

**MINUTES
CALLED MEETING
WARE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2026
10:00 a.m.**

The Ware County Board of Commissioners held a Called Meeting, Monday, February 12, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in the Ware County Commission Chambers, 305 Oak Street, Suite 201, Waycross, Georgia 31501, with Chairman Elmer Thrift presiding.

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| 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; County Attorney Tony Rowell; County Clerk Melinda Brooks |
| PRESS | |
| INVOCATION | The invocation was given by Commissioner Burse |
| PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE | The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Chairman. |

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion was made by Commissioner Burse to approve the agenda as presented, with Commissioner Lucas seconding.

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. Consider a Motion to Enter into Executive Session

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

Commissioner Lucas made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The Commission entered into Executive Session at 10:08 a.m.

After coming back into the Commission Chambers, Commissioner Lucas made a motion to exit the Executive Session. Commissioner Burse seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Executive Session ended at 11:21 a.m.

Commissioner Tindall made a motion to approve the locality pay as requested by the Superior Court judges, retroactive to January 1, 2026. Commissioner Lucas seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Commissioner Tindall explained that the locality pay is lower than the supplement being paid, so the overall budget will decrease. Commissioner Burse added that this is a result of HB 85, which seeks to place the judge's pay on an equal scale.

Roll Call Vote:

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

At this time, Commissioner Tindall asked to be excused for an emergency medical appointment.

B. Eva Street Realignment

County Manager James Shubert presented this item to the Commission, saying that the existing roadbed is partially located outside the current right-of-way limits. He explained that shifting the roadway to the center of the existing right-of-way would significantly reduce the yard area in front of the apartments located on the south side of the road.

Cornerstone Real Estate, LLC owns the property on both sides of Eva Street. To address this issue, Cornerstone Real Estate, LLC has agreed to convey additional right-of-way to Ware County along the northern side of Eva Street. In exchange, Ware County will convey right-of-way along the southern side of Eva Street to Cornerstone Real Estate, LLC.

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

Commissioner Lucas made a motion to approve the Eva Street realignment. Commissioner Burse seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

COUNTY MANAGER REPORT:

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

ADJOURN

Commissioner Lucas made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Burse seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:39 a.m.

Date proposed to be approved: March 9, 2026


Elmer Thrift, Chairman

ATTEST:


Melinda L. Brooks, County Clerk

3-10-2026
Date

