

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
WARE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, JULY 14, 2025
5:00 p.m.**

The Ware County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting, Monday, July 14, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. in the Ware County Commission Chambers, 305 Oak Street, Suite 201 Waycross, Georgia 31501 with Chairman Elmer Thrift presiding.

CALL TO ORDER	Chairman Elmer Thrift
COMMISSIONERS PRESENT	Commissioner Barry Cox; Commissioner Leonard Burse; Commissioner Jon Tindall
COMMISSIONERS ABSENT	Commissioner Timmy Lucas
STAFF PRESENT	County Manager James Shubert; Assistant County Attorney Rebecca Ditto; County Clerk Melinda Brooks
PRESS	Danny Bartlett, WJH
INVOCATION	The invocation was waived from the Work Session
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE	The Pledge of Allegiance was waived from the Work Session

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Tindall made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Burse seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Leonard Burse-aye; Commissioner Jon Tindall-aye; Commissioner Barry Cox-aye,
Commissioner Timmy Lucas- ABSENT and Chairman Elmer Thrift-aye.

GUEST SPEAKER: **None**

CONSENT ITEMS:

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Work Session	December 9, 2024	Public Hearing	March 10, 2025
Public Hearing	December 9, 2024	Regular Meeting	March 10, 2025
Regular Meeting	December 9, 2024	Called Meeting	March 31, 2025
Called Meeting	December 31, 2024	Work Session	May 12, 2025
Regular Meeting	January 16, 2025	Work Session	June 9, 2025
Work Session	February 10, 2025	Regular Meeting	June 9, 2025
Public Hearing	February 10, 2025	Public Hearing	June 18, 2025
Regular Meeting	February 10, 2025	Called Meeting	June 26, 2025

Commissioner Tindall made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Burse seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Leonard Burse-aye; Commissioner Jon Tindall-aye; Commissioner Barry Cox-aye, Commissioner Timmy Lucas- ABSENT and Chairman Elmer Thrift-aye.

AGENDA ITEMS

A. Resolution 2025-13: TREES Act

Chairman Thrift asked if there was a motion on this item.

Commissioner Tindall made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-13 for the TREES Act. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion.

Chairman Thrift asked if there is any discussion. Commissioner Tindall noted that this resolution to approve the act passed by Georgia's General Assembly in response to the damage by Hurricane Helene. It is intended to help those who cut timber and took a loss. They will receive a refund of the timber tax they paid.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Leonard Burse-aye; Commissioner Jon Tindall-aye; Commissioner Timmy Lucas- ABSENT Commissioner Barry Cox-aye; and Chairman Elmer Thrift-aye.

B. SPLOST Purchase Request: Recreation Department

Chairman Thrift asked if there was a motion on this item.

Commissioner Burse made a motion to approve the SPLOST purchase request for the Recreation Department in the amount of \$133,559.20 for the following items: Commissioner Tindall seconded the motion.

Chairman Thrift asked if there is any discussion. Commissioner Tindall noted that this purchase is to replace old equipment, get some new equipment, and to repair lights on the field.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Leonard Burse-aye; Commissioner Jon Tindall-aye; Commissioner Timmy Lucas- ABSENT Commissioner Barry Cox-aye; and Chairman Elmer Thrift-aye.

C. SPLOST Purchase Request: Public Works

Chairman Thrift asked if there needed to be a vote on this item. County Manager Shubert explained that a vote is not necessary, but staff needs permission from the Commission to put these requested items out for bid or quote. Chairman Thrift asked the Commission for their opinion. Commissioner Tindall stated for the record that he was ready to approve public works getting bids and/or pricing for requested equipment. All members of the Commission were in agreement to approve the Public

Works Director to bid out some equipment and get quotes for other pieces.

D. Procurement Policy – Mandatory Under Georgia Law

Chairman Thrift asked if there was a motion on this item.

Commissioner Tindall made a motion to accept and adopt the new procurement policy as mandated by Georgia law. Commissioner Burse seconded the motion.

Chairman Thrift asked if there is any discussion. Commissioner Burse noted that during the last General Assembly the legislature raised these limits under HB 137.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Leonard Burse-aye; Commissioner Pope-aye; Commissioner Timmy Lucas-ABSENT Commissioner Barry Cox-aye; and Chairman Elmer Thrift-aye.

E. Bid Award: Street Paving – 2023 Local Funds Phase 1 – Coastal Engineering

Vice Chairman Cox asked if there was a motion on this item.

Commissioner Tindall made a motion to approve the bid award for 2023 Local Funds Phase 1 Street Paving with funds coming from the 2025 LMIG and the 10% match and extra coming from either 2022 SPLOST or Regional TSPLOST Discretionary Funds. The bid is for \$1,351,112.15, and the LMIG award is only \$1,119,535.22 Commissioner Burse seconded the motion.

Vice Chairman Cox asked if there is any discussion. Commissioner Burse asked if these are the short shorts that are being paved. Commissioner Tindall explained that there are several streets with sections that are 300-400 feet long that are not paved. By paving all of these sections, it will keep the road graders out of this area and allow them to stay on the longer roads out in the County. He also noted that this list is from the list put together for the 2022 LMIG application, but didn't make the cut. He is glad to see that this area is being finished.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Leonard Burse-aye; Commissioner Jon Tindall-aye; Commissioner Timmy Lucas-ABSENT Commissioner Barry Cox-aye; and Chairman Elmer Thrift-aye.

F. Resolution 2025-15: Relocate Roscoe Mixon Road

Chairman Thrift asked if there was a motion on this item.

Commissioner Tindall made a motion to approve Resolution 202-15 and relocate the road several more feet to the other side of its current location Commissioner Cox seconded the motion.

