

**DAWSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
VOTING SESSION AGENDA – THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2023  
DAWSON COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER ASSEMBLY ROOM  
25 JUSTICE WAY, DAWSONVILLE, GEORGIA 30534  
TO IMMEDIATELY FOLLOW THE 4:00 PM WORK SESSION**

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**A. ROLL CALL**

**B. OPENING PRESENTATIONS**

1. Recent and Planned Improvements - North Georgia Premium Outlets- Area General Manager Randall Jackson
- [2.](#) Red Ribbon Week 2023 Proclamation

**C. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**D. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- [1.](#) Minutes of the Work Session held on September 21, 2023
- [2.](#) Minutes of the Voting Session held on September 21, 2023

**F. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**G. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**H. NEW BUSINESS**

- [1.](#) Consideration of a Resolution to Initiate Abandonment Procedures for a Portion of Water Plant Road
- [2.](#) Consideration of 2024 Board of Commissioners Meeting Schedule
- [3.](#) Consideration of a Resolution Urging Governor and General Assembly to Continue Efforts to Reform and Improve Mental Health Services for Georgia Citizens

**I. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**J. ADJOURNMENT**

***\*An Executive Session may follow the Voting Session meeting.***

*Those with disabilities who require certain accommodations in order to allow them to observe and/or participate in this meeting, or who have questions regarding the accessibility of the meeting, should contact the ADA Coordinator at 706-344-3666, extension 44514. The county will make reasonable accommodations for those persons.*



**DAWSON COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**‘BE KIND TO YOUR MIND, LIVE DRUG FREE’  
RED RIBBON WEEK 2023**

**PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, the CDC’s Youth Risk Behavior Survey Report shows that substance use among teens is generally decreasing nationally, but still high; and

WHEREAS, 8.8 million young adults reported having a mental illness and 5.1 million young adults reported having a substance use disorder; and

WHEREAS, risk factors for youth high-risk substance use includes mental health issues; and

WHEREAS, deaths due to drug overdose among adolescents nearly doubled from 2019 to 2020; and

WHEREAS, 10 percent of sixth graders statewide have already had alcohol (more than a few sips); and

WHEREAS, one in five Dawson County teens has had at least one drink of alcohol in the past 30 days; and

WHEREAS, clear and consistent expectations from family, school and community about not using drugs and alcohol prevent substance use; and

WHEREAS, V2 invites all residents of Dawson County to participate in Red Ribbon Week “Be kind to your mind. Live Drug Free.”

NOW, THEREFORE, the Dawson County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim October 23-October 31, 2023, as “BE KIND TO YOUR MIND, LIVE DRUG FREE” RED RIBBON WEEK in Dawson County and encourages parents, caregivers and all residents of Dawson County to prevent substance misuse by teaching children about the harmful effects of illicit substance use, underage alcohol use, misuse of prescription drugs, and how they can resist pressure to get involved in the use of the above substances.

This 19<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2023.

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Billy Thurmond, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kristen Cloud, County Clerk

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

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*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 Attorneys Angela Davis and Melissa Tracy; County Clerk Kristen Cloud; and interested citizens of Dawson County.*

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Presentation of Proposed Revisions to Dawson County Ordinances Involving Massage and Bodywork Therapy Businesses and Tattoo / Body Art Businesses- County Attorney Angela Davis (*Tabled from the August 3, 2023, Work Session*)  
***This item, presented by County Attorney Melissa Tracy, will be added to the September 21, 2023, Voting Session Agenda.***

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Presentation of FY 2025 Georgia Department of Transportation / Federal Transit Administration Section 5311 Transit Contract- Senior Services Director Dawn Johnson  
***This item will be added to the September 21, 2023, Voting Session Agenda.***
2. Presentation of a Resolution to Initiate Abandonment Procedures for a Portion of Water Plant Road- Public Works Director Robert Drewry  
***This item will be placed on the October 5, 2023, Voting Session Agenda.***
3. Presentation of a Resolution to Initiate Abandonment Procedures for Palmour Place- Public Works Director Robert Drewry  
***This item may appear on a future Work Session Agenda following the gathering of additional information.***
4. Presentation of Draft Comprehensive Plan Five-Year Update- Planning & Development Director Sharon Farrell  
***This item will be added to the September 21, 2023, Voting Session Agenda for transmittal to the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission.***
5. Presentation of 2024 Board of Commissioners Meeting Schedule- County Clerk Kristen Cloud  
***This item will be placed on the October 5, 2023, Voting Session Agenda.***
6. Presentation of a Resolution Urging Governor and General Assembly to Continue Efforts to Reform and Improve Mental Health Services for Georgia Citizens- Chairman Billy Thurmond  
***This item will be placed on the October 5, 2023, Voting Session Agenda.***

