

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
WARE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 2025
5:00 p.m.**

The Ware County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting, Monday, August 11, 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 Timmy Lucas; Commissioner Jon Tindall
COMMISSIONERS ABSENT	None
STAFF PRESENT	County Manager James Shubert; Assistant County Attorney Jennifer Herzog; County Clerk Melinda Brooks
PRESS	Mittie Vaughn – Waycross Press Express
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 Lucas 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-aye; and Chairman Elmer Thrift-aye.

GUEST SPEAKER: **None**

CONSENT ITEMS:

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Work Session	July 14, 2025	Regular Meeting July 14, 2025
Public Hearing	July 14, 2025	Called Meeting July 28, 2025

Commissioner Lucas 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-aye; and Chairman Elmer Thrift-aye.

AGENDA ITEMS

A. Approve Contract for Thrift Brother, LLC for Short Street Paving

Vice Chairman Cox read the agenda item and asked if there was a motion on this item.

Commissioner Burse made a motion to approve the contract for Thrift Brothers, LLC, who submitted the lowest bid for \$1,351,112.15. Commissioner Tindall seconded the motion.

Vice Chairman Cox asked if there was any discussion. County Manager Shubert explained the 2025 LMIG will fund the contract for \$1,119,535.22. Ware County's match is \$231,576.93, and can be paid by SPLOST funds or TIA discretionary funds.

Roll Call Vote:

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

B. Approve Title Search, Appraisal, and Purchase of ROW for Wadley Road, Banks Lane, Banks Road, and Slash Pine Road

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

Commissioner Cox made a motion to authorize the County Attorney to perform a title search on properties that will be purchased for paving and realignment on Wadley Road and paving on Banks Lane, Banks Road, and Slash Pine Road; and to authorize the County Manager to hire a certified appraiser to obtain appraisals of such properties and to purchase the same properties at the original appraised fair market value price. This is the same authority given on July 28, 2025, for Albany Avenue Overpass ROW acquisition. Commissioner Lucas seconded the motion.

Chairman Thrift asked if there was any discussion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

C. Surplus Request: Items from IT, Fire Rescue, and EMS

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

Commissioner Cox made a motion to approve the request to surplus the items from IT, Fire Rescue, and EMS. Commissioner Lucas seconded the motion.

Chairman Thrift asked if there was any discussion. Commissioner Tindall explained to the listening audience that the working IT items will be auctioned. Due to U.S. regulations, the Fire Rescue and EMS items have expired and can no longer be used. They are being donated to another country (Mexico) that does not have a lot of the necessary equipment. A fire department in North Carolina

collects the expired equipment and supplies from all over the U.S. and gets them to the countries that are in need.

Roll Call Vote:

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

D. Resolution 2025-17: Authorizing Participation in ACCG-IRMA Supplemental Medical, Accident, and Disability Fund: First Responder PTSD Program

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

Commissioner Burse made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-17: authorizing participation in ACCG-IRMA Supplemental Medical, Accident, and Disability Fund: First Responder PTSD Program. Commissioner Tindall seconded the motion.

Chairman Thrift asked if there was any discussion. This is a result of HB 481, the Ashley Wilson Act, which mandates that the state and local governments offer a supplemental policy to help cover the costs of copays, medicines, and other expenses. Commissioner Tindall stated that during the break, he did his due diligence and discovered that ACCG had already done the legwork and got the best rates for this program.

Roll Call Vote:

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

E. Approve Borrow Pit Agreements

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

Commissioner Lucas made a motion to approve the borrow pit option agreements for Rusty Tatum and David Tucker (on Ammons Road). Commissioner Cox seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

F. Request to Close/Abandon an Unnamed Street in the Sandhill Subdivision

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

Commissioner Tindall made a motion to close and abandon the unnamed street in the Sandhill Subdivision. Commissioner Burse seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

G. Request to Close/Abandon an Unopened Section of Lacie Street

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

Commissioner Tindall made a motion to close and abandon an unopened 50' x 500' section of road known as Lacie Street, located in the Deenwood Subdivision. Commissioner Burse seconded the motion.

Chairman Thrift asked if there was any discussion. Commissioner Tindall explained to the listening audience that years ago, roads were drawn on a map for this subdivision, but they never came to be real roads. They are still just lines on the paper. The property that would have been the road will go to the property owner. If there are owners on both sides of the road, then it will be split down the middle, with each side going to the corresponding landowner. Commissioner Burse said this puts the property back on the tax rolls.

Roll Call Vote:

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

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT:

County Manager Shubert told the Commission he will begin the Certified Manager's Program on September 16. He will be in class three days each month until he finishes in April. He also reminded the Commission that the Collaborative Meeting with the City and the Board of Education is scheduled for Wednesday, August 13th, at 9 a.m.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Burse mentioned there have been several deaths in his community and made special note of Mrs. Flynn, who was the wife of the chaplain at the local state prison.

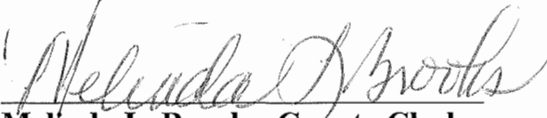
Commissioner Cox announced that former Commissioner Marshall Monk passed yesterday and asked that his family be remembered. Commissioner Monk served 14 years as a Ware County Commissioner.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Tindall made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting. Commissioner Lucas seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Date proposed to be approved: September 8, 2025

ATTEST:


Melinda L. Brooks, County Clerk


Elmer Thrift, Chairman

9-10-2025
Date

