

**DAWSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
VOTING SESSION MINUTES – THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2023  
DAWSON COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER ASSEMBLY ROOM  
25 JUSTICE WAY, DAWSONVILLE, GEORGIA 30534  
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE 4:00 PM WORK SESSION**

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**ROLL CALL:** Those present were Chairman Billy Thurmond; Commissioner Seth Stowers, District 1; Commissioner Chris Gaines, District 2; Commissioner Alexa Bruce, District 3; Commissioner Emory Dooley, District 4; County Attorney Melissa Tracy; County Clerk Kristen Cloud; and interested citizens of Dawson County. County Manager Joey Leverette was not present.

**OPENING PRESENTATION:**

*Avita Community Partners Presentation- CEO Cindy Levi*

Avita Community Partners CEO Cindy Levi provided an update concerning the organization.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Chairman Thurmond

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion passed 4-0 to approve the Minutes of the Work Session held on December 7, 2023.  
Stowers/Gaines

Motion passed 4-0 to approve the Minutes of the Voting Session held on December 7, 2023.  
Gaines/Stowers

Motion passed 4-0 to approve the Minutes of the Special Called Joint Meeting held on December 8, 2023. Dooley/Bruce

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion passed 4-0 to approve the agenda with the following change:

- Removal of No. 1 under New Business – Final Plat for Peaks of Dawsonville and acceptance of the Offered Dedication of Public Road;
- Addition of item b. under No. 8 Board Appointments under New Business:
  - **b. Tax Assessors**
    - i. Jim Perdue- *reappointment*; or Kandi Bolton- *appointment* (Term: January 2024 through December 2026); and
- Addition of Nos. 9 and 10 under New Business:
  - Request for Approval of FY 2024 State Public Defender Contract
  - Request for Approval of FY 2024 Public Defender Intergovernmental Agreement Between Dawson and Hall Counties

Stowers/Bruce

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None

## **ZONING:**

SU 23-03 - Michael Byrum requests an amendment to setback requirements of a Special Use Permit issued in 2021 for Tax Map Parcel 078-001-002 in the RA (Residential Agriculture) district, located on Dollar Road.

Chairman Thurmond announced that if anyone contributed more than \$250 to the commissioners or chairman in the past two years and wished to speak, they would have to fill out a disclosure form, which would be made available to them. Under the normal program, 10 minutes is given to those who wish to speak in favor of or opposition to with some redirect, time permitting.

Planning & Development's Keith Wilson said the Special Use Permit approved in 2021 stipulated that a manufactured home be placed 300 feet from the right of way on Dollar Road. Wilson said, "The original applicant sold the property to Mr. Byrum before he placed any kind of home there. When Mr. Byrum purchased the property, he went to stake out where he was going to place his manufactured home and realized that it would require, because of the topography, additional clearing of trees, an upgraded septic system, and also additional grading expenses would be incurred" since 300 feet would place the manufactured home between two ridges. Wilson said the applicant requests to place the home 100 feet from the right of way. Wilson said the Planning Commission recommended approval of the application.

Applicant Michael Byrum said he would like to move the setback from 300 feet to 100 feet because of the ridges, additional costs, "not to mention we'd have to probably clear off about another acre of trees to get the home back there." Bryum added, "There is a minor tree line in between the setback and the proposed location..."

Chairman Thurmond opened the hearing by asking if there was anyone present who wished to speak either for or against the application and, hearing none, closed the hearing.

Motion passed 4-0 to approve SU 23-03. Dooley/Bruce

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Consideration of Proposed 2024 Local Maintenance & Improvement Grant Application

Motion passed 4-0 to approve a Proposed 2024 Local Maintenance & Improvement Grant Application. Bruce/Gaines

Consideration of a Resolution to Amend the Transfer Station Fee Schedule

Motion passed 4-0 to approve a Resolution to Amend the Transfer Station Fee Schedule. Bruce/Stowers

Consideration of a Resolution Concerning 2024 Fee Schedule for Newly Contracted Lake Parks

Motion passed 4-0 to approve a Resolution Concerning a 2024 Fee Schedule for Newly Contracted Lake Parks. Dooley/Bruce

Consideration of a Youth Athletics Coaching Initiative

Motion passed 4-0 to approve a Youth Athletics Coaching Initiative. Stowers/Bruce

Consideration of Request to Increase Capitalization Threshold from \$5,000 to \$10,000

Motion passed 4-0 to approve a Request to Increase the County's Capitalization Threshold from \$5,000 to \$10,000. Bruce/Gaines

Consideration of 2024 Board of Commissioners Vice Chair Appointment

Motion passed 3-0 to reappoint District 2 Commissioner Chris Gaines as the 2024 Board of Commissioners Vice Chair. Stowers/Bruce- Commissioner Gaines abstained

Consideration of Board Appointments:

- Construction Board of Adjustment and Appeals

- John Lee- reappointment (Term: January 2024 through December 2025)

- Greg Scott- reappointment (Term: January 2024 through December 2025)

Motion passed 4-0 to reappoint John Lee and Greg Scott to the Construction Board of Adjustment and Appeals for terms of January 2024 through December 2025. Dooley/Gaines

- Tax Assessors

- Jim Perdue- reappointment; or Kandi Bolton- appointment (Term: January 2024 through December 2026)

Motion passed 3-1 to reappoint Jim Perdue to the Tax Assessors board for a term of January 2024 through December 2026. Dooley/Stowers- Commissioner Bruce opposed the motion

Consideration of Request for Approval of FY 2024 State Public Defender Contract

Motion passed 4-0 to approve a Request for Approval of a FY 2024 State Public Defender Contract. Gaines/Bruce

Consideration of Request for Approval of FY 2024 Public Defender Intergovernmental Agreement Between Dawson and Hall Counties

Motion passed 4-0 to approve a Request for Approval of a FY 2024 Public Defender Intergovernmental Agreement Between Dawson and Hall Counties. Stowers/Bruce

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None

**ADJOURNMENT:**

APPROVE:

ATTEST:

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Billy Thurmond, Chairman

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Kristen Cloud, County Clerk