

# PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



117 Putnam Drive, Suite A ♦ Eatonton, GA 31024

## Minutes

**Tuesday, April 20, 2021 ♦ 6:30 PM**

*Putnam County Administration Building – Room 203*

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at approximately 6:30 PM in the Putnam County Administration Building, 117 Putnam Drive, Room 203, Eatonton, Georgia.

### *PRESENT*

Chairman Billy Webster  
Commissioner Gary McElhenney  
Commissioner Daniel Brown  
Commissioner Bill Sharp  
Commissioner Jeff Wooten

### *STAFF PRESENT*

County Attorney Barry Fleming  
County Manager Paul Van Haute  
County Clerk Lynn Butterworth

### **Opening**

1. Welcome - Call to Order

Chairman Webster called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.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 Sharp, Seconded by Commissioner McElhenney.**

**Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Sharp,  
Commissioner Wooten**

3. Invocation - Pastor James Smith

Pastor James Smith gave the invocation.

4. Pledge of Allegiance (staff)

County Manager Van Haute led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes	Page 1 of 5	Approved
April 20, 2021		May 7, 2021

**Regular Business Meeting**

5. Public Comments

Mr. Teddy Weeks, Ms. Mary Ann Weeks, Mr. Stanley Ford, and Mr. Richard Garrett spoke against SB 202. Ms. Erin Keating commented that the county attorney should not be classified as personnel, making it not against the rules to speak about him and spoke against SB 202. Ms. Karen Henry-Garrett commented on the George Floyd justice and having no faith in the Board of Commissioners because of their support of the county attorney. Ms. Sarah Maslayak commented on the negative public relations in Georgia and spoke against SB 202.

6. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Minutes - April 6, 2021 Joint Called Meeting (staff-CC)
- b. Approval of Minutes - April 9, 2021 Regular Meeting (staff-CC)

**Motion to approve the Consent Agenda.**

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

**Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Sharp, Commissioner Wooten**

7. Employee Insurance Presentation by NFP (staff-CM)

Mr. Johnathan Shaw from NFP introduced himself and the company and presented employee insurance renewal information. He explained how the ACCG pool works and advised that a 10% increase is expected from Anthem. No action was taken.

(Copy of documents made a part of the minutes on minute book pages \_\_\_\_\_.)

8. Approval of Proposed 2022 Budget and 2021 Mill Rate Schedule (staff-Finance)

**Motion to approve the 2022 Budget and 2021 Mill Rate Schedule.**

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

**Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Sharp, Commissioner Wooten**

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

9. Awarding of Solicitation 21-61801-001 for Oconee Springs Park Infrastructure and Event Center (staff-CM)

County Manager Van Haute reviewed the bids and recommended the low bidder, Renfroe Construction, at \$445,630.00.

**Motion to award Solicitation 21-61801-001 for Oconee Springs Park Infrastructure and Event Center to Renfroe Construction at \$445,630.00 and authorize the Chairman to sign necessary documents.**

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

**Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Sharp, Commissioner Wooten**

(Copy of contract made a part of the minutes on minute book pages \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.)

Minutes	Page 2 of 5	Approved
April 20, 2021		May 7, 2021

10. Authorization for Chairman to sign Closing Documents for Property on Sammons Industrial (staff-CM)

County Manager Van Haute explained that these are the final documents for the acreage on Sammons Industrial for moving the Scott Road recycling center.

**Motion to authorize the Chairman to sign the Closing Documents for Property on Sammons Industrial.**

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

**Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Sharp, Commissioner Wooten**

(Copy of documents made a part of the minutes on minute book pages \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.)

11. Appointments to the Lake Oconee Area Development Authority (staff-CC)

Commissioner Sharp, seconded by Commissioner Brown, nominated Scott Joris for appointment to the Lake Oconee Area Development Authority.

Commissioner Wooten, seconded by Commissioner McElhenney, nominated Shane Hill for appointment to the Lake Oconee Area Development Authority.

Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Wooten, nominated Robbie McNeill for appointment to the Lake Oconee Area Development Authority.

**Chairman Webster called for the vote. Commissioner McElhenney voted for Shane Hill and Scott Joris. Commissioner Brown voted for Robbie McNeill and Scott Joris. Commissioner Sharp voted for Scott Joris and Shane Hill. Commissioner Wooten voted for Scott Joris and Shane Hill.**

Mr. Scott Joris and Mr. Shane Hill were appointed to the Lake Oconee Area Development Authority with terms ending on May 1, 2026.

12. Appointment to the Putnam Development Authority (staff-CC)

Commissioner Sharp, seconded by Commissioner Brown, nominated John Wojtas for appointment to the Putnam Development Authority.

Commissioner McElhenney, seconded by Commissioner Brown, nominated Jim Fain for appointment to the Putnam Development Authority.

**Chairman Webster called for the vote. Commissioner McElhenney voted for Jim Fain. Commissioner Brown voted for John Wojtas. Commissioner Sharp voted for John Wojtas. Commissioner Wooten voted for John Wojtas.**

Mr. John Wojtas was appointed to the Putnam Development Authority with the term ending on May 1, 2026.

Minutes	Page 3 of 5	Approved
April 20, 2021		May 7, 2021

**Reports/Announcements**

13. County Manager Report  
No report.

14. County Attorney Report  
No report.

15. Commissioner Announcements  
Commissioner McElhenney: thanked the excellent Road Department for their hard work.

Commissioner Brown: reminded everyone that Public Information Officer McMullen publishes a newsletter each month and encouraged all to subscribe.

Commissioner Sharp: none

Commissioner Wooten: mentioned that John Wojtas was in the recent Leadership Class with his wife and that he was very energetic and a good choice for the Putnam Development Authority and Jim Fain would have been a good choice as well.

Chairman Webster: none

**Executive Session**

16. Enter Executive Session as allowed by O.C.G.A. 50-14-4 for Personnel, Litigation, or Real Estate

**Motion to enter Executive Session as allowed by O.C.G.A. 50-14-4 for Personnel.**

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

**Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Sharp, Commissioner Wooten**

Meeting closed at approximately 7:36 p.m.

17. Reopen meeting and execute Affidavit concerning the subject matter of the closed portion of the meeting

**Motion to reopen the meeting and execute the Affidavit concerning the subject matter of the closed portion of the meeting.**

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

**Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Sharp, Commissioner Wooten**

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

Meeting reopened at approximately 8:27 p.m.

Minutes	Page 4 of 5	Approved
April 20, 2021		May 7, 2021

18. Action, if any, resulting from the Executive Session  
County Attorney Fleming advised that two personnel matters were discussed with no action taken during the Executive Session.

**Motion to raise the County Manager’s salary by \$1,000 per month, raise his annual deferred compensation by \$3,852 more, make this effective May 1, 2021, and give the authority to the Chairman to sign a new contract based upon the old one with only these changes.**

**Motion made by Commissioner Brown, Seconded by Commissioner Sharp.**

**Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Sharp, Commissioner Wooten**

(Copy of contract made a part of the minutes on minute book pages \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.)

**Closing**

19. Adjournment

**Motion to adjourn the meeting.**

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

**Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Sharp, Commissioner Wooten**

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:29 p.m.

ATTEST:

Lynn Butterworth  
County Clerk

Billy Webster  
Chairman

Minutes	Page 5 of 5	Approved
April 20, 2021		May 7, 2021