

# PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



117 Putnam Drive, Suite A ♦ Eatonton, GA 31024

## Minutes

Friday, March 7, 2025 ♦ 10:00 AM

Putnam County Administration Building – Room 203

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on Friday, March 7, 2025 at approximately 10:00 AM in the Putnam County Administration Building, 117 Putnam Drive, Room 203, Eatonton, Georgia.

### *PRESENT*

Chairman Bill Sharp  
Commissioner Tom McElhenney  
Commissioner Richard Garrett  
Commissioner Steve Hersey  
Commissioner Jeff Wooten

### *STAFF PRESENT*

County Attorney Adam Nelson  
County Manager Paul Van Haute  
County Clerk Lynn Butterworth  
Deputy County Clerk Mercy Fluker

### **Opening**

#### 1. Welcome - Call to Order

Chairman Sharp called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00 a.m.  
(Copy of agenda made a part of the minutes on minute book page \_\_\_\_\_.)

#### 2. Approval of Agenda

##### **Motion to approve the agenda.**

**Motion made by Commissioner McElhenney, Seconded by Commissioner Hersey.**

**Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Garrett, Commissioner Hersey, Commissioner Wooten**

#### 3. Invocation

Rev. Avis Williams gave the invocation.

#### 4. Pledge of Allegiance (RG)

Commissioner Garrett led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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**Regular Business Meeting**

5. Public Comments

No public comments.

6. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of Minutes - February 18, 2025 (staff-CC)

b. Approval of 2025 Alcohol Licenses (staff-CC)

**Motion to approve the consent agenda.**

**Motion made by Commissioner Garrett, Seconded by Commissioner Hersey.**

**Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Garrett, Commissioner Hersey, Commissioner Wooten**

(Copy of alcohol licenses made a part of the minutes on minute book page \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.)

7. Appeal by Ann Foster of the Planning & Zoning Commission decision to grant sideline setback at 407 E. Riverbend Drive (staff-P&D)

Ms. Ann Foster from 409 E. Riverbend Drive presented her appeal and reminded the board of her request to remove part of the pool structure in order to meet Planning and Zoning’s requirements.

Mr. Jamie Walker from 407 E. Riverbend Drive provided information on their original plan and the work that has been done to remove the pool deck.

**Motion to grant 3.75 foot right side variance being 11 ¼ feet from the property line at 407 East Riverbend Drive, conditioned on the requirement that any structures attached to the pool deck be located within the variance.**

**Motion made by Commissioner Hersey, Seconded by Commissioner Garrett.**

**Motion to amend to deny the appeal by Ann Foster of the Planning & Zoning Commission decision to grant sideline setback at 407 E. Riverbend Drive with condition that owner adds fence between pool deck and non-pool deck structure to definitively mark where one ends and one begins.**

**Motion made by Commissioner Garrett, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.**

Commissioner Garrett amended his motion to require gate to be at top of stairs instead of bottom. Amendment okay with second, Commissioner Wooten.

Vote on amendment:

**Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Garrett, Commissioner Wooten**

**Voting Nay: Commissioner Hersey**

Vote on original as amended:

**Motion to deny the appeal by Ann Foster of the Planning & Zoning Commission decision to grant sideline setback at 407 E. Riverbend Drive with condition that owner adds fence between pool deck and non-pool deck structure to definitively mark where one ends and one begins and to require gate to be at top of stairs instead of bottom.**

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**Motion made by Commissioner Garrett, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.**  
**Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Garrett, Commissioner Wooten**  
**Voting Nay: Commissioner Hersey**

8. Approval of 2026 Budget & 2025 Mill Rate Schedule (staff-Finance)  
Assistant Finance Director Jennifer Fricks was available to answer questions.

**Motion to approve the 2026 Budget & 2025 Mill Rate Schedule.**  
**Motion made by Commissioner Wooten, Seconded by Commissioner McElhenney.**  
**Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Garrett, Commissioner Hersey, Commissioner Wooten**  
(Copy of schedule made a part of the minutes on minute book page \_\_\_\_\_.)

9. Submission of Names for Appointment to the Hospital Authority-Post 1 (staff-CC)  
motion to submit all 4

**Motion to table item #9.**  
**Motion made by Commissioner Hersey, Seconded by Commissioner Garrett.**  
**Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Garrett, Commissioner Hersey, Commissioner Wooten**

10. Appointments to the Board of Assessors (staff-CC)  
**Motion to appoint Shona L. Bales and Evan Reese to the Board of Assessors.**  
**Motion made by Commissioner Garrett, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.**  
**Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Garrett, Commissioner Hersey, Commissioner Wooten**

**Motion to bring item #9 back to the floor.**  
**Motion made by Commissioner Hersey, Seconded by Commissioner Garrett.**  
**Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Garrett, Commissioner Hersey, Commissioner Wooten**

9. Submission of Names for Appointment to the Hospital Authority-Post 1 (staff-CC)  
**Motion to submit the following names for appointment to the Hospital Authority-Post 1: Lou Benjamin, Charlene Swain, Phillip Ethridge, and Rachel Deraney Harvey.**  
**Motion made by Commissioner McElhenney, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.**  
**Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Garrett, Commissioner Hersey, Commissioner Wooten**

**Reports/Announcements**

11. County Manager Report  
County Manager Van Haute reported that TSPLOST paving in District 3 has begun.

12. County Attorney Report  
No report.

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13. Commissioner Announcements  
Commissioner McElhenney: none

Commissioner Garrett: congratulated the cast and directors of “The Color Purple”, announced that an additional matinee show is being planned for March 30<sup>th</sup> and tickets are on sale now.

Commission Hersey: none

Commissioner Wooten: thanked Putnam County Fire Rescue, Sheriff, Public Works, and everybody involved in the search after the recent drowning, not best weather to work in but a good effort between everybody.

Chairman Sharp: commented that he has been out of town for two weeks and is behind on emails but thanked everyone for being here.

**Closing**

14. Adjournment

**Motion to adjourn the meeting.**

**Motion made by Commissioner McElhenney, Seconded by Commissioner Garrett.**

**Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Garrett, Commissioner Hersey, Commissioner Wooten**

Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:08 a.m.

ATTEST:

Lynn Butterworth  
County Clerk

B. W. “Bill” Sharp  
Chairman

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