

**MINUTES
CALLED MEETING
WARE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2026
10:00 a.m.**

The Ware County Board of Commissioners held a Called Meeting, Thursday, April 30, 2026, at 01:00 a.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 Vaughan, Waycross Press-Express
INVOCATION	Commissioner Jon Tindall
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE	Chairman Elmer Thrift
<u>GUEST SPEAKER:</u>	None

AGENDA ITEMS

A. Approve Contract with Coca-Cola Bottling Company for Recreation Department

County Manager Jame Shubert told the Commission that this item is to approve the Coca-Cola contract. The bid was awarded at the April 13 meeting. Beverage product pricing per case is as follows: 20 carbonated - \$33.49, 16.9-20 oz water - \$26.74, 20 oz isotonic - \$32.10. Additional contributions are a \$10,000 upfront marketing fee to be used for a utility buggy, \$4,500 each agreement year (\$2,000 volunteer appreciation & recognition and \$2,500 sponsorship), ten-gallon coolers, cups, squeeze bottles, carriers, and other items with an estimated value of \$1,000 per agreement year.

Chairman Thrift asked if there was a motion on this item. Commissioner Burse made a motion to approve the contract as presented in the proposal. Commissioner Tindall seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Roll Call Vote:

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

B. Health Insurance Renewal Presentation

John Leggett of MSI reminded the Commission that Ware County is self-funded with Meritain as the third-party administrator. Veracity manages the pharmacy side. The Chairman Thrift asked if there was a motion on this item.

Commissioner Lucas made a motion to approve keeping the health insurance as is. Commissioner Burse seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Leonard Burse-aye; Commissioner Jon Tindall-aye; Commissioner Timmy Lucas-aye; Commissioner Barry Cox-no; and Chairman Elmer Thrift-no.

Executive Session

Commissioner Tindall made a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing real estate acquisition. Commissioner Lucas seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Entered Executive session at 10:50 a.m.

After the Commission entered chambers, Commissioner Tindall made a motion to exit Executive Session. Commissioner Burse seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The Commission exited the Executive Session a

COUNTY MANAGER REPORT:

County Manager James Shubert asked the Commission to set a date for the budget retreat, during which department heads will present their budget requests to the Commission. Thursday, May 21, at 9 a.m. was selected as the date for the budget retreat. He also reminded the Commission of the public prayer service on Saturday, May 2, at 9 a.m. and noted that the next Collaborative Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 6, at 10 a.m.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

ADJOURN

Commissioner Tindall made a motion to adjourn the called meeting. Commissioner Lucas seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a. m.

Date proposed to be approved: May 11, 2026

ATTEST:

Melinda L. Brooks

Melinda L. Brooks, County Clerk

Elmer Thrift
Elmer Thrift, Chairman

5-11-2026

Date

