



Hart County Board of Commissioners
Tuesday January 14, 2025
6:00 p.m.

Emergency Services and Administration Building

1. PRAYER
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. CALL TO ORDER
Election of Officers for 2025
4. WELCOME
5. APPROVE AGENDA
6. APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)
12/10/2024 Regular Minutes
7. REMARKS BY INVITED GUESTS, COMMITTEES, AUTHORITIES
Industrial Building Authority Director
8. REPORTS BY CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS & DEPARTMENT HEADS
9. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT
December Financial Report
10. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
11. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS
12. OLD BUSINESS
 - a) Request to Purchase Excavator Road Department
 - b) Board and Authority Advertising for 2025
 - c) Setting Preliminary Construction Budget Transfer Station Building
 - d) Precision Planning Inc. Agreement for Construction Documents Production Transfer Building
 - e) County Juvenile Prosecutor Contract 2025
 - f) Solar Moratorium Extension
 - g) Transfer Station Hours of Operation and Scale Closing Policy
 - h) SB White Road – Second Reading – No Through Trucks
 - i) Bid Opening Recreation Department Lighting
13. NEW BUSINESS
 - a) Office of Highway Safety Grants Acceptance (Sheriff Carroll)
 - b) Opioid Fund Funding Request AVITA
 - c) House Bill 581 Actions
 - d) Clerk of Court Request for Additional Part-time Position (Juvenile Court)
 - e) Letter to GDOT Requesting Parallel Temporary Bypass Bridge while replacement of Hwy 51 Bridge over Lightwood Log Creek (Trussel Bridge) Construction takes place
 - f) Fire Department Request to Purchase Used Fire Engine and Tanker
14. PUBLIC COMMENT
15. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Litigation – Personnel
16. ADJOURNMENT

Hart County Board of Commissioners
January 14, 2025
6:00 p.m.

The Hart County Board of Commissioners met January 14, 2025 at the Hart County Administrative & Emergency Services Center.

Chairman Sayer presided with Commissioners Michael Bennett, Frankie Teasley, Jeff Brown and Joey Dorsey in attendance

1. Prayer

Prayer was offered by Commissioner Bennett.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone stood in observance of the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Call to Order

Election for 2025 Officers

Commissioner Brown moved to elect Commissioner Sayer as Chairman, Commissioner Bennett provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 4-0. Chairman Sayer abstained. Commissioner Teasley moved to elect Commissioner Dorsey as Vice Chairman and as IBA Alternate. Commissioner Brown provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Dorsey abstained.

4. Welcome

Chairman Sayer welcomed everyone in attendance via in-person, YouTube, or HTC Channel 3.

5. Approve Agenda

Commissioner Bennett moved to amend and approve the agenda by adding a second reading of SB White Road for "No through Trucks" under 12h, 12i for bid opening for Recreation department lighting and under item 7 remarks by the Industrial Building Authority. Commissioner Brown provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

6. Approve minutes of Previous Meetings(s)
12/10/2024

Commissioner Dorsey moved to approve December 10, 2024 minutes with correction of item 10 stating the County does not have an agreement with the City of Canon for road maintenance. Commissioner Teasley provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

7. Remarks By Invited Guests, Committees, Authorities

IBS Director Terri Partain advised the Board of a recently recognized addition by DCA to the Revolving Loan Fund regulations. A Committee is required to review and recommend recipients of the funds.

Commissioner Dorsey moved to appoint the recommended people to the RLF Committee of Douglas Cleveland, Bill Leard, Kevin McCraney, Marshall Sayer, Lisa Evans and Kim Higginbotham. Commissioner Brown provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

8. Reports By Constitutional Officers & Departments Heads

None

9. County Administrator's Report
December 2024 Financial Report

County Administrator Partain presented the General Fund Financial Report for the month of December 2024.

10. Chairman's Report

Chairman Sayer offered condolences to the Bill Holland, Joel Moore, Margaret Frye and Shirley Martin families for the passing of their loved ones. He recognized the First Responders, Firefighters, Sheriff's office, EMS and Road department and Maintenance Shop employees for their hard work and dedication during the recent ice and snowstorm.

11. Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Bennett recognized the years of service and dedication of Bill Holland, as the Clerk of Superior Court and Joel Moore, County Commissioner. He also offered condolences to the Margaret Frye and Shirley Martin families. Thanks to the County employees during the recent ice and snowstorm.

Commissioner Teasley told of the years he enjoyed knowing and spending time with Bill Holland. He offered condolences to the Joel Moore, Margaret Frye and Shirley Martin families for their loss.

Commissioner Brown expressed the loss to Hart County and his condolences to these families.

Commissioner Dorsey also expressed the loss to Hart County and condolences to these families.