7. County Manager Report

*This item was for information only.*

8. County Attorney Report

*County Attorney Davis had no information to report and requested an Executive Session.*

APPROVE:

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Billy Thurmond, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kristen Cloud, County Clerk

DRAFT

**DAWSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
VOTING SESSION MINUTES – THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 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 Manager Joey Leverette; County Attorney Angela Davis; County Clerk Kristen Cloud; and interested citizens of Dawson County.

**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 September 7, 2023.  
Stowers/Gaines

Motion passed 4-0 to approve the Minutes of the Voting Session held on September 7, 2023.  
Dooley/Bruce

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

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

- Addition of Nos. 7-10 under New Business:
  - Move Forward to a Public Hearing for Proposed Revisions to Dawson County Ordinance Involving Massage and Bodywork Therapy Businesses
  - Move Forward to a Public Hearing for Proposed Revisions to Dawson County Ordinance Involving Tattoo / Body Art Businesses, to Include Consideration of a Sunset Provision
  - FY 2025 Georgia Department of Transportation / Federal Transit Administration Section 5311 Transit Contract
  - Draft Comprehensive Plan Five-Year Update Transmittal to the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission

Stowers/Dooley

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

*Consideration of Request to Use County Facility Parking Lots During Mountain Moonshine Festival*

Motion passed 4-0 to approve a Request to Use County Facility Parking Lots During the 2023 Mountain Moonshine Festival. Dooley/Bruce

Consideration of FY 2024 Intergovernmental Agreement between Dawson County and the Board of Education Concerning School Resource Officers

Motion passed 4-0 to approve a FY 2024 Intergovernmental Agreement between Dawson County and the Board of Education Concerning School Resource Officers. Stowers/Gaines

Consideration of Elliott Road Engineering Services Proposal from Davis Engineering & Surveying

Motion passed 4-0 to approve an Elliott Road Engineering Services Proposal from Davis Engineering & Surveying in the amount of \$34,800 (proposal fee is \$29,000, plus 20 percent contingency for other services); funds will come from General Fund's fund balance. Gaines/Bruce

Consideration of an Intergovernmental Agreement with Pickens County to Accept Recyclables Collected at the Dawson County Recycling Center

Motion passed 4-0 to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement with Pickens County to Accept Recyclables Collected at the Dawson County Recycling Center. Bruce/Stowers

Consideration of IFB #422-23 - Administrative Vehicles for Dawson County Results

Motion passed 4-0 to approve IFB #422-23 - Administrative Vehicles for Dawson County Results; to reject all offers received with the exception of the pricing received from John Megel for a mid-sized SUV (2024 Chevrolet Equinox). \$29,069 will come from Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax funds.

Consideration of Request for Additional Funds for Board of Commissioners Budget

Motion passed 4-0 to approve a Request for Additional Funds for the Board of Commissioners Budget; \$10,600 will come from General Fund's fund balance. Stowers/Dooley

Consideration to Move Forward to a Public Hearing for Proposed Revisions to Dawson County Ordinance Involving Massage and Bodywork Therapy Businesses

Motion passed 4-0 to approve to Move Forward to a Public Hearing for Proposed Revisions to a Dawson County Ordinance Involving Massage and Bodywork Therapy Businesses. Gaines/Stowers

Consideration to Move Forward to a Public Hearing for Proposed Revisions to Dawson County Ordinance Involving Tattoo / Body Art Businesses, to Include Consideration of a Sunset Provision

Motion passed 4-0 to approve to Move Forward to a Public Hearing for Proposed Revisions to a Dawson County Ordinance Involving Tattoo / Body Art Businesses, to Include Consideration of a Sunset Provision. Dooley/Stowers

Consideration of FY 2025 Georgia Department of Transportation / Federal Transit Administration Section 5311 Transit Contract

Motion passed 4-0 to approve a FY 2025 Georgia Department of Transportation / Federal Transit Administration Section 5311 Transit Contract. Gaines/Stowers

