



MCDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Session Meeting

Wednesday, November 5, 2025 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

Stacey Thomas, Tax Commissioner

Gina Timmerman, Clerk of Superior Court

MEDIA: None

WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Beggs called the meeting to order at 10:01 am, acknowledged a quorum of commissioners present and welcomed everyone in attendance.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Dr. Mark Sellers from Marshall Baptist Church offered the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVALS

Agenda (Current)

Chairman Beggs asked if there were any corrections to the current agenda or minutes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Jopling to approve the current agenda as written. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hollimon and passed unanimously.

Minutes

Regular Session – October 21, 2025

Executive Session – October 21, 2025

Special Called Session – October 28, 2025

Work Session – November 3, 2025

Executive Session – November 3, 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 Favors and passed unanimously.

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Youth Basketball & Cheer 2026 - Early Registration Begins October 5th - 19th, Regular Registration October 20th - December 8th.
2. Monthly Alzheimer's and Dementia Support Group Meetings – Wednesday, November 5, 2025 at 10:00 am at the Thomson First Methodist Church

3. Free Diabetes Education – Class begins November 12, 2025 from 4:30pm – 5:30 pm at the McDuffie County Extension Office
4. Preventing and Prosecuting Crimes Against Canines Workshop is November 17, 2025 from 8:30 am – 4:00 pm, at the Government Center in the 1st Floor Conference Room
5. Fall Baseball/Softball Camp - November 13th - December 11th - Registration is Open
6. McDuffie 4-H for Full S.T.E.A.M. Ahead Club – November 17, 2025 from 5:30pm – 6:45pm at the 4-H office
7. McDuffie 4-H for a Level Up Pathfinders club – November 20, 2025 from 5:30pm – 6:45pm at the McDuffie 4-H Office
8. The Toombs Judicial Circuit District Attorney's office will be having a Record Clearing Event at the Thomson Housing Authority on Saturday, November 22, 2025, starting at 11:00 AM.
9. Thanksgiving Luncheon is at 1:00 pm on November 24, 2025 at the Depot
10. Christmas Luncheon is at 1:00 pm on December 17, 2025 at the Depot

APPOINTMENT/REAPPOINTMENT None

OLD BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Timber Relief for November 2025

This item was presented by Tax Commissioner, Stacey Thomas. The timber relief is for refunding timber tax collected because of damage caused by Hurricane Helene. For the fourth quarter of 2024, the approved refund amount is \$3,304.62. For the first quarter of 2025, the approved refund amount is \$613. For the second quarter of 2025, the approved refund amount is \$1,362.85. The total refunds for November 2025 are \$5,280.47. Chairman Beggs asked the Tax Commissioner what the process with the state for filing was for these. The Tax Commissioner as informed by the DOR to process the refund to the citizen, after she presents it to the Board of Commissioners, and it is approved. Then, the state will refund the money to the County. The grant total is \$30k. There is no deadline as of this time to request refunds to the timber relief. The data the Tax Commissioner presented is available in the Agenda Packet.

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

2. ACO Report for October 2025

This item was presented by Tax Commissioner, Stacey Thomas. For the property tax digest, \$3,005.05 was removed. These are appeals settled from the Tax Assessor Office. There was no change to the mobile home digest.

Commissioner Jopling made a motion to approve the ACO report for October 2025. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hollimon and passed unanimously.

3. Consideration to Reclassify and Reorganize a Department

Chairman Beggs presented the item. There was no discussion.

Commissioner Hollimon made a motion to reclassify the Planning and Zoning Department. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Favors and passed unanimously.

4. Consideration to Implement a Hiring Freeze

County Manager Burton provided a list of positions in the agenda packet that are open that he wanted to freeze. Adjustments to this list include, a park maintenance worker was filled before the hiring freeze list was generated, and there a few positions that will be filled as needed due to being critical, such as law enforcement and chief tax appraiser. Burton asked for permission to fill these as needed, but to have a hiring freeze with these other open positions to manage cash flow.

Commissioner Jopling made a motion to approve implementing a hiring freeze under these conditions. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hollimon and passed unanimously.

5. Consideration to Approve adding a Vehicle to the Surplus List

Chairman Beggs reminded the Board that we discussed this in the work session.

Commissioner Favors made a motion to approve adding this vehicle to the surplus list. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hollimon and passed unanimously.

6. Consideration to Approve CSRA Food Services Agreement

Chairman Beggs reminded the Board that we discussed this in the work session.

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

7. Consideration to Approve SpyGlass Agreement

Chairman Beggs reminded the Board that we discussed this in the work session. This company will give us potential cost savings on telecommunication accounts, with the spyglass company receiving 50% of any refund on the cost savings. Commissioner Favors wanted County Manager Burton to explain this more in depth for the public. Burton explained that this company will review all our telecommunication's contracts that we have across the County and making sure we are getting the best rate. If they find a better rate, the County will receive some funds, and the company will as well. There is no upfront cost to the County. For example, if we find out we are overpaying \$1000, we would receive \$500 and the company would receive \$500.

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

8. Consideration to Approve Policy Regarding ARPA Funds

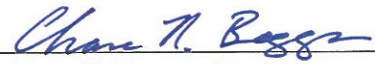
Burton explained that we have gone through past meetings and minutes and cannot find where this policy was approved. This policy is from jurisdictions that received ARPA funds due to COVID-19 must sign this policy. This states that we will use the rules to follow from receiving funds and that the state can audit us if needed. This needed to be on file for a grant, and for the future.

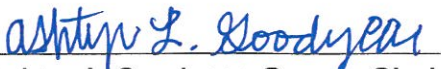
Commissioner Jopling made a motion to approve this policy. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hollimon and passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Hollimon to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:13 am. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Favors and passed unanimously.

MCDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Chase N. Beggs, Chairman

ATTEST: 
Ashtyn L. Goodyear, County Clerk