

PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



117 Putnam Drive, Suite A ♦ Eatonton, GA 31024

Called Meeting

Minutes

Friday, January 24, 2025 ♦ 11:00 AM

Putnam County Administration Building – Room 203

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met for a called meeting on Friday, January 24, 2025 at approximately 11:00 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 Clerk Lynn Butterworth
Deputy County Clerk Mercy Fluker

STAFF ABSENT

County Manager Paul Van Haute

Opening

1. Call to Order

Chairman Sharp called the meeting to order at approximately 11:00 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 Wooten, Seconded by Commissioner Hersey.

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

3. Pledge of Allegiance (staff)

County Clerk Lynn Butterworth led the Pledge of Allegiance.

| | | |
|------------------------|-------------|------------------|
| Called Meeting Minutes | Page 1 of 3 | Approved |
| January 24, 2025 | | February 7, 2025 |

Called Meeting

4. Authorization for Chairman to sign GDOT LMIG Grant Application for FY2025 (staff-CM)

Motion to Authorize Chairman to sign GDOT LMIG Grant Application for FY2025 with the removal of Long Shoals Avenue in District 4 and addition of Lakeview Drive from entrance to end in District 3, approximately .5 miles.

Motion made by Commissioner Hersey, Seconded by Commissioner Garrett.

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

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

5. Discussion and possible action on House Bill 581 (SH)

Mr. Charles Gray commented on both options of opting in or out of House Bill 581.

Ms. Barbara Vargo commented on the election results of the bill.

Mr. William Vargo supplied a handout to the Board and commented on the bill, tax payer relief, county accounts, and voters.

Mr. Jeremy Dignan signed in to speak but was not present when his name was called.

Chairman Sharp explained the basics of House Bill 581 and read the election results from the Board of Elections and Registration.

Motion to authorize staff to schedule three Public Hearings on the Intent of the Putnam County Board of Commissioners to opt out of statewide adjusted base year ad valorem homestead exemption and advertise the Intent as prescribed in House Bill 581.

Motion made by Commissioner Hersey, Seconded by Commissioner Garrett.

Chief Appraiser Chuck Anglin and Tax Commissioner Terrell Abernathy discussed the pros and cons of House Bill 581 and the changes that it will bring.

Voting Yea: Commissioner Garrett, Commissioner Hersey

Voting Nay: Chairman Sharp, Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Wooten

Motion fails, which means the county will opt in.

Commissioners Hersey and Garrett made a case to hold public hearings, not necessarily with the intention to opt out but to give the commissioners and citizens the opportunity to further discuss an emergent and multi-faceted issue and to ensure the BOC's final decision is as informed as possible.

| | | |
|------------------------|-------------|------------------|
| Called Meeting Minutes | Page 2 of 3 | Approved |
| January 24, 2025 | | February 7, 2025 |

Closing

6. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion made by Commissioner Wooten, Seconded by Commissioner Garrett.

Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Garrett, Commissioner Wooten

Voting Nay: Commissioner Hersey

Meeting adjourned at approximately 12:34 p.m.

ATTEST:

Lynn Butterworth
County Clerk

B. W. "Bill" Sharp
Chairman

| | | |
|------------------------|-------------|------------------|
| Called Meeting Minutes | Page 3 of 3 | Approved |
| January 24, 2025 | | February 7, 2025 |