

**MINUTES  
PUBLIC HEARING  
WARE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
WEDNESDAY JUNE 18, 2025  
10:00 a.m.**

**The Ware County Board of Commissioners held a Public Hearing, Wednesday, June 18, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. in the Ware County Commission Chambers, 305 Oak Street, Suite 201, Waycross, Georgia 31501 with Vice Chairman Barry Cox presiding.**

<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>	Vice Chairman Barry Cox
<b>COMMISSIONERS PRESENT</b>	Commissioner Leonard Burse, Commissioner Barry Cox, Commissioner Jon Tindall
<b>COMMISSIONERS ABSENT</b>	Chairman Elmer Thrift, & Commissioner Timmy Lucas
<b>STAFF PRESENT</b>	County Manager James Shubert; County Clerk Melinda Brooks
<b>PRESS</b>	Rick Head, WJH
<b>INVOCATION</b>	The invocation was given by Commissioner Burse
<b>PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE</b>	The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Chairman Barry Cox

**Call to Order:**

Vice Chairman Cox called to order the public hearing for the proposed budget for the Fiscal Year 2026

**Presentation**

Accounting Supervisor Beverly York presented the proposed \$50 million budget to the Commission. (A copy of the Power Point presentation is attached to these minutes for the record.) She noted that the County is self-insured and has managed to finish under budget the past couple of years and hopes to be under budget for FY2025. Mrs. York did mention that training went over budget. However, she understands it is important for the County retain experienced and knowledgeable employees, so the training budget was increased. Also, she told the Commission that currently the County is over budget due to the expense of the debris cleanup from Hurricane Helene. Once reimbursement is received from FEMA, the County should finish under budget for FY2025. The budget includes a three percent COLA for all employees and an estimated 6.68% increase in the cost of health benefits if claims do not run too high.

Mrs. York reported LOST revenue is \$4,655,585.11 as of May 2025. The remaining balance in 2014 SPLOST is \$778,700.97. As of May 2025, Ware County has received a total of \$17,109,960.17 from 2022 SPLOST revenues. The 2018 Single County TSPLOST has approximately \$446,164.96 remaining for approved County projects. As of May 2025, Ware

County has received \$5,478,365 in discretionary funds through the Regional TSPLOST, approximately \$122,000 per month.

Commissioner Burse brought up the presentation given by WWDA Director Jason Rubenbauer at the June 18 public hearing for the FY2026 proposed budget and asked about in an increase in the WWDA budget. County Manager Shubert responded that the WWDA Director did not ask for an increase at the hearing. Commissioner Burse noted that business prospects have moved from wanting property shovel ready to having a building that is occupancy ready. He understands the need for a spec building. WWDA is scheduled to get only \$1 million from the 2022 SPLOST. Commissioner Tindall agreed that he would like to help with economic development and see an increase in the SPLOST amount for WWDA. When asked which account is used to pay for the side boom mowing, County Manager Shubert responded that it is funded from 2018 SPLOST.

### **CLOSURE**

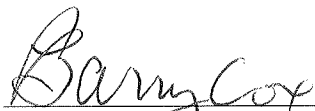
Commissioner Burse made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Tindall seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Leonard Burse- aye; Commissioner Jon Tindall – aye; Commissioner Barry Cox; Commissioner - Timmy Lucas- absent; Chairman Elmer Thrift- absent;

The public hearing was closed at 10:38 a. m.

Date proposed to be approved: July 14, 2025



**Barry Cox, Vice - Chairman**

**ATTEST:**



**Melinda L. Brooks, County Clerk**



**Date**