Chairman Thrift asked if there is any discussion. Commissioner Burse stated the neighbors are good with it being moved over. County Manager Shubert said the plats and deeds are in order.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Leonard Burse-aye; Commissioner Jon Tindall-aye; Commissioner Timmy Lucas-ABSENT Commissioner Barry Cox-aye; and Chairman Elmer Thrift-aye.

G. Contract with CSRA Probation Services

Chairman Thrift asked if there was a motion on this item.

Commissioner Tindall made a motion to approve the CSRA contract as written. Commissioner Burse seconded the motion.

Chairman Thrift asked if there is any discussion. Commissioner Tindall clarified that this is a standard annual contract with Ware County State Court and CSRA (the agency that handles probation monitoring).

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Leonard Burse-aye; Commissioner Jon Tindall-aye; Commissioner Timmy Lucas-ABSENT Commissioner Barry Cox-aye; and Chairman Elmer Thrift-aye.

H. Surplus Miscellaneous Items

Chairman Thrift asked if there was a motion on this item.

Commissioner Burse made a motion to declare a surplus of the miscellaneous items as listed with the removal of the bricks that match the administration building. Commissioner Tindall seconded the motion. He made it known that anything of value would be put on GovDeals.com. The other items, not worth saving, would be put in the dumpster.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Leonard Burse-aye; Commissioner Jon Tindall-aye; Commissioner Timmy Lucas-ABSENT Commissioner Barry Cox-aye; and Chairman Elmer Thrift-aye.

I. 2023 CDBG – Phase 2 Dusty Lane (TA #2) & Katie Lane (TA #3)

Chairman Thrift asked if there was a motion on this item.

Commissioner Tindall made a motion to approve the CDBG Phase 2 for Dusty and Katie Lanes. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion.

Chairman Thrift asked if there is any discussion. Commissioner Tindall clarified that there was an overage of money from the 2023 CDBG (project came in under budget), so the project was being extended in the same area. Commissioner Cox also pointed out that this would eliminate the need for road graders in this neighborhood area.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Leonard Burse-aye; Commissioner Jon Tindall-aye; Commissioner Timmy Lucas-ABSENT Commissioner Barry Cox-aye; and Chairman Elmer Thrift-aye.

J. Request to Rezone Lots 1-3 of Wacona Heights (Phase 1)

Chairman Thrift asked if there was a motion on this item.

Commissioner Burse made a motion to approve the rezoning request for Wacona Heights Phase 1. Commissioner Tindall seconded the motion.

Chairman Thrift asked if there is any discussion. There was none.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Leonard Burse-aye; Commissioner Jon Tindall-aye; Commissioner Timmy Lucas-ABSENT Commissioner Barry Cox-aye; and Chairman Elmer Thrift-aye.

K. Request to Close/Abandon Alley in Block 134 of Emerson Park Subdivision

Chairman Thrift asked if there was a motion on this item.

Commissioner Cox made a motion to close and abandon the alley in block 134 of Emerson Park Subdivision. Commissioner Tindall seconded the motion.

Chairman Thrift asked if there is any discussion. Commissioner Tindall this should have been done some time ago; however, he is glad the County is cleaning up these old issues. The Chairman asked if closing the alleyway and giving to the landowners would increase the property value. County Manager Shubert stated once the plat and deed is recorded and the PT-61 form completed, the strip of land would be added to the tax rolls.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Leonard Burse-aye; Commissioner Jon Tindall-aye; Commissioner Timmy Lucas-ABSENT Commissioner Barry Cox-aye; and Chairman Elmer Thrift-aye.

L. Request to Amend Ware County Zoning Resolution Text to Permit Commissary Kitchen in all Agriculture Zoning Districts

Chairman Thrift asked if there was a motion on this item.

Commissioner Tindall made a motion to approve the request as written. Commissioner Burse seconded the motion.

Chairman Thrift asked if there is any discussion. Commissioner Tindall clarified this is not for restaurants but for food prep (grab and go). The County will not oversee these kitchens as they will have to meet the health department guidelines. These kitchens are for bulk meals or prepared meals as for food trucks.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Leonard Burse-aye; Commissioner Jon Tindall-aye; Commissioner Timmy Lucas-ABSENT Commissioner Barry Cox-aye; and Chairman Elmer Thrift-aye.

COUNTY MANAGER'S COMMENTS:

County Manager stated he wanted to add to Commissioner's Burse regarding the tragic deaths that have occurred in our area. He noted that these families need to be kept in everyone's prayers.

He also told the Commission that he would be compiling all paving projects on a spreadsheet and

list the funding sources, such as grants, SPLOST, TSPLOST discretionary funds, etc. He also noted that SPLOST collections are going well. It appears that the full \$55 million will be collected. He reminded the Commission that County Attorney Tony Rowell had told the Commission at the March 31 meeting that they needed to look into interest bearing accounts. He noted that he has reached back out to Mr. Rowell and the accounting supervisor has been checking with local banks.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Burse commented that he appreciates the idea of having a spreadsheet and keeping up with fund sources. Commissioner Tindall said it would make it easier to explain to constituents how funds are being spent and on what projects.

Commissioner Tindall said the Pierce County EMS Director James Spivey recently passed away. He remembered Mr. Spivey as a good man. His wife, Nicky, runs DC Downtown which feeds about 300-400 families per week by giving out canned, fresh, and perishable foods.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Tindall made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting. Commissioner Burse seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:16 p. m.

Date proposed to be approved: August 11, 2025.


Elmer Thrift, Chairman

ATTEST:


Melinda L. Brooks, County Clerk

8-13-2025
Date

