

**DAWSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
VOTING SESSION AGENDA – THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2024
DAWSON COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER ASSEMBLY ROOM
25 JUSTICE WAY, DAWSONVILLE, GEORGIA 30534
TO IMMEDIATELY FOLLOW THE 4:00 PM WORK SESSION**

A. ROLL CALL

B. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

C. ANNOUNCEMENTS

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

E. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

F. PUBLIC COMMENT

G. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Consideration of 9-1-1 Public Safety Call Handling System Upgrade

H. PUBLIC COMMENT

I. 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
WORK SESSION MINUTES – THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2023
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 Attorney Melissa Tracy; County Clerk Kristen Cloud; and interested citizens of Dawson County. County Manager Joey Leverette was not present.

Chairman Thurmond announced that item No. 4 under New Business - Tax Assessors Board Appointment - should be amended to reflect a three-year term, from January 2024 through December 2026.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Presentation of 9-1-1 Public Safety Call Handling System Upgrade- 9-1-1 Director Kristan Bean / Sheriff Jeff Johnson
This item, also presented by AT&T's Jason Eckenstein, will be placed on the January 18, 2024, Voting Session Agenda.
2. Presentation of Request for Approval of FY 2024 State Public Defender Contract- Public Defender Brad Morris / Chief Assistant Public Defender Sarah Willis
This item will be added to the December 21, 2023, Voting Session Agenda.
3. Presentation of Request for Approval of FY 2024 Public Defender Intergovernmental Agreement Between Dawson and Hall Counties- Public Defender Brad Morris / Chief Assistant Public Defender Sarah Willis
This item will be added to the December 21, 2023, Voting Session Agenda.
4. Presentation of Board Appointment:
 - a. **Tax Assessors**
 - i. Jim Perdue- *reappointment*; or Kandi Bolton- *appointment* (Term: January 2024 through December 2028)
This item, with an amended term of January 2024 through December 2026, will be added to the December 21, 2023, Voting Session Agenda.
5. Discussion of Aligning Fire Ordinance with State Fire Code- Commissioners Seth Stowers and Emory Dooley
This item will be reviewed by the county attorney and appear on a future Work Session Agenda.
6. County Manager Report
This item, presented by Chairman Thurmond, was for information only.
7. County Attorney Report
County Attorney Tracy had no information to report.

APPROVE:

ATTEST:

Billy Thurmond, Chairman

Kristen Cloud, County Clerk

DRAFT

**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**

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:

Billy Thurmond, Chairman

Kristen Cloud, County Clerk