

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

PRESENT:	DAVID SIKES, ALFRED CASON, BUCK MOON, DARRIEL NOBLES, TOMMY ROLLINS, JANSEN KILLIAN, JOHN M. JONES, AND HELEN HARRIS
Call to Order:	Chairman Sikes called the August 19th Regular Board Meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.
Invocation:	Commissioner Cason gave the Invocation.
Approve Agenda:	<p>Chairman Sikes asked for a motion to approve the Agenda.</p> <p>Vice-Chairman Rollins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to amend the Agenda to Confirm the Election Contract with both, the City of Vidalia and the City of Lyons. Motion carried unanimously.</p>
Approval of Minutes: July 15, 2025 Regular Board Meeting:	<p>Chairman Sikes asked for a motion to approve the Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting held on July 15, 2025</p> <p>Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to approve the minutes from July 15, 2025 Regular Board Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.</p>
Development Authority Report:	<p><u>Michele Johnson</u>, announced the Toombs County Development Authority (TCDA) Regular Monthly Meeting - Thursday, August 19th, at 12:00 noon in the Dot Foods Business Hub, Greater Vidalia® Center for Rural Entrepreneurship, 208 East First Street, Vidalia. On August 28th at 4:00 PM, they will be hosting a Size up Small Business Session. This is a program that gives our small businesses and Entrepreneurs access to data that particularly only available to large companies and organizations. In September will be the Georgia Chamber 2050 Tour and President Chris Clark will be here to explain the changes in our economy and changes in policies. This is an insight on what to expect in the future for our Rural Communities. We will be starting our Reach Campaign; Mr. Wendell Dixon will be heading this project. The Development side, we are looking forward to the design details for Phase 1A, and then applying for State Grants for Phase 1B.</p>
Department Report:	<p><u>Drew James</u>, Director of EMS, stated there were 631 calls for service in July. 513 calls were in Toombs County, 110 calls in Montgomery County, with 38 non-emergencies discharges. Meadows had partner for discharges stop providing service as of June 30, 2025. There is a definite market for us providing service to them. The ambulance that was ordered October 2022 should be ready for delivery in about two more weeks. We had about fifty teachers that was at station one to learn CPR, ADA, stop bleeding training and if a student starts to have a seizures, how to handle those events prior to our unit arriving on the scene. We are beginning to cover football game throughout the County.</p>
Public Participation:	<p><u>Clint Blount</u>, addressed the County Commissioners, requesting assistance with the traffic issues on Mel Blount and T. H. Tippet Road. Mr. Blount asked the Commission if they could help with the information that GPS gives as the speed limit on Mel Blount Road and portions of T. H. Tippet Road. The speed limit is 45 miles per hour but GPS reflects 55 miles per hour. Mr. Blount explained that the school in the area is a certified institution, and getting the GPS corrected would enhance safety for both the children and the community.</p> <p>Chairman Sikes assured Mr. Blount that he would be contacting him to set up a time to discuss the issue with him.</p>
Consideration of Financial Proposal	Manager stated that last month the Board approved the proposal to rebuild two D6 bulldozers and a 730 Dump Truck, with financing terms of thirty-six

from CAT Financial for (2) D6 Bulldozer Rebuild and 730 Dump Truck Rebuild:	<p>months at zero percent interest free. However, Caterpillar Financial informed the County that this financing option is not available to governments; it is exclusive to non-government entities for rebuilds. Caterpillar Financial provided four alternative financing options, all with a 5.49% interest rate. The options available are: forty-eight monthly payments, thirty-six monthly payments, three annual payments or four annual payments; consideration of the fact that rebuilding the machines is less expensive than purchasing the equipment.</p> <p>Vice-Chairman Rollins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to accept the offer by Caterpillar Financing with the forty-eight monthly payment with an interest rate of 5.49%. Motion carried unanimously.</p>
Consideration of Request to Close a Portion of Tot Powell Road:	<p>Manager Jones stated the County Office has received a letter from Ms. Kristin Barwick requesting a portion of Tot Powell Road be closed. Once the request has been submitted in writing, and then impact statement are asked from the Impact Statements from the Toombs County Board of Education Bus Route Coordinator, Toombs County Road Department Supervisor, Toombs/Montgomery EMS Director and the Code Enforcement officer. Both Public Works and EMS have expressed concerns regarding this road closure and the negative impact it would have on the services they provide.</p> <p>No Motion was made to move forward.</p>
Consideration of Request to Close a Portion of McNatt Falls Road:	<p>Manager Jones stated the original request from Brad and Valerie Mason, which includes an email to the Commissioner’s office that appears to involve several adjacent property owners, the addresses are 1042 McNatt Falls until the end of the road. In the impact statements, only Emergency Medical Services (EMS) has expressed concerns regarding their ability to reach any residents beyond this point of closure. As outlined in our policy for closing a road all residents and property owners will be notified via U.S. Mail and given the opportunity to voice their opposition to the closure as well as a sign posted at the beginning of the closing. All the citizens in that area will have a chance to express their opinion at the Public Hearing that is required to close a road or a portion of a road before a vote is taken by the Commission.</p> <p>Vice-Chairman Rollins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to move forward with the process of closing the portion of the road. Motion carried unanimously.</p>
Consideration of Affirming the Official Toombs County Public Road System:	<p>Manager Jones stated In November 2007, the Toombs County Board of Commissioners approved a Public County Roads List. The Road Department has been working very hard to present a single list, verifying the roads the County maintains, confirming those we do not maintain, and updating the list to reflect roads that have been closed, either entirely or partially. Vice-Chairman Rollins requested that Dee Mosley Road be removed from the listed due to it being closed.</p> <p>Vice-Chairman Rollins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to affirm the list of Official Toombs County Public Road System List. Motion carried unanimously.</p>
Consideration of Change Order to the Phase 2 of the Hammond Church Road Project:	<p>Manager Jones informed the Commission that the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) had selected Toombs County to participate in the 2025 LMIG Safety Action Plan Grant, which aims to improve road safety. This project is a 2-foot widening on each side of the road at the intersection of Vidalia-Cedar Crossing Road and SR 130 and will continue south to the intersection of Vidalia-Cedar Crossing Road and Lyons-Center Road. The total grant amount was \$409,090, with the County required to match at least ten percent (\$40,909). The proposed total was \$472,391. The County has issues on Dixon Lake Road that require immediate attention. Dixon Lake road was already deteriorating; the debris trucks from Hurricane Helene have accelerated the damage. We have applied for a FEMA Grant to address this and other roads, but given the current</p>

