



**PAULDING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION MINUTES
August 09, 2022**

**Watson Government Complex
Second Floor – Board of Commissioners Meeting Room**

CALL TO ORDER: David L. Carmichael, Chairman

INVOCATION & PLEDGE: Pastor Johnny McBurrows with Shiloh Baptist Church

PRESENT: David L. Carmichael, Chairman; Keith Dunn, Post I; Sandy Kaecher, Post II; Virginia Galloway, Post III; Brian Stover, Post IV; Jayson Phillips, County Attorney; Frank Baker, County Manager; Rebecca Merideth, County Clerk

MINUTES:

- 1. The July 26, 2022 Work Session Minutes and the July 26, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes were available for review.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Team Paulding: Employee of the Month, Carla Puckett with Paulding County Probate Court aired for the Board and the audience.

The Board of Commissioners presented the Paulding 811 Day Proclamation to Mr. Joe Ordway, Vice President with Paulding UCC.

INVITED GUESTS:

Sheriff Gary Gulledge presented the Medal of Merit to Corporal Jamie Winkles and Deputy Joshua Bishop.

BID AWARDS: None

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES & DEPARTMENTS: None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON AGENDA ITEMS: None

CONSENT AGENDA: Chairman Carmichael read the following consent agenda items:

- 2. Approve the amendments to the 2022 Board of Commissioners regular meeting schedule and the Planning Commission regular meeting schedule to move the Tuesday, September 27th meetings to Monday, September 26th.*
- 3. Approve the request to retire or surplus Major Anthony Henderson's Service Weapon, retiring August 19, 2022 Glock Model 21 Serial #SWF633, cost \$469.00.*
- 4. Adopt Solicitor General's job classification for Office Manager.*

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- 5. Transfer of 112 Acres of Airport property from Paulding County, as sole owner to Paulding County and the Paulding County Airport Authority, as joint owners, and authorize the Chairman to execute a deed for the same:*

Discussed action to approve the transfer of 112 Acres of Airport property from Paulding County, as sole owner to Paulding County and the Paulding County Airport Authority, as joint owners, and authorize the Chairman to execute a deed for the same. Jayson Phillips, County Attorney stated this is a housekeeping matter related to the co-sponsor Intergovernmental Agreements with the Airport. The property at the Airport is to be held jointly between the Airport Authority and Paulding County. This deed will move the 112 acres of property from Paulding County to

Paulding County and the Airport Authority jointly to make sure we are consistent with the FAA requirements.

6. Resolution 22-27 adopting the County M & O Millage Rate at 4.22 mills:

Discussed action to adopt Resolution 22-27 adopting the County M & O Millage Rate at 4.22 mills. Tabitha Pollard, Finance Director stated the budget has been calculated to allow for rollbacks. This Millage Rate is down from last year's rate of 5.21 mills, which is mainly due to increases in revenue from other taxes.

Chairman Carmichael asked Ms. Pollard to explain the term "Rollback".

Ms. Pollard stated a "Rollback" is a decrease in the Millage Rate. It is based on the Tax Digest received from the Tax Assessors Office. Since the Tax Digest increased, it allowed for the Millage Rate to decrease.

7. Resolution 22-28 adopting the Fire Tax Millage Rate at 2.50 mills:

Discussed action to adopt Resolution 22-28 adopting the Fire Tax Millage Rate at 2.50 mills. Tabitha Pollard, Finance Director stated in 2007, Paulding County had a voter approved Fire Tax that ranges from 2.0 mills to 5.0 mills which funds operations for the Fire Department. This Millage Rate is down from last year's rate of 3.1 mills, which is mainly due to increases in revenue from other taxes.

8. Resolution 22-29 adopting the Debt Service Millage Rate at 1.6 mills:

Discussed action to adopt Resolution 22-29 adopting the Debt Service Millage Rate at 1.6 mills. Tabitha Pollard, Finance Director stated Paulding County has bonds that have to be paid in an annual amount of \$11,000,000.00. This Millage Rate is down from last year's rate of 2.0 mills, which is mainly due to increased revenue from other taxes. She further stated the recommended rate of 1.6 mills will allow for the debt service to be paid.

Chairman Carmichael asked Ms. Pollard to comment on what the debt service covers.

Ms. Pollard stated the debt service covers several items, including the Conservation Property purchased by the County in 2007, the Administration Building, the Courthouse, the Jail and a few EDO/IBA issues.

9. Resolution 22-30 adopting the County School Tax Millage Rate at 17.75 mills:

Discussed action to adopt Resolution 22-30 adopting the County School Tax Millage Rate at 17.75 mills. Tabitha Pollard, Finance Director stated the Paulding County Board of Commissioners is the only board that can levy a tax. The School Board prepares its budget and decides what they need to operate. They are asking for a Millage Rate of 17.75 mills.