Consideration of a Draft Comprehensive Plan Five-Year Update

Motion passed 4-0 to approve the Transmittal of a Draft Comprehensive Plan Five-Year Update to the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission. Stowers/Bruce

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Motion passed 4-0 to enter into Executive Session to discuss litigation. Gaines/Stowers

Motion passed 4-0 to come out of Executive Session. Stowers/Bruce

**APPROVE:**

**ATTEST:**

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Billy Thurmond, Chairman

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Kristen Cloud, County Clerk



## DAWSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AGENDA FORM

Department: **PUBLIC WORKS**

Work Session: September 21, 2023

Prepared By: **ROBERT W. DREWRY, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR**

Voting Session: October 5, 2023

Presenter: **ROBERT W. DREWRY**

Public Hearing: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X

Agenda Item Title: Resolution to initiate abandonment procedures for a portion of Water Plant Road in Dawson County.

### Background Information:

Water Plant Road is a county-maintained road off River Valley Road. The road is access into the water treatment facility owned and operated by the Etowah Water & Sewer Authority. Pursuant to the Official Code of Georgia Annotated ("O.C.G.A.") § 32-7-1, the county is authorized to abandon any public road under its jurisdiction when such abandonment is deemed to be in the public interest.

### Current Information:

Dawson County was approached by Etowah Water & Sewer Authority to formally abandon a portion of Water Plant Road. The Authority wants to be able to relocate the gate further into its property to protect its assets. (See map) The County Attorney's office has been consulted on requirements to abandon county right-of-way. Adoption of attached resolution is step one in the process to abandon public right-of-way. Assuming the board adopts the resolution, abutting property owners will be formerly notified, and notice will publish to hold a public hearing, at which time the board shall consider the proposed abandonment.

Budget Information: Applicable: \_\_\_\_\_ Not Applicable: \_\_\_\_\_ Budgeted: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Fund	Dept.	Acct No.	Budget	Balance	Requested	Remaining
N/A						

### Recommendation/Motion:

Department Head Authorization: \_\_\_\_\_ RWD \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 09/12/2023

Finance Dept. Authorization: Vickie Neikirk

Date: 9/13/23

County Manager Authorization: Joey Leverette

Date: 9/14/23

County Attorney Authorization: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Comments/Attachments:



**A RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF  
DAWSON COUNTY, GEORGIA, TO DETERMINE THAT CERTAIN COUNTY  
RIGHT-OF-WAY NO LONGER SERVES A SUBSTANTIAL  
PUBLIC PURPOSE; TO INITIATE ABANDONMENT PROCEDURES;  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Official Code of Georgia Annotated (“O.C.G.A.”) § 32-7-1, the County is authorized to abandon any public road under its jurisdiction when such abandonment is deemed to be in the public interest;

**WHEREAS**, O.C.G.A. § 32-7-2(b)(1) authorizes a County to abandon a section of the County road system which has for any reason ceased to be used by the public to the extent that no substantial public purpose is served by it or removal of the road is otherwise in the best public interest;

**WHEREAS**, O.C.G.A. § 32-7-2(b)(1) further provides that upon the determination by a County, by certification recorded in its minutes, accompanied by a plat or sketch, that any of its right-of-way has, for any reason, ceased to be used by the public to the extent that no substantial public purpose is served by it or that its removal from the County’s road system is otherwise in the best public interest, the County, and after notice to property owners located thereon, and after notice of such determination is published in the County’s legal organ once a week for a period of two weeks, and after a public hearing on the issue, may declare that section of the County’s road system abandoned;

**WHEREAS**, **Water Plant Road** is a County maintained paved public road identified on the county road system as being 0.10 miles in length off River Valley Road;

**WHEREAS**, a map of **Water Plant Road** is attached hereto and marked as Exhibit “A”;  
and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 32-7-2(b)(1), as cited above, before the County may declare such portions of the Roads abandoned, the processes required thereunder must first be initiated.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Commissioners, and it is hereby resolved by the authority of the same, as follows:

1. That **Water Plant Road**, as shown on the map marked as Exhibit “A,” has ceased to be used by the public to the extent that no substantial public purpose is served by said roads, and the removal of said right-of-way is in the best public interest.
2. The proceedings regarding the abandonment of said portions of **Water Plant Road** herein described shall be initiated.
3. The County Manager, or designee, shall provide notice of the County’s determination in paragraph 1 above to the abutting property owner and shall cause notice of such

determination to be published in the County's legal organ once a week for a period of two weeks prior to a public hearing on the proposed abandonment of **Water Plant Road**.

