



MCDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Session Meeting
Wednesday, February 4, 2026, at 10:00 AM
Government Complex Commissioner Room
MINUTES

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

COUNTY REPRESENTATION:

Brandon Burton, County Manager
Ashtyn Goodyear, County Clerk
Pam Workman, Finance Director
Robert Spurlin, IT Director
Ruthie Thomas, HR Director
Paul Johnson, Coroner
Torrie Battle, Public Works Director
Trevor Welcher, Recreation Director
Catherine Kirby, Animal Services Director

MEDIA: McDuffie Progress

PUBLIC BID OPENING - RAYSVILLE

County Manager Burton addressed the board and the public with a bid received for the Raysville Fire station (2025-12-001). This bid opening had several timely bids received, unfortunately due to a staff error, there were other bids received in a timely manner that were left in a safe during the bid opening. In consultation with our attorney and procurement law, we are opening these in a public meeting. Building Pieces submitted their bid on 1/6/26 at 11:30 am, their bid was rejected due to inaccuracy, they submitted a bid for a different project but wrote that it was for the Raysville Fire Station project. The next bid was from RGC Construction, and their bid was \$298,069.00. We will check the bid package for accuracy, and once we have checked them, we will bring them to the board.

WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Beggs called the meeting to order at 10:02 am, acknowledged a quorum of commissioners present and welcomed everyone in attendance.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Coroner Paul Johnson offered the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVALS

1. Agenda (Current)

Chairman Beggs asked if there were any corrections to the current agenda or minutes. County Manager Burton asked to amend the agenda to add pending litigation to executive session. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Wilson to approve the agenda with the amendment to add pending litigation to executive session. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jopling and passed unanimously.

2. Minutes

Regular Session – January 20, 2026
Executive Session – January 20, 2026

Emergency Called Session – January 24, 2026
Joint Called Work Session – January 29, 2026

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

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

3. 2026 ACCG Capitol Connection Conference – March 4-5, 2026
4. Spring Sports Registration
5. Community Listening Session is February 18, 2026, at 8:30am and 6:00pm. The morning session is at the Thomson Depot; the evening session is at the Thomson-McDuffie Middle School Cafeteria.
6. Recognition of Torrie Battle – Advanced Certificate of Public Works Management

STAFF REPORTS

7. County Manager Report –
No comments

APPOINTMENT/REAPPOINTMENT

8. **Consideration to Appoint Ron Hulbert to the Rock House Advisory Commission**
At work session we discussed this appointment. Epp Wilson has been on this committee for many years and has enjoyed his time, but he believes it is time to let someone else be involved. Mr. Hulbert has also served on the Wrightsboro Foundation. There are two seats on the Rock House Advisory excluded for Wrightsboro Foundation. The Wrightsboro Foundation is accepting of Mr. Hulbert joining this Committee. This is a 4-year term. Epp's was 2025-2028, so Mr. Hulbert would be completing Epp's term.

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

NEW BUSINESS

9. **ACO Report for January 2026**
County Manager Burton presented this report. There was a decrease to the Property Tax Digest of \$50.28 due to appeals being settled for 2025. There were no changes to the Mobile Home Digest.

Commissioner Jopling made a motion to approve this ACO report. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Wilson and passed unanimously.

10. **Timber Report for January 2026**
County Manager Burton presented this report. The 4th quarter of 2024 needs approval to refund \$959.65. The 1st quarter of 2025 needs approval to refund \$462.17; divest \$174.84 which includes \$56.78 in interest and penalties. The 2nd quarter of 2025 needs approval to refund \$86.29. The total refunds for January are \$1,508.11.

Commissioner Jopling made a motion to approve this timber report. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Favors and passed unanimously.

11. Consideration to Award Roof Replacement

Burton presented this item. We received bids for the soon-to-be elections building behind the old gym and for the Public Works building. Burton is suggesting we award the bid to Traxxle Contracting who is the lowest bid. This company has experience in doing this kind of work for other larger governments, and their references checked out well. Commissioner Jopling asked how this will be paid for. FEMA/Insurance will be paying for the Public Works roof and Elections, and a grant will be paying for the soon-to-be elections building roof as well. This bid does not include mold remediation for the soon-to-be elections building. Once the roof is fixed, we will begin work on the inside.

Commissioner Favors made a motion to award this roof replacement. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Wilson and passed unanimously.

12. Consideration to Approve the Cancellation of the March 4th meeting due to ACCG Capitol Conference

The annual conference falls on the same date as a planned meeting. This meeting will be cancelled. If there is a need to call a meeting to handle any business, we will do so.

Commissioner Favors made a motion to approve cancelling this meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jopling and passed unanimously.

13. Consideration to Approve Public Hearing date for Proposed Data Center

Out of complete transparency, we want to tell the public that the Planning Commission public hearing will be on March 3, 2026, at 6:30 pm. We are currently working on setting a date to have a possible listening session for the public. The Board of Commissioners will have their public hearing on March 17th. This is normal practice to have these meetings set on these dates; however, we want to be transparent in letting the public know when these meetings will be taking place. Commissioner Hollimon asked if we will only have one public hearing, and Burton told him that it is up to the Board. Commissioner Hollimon asked if there is going to be a Q&A at any of these meetings, and Burton told him that if the Board wants to set a date to have this done, we will do so.

Commissioner Jopling made a motion to approve this public hearing date. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Wilson and passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – PERSONNEL, PENDING LITIGATION

Enter: Commissioner Hollimon made a motion to enter executive session at 10:20am. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Favors and passed unanimously.

Exit: Commissioner Hollimon made a motion to exit executive session at 11:03am. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Favors and passed unanimously.

ACTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION (if any)

14. Authorize County Manager to send RFP for Forensic Auditor

Commissioner Jopling made a motion to authorize issuing an RFP for a forensic auditor. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hollimon and passed unanimously.

15. Authorize County Manager to send RFP for Annual Auditor

Commissioner Jopling made a motion to authorize issuing an RFP for an annual auditor. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hollimon and passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Hollimon to adjourn the regular meeting at 11:09am. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Wilson and passed unanimously.

MCDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Chase N. Beggs, Chairman

ATTEST: 
Ashtyn L. Goodyear, County Clerk