

PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



117 Putnam Drive, Suite A ♦ Eatonton, GA 31024

Minutes

Friday, May 6, 2022 ♦ 9:00 AM

Putnam County Administration Building – Room 203

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on Friday, May 6, 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 Bill Sharp
Commissioner Jeff Wooten

ABSENT

Commissioner Daniel Brown

STAFF PRESENT

County Attorney Adam Nelson
County Manager Paul Van Haute
County Clerk Lynn Butterworth

Opening

1. Welcome - Call to Order

Chairman Webster called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 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 Sharp, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.

Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Sharp, Commissioner Wooten

3. Invocation

Commissioner Gary McElhenney gave the invocation.

4. Pledge of Allegiance (GM)

Commissioner Gary McElhenney led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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5. Special Presentation - Larry Kaiser

Chairman Webster shared some words of appreciation for Mr. Larry Kaiser and read a proclamation making him an honorary Putnam County citizen. The Commissioners also presented him with a plaque thanking him for his outstanding contributions to Putnam County. (Copy of proclamation made a part of the minutes on minute book page _____.)

Regular Business Meeting

6. Public Comments

Mr. Duane Gentes commented on the Planning & Zoning Commission meeting and the item regarding the pond built by Adam Schulze. He stated the meeting did not go well with the Chairman giving personal opinions and the times to speak for proponents and opponents was not fair; he wanted to bring this to the commissioner's attention.

Ms. Marianne Bruhn Popik also commented on the Planning & Zoning Commission meeting and the item regarding the pond built by Adam Schulze. She stated that written statements were submitted to P&Z. She also invited commissioners to come look at the cove.

Dr. Steve Hersey submitted a handout concerning a proposal for Senior Tax Relief involving an increase in the homestead exemption for seniors over 70 years old or older and have qualified for F1 freeze exemption.

(Copy of handout made a part of the minutes on minute book page _____.)

7. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Minutes - April 19, 2022 Regular Meeting (staff-CC)
- b. Approval of Minutes - April 19, 2022 Executive Session (staff-CC)
- c. Authorization for Chairman to sign ACCG-GSIWCF Employee Safety Grant Application (staff-HR)

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion made by Commissioner McElhenney, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.

Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Sharp, Commissioner Wooten

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8. Approval of Employee Insurance Benefits (staff-CM)

County Manager Van Haute advised that insurance claims have been trending up and down and the renewal was initially an increase of 15% but the broker got it down to 9%. He introduced Johnathan Shaw from NFP (our broker) to fully explain.

Mr. Johnathan Shaw explained the renewal process, gave his recommendation, and answered questions.

Motion to renew employee insurance with the following: Anthem BCBS OAP12 5000/30%/7900C Low Plan and OAP5 5000/0%/7900 AE High Plan, MetLife Dental, Anthem Vision, OneAmerica Life, OneAmerica Short Term Disability, County provided Long Term Disability coverage for all employees, and the County Paid Brella benefits program with Admin America as HRA Administrator and Aflac and Texas Life as other benefit carriers and maintain current employee contribution rates for the insurance plans. Motion made by Commissioner Sharp, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten. Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Sharp, Commissioner Wooten

9. Awarding of Solicitation 22-42001-001 Pea Ridge Road Resurfacing (staff-CM)

County Manager Van Haute advised that the low bidder for the Pea Ridge Road resurfacing project was Garrett Paving Company in the amount of \$2,059,714.38.

Motion to award Solicitation 22-42001-001 Pea Ridge Road Resurfacing to Garrett Paving Company in the amount of \$2,059,714.38.

Motion made by Commissioner Wooten, Seconded by Commissioner McElhenney.

Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Sharp, Commissioner Wooten

Reports/Announcements

10. County Manager Report

County Manager Van Haute reported the following:

- Thanks for all who attended the Oconee Springs Park event center opening. It was a great success. Lonnie & Susan and Renfroe Construction did a great job getting it ready.
- Bids were received and opened for the new Fire Station & EMS Facility. That item will be on the next agenda.
- Invited EMS Director Brad Murphey to provide an update on the call volume for EMS. Director Murphey explained that they are super busy with lots of transfers and only have three crews. They set a new daily record of 22 calls (normal used to be 8-10 calls per day). They even had to turn down a mutual aid request and two transports could not be done until the next morning. January set a new monthly record at 311 calls. He also advised that they will be losing one employee soon and that part time help is very hard to find. He thanked all public safety employees for all the hard work they do everyday. County Manager Van Haute advised that EMS growth is coming at a record pace, and they are trying to develop strategies to cover this.
- Reminded everyone to please be safe on the lakes; there have been too many drownings so far this year.

11. County Attorney Report

No report.

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12. Commissioner Announcements
Commissioner McElhenney: none

Commissioner Brown: absent

Commissioner Sharp: thanks for the ribbon cutting at OSP; it was a nice turn out and the facility is incredible. He encouraged everyone to go visit.

Commissioner Wooten: none

Chairman Webster: reminded all commissioners to turn in all expenses from the ACCG Training Conference.

Executive Session

13. 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 McElhenney, Seconded by Commissioner Sharp.

Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Sharp, Commissioner Wooten

Meeting closed at approximately 10:07 a.m.

14. 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 Sharp, Commissioner Wooten
(Copy of affidavit made a part of the minutes on minute book page _____.)

Meeting reopened at approximately 10:37 a.m.

15. Action, if any, resulting from the Executive Session

Attorney Nelson advised that one matter was discussed with no action taken.

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Closing

16. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion made by Commissioner Sharp, Seconded by Commissioner McElhenney.

Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Sharp, Commissioner Wooten

Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:38 a.m.

ATTEST:

Lynn Butterworth
County Clerk

Billy Webster
Chairman

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