

PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



117 Putnam Drive, Suite A ♦ Eatonton, GA 31024

Minutes

Friday, September 5, 2025 ♦ 10:00 AM

Putnam County Administration Building – Room 203

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on Friday, September 5, 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

ABSENT

Commissioner Jeff Wooten

STAFF PRESENT

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

STAFF ABSENT

Deputy County Clerk Mercy Fluker

Opening

1. Welcome - Call to Order

Chairman Sharp called the meeting to order at approximately 10:01 a.m.

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

2. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Hersey requested to move agenda item #10 “Awarding of Solicitation #25-42001-001 Full Depth Reclamation of Harmony Road, Dennis Station Road, Mahaffey Drive, Wards Chapel Road, Crooked Creek Road, and Little Circle Using High Performance Paving” to right before agenda item #13 “Approval of Lithtec On-Demand Production Requests.”

Motion to approve the Agenda with the requested change.

Motion made by Commissioner Hersey, Seconded by Commissioner Garrett.

Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Garrett, Commissioner Hersey

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3. Invocation

Pastor David Wofford, Eatonton First Methodist Church, gave the invocation.

4. Pledge of Allegiance (RG)

Commissioner Garrett led the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. Special Presentations

a. Retirement Proclamation - Lesia Reid

The commissioners presented a proclamation and gift card to Mrs. Lesia Reid, congratulating her on her retirement from the county with 48 years in the Tax Assessor's office.

b. Retirement Proclamation - Torrey Whittaker

The commissioners presented a proclamation and gift card to Mr. Torrey Whittaker, congratulating him on his retirement from the county with 20 years in Public Buildings.

c. Proclamation - Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month

The commissioners read a proclamation designating September 2025 as Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month.

d. Proclamation - Recovery Month

The commissioners read a proclamation designating September 2025 as National Recovery Month.

e. Presentation by Sandra Dean, Executive Director of Beyond the Bell

Commissioner Garrett introduced Ms. Sandra Dean, Executive Director of Beyond the Bell and she gave a brief overview of Beyond the Bell and commented on the current opioid grant and townhall meetings that have been held in Putnam County. She explained that the Boost Grant, if received, will provide programs for children after school and during the summer. They feel the Jimmy Davis Park area and building are ideal for the program. They are working with the school system on providing buses to transport the children to Jimmy Davis Park and will work with the Recreation staff. She further explained that the grant amount is \$105,000.00 and they must have at least 51 children to get the grant. Grant results are expected September 26, 2025. Attorney Nelson advised that no action is needed at this time.

Regular Business Meeting

6. Public Comments

Mr. Don Sadler commented on the Jimmy Davis Park Partnership Advisory Committee.

Mr. Bill Vargo commented on the pending rezoning at Old Phoenix Road and New Phoenix Road.

Ms. Janie Reid commented on the Beyond the Bell grant program.

Ms. Patricia Bailey read and submitted her resignation letter from the Jimmy Davis Park Partnership Advisory Committee.

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

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7. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Minutes - August 19, 2025 Regular Meeting (staff-CC)
- b. Approval of Minutes - August 29, 2025 Called Meeting-Budget (staff-CC)
- c. Approval of Minutes - August 29, 2025 Called Meeting (staff-CC)
- d. Approval of Minutes - August 29, 2025 Executive Session (staff-CC)

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion made by Commissioner Garrett, Seconded by Commissioner McElhenney.

Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Garrett, Commissioner Hersey

8. Approval of Certification of Road Abandonment for Joe Wooten Road (staff-CC)

Motion to approve the Certification of Road Abandonment for Joe Wooten Road.

Motion made by Commissioner McElhenney, Seconded by Commissioner Hersey.

Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Garrett, Commissioner Hersey

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

9. Approval of Certification of Road Abandonment for Wooten Road (staff-CC)

Motion to approve the Certification of Road Abandonment for Wooten Road.

Motion made by Commissioner McElhenney, Seconded by Commissioner Garrett.

Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Garrett, Commissioner Hersey

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

10. Awarding of Solicitation #25-42001-002 Resurfacing of Denham Road, Old Copelan Road, Quail Knoll Road, Carter Dearman Road, Lakeview Lane, Lakeview Drive, Willow Forest Road, Willow Trace Court, Bark Circle, Shoreline Court, and Cold Branch Road (staff-CM)

Motion to award Solicitation #25-42001-002 to Pittman Construction at \$2,578,411.40.

