



MCDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Session Meeting
Tuesday, August 19, 2025 at 6:30 PM
Government Complex Commissioner Room
MINUTES

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Chase Beggs, 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
Robert Spurlin, IT Director
Leslie Walker, Planning & Zoning Director
Paul Johnson, Coroner
Chief Sewell, Fire & EMS
Trevor Welcher, Recreation Director

MEDIA: McDuffie Progress

WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Beggs called the meeting to order at 10:00 am, acknowledged a quorum of commissioners present and welcomed everyone in attendance.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pastor Gary Caudill from Washington Heights Baptist Church offered the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC INPUT

1. Terry Rayford –

Terry greeted the commissioners and addressed a water issue on his street. He brought printed pictures for the commissioners to view as well. Mr. Rayford said he is unsure if it a city or county issue, but that it smells very bad. Mr. Rayford said he has not seen anyone out to look at the issue yet. Mr. Rayford said there's a drain in the road and when it rains it causes the water to redirect right into his yard. Chairman Beggs assured him Public Works Director, Torrie Battle will know about the issue, and we will try to get someone out as soon as possible.

2. Becky Craven –

Becky said that she is back again about Bowden Pond Road. She asked if there were any updates on this road, that she sees where we came and put gravel in it, but that by the weekend the holes and ruts will be back. Ms. Craven says that the gravel was put in today. Chairman Beggs asked if we could get this road patched. Commissioner Hollimon said the holes are too big for our equipment. Interim County Manager stated that it is added to our 2026 road list. Ms. Craven wanted to know if the bad areas of the road could be cut out. Commissioner Hollimon stated that if we have any funds left over after ER Snell FDR project that we could use them for this road. Interim County Manager stated that we are not at the point to know about these funds yet. Ms. Craven said she'll be back.

3. Marketa Hunt –

Marketa stated she has a property on Ellington Airline Road, and they must turn onto Iron Stone Road, and that with all the rain we are having, that you must drive on the roughest part of the drive that the road is washing away. Ms. Hunt stated if you come off Hobbs Mill Road to try and avoid this area, you'll end up needing an alignment in your vehicle. Ms. Hunt said that this road has been like this for some time.

4. Waldo Massey –

Waldo greeted the Commissioners and said that he and his friends on Wrightsboro Road want to say thank you for the homes and sewage. He followed this statement with asking when we are going to get the roads finished. Mr. Massey thanked Chairman Beggs and Commissioner Favors for coming to look at this area. Mr. Massey said people are asking him when the roads will be fixed. Chairman Beggs said that these roads are on our FDR list that will start at the beginning of September. Mr. Massey asked about the rest of the sewage project. Chairman Beggs stated that this is through an EPA grant, and we are waiting on the process of the grant to get the job started. Mr. Massey said there is a woman who can't live in her house because of raw sewage and mold and that it is not her fault, that it is because businesses decided to build there and cause sewage to back up and that it is not right and that we need to address these things. Interim County Manager said he will look at it. Mr. Massey said someone who is not even in office anymore is trying to make promises. Mr. Massey asked us to do the people right and not to gaslight the people like the previous administration. Mr. Massey said Chairman Beggs is doing the best he can with what he has been given.

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 Commissioner Jopling and passed unanimously.

Minutes

Executive Session – August 4, 2025

Regular Session – August 6, 2025

Executive Session – August 6, 2025

Revised Regular Session – May 20, 2025

Chairman Beggs asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. Commissioner Jopling made a motion to approve all sets of the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hollimon and passed unanimously.

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENT

1. McDuffie County Campgrounds have updated their phone numbers and procedures. Call 706-595-6759, during business hours, this number will connect you directly, no menu prompts. There will be live reservations and customer service Monday – Friday, 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM, during these hours, calls for both campgrounds will be handled by one representative. After 4:00 PM, calls will go directly to the respective manager or camp host for registered camper assistance. Each campground now has its own dedicated voicemail, and there is no more third mailbox to monitor.
2. Youth Leadership McDuffie applications are now open. The Thomson-McDuffie Chamber of Commerce is searching for high school juniors who live in McDuffie County and have that special spark for leadership. The Youth-Leadership McDuffie applications are now

open to students attending Thomson High School, Warrenton High School, Briarwood Academy, or homeschooling. Must be a McDuffie County Resident. The deadline is Saturday, August 23, 2025. If you are interested in an application, you can reach out to the Chamber of Commerce or the County Clerk.

3. The Thomson Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Job and Resource Fair on August 23rd from 10am-2pm at Sweetwater Park Gym. This is an opportunity to explore careers right here in the community, learn about the services and programs available to you and your family, and to support your local businesses and organizations.