Commissioner Galloway wanted to confirm that this millage rate is set by the School Board. The Board of Commissioners can only pass or deny the request. She further commented that if the Board of Commissioners chose not to pass the request, the School Board could take the Board of Commissioners to court.

Jayson Phillips, County Attorney stated that is correct. In the past, The Georgia Supreme Court has ordered that Boards of Commissioners must levy what is recommended and the School Boards determine the amount.

Chairman Carmichael commented that 65% of the overall property tax goes to the schools.

Ms. Pollard stated that is correct. The County receives the remaining 35% of the property tax.

10. Resolution 22-31 authorizing the Tax Commissioner to retain a 2.5% fee for the collection of School Tax:

Discussed action to adopt Resolution 22-31 authorizing the Tax Commissioner to retain a 2.5% fee for the collection of School Tax. Tabitha Pollard, Finance Director stated this fee helps to pay for the cost of collecting the School Tax. The State of Georgia allows for a 2.5% fee and that is the recommended amount. The collected fees will go into the General Fund.

11. Adopt the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget:

Discussed action to adopt the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget. Tabitha Pollard, Finance Director made a presentation explaining the Budget Process. The Budget was prepared on June 1, 2022 and

published for public review. A Public Hearing was held on July 25, 2022 to receive public comment. An updated version of the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget was presented to the Board of Commissioners listing a few minor changes from the Budget of June 1, 2022. This is the budget before you today for consideration and adoption.

12. Resolution 22-32 a Resolution calling for a referendum Election on the renewal of the 1 percent County Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) for November 8, 2022:

Discussed action to adopt Resolution 22-32 a Resolution calling for a referendum Election on the renewal of the 1 percent County Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) for November 8, 2022. Tabitha Pollard, Finance Director gave a presentation showing items purchased from SPLOST over the past few years. This referendum will be placed on the November 8, 2022 ballot. Ms. Pollard further stated this a continuation of the tax that raises \$27,000,000.00 annually for the entire County.

Jayson Phillips, County Attorney stated this is a Resolution that calls for this to be placed on the ballot for the voters to decide if it will be renewed when it expires. Secondly, if passed, there are two Intergovernmental Agreements with Hiram and Dallas, setting forth the projects on how the money is to be used. Further, Mr. Phillips stated the previously mentioned Millage Rates pertain only to property owners in Paulding County. This tax includes everyone that shops in Paulding County.

13. Ordinance 22-10 amending Chapter 58 of the Official Code of Paulding County regarding Emergency Management:

Discussed action to adopt Ordinance 22-10 amending Chapter 58 of the Official Code of Paulding County regarding Emergency Management. Jayson Phillips, County Attorney stated this is an Ordinance update. Our Emergency Management Ordinance mirrors State Law. This update will clarify how the EMA Director is appointed, confirmed, and that the position reports directly to the Fire Chief. This amendment also addresses a few housekeeping issues.

14. Contract with RS&H, Inc. in the amount of \$275,469.96 for preliminary engineering design services for the Intersection Improvement Project at SR 120 (Charles Hardy Parkway) @ SR 6 Business (Atlanta Highway). Post 1 & 3:

Discussed action to authorize the Chairman to enter into a Contract with RS&H, Inc. in the amount of \$275,469.96 for preliminary engineering design services for the Intersection Improvement Project at SR 120 (Charles Hardy Parkway) @ SR 6 Business (Atlanta Highway). Post 1 & 3. George Jones, Transportation Director stated three proposals were received for this project. RS&H, Inc. was selected as the best firm to design the intersection improvements. He further stated since this project involves two State Highways, Paulding County will work with GDOT to gain approval for the work. This project will be funded by SPLOST.

Chairman Carmichael asked what the crash record is for that intersection.

Mr. Jones stated he did not have the exact data with him. He said he could provide the Commissioners with that information before the next meeting.

CONCLUSION OF REGULAR BUSINESS

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

Mr. Tim Estes stated his concerns with the current voting machines.

Mr. Randall West stated his concerns with the current voting machines.

Ms. PJ Douglas stated her concerns with the current voting machines.

Mr. Frederick Price stated his concerns with the current voting machines.

Mr. Tim Suddreth stated his concerns with the current voting machines.

Chairman Carmichael asked if any of the Commissioners had any comments or announcements.

Commissioner Kaecher stated the Ground Breaking Ceremony was held last Friday for Mulberry Rock Park Phase II. She thanked Michael Justus for his hard work. Also, she thanked the past Commissioners for purchasing the land.

Mr. Baker, County Manager stated State Court opened for business last week. He wanted to thank everyone involved, including the elected Clerk of Court, the Solicitor General, the Judge's Office and the Public Defender for all of their hard work.

Chairman Carmichael thanked Mr. Baker for his hard work and the many hours he put into the creation of the State Court.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT: Brian Stover made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Sandy Kaecher. Voting Yea: Chairman Carmichael, Post I Keith Dunn, Post II Sandy Kaecher, Post III Virginia Galloway, Post IV Brian Stover.