



**PAULDING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION MINUTES
January 23, 2024**

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

CALL TO ORDER: David L. Carmichael, Chairman

**INVOCATION
& PLEDGE:** Tabitha Pollard, Finance Director

PRESENT: David L. Carmichael, Chairman; Keith Dunn, Post 1; 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 January 9, 2024 Work Session Minutes and the January 9, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes were available for review.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Team Paulding: "The Get Paulding Reading Initiative" aired for the Commissioners and audience.

INVITED GUESTS: None

BID AWARDS: None

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES & DEPARTMENTS: None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON AGENDA ITEMS: None

CONSENT AGENDA: Chairman Carmichael read the following Consent Agenda item:

- 2. Amend the January 9, 2024 Work Session Minutes and the January 9, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes agenda item #18 to state a term date ending December 31, 2026 for the Region One Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) Advisory Council.*

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- 3. Purchase of Kubota Membrane Bioreactor (MBR) Equipment, instrumentation, support services and warranty in the amount of \$694,000.00. This purchase is funded through ARPA:* Discussed action to approve the purchase of Kubota Membrane Bioreactor (MBR) Equipment, instrumentation, support services and warranty in the amount of \$694,000.00. Located in Posts 1 and 4. Russell Kelly, Water System Assistant Director stated an Immediate Needs and Expansion Project Design is in progress at the Pumpkinvine WRF. This membrane purchase is part of the project. The membranes are to be installed in an existing empty basin built during the original construction. This will help by allowing the next step of expansion, which will be to add new membrane basins. He further stated the membranes are used in all other basins in the County, which helps in repairs and maintenance.

Chairman Carmichael asked about the lifespan of the membranes.

Mr. Kelly stated the membranes have a 10-year warranty. He further stated we have a membrane that lasted 17 years at the Upper Sweetwater WRF.

- 4. Ordinance 24-01 amending the Code of Ordinances Chapter 18, Article II, Section 18-31(d)(2) regarding water efficiency and to update required fill-in information:*

Discussed action to adopt Ordinance 24-01 amending the Code of Ordinances Chapter 18, Article II, Section 18-31(d)(2) regarding water efficiency and to update required fill-in information. Ann Lippmann, Community Development Director stated Paulding County is a member of the Metropolitan North Georgia Planning District, which includes 15 Counties and 96 Cities in the Metro Atlanta area. The adoption of this Ordinance will make Paulding County

compliant with the 2022 Water Resources Plan, which deals with water efficiency. She further stated the State has asked each local jurisdiction to adopt these requirements, which will update this section of the Paulding County Code.

5. Resolution 24-02 a Resolution supporting the introduction of local legislation to add an additional Judgeship to the State Court of Paulding County:

Discussed action to adopt Resolution 24-02 a Resolution supporting the introduction of local legislation to add an additional Judgeship to the State Court of Paulding County. Frank Baker, County Manager stated we knew this day would come when the State Court was in the early stages of becoming a reality. This Resolution is a request from the Board to the local Delegation. He further stated this request is the outcome of an analysis of the State Court from an outside source, Bob Bray, who is the executive Director of the State Court Judges Council.

Chairman Carmichael asked what the timetable is for the new judge.

Mr. Baker stated January 1, 2025 will be the start date, which will allow for preparation of offices and personnel.

6. Authorize the Chairman to execute a letter of support for the Wellstar Paulding Medical Center Expansion Project, as set forth on Exhibit A:

Discussed action to authorize the Chairman to execute a letter of support for the Wellstar Paulding Medical Center Expansion Project, as set forth on Exhibit A. Jayson Phillips, County Attorney stated that our new Paulding Hospital is currently at capacity and the County's population continues to grow. WellStar has approached the County and seeks support from the Board of Commissioners in building a new medical tower and parking facility. They are asking for a pledge in excess of 20% of the capital cost incurred in building the new facility. This will help WellStar obtain a certificate of need. He further stated WellStar asked the County for a pledge of support to build the hospital in 2010 - 2011. The County never had to provide any financial support.

Nichole Rydahl, WellStar Paulding Hospital COO spoke to the Commissioners and the audience about the pledge of support to expand the hospital campus. She stated the hospital currently has 112 licensed beds and a daily average of 125 admitted patients.

Commissioner Stover stated the pledge also helps to obtain funding and last time the hospital made full payment in five years. The chances of having to pay any of the 20% pledge is slim.

Ms. Rydahl agreed and stated the pledge will also allow a lower interest rate which will save the hospital hundreds of thousands of dollars. The State Needs Assessment states the hospital needs to have 47 more licensed beds. WellStar wants to have 58 more to meet future needs, but will build 56 to start.

Commissioner Kaecher asked what will the second tower provide to the County.

Ms. Rydahl stated it will have 56 acute care beds. The second floor will be dedicated to Heart and Vascular issues by expanding the Cath Labs and providing recovery space. Also, there will be an Imaging Center for CT Scans and MRIs.

Chairman Carmichael welcomed members of the Hospital Board present in the audience.

Mr. Baker, County Manager thanked everyone involved for coming together last week to make this happen today.

CONCLUSION OF REGULAR BUSINESS

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: None

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

Commissioner Kaecher announced the "Murder Mystery Dinner and Show" is to be held this Saturday, January 27, 2024 at 6:00 pm, at the Northwest Paulding Airport being sponsored by the Museum of Flight.

Chairman Carmichael thanked the Commissioners for going the "extra mile" to make Paulding County better.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

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