12. Old Business

a) Request to Purchase Excavator Road Department

Chairman Sayer moved to purchase a mini excavator we rented from Yancey Brothers less the rental fees already paid for a purchase price of \$83,310 from SPLOST-V funds. Administrator Partain stated the warranty is a new factory warranty, time begins at time of sale. Commissioner Bennett provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

b) Board and Authority Advertising for 2025

Commissioner Brown moved to advertise for 2025 Board and Authority appointments. Commissioner Teasley provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

c) Setting Preliminary Construction Budget for the Transfer Station Building

Commissioner Dorsey moved to approve the construction budget for the Transfer Station building. Commissioner Teasley provided the second. The motion carried 4-1, Commissioner Brown opposed.

d) Precision Planning, Inc Agreement for Construction Documents Production Transfer Building.

Commissioner Dorsey moved to start the bidding process, with a bid package from Precision Planning, Inc. for construction of the building. Commission Teasley provided the second. The motion carried 4-0, Commission Brown opposed.

e) County Juvenile Prosecutor Contract 2025

Commissioner Dorsey moved to approve the Service Agreement between Kevin McFarlin as a County Juvenile Prosecutor. Commissioner Teasley provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

f) Solar Moratorium Extension

Commissioner Bennett moved to extend the Solar Moratorium for 180 days. Commissioner Dorsey provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

g) Transfer Station Hours of Operation and Scale Closing Policy

Commissioner Brown moved to close the gates for the public at 1:30 on Saturday with signs showing this. Commissioner Bennett provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

h) SB White Road—No Through Trucks

Commissioner Bennett moved to accept the 2nd reading of the No Through Trucks on SB White Road. Commissioner Teasley provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

i) Recreation Department Lighting Bid Opening

Commissioner Dorsey moved to open the bid received for the lighting at the Recreation. Commissioner Bennett provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Sayer moved to accept the \$59,000 bid from Musco Lighting LLC. Commissioner Brown provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

13. New Business

a) Office of Highway Safety Grants Acceptance (Sheriff Carroll)

HC Sheriff Carroll reported the Sheriff's office had been awarded two separate grants from the Office of Highway Safety. A \$15,000 grant for reflective rain gear and a \$28,025 grant for mobile computers to be placed in their vehicles. Commissioner Teasley moved to accept the grants. Commissioner Brown provided a second to the motion. Administrator Partain explained that payments for the items will be made through the Multi-grant fund and when the grant is received the funds will be placed back into the Multi-grant fund. The motion carried 5-0.

b) b. Opioid Fund Funding Request AVITA

Avita Community Partners requested funds from the Opioid Settlement Fund. Avita, Chief Administrative Officer, Michael Foust reported from 2018 to 2022 our region had the highest opioid death rate of any region in Georgia.

Avita was awarded a grant for \$345,856 to establish a men's semi-independent residential treatment program and a substance abuse intensive outpatient program. For coverage of the \$150,000 shortage, Avita is requesting a commitment of \$15,000 from each of the 13 counties within Region 1.

County Attorney Higginbotham explained regulations to expend the Opioid funds. Commissioner Brown moved to grant AVITA's request for \$15,000 Commissioner Bennett provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

c) House Bill 581 Actions

Administrator Partain explained the outline for procedures, steps and the timeline that have to be followed if Hart County wishes to opt out of House Bill 581.

Chairman Sayer and the Board asked, Chief Appraiser Shane Hix to meet with citizens for a Q & A session in the Hart County Administrative & Emergency Services Center Tuesday January 21, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. Administrator Partain was directed to advertise the meeting.

CA Partain reported through HB 581 the increase in our millage rate over the next three years, with more increases each year thereafter.

The Board directed Administrator Partain to begin the required advertising process to opt out of HB 581.

Chairman Sayer moved to opt out of House Bill 581. Commissioner Dorsey provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

d) Clerk of Court Request for Additional Part-time Position (Juvenile Court)

Clerk of Superior Court, Frankie Gray explained Senate Bill 401 effective January 1, 2025 ordering all Clerk of Superior Court's more duties with Dependency cases. Due to the increased responsibility, COC Gray requested a part-time position at 20 hours a week.

Commissioner Teasley moved to grant the request. Chairman Sayer provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

e) Letter to GDOT Requesting Parallel Temporary Bypass Bridge while replacement of Hwy 51 Bridge over Lightwood Log Creek (Trussell Bridge) Construction takes place

To avoid wear and tear on County roads, caused by detouring traffic, Commissioner Dorsey moved to contact GDOT and request a parallel temporary bypass bridge while replacement of Hwy 51 bridge over Lightwood Log Creek (Trussell bridge) is being constructed. Commissioner Bennett provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

f) Fire Department Request to Purchase Used Fire Engine and Tanker

John Boudway, Hart County ISO Compliance Officer requested the purchase of a tanker truck needed to replace an out of service truck at Station 6. This truck will help meet ISO standards.

