

PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



117 Putnam Drive, Suite A ♦ Eatonton, GA 31024

Called Meeting

Minutes

Friday, July 18, 2025 ♦ 10:00 AM

Putnam County Administration Building – Room 203

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met for a Called Meeting on Friday, July 18, 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. Call to Order

Chairman Sharp called the meeting to order at approximately 10:04 a.m.
(Copy of agenda made a part of the minutes on minute book page _____.)

Called Meeting

2. Discussion and possible action regarding the Georgia Indigent Defense Services Agreement (staff-Finance)

County Attorney Adam Nelson explained that this item was removed from the July 15, 2025 Regular Business Meeting due to questions regarding procedures with representation and appeals. The provisions that were requested will not be allowed by the state, and the State Court budget needs an additional allocation for appellate practice of approximately \$1,000.00 - \$2,000.00 to be used for conflict attorneys.

Public Defender Kristin Waller explained the differences in statutory mandates and that we cannot contract the state to do something they are not required to do. She also informed the commissioners that there has only been one appeal in Putnam County in the last 13 years.

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State Court Judge Michael Gailey explained that his budget includes allocations for conflict judges and public defenders under legal services, and suggested to approve the agreement as written as long as these allocations are sufficient.

Motion to authorize the Chairman to sign the Georgia Indigent Defense Services Agreement as originally submitted.

Motion made by Commissioner McElhenney, Seconded by Commissioner Hersey.

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

(Copy of agreement made a part of the minutes on minute book pages _____ to _____.)

Closing

3. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the called meeting.

Motion made by Commissioner McElhenney, Seconded by Commissioner Garrett.

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

Called meeting adjourned at approximately 10:19 a.m.

ATTEST:

Lynn Butterworth
County Clerk

B. W. "Bill" Sharp
Chairman

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