

**DAWSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION MINUTES – THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 2024
DAWSON COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER ASSEMBLY ROOM
25 JUSTICE WAY, DAWSONVILLE, GEORGIA 30534
4:00 PM**

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 Manager Joey Leverette; County Attorney Angela Davis; IT Director Herman Thompson filling in for County Clerk Kristen Cloud; and interested citizens of Dawson County. County Clerk Kristen Cloud was not present.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. *Pre-Application for Community Development Block Grant for a New Public Health Facility (1st of 2 hearings; 2nd hearing will be held at the 6 p.m. August 15, 2024, Voting Session)*

Dawson County Grant Accountant Laurie Whalen discussed the \$1 million Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), with a 10 percent county match, for the construction of a new public health facility / department. She said the county has partnered with the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission (GMRC) to assist in putting together the application.

GMRC's Maggie Smith reviewed the grant application process and procedures (*a detailed presentation accompanies these minutes*).

Chairman Thurmond opened the hearing by asking if there was anyone present who wished to be heard on a Pre-Application for Community Development Block Grant for a New Public Health Facility.

The following spoke on a Pre-Application for Community Development Block Grant for a New Public Health Facility:

- Dr. Larry Anderson, Dawsonville, Georgia, said he is the chairman of the Dawson County Board of Health. "I just want to touch on one particular area that came out of COVID," he said. "We had great planning. We had these great tabletop exercises with avian flu about 10 or 12 years ago; it gave us a good foundation so we were more prepared than a lot of other counties when [COVID] came. But, until you kind of get into it, you don't find out what you're lacking. And what we lacked was the space and ability to do testing and to do the immunizations. Fortunately, we had Rock Creek sports park – we were able to use that facility to do some mass immunizations. But we had nowhere to do the mass testing until we got a tent, and we were outdoors the whole time in the rain, the cold, the wind..." Anderson added, "One of the things we wanted to make sure we have in the design of this new building was a drive-thru area, so the cars can come in, people will be in a safe environment, they will be out of the rain ... [This also will] provide easy access to the building so we can have supplies not run short, and use it for things other than COVID – flu vaccines and whatever else may be coming down the pike. We want to have the facilities available to provide

these services for the individual citizens of this county. That's always been my objective: we do this for one person out in this county, we provide that service, and we keep them healthy.”

- Amy Jusak, Dawsonville, Georgia, said she is the office manager at the Dawson County Health Department. “I just want to speak in support of this wonderful opportunity for us to expand, expand our services, and grow as the community grows,” she said. “We’re serving more people every day, and we’re getting stifled by the [lack of] space. We really hope we can get this grant going and start helping the community even more.”

Chairman Thurmond asked if there was anyone else present who wished to speak on a Pre-Application for Community Development Block Grant for a New Public Health Facility and, hearing none, closed the hearing.

A second public hearing on the matter will be held at 6 p.m. August 15, 2024.

**Attendance and sign-in sheets concerning this agenda item accompany these minutes.*

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Discussion of Recommendations to Chapter 22 Fire Code Related to Fire Flows- County Manager Joey Leverette (*Draft Update of Fire Code Ordinance last discussed at the March 21, 2024, Work Session*)
This item was for discussion only and will appear on a future Work Session Agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Presentation of 2025 Payroll and Holiday Calendar- Human Resources Director Kristi Finley
This item will be placed on the August 15, 2024, Voting Session Agenda.
2. Presentation of RFP #434-24 - A&E Services for Public Health Facility - Community Development Block Grant Award Request- County Manager Joey Leverette / Purchasing Manager Melissa Hawk
This item will be placed on the August 15, 2024, Voting Session Agenda.
3. Presentation of Concept Proposal of Harmony Church Road Multi-Use Site Development- County Manager Joey Leverette
This item was for presentation / discussion only; it will appear on a future Work Session Agenda following solicitation of a design proposal for site work, etc. County Manager Leverette said the project is expected to be done in phases.

4. Presentation of Board Appointments:
 - a. **Joint Development Authority**
 - i. Jere Allen- *replacing Brian Trapnell* (Term: Through December 2024)
 - b. **Parks & Recreation**
 - i. Wayne Goodwin- *replacing Chad Cofield* (Term: Through December 2027)

This item will be placed on the August 15, 2024, Voting Session Agenda.
5. County Manager Report
County Manager Leverette had no information to report.
6. County Attorney Report
County Attorney Davis had no information to report.

APPROVE:

ATTEST:

Billy Thurmond, Chairman

Kristen Cloud, County Clerk