

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
WARE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2026  
5:00 p.m.**

**The Ware County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting, Monday, February 9, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. in the Ware County Commission Chambers, 305 Oak Street, Suite 201, Waycross, Georgia 31501, with Chairman Elmer Thrift presiding.**

<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>	Chairman Elmer Thrift
<b>COMMISSIONERS PRESENT</b>	Commissioner Barry Cox; Commissioner Leonard Burse; Commissioner Timmy Lucas; Commissioner Jon Tindall
<b>COMMISSIONERS ABSENT</b>	None
<b>STAFF PRESENT</b>	County Manager James Shubert; Assistant County Attorney Jennifer Herzog; County Clerk Melinda Brooks
<b>PRESS</b>	Danny Bartlett, WJH
<b>INVOCATION</b>	The invocation was waived from the Work Session
<b>PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE</b>	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 Cox seconded the motion. Motion to approve the agenda passed unanimously.

**CONSENT ITEMS:**

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Work Session	January 12, 2026
Public Hearing	January 12, 2026
Regular Meeting	January 12, 2026

Commissioner Burse made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Lucas seconded the motion. Motion passed with all “ayes”.

**GUEST SPEAKER:**

**Ricky Crosby 3777 Scapa Road**

Mr. Crosby explained to the Commission that he has problems with an adjacent landowner. He noted that the property is zoned agricultural, but he has not seen any tractors or farming, just the sale of trailers. He expressed his frustration with various incidents that have occurred and stated he reported one such occurrence to the Ware County Sheriff’s Office. The Commission stated they would have the head of the Code Enforcement Office investigate adherence to zoning policy, etc.

## AGENDA ITEMS

### **A. Discussion of Locality Pay for Superior Court Judges**

Judge Kight spoke to the Commission regarding HB 85. The Superior Court judges have previously received supplements from the local counties. HB 85 raised their state-paid salary and terminated the county supplements, which were replaced by locality pay. This new payment amount is lower and will reduce the county's overall budget. Due to Judge Gillis's retirement, locality pay will be even lower for a few months until someone is appointed to fill his position.

### **B. Approve County Roads for Paving**

Chairman Thrift called for a motion on this item.

Commissioner Tindall made a motion to approve the cost estimates from Hofstadter and Associates in the amount of \$658,843.51 for the following roads: Folks Bennett Road, Solomon Street, Will Cox Road, and Gooding Bay 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.

### **C. Approve Commitment of Funding Letter for Construction of State Patrol Post 22**

Chairman Thrift called for a motion on this item.

Commissioner Lucas made a motion to approve the Commitment of Funding Letter (for \$300,000) to construct a new state patrol post. Commissioner Tindall 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.

### **D. Request to Close/Abandon Pine Hill Street**

Chairman Thrift called for a motion on this item.

Commissioner Tindall made a motion to close/abandon Pine Hill Street. Commissioner Burse seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

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

**COUNTY MANAGER REPORT:**

**COMMISSION COMMENTS:**

**ADJOURN**

Commissioner Burse made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting. Commissioner Lucas seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p. m.

Date proposed to be approved: March 9, 2026

  
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Elmer Thrift, Chairman

**ATTEST:**

  
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Melinda L. Brooks, County Clerk

3-10-2026  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