4. The County Manager, or designee, shall schedule a public hearing for this Board to consider the abandonment of **Water Plant Road** herein described to be held after the above requirements have been met.

**DAWSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

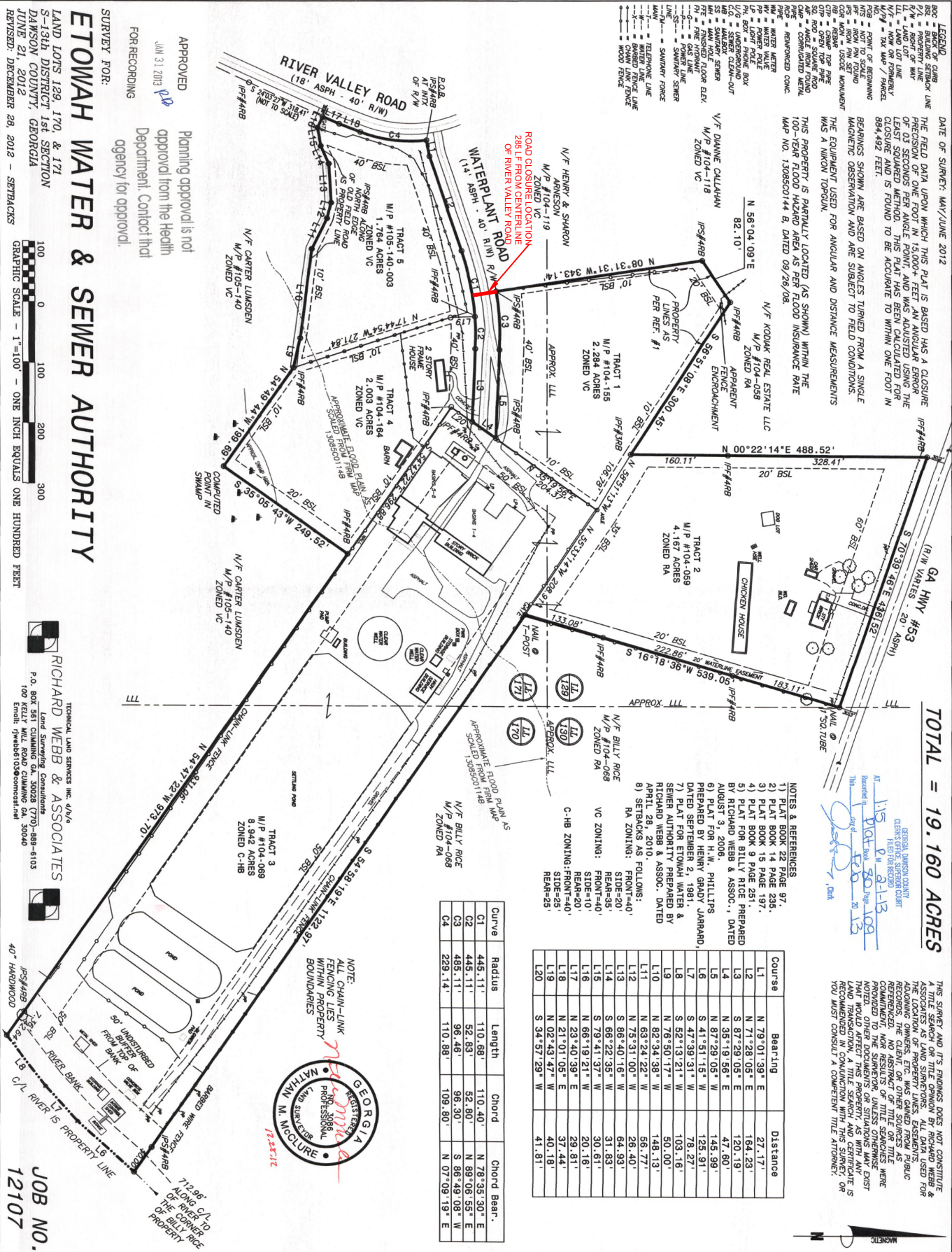
By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Billy Thurmond, Chairman

Attest:

[COUNTY SEAL]

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kristen Cloud, County Clerk

## Exhibit "A"





## DAWSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AGENDA FORM

Department: BOC

Work Session: 09.21.2023

Prepared By: Kristen Cloud

Voting Session: 10.05.2023

Presenter: Kristen Cloud

Public Hearing: Yes ☐ No ☒

Agenda Item Title: Presentation of 2024 Board of Commissioners Meeting Schedule

Background Information:

### BOC Meetings

- Meetings are held the first and third Thursday each month. Work sessions begin at 4 p.m.; voting sessions immediately follow the work sessions; and executive sessions (as needed) follow the voting sessions.