APPOINTMENT/REAPPOINTMENT

None

OLD BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Consideration to Approve Ordinance Amendment 25-02; 2nd Reading, Special Lighting District**

Chairman Beggs explained that this is a second reading of the Street Light Ordinance and was approved at our last meeting.

Commissioner Jopling made the motion to approve this ordinance. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hollimon and passed unanimously.

2. **Consideration to Approve Resolution for Temporary Property Tax Relief for Timber**

Chairman Beggs explained that this is a state program that will allow timber properties who received significant damage during hurricane Helene to apply through the Georgia Forestry commission and get a credit back for the 4th quarter of 2024 and quarters of 2025 as well. The state would reimburse the county for the ad valorem tax. Interim County Manager stated that what we are needing from the Board of Commissioners is to allow the Chairman to sign the Resolution once it has gone through legal review.

Commissioner Hollimon made a motion to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Favors and passed unanimously.

3. **Consideration to Appoint Tax Commissioner Stacey Thomas to Authorize the Grants for Timber Relief**

Commissioner Jopling asked if we could combine this line item with the previous item. Commissioner Favors stated that we needed to vote on it separate. Interim County Manager Dave Headley said the Tax Commissioner would be the one to administer this.

Commissioner Hollimon made a motion to approve this appointment. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jopling and passed unanimously.

4. **Consideration to Approve Purdue Direct Settlement**

Chairman Beggs said we are combining this line item and the one below. Chairman Beggs gives information on these two settlements from the County Attorney. Purdue Pharma was the company at the center of the opioids crisis for aggressively marketing OxyContin. That's why its settlement amount is so large (and why the family is paying it). We filed suit in 2018 against several defendants in connection with the Opioids crisis and were joined in one lawsuit with other Cities, Counties and states, among others. We have two settlements that our lead counsel has advised the County to participate in, Purdue and Sandoz. Both were named as defendants in our lawsuit, and if we don't submit the required forms to participate then we will

not receive any payment from the settlements. Purdue Pharma is a manufacturer that is currently in bankruptcy and has been dissolved. The settlement related to Purdue involves the Sackler family, the former owners of Purdue, paying 6.5 billion in 16 payments over 15 years, including 1.5 billion on the effective date, expected to be in 2026. This is in addition to an expected 900 million available from the Purdue bankruptcy estate. This will then be distributed per the allocation distribution percentages in existence between all participating Cities, Counties and states. Sandoz was a generic manufacturer that exited the opioid market in 2019. Under its settlement, it is paying in \$99,500,000 to the settlement fund. This will also be distributed per the allocation distribution percentages in existence. To be effective, 85% of the litigating entities must participate, and if this occurs it is anticipated we will receive payment from the settlement in the next year.

Commissioner Favors made a motion to approve these settlement agreements. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jopling and passed unanimously.

5. Consideration to Approve Sandoz Settlement

Combined with line item 4.

6. Consideration to Use Reserve Funds

Pam presented this and asked for the Board to approve moving \$500,000 of reserve funds from Atlanta to the General Fund for operations. Pam said these will not be needed until the first of September, but due to the holiday she wanted to ask ahead of time. Chairman Beggs asked if Pam could explain the reserve funds to the board and why it is on the agenda again. Pam stated that the reserve funds are kept in Atlanta because we can earn 4.5% interest using this account, which is the highest amount you can earn. Pam stated that we must seek the approval from the board each time we do this due to the counties policy. Chairman Beggs asked was there any update on FEMA checks. Pam said she has not heard from FEMA, but that the GEMA funds have been sitting in holding but that there are multiple things going on behind the scenes. We are on week 7 of the process.

Commissioner Favors made a motion to approve the use of reserve funds. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hollimon and passed unanimously.

7. Budget Report

Pam presented the Budget Report for July 2025. A copy of this can be found in the Agenda Packet

8. Financial Report

Pam presented the Financial Report. A copy of this can be found in the Agenda Packet.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Personnel, Property

Enter: Commissioner Favors made a motion to enter Executive Session at 7:03pm. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jopling and passed unanimously.

Exit: Commissioner Hollimon made a motion to exit Executive Session and return to Regular Session at 8:04pm. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jopling and passed unanimously.

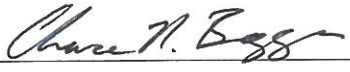
REGULAR SESSION CONTINUED

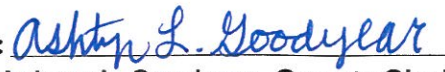
There was no discussion after Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Hollimon to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:05pm. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jopling and passed unanimously.

MCDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Chase N. Beggs, Chairman

ATTEST: 
Ashtyn L. Goodyear, County Clerk