	<p>state, we need to take action as soon as possible. We have received a proposal from McLendon Enterprises to perform SKIM asphalt patching at a cost of \$62,708.</p> <p>Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to accept the Change Order to the Phase 2 of the Hammond Church Road Project and to do necessary repairs on Dixon Lake Road; Grant Funds and TSPLOST funds will be used for these projects. Motion carried unanimously.</p>
<p>Consideration of Approval of Voting Delegate to the October 9, 2025 ACCG Legislative Conference Business Section:</p>	<p>Manager Jones stated in the packet, there was the voting delegate form. The Board needed to appoint a representative to serve as the voting delegate for the County. Darriel Nobles has filled this role in the past.</p> <p>Vice-Chairman Rollins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to appoint Commissioner Darriel Nobles as the Voting Delegate for Toombs County. Motion carried unanimously.</p>
<p>Consideration of Proposal for Hot/Cold Pressure Washer for Solid Waste Facility:</p>	<p>Manager Jones stated the pressure washer the County purchased in 2013 has a motor that will be at a failure point very soon. We use this pressure washer to keep the equipment at the Solid Waste Facility (Landfill) as clean as possible, and it is an invaluable asset in prolonging the life of our machinery. The pressure washer is mounted on a trailer, which is still in good condition and allows for easy mobility. In the packet, a proposal for a new engine and a proposal for a new skid unit. The cost of the new engine is \$3,505.82, while the cost of the new skid unit is \$9,975.00. Considering the age of the rest of the machine, it was requested that the Board approve the purchase of the skid unit, with payment to be made from the Solid Waste Fund.</p> <p>Vice-Chairman Rollins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to approve the purchase of the skid unit for the cost of \$9,975 and for it to be paid with Landfill Budget Funds. Motion carried unanimously.</p>
<p>Consideration of Approval of Resolution Authorizing Participation in the ACCG-Interlock Risk Management Agency Supplement Medical, Accident, and Disability Fund: First Responder PTSD Program:</p>	<p>Manager Jones explained that the State law mandates that local governments provide specific coverage for all first responders. Unfortunately the County's current health insurance program does not include this type of coverage. The Board needs to approve this resolution and authorize the Chairman to sign. The cost will be funded from the General Administration and Fire Department budgets.</p> <p>Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason approve the Resolution Participation in the ACCG-Interlock Risk Management Agency Supplement Medical, Accident, and Disability Fund Resolution and to authorize Chairman Sikes to sign. The cost will be paid with General Funds and the Fire Department Funds. Motion carried unanimously.</p>
<p>Confirm the Election Contract with the City of Vidalia:</p>	<p>Manager Jones confirmed that this is the contract that handled all of their Elections, we have had for years; it simply needs to be renewed for the City of Vidalia and to authorize Chairman Sikes to sign.</p> <p>Vice-Chairman Rollins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to approve the contract with the City of Vidalia to handle all of their elections and to authorize Chairman Sikes to sign. Motion carried unanimously.</p>
<p>Confirm the Election Contract with the City of Lyons:</p>	<p>Manager Jones confirmed that this is the contract that is for the Election Contract that we have had for years; it simply needs to be renewed for the City of Lyons.</p> <p>Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to approve the contract with the City of Lyons to handle all of their elections and to authorize Chairman Sikes to sign. Motion carried unanimously. Motion carried unanimously.</p>

County Manager Report: County Manager Jones stated the Sales Tax was up 11.25% from July last year.

Financial Report: Maintenance and Operation (M&O) Budget, the expense side, out of the \$22 million in year-to-date expenses, \$11.8 million is attributed to costs related to Hurricane Helene. This represents gross expenses for 2025. Since October 2024, Hurricane Helene has had a net negative impact of \$4.4 million on the county's financial condition. This figure accounts for actual expenses paid minus all FEMA reimbursements to date. While we anticipate that the majority of these expenses will be reimbursed, not all will be covered. The County will incur additional expenses related to the hurricane, such as the Dixon Lake Road Project mentioned earlier in the meeting, which is unlikely to receive reimbursement.

Miscellaneous: The meeting with the County’s financial advisors, Davenport & Associates, was to discuss several topics, including: - Strategizing the completion of the long-range plan for the landfill, which involves preparing a financial plan to address key elements such as relocating the scale house, estimating the costs of future expansions, equipment expenses, and any land purchases necessary for expansion. - Updating the current Hurricane Helene project and reviewing the pace of reimbursements from FEMA as we approach the final quarter of 2025. EMS reports from the new system that was put in place, produces a good bit of data that before we did not have. The majority of the transfers that Drew James mentioned are local, as oppose to the Savannah transfers that take us down a truck for approximately 4 hours per trip.

Standing Committee Reports: None

Commissioners Comments: None

Adjournment: Chairman Sikes asked for a motion to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting.

Commissioner Cason made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Rollins to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:09 PM.

David Sikes, Chairman

Attest: _____

Helen Harris, County Clerk