Current Information:

Please see accompanying document: Dawson County Board of Commissioners Proposed Meeting Calendar 2024.

The proposed meeting calendar calls for one work session and one voting session in January (on January 18), as normal; as well as one work session and one voting session in July (on July 18), due to the Fourth of July holiday.

Please note that, as dictated by the county's enabling legislation, this item also will need ratification at the BOC's first meeting of 2024 on January 18. (Section 1-9. "The time, date, and place of the meetings shall be determined by the board in the first meeting of the year.") However, board approval is requested first during the year prior for advanced advertising purposes, which is why the item comes before the board at this time.

Budget Information: Applicable: ☐ Not Applicable: ☒ Budgeted: Yes ☐ No ☐

Fund	Dept.	Acct No.	Budget	Balance	Requested	Remaining

Recommendation/Motion: Approve BOC 2024 Meeting Schedule/Calendar

Department Head Authorization: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Finance Dept. Authorization: Vickie Neikirk

Date: 9/13/23

County Manager Authorization: Joey Leverette

Date: 9/14/23

County Attorney Authorization: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments/Attachments:

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Dawson County Board of Commissioners  
Proposed Meeting Calendar 2024**

**4 p.m. Work Session**

**Voting Session Will Immediately Follow Work Session**

**Executive Session (as needed) Will Immediately Follow Voting Session**

01/18/24
02/01/24
02/15/24
03/07/24
03/21/24
04/04/24
04/18/24
05/02/24
05/16/24
06/06/24
06/20/24
07/18/24
08/01/24
08/15/24
09/05/24
09/19/24
10/03/24
10/17/24
11/07/24
11/21/24
12/05/24
12/19/24

*Note:* Work Session Agenda Items Generally Move Forward To The  
Following Meeting's Voting Session For BOC Consideration

**Meetings are held in the Dawson County Government Center Assembly Room  
(second floor), located at 25 Justice Way, Dawsonville, Georgia 30534.**

**The public is invited to attend.**

**RESOLUTION URGING THE GOVERNOR AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
GEORGIA TO CONTINUE EFFORTS TO REFORM AND IMPROVE  
MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE CITIZENS OF GEORGIA**

WHEREAS, being the constitutional level of government closest to their constituents, Georgia counties are on the front lines of responding to mental health issues within the community as well as the development of mental health reform efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Dawson County Board of Commissioners supports efforts designed to provide every citizen in need to have accessible, affordable and adequate mental health services; and

WHEREAS, the Dawson County Board of Commissioners is grateful for the efforts of Georgia's executive, legislative and judicial branches in working toward mental health reform in recent years, such as the passage of HB 1013 (2022) and introduction of HB 520 (2023), Chief Justice Boggs's work on jail diversion initiatives, and Governor Kemp's commitment to expanding mental health resources in schools for children and young adults; and

WHEREAS, despite these prior steps and successes, the Dawson County Board of Commissioners recognizes that there is still a tremendous amount of work for the citizens of Dawson County and other citizens across Georgia to receive adequate healthcare for mental health and substance abuse disorders; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Dawson County Board of Commissioners that Dawson County Government reaffirms its commitment to reforming and improving mental health services for its citizens and all citizens of the state of Georgia.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that that Dawson County Board of Commissioners specifically urges the governor and General Assembly to continue efforts in the 2024 session of the Georgia General Assembly to enhance Georgia citizens' access to vital mental health services, including the provision of state budgetary funding for additional behavioral health crisis centers across the state, additional co-responder units, and other resources to assist those with mental health and substance abuse disorders.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the clerk to the Board of Commissioners is hereby directed to provide an executed copy of this resolution to each member of the Dawson County delegation to the Georgia Senate and Georgia House of Representatives and to the Association County Commissioners of Georgia.

SO RESOLVED, this 5th day of October, 2023. DAWSON BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Billy Thurmond, Chairman

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Kristen Cloud, Clerk to the Commission