Motion made by Commissioner McElhenney, Seconded by Commissioner Hersey.

Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Garrett, Commissioner Hersey

11. Awarding of Solicitation #25-42001-003 Guardrail Replacement on Parks Mill Road at Lake Oconee (staff-CM)

Motion to award Solicitation #25-42001-003 to Gracie Gray Contractors at \$391,310.00.

Motion made by Commissioner McElhenney, Seconded by Commissioner Hersey.

Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Garrett, Commissioner Hersey

12. Awarding of Solicitation #25-42001-001 Full Depth Reclamation of Harmony Road, Dennis Station Road, Mahaffey Drive, Wards Chapel Road, Crooked Creek Road, and Little Circle Using High Performance Paving (staff-CM)

Motion to award Solicitation #25-42001-001 to ER Snell Contractor at \$2,973,057.60.

Motion made by Commissioner McElhenney, Seconded by Commissioner Garrett.

Voting Yea: Chairman Sharp, Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Garrett

Voting Nay: Commissioner Hersey

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13. Approval of Lithtec On-Demand Production Requests: (staff-CM)

- a. #GA 025-00102 Little Circle
- b. #GA 025-00103 Mahaffey Road
- c. #GA 025-00104 Crooked Creek
- d. #GA 025-00105 Dennis Station Road
- e. #GA 025-00106 Wards Chapel Road
- f. #GA 025-00107 Harmony Road

Motion to approve Lithtec On-Demand Production Requests: #GA 025-00102 Little Circle, #GA 025-00103 Mahaffey Road, #GA 025-00104 Crooked Creek, #GA 025-00105 Dennis Station Road, #GA 025-00106 Wards Chapel Road, #GA 025-00107 Harmony Road.

Motion made by Commissioner McElhenney, Seconded by Commissioner Garrett.

Voting Yea: Chairman Sharp, Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Garrett

Voting Nay: Commissioner Hersey

14. Authorization for Chairman to sign Resolution Calling for an Election to Impose a County Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST 10) (staff-CM/CA)

Mr. Bill Vargo commented on pickleball courts and the county extension office.

Motion to authorize the Chairman to sign the Resolution Calling for an Election to Impose a County Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST 10).

Motion made by Commissioner Garrett, Seconded by Commissioner McElhenney.

Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Garrett, Commissioner Hersey

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

15. Discussion to place a six month moratorium on Commercial projects and significant (more than 4) residential projects, exempting those projects with a final plat approval (SH)

Mr. Bill Vargo commented against the proposed moratorium.

Ms. Barb Vargo commented against the proposed moratorium.

Commissioner Hersey commented on what area of the county should be covered under the moratorium specifically mentioning the area north of Highway 16 and the need to come up with a forward-looking plan for rapid growth.

Commissioner Garrett requested documentation outlining a summary, pros and cons, etc. once this comes back on the agenda for a vote.

Commissioner McElhenney commented that the Lake Oconee area is growing substantially and the need to review the Comprehensive Plan annually and keep it up to date.

Chairman Sharp requested that this item come back for action after the October 22, 2025 work session on development.

No action was taken.

Reports/Announcements

16. County Manager Report

County Manager Van Haute reminded the board about the celebration for Chief Deputy Clerk Shazett Bullard, recognizing her 25 years of dedicated service to the Putnam County Clerk of Court's office this afternoon at 1:00 p.m.

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17. County Attorney
No report.

18. Commissioner Announcements

Commissioner McElhenney: none

Commissioner Garrett: commented on the great project from Beyond the Bell and the unexpected resignation from Ms. Patricia Bailey; he encouraged the commissioners to attend the next meeting of the Jimmy Davis Park Partnership Advisory Committee on September 11, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

Commissioner Hersey: none

Chairman Sharp: none

Closing

19. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion made by Commissioner McElhenney, Seconded by Commissioner Garrett.

Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Garrett, Commissioner Hersey

Meeting adjourned at approximately 12:06 p.m.

ATTEST:

Lynn Butterworth
County Clerk

B. W. "Bill" Sharp
Chairman

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