliation Agreement with Piedmont Healthcare

Chief Sewell presented this item. This agreement is something we need for training and does not cost the county money. The county attorney has seen this document and approved it.

This item will be added to the next meeting agenda.

13. Discussion Concerning the Contract for Technical Services CSRA Regional Commission

Chief Sewell presented this item. This must be updated every five years. The regional commission has helped with the last updates. GEMA provides the grant money. This does not cost the county.

This item will be added to the next meeting agenda.

14. Discussion Concerning New McDuffie County Signs

Clerk Goodyear presented this item. She stated that Lori has been working on this project and that she wanted approval of the looks of the signs by the Commissioners before moving forward.

This item will not be added to the next meeting agenda, due to the price, Interim County Manager has the authority to approve these signs.

15. Discussion Concerning the Fees Associated with Building Permits, Roofing, and Inspections

Wes Swinson presented this item. He explained how these fees needed to be added. Wes has done extensive research into other counties and their fees, and while doing this research learned that we are losing money on not having these fees intermitted.

This item will be added to the agenda for the meeting on Tuesday, August 19, 2025.

16. Discussion Concerning the 2025 Budget Amendments

Pam presented this item. She wanted to amend the budget to show the board where we are at for the year.

This item will be added to the next meeting agenda.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – PERSONNEL, LITIGATION, PROPERTY

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Wilson to move into Executive Session at 8:05pm, seconded by Commissioner Jopling. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Wilson to end Executive Session at 9:29pm.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Hollimon to adjourn the regular session at 9:30pm, seconded by Vice Chairman Wilson.

MCDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Chase N. Beggs, Chairman

ATTEST: 

Ashtyn L. Goodyear, County Clerk