County Administrator Partain stated the truck will be purchased with SPLOST 6 funds.

Chairman Sayer moved to allow the Fire Department to purchase a \$65,000 truck provided it met the needs of Hart County. Commissioner Brown provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

14. Public Comment

Connie Kirk, volunteer with Northeast Georgia Domestic Violence, requested a temporary dock be installed at the Gum Branch mega ramp to enable their annual Polar Bear Plunge event. The Corp of Engineers agreed to the installation upon the Board of Commissioners' approval.

Chairman Sayer moved to allow a temporary dock to be installed at the Gum Branch mega ramp. Commissioner Brown provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

15. Executive Session – Litigation – Personnel

Chairman Sayer moved to exit into Executive Session to discuss litigation and personnel matters. Commissioner Teasley provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Brown moved to reconvene the regular meeting session. Commissioner Bennett provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

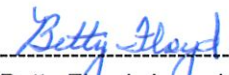
Commissioner Dorsey moved to approve Sheriff's request to hire two additional deputies for road patrol, together with 2 jailers and 2 deputized jailers to adequately staff an increase in the jail population to produce the revenue to pay for the jail payments. Commissioner Teasley provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Dorsey entered a motion to extend a contract offer of employment to County Administrator Partain. Commissioner Brown provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Dorsey entered a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Teasley provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 5-0



Marshall Sayer, Chairman



Betty Floyd, Associate County Clerk

RESOLUTION OF THE

HART COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BE IT RESOLVED by the Hart County Board of Commissioners as follows:

At the meeting held on the 14th day of January, 2025 the Board of Commissioners entered into closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel, real estate acquisition and litigation matters. At the close of the discussions upon this subject, the Board did vote by a vote of 5 to 0 to re-enter into open session and herewith takes the following action in open session:


1. The actions of the Board and the discussions of the same regarding the matter set forth for closed session purposes are hereby ratified.
2. Each member of this body does hereby confirm that to the best of their knowledge, based upon the advice of the County Attorney, who was present during said closed session, that the subject matter of the meeting was devoted to matters within the exceptions provided by law, and that the specific relevant exceptions are the subject matters as set forth above.
3. The Chairman of the Board is hereby authorized and directed and pursuant to this Resolution shall execute an affidavit, with full support of the members of this Board, in order to comply with O.C.G.A. § 50-14-4(b).
4. The affidavit shall be included and filed with the official minutes of the meeting and is set forth below.

AFFIDAVIT AS REQUIRED UNDER O.C.G.A. § 50-14-4(b)

Personally appeared before the undersigned attesting officer, duly authorized to administer oaths, Chairman, who, after being duly sworn, deposes and on oath states the following:

1. I was the Chairman of a meeting of the Hart County Board of Commissioners held on the 14th day of January, 2025
2. The subject matter of the closed portion of the meeting which was closed for the purposes of discussing personnel, real estate acquisition and litigations matters as allowed by O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2 and § 50-14-3, was devoted solely to matters within those exceptions and as provided by law.
3. This affidavit is being executed for the purpose of complying with the mandate of O.C.G.A. § 50-14-4(b) that such an affidavit be executed.

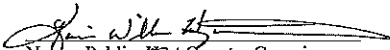
This 14th day of January, 2025.



 Chairman

Sworn to and subscribed before me

This 14th day of January, 2025



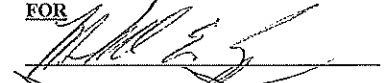
 Notary Public, Hart County, Georgia

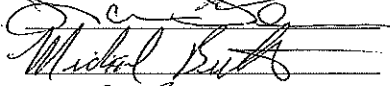
My commission expires: 11/7/27

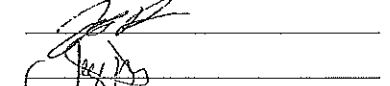
Commissioners voting on the Resolution:


FOR

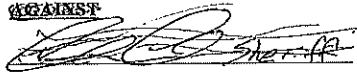
~~AGAINST~~



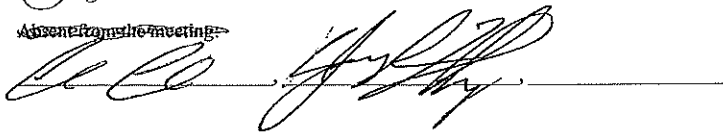









~~Absent from the meeting~~





 Betty Floyd, Associate County Clerk