

# PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



117 Putnam Drive, Suite A ♦ Eatonton, GA 31024

## Minutes

Friday, January 7, 2022 ♦ 9:00 AM

Putnam County Administration Building – Room 203

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on Friday, January 7, 2022 at approximately 9:00 AM 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 9:04 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 Sharp, Seconded by Commissioner McElhenney.**

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

#### 3. Invocation

County Attorney Barry Fleming gave the invocation.

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

Commissioner Bill Sharp led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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5. Special Presentation - School Choice Week Proclamation  
 The commissioners issued and read a proclamation for School Choice Week.  
 (Copy of proclamation made a part of the minutes on minute book page \_\_\_\_\_.)

**Regular Business Meeting**

6. Public Comments

Mr. Duane Gentes commented on a pond on his neighbor's property.

7. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of Minutes - December 21, 2021 Regular Meeting and Executive Session (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**

8. Authorization for staff to surplus the Old Jail (staff-CM)

County Manager Van Haute advised that an appraisal was done on the Old Jail in 2013 and there is renewed interest in purchasing the building. There are lead and asbestos problems, but a new roof was put on a few years ago after some hail damage. He requested to refresh the surplus in order to put the Old Jail out on GovDeals to put back on the tax rolls.

**Motion to authorize staff to surplus the Old Jail.**

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

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

**Reports/Announcements**

9. County Manager Report

County Manager Van Haute reporting the following:

- introduced a young lady from Mercer University who is interning at Dr. Kimberly Phillips office, Ms. Deja Sibert. Ms. Sibert shared a little about herself and the project she is doing for Dr. Phillips involving mental healthcare and explained that one of her requirements was attending a public meeting.
- will be starting Rabbit Skip and Rockville convenience center upgrades by the end of the month
- working with Georgia Power on getting a security light at Long Shoals convenience center installed
- Finance Director Cook and her department received another certificate of achievement for excellence in financial reporting for the eighth year in a row
- received bids for roof replacement at Recreation Department which are being reviewed and will be on the next agenda for awarding
- will host the Chamber of Commerce's State of the County meeting here at the Administration Building on Tuesday, January 11th at 8:00 a.m.; all are invited

10. County Attorney Report

County Attorney Fleming requested an Executive Session to present his report.

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11. Commissioner Announcements  
Commissioner McElhenney: none

Commissioner Brown: wished everyone a happy new year and commented that the LOST negotiation meeting with the city was good and not adversarial

Commissioner Sharp: thanked the County Manager for scheduling work on some of the convenience centers; two of the three ones with upcoming work are in District 3

Commissioner Wooten: thanked the County Manager and the Public Works Department for all the hard work during recent storms

Chairman Webster: reported on the first meeting with the city regarding LOST renegotiations that it was fairly cordial and both sides restated their positions; no real headway was made but both sides recognized the need to close the gap between their numbers; mediation was mentioned but both sides agreed to meet again face to face on February 4th at 1:00 p.m. He inquired if commissioners are ok with going up to the next step in the negotiations. There were no objections. He also reviewed a list of some of the Chairman's duties and board assignments and advised there are positions available if any other commissioners want to serve to let him know; Commissioner Brown will continue as Vice Chairman.  
(Copy of Chairman's duties made a part of the minutes on minute book page \_\_\_\_\_.)

**Executive Session**

12. 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 Litigation.**

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

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

Meeting closed at approximately 9:36 a.m.

13. 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 Sharp, 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 11:12 a.m.

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14. Action, if any, resulting from the Executive Session  
One legal matter was discussed. No action was taken.

**Closing**

15. Adjournment

**Motion to adjourn the meeting.**

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

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

Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:13 a.m.

ATTEST:

Lynn Butterworth  
County Clerk

Billy Webster  
Chairman

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