

# PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



117 Putnam Drive, Suite A ♦ Eatonton, GA 31024

## Minutes

**Tuesday, December 21, 2021 ♦ 6:30 PM**

*Putnam County Administration Building – Room 203*

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, December 21, 2021 at approximately 6:30 PM in the Putnam County Administration Building, 117 Putnam Drive, Room 203, Eatonton, Georgia.

### *PRESENT*

Chairman Billy Webster  
Commissioner Gary McElhenney  
Commissioner Daniel Brown  
Commissioner Bill Sharp  
Commissioner Jeff Wooten

### *STAFF PRESENT*

County Attorney Barry Fleming  
County Manager Paul Van Haute  
County Clerk Lynn Butterworth

### **Opening**

1. Welcome - Call to Order

Chairman Webster called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m.  
(Copy of agenda made a part of the minutes on minute book page \_\_\_\_\_.)

2. Approval of Agenda

**Motion to approve the Agenda.**

**Motion made by Commissioner Sharp, Seconded by Commissioner McElhenney.**

**Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Sharp, Commissioner Wooten**

3. Invocation

Planning & Development Director Lisa Jackson gave the invocation.

4. Pledge of Allegiance (DB)

Commissioner Brown led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes	Page 1 of 6	Approved
December 21, 2021		January 7, 2022

5. Special Presentation - James Marshall Proclamation

The commissioners presented a proclamation and BOC award to Mr. James P. Marshall, Jr. in recognition of his retirement from years of service as the Chairman of the Planning and Zoning Commission.

(Copy of proclamation made a part of the minutes on minute book page \_\_\_\_\_.)

**Zoning Public Hearing**

6. Request by W. David (Danny) Copelan to rezone 5.00 acres from AG to C-1 at 931 Pea Ridge Road [Map 092, Parcel 017001001, District 2] (staff-P&D)

Mr. Russell Wall spoke in support of the request and asked that this item be tabled until the January BOC meeting.

Mrs. Tracy Martin and Mr. Scott Martin spoke against this item.

Mr. Jon King and Mrs. Heidi King spoke against this item; Mrs. King also spoke against tabling. Planning & Development staff recommendation was for approval with the following conditions:

(1) The developer shall construct a deceleration lane in accordance with the Georgia Department of Transportation Regulations for Driveway & Encroachment Control to service the entrance on Pea Ridge Road of the development.

(2) Additional right-of-way to accommodate the deceleration lane and a ten-foot shoulder shall be dedicated by the developer to the county.

**Motion to table request by W. David (Danny) Copelan to rezone 5.00 acres from AG to C-1 at 931 Pea Ridge Road [Map 092, Parcel 017001001] until the January 18, 2022 BOC meeting.**

**Motion made by Commissioner Brown, Seconded by Commissioner Sharp.**

**Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Sharp, Commissioner Wooten**

**Regular Business Meeting**

7. Public Comments

Ms. Marianne Popek (speaking for Mr. Gentes) spoke against a pond/dam near their homes.

Mr. George Barnes commented that he recently purchased 55 acres near the property with the pond and has no problem with it. Mrs. Connie Barnes added that they have no plans to build a subdivision.

Mr. Adam Schulz commented that he built the pond and did obtain a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers and is working on a property zoning issue now and about 9 or 10 neighbors have signed a paper agreeing to the pond.

Mrs. Cason Shulz commented that the pond is for family use only and they do not plan or want to build a subdivision.

Ms. Sharon Dickens spoke against pond/dam which is blocking the flow of water to her cove.

Minutes	Page 2 of 6	Approved
December 21, 2021		January 7, 2022

8. Consent Agenda
  - a. Approval of Minutes - December 3, 2021 Regular Meeting (staff-CC)
  - b. Approval of Minutes - December 3, 2021 Executive Session (staff-CC)
  - c. Approval of 2022 Alcohol License for Tartam LLC - Casey's Food Mart (staff-CC)
  - d. Request for Final Plat Subdivision Approval - Eagles Rest at Cuscowilla Cottages (staff-P&D)

**Motion to approve the Consent Agenda.**

**Motion made by Commissioner McElhenney, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.**

**Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Sharp, Commissioner Wooten**

(Copy of documents made a part of the minutes on minute book pages \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.)

9. Authorization for Chairman to sign Resolution Supporting Reform to Georgia's Annexation Dispute Resolution Law (staff-CM)

County Manager Van Haute explained that this resolution is to put teeth in the position of all counties regarding annexation and ACCG has requested the counties to pass this.

**Motion to authorize the Chairman to sign the Resolution supporting Reform to Georgia's Annexation Dispute Resolution Law.**

**Motion made by Commissioner Sharp, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.**

**Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Sharp, Commissioner Wooten**

(Copy of resolution made a part of the minutes on minute book page \_\_\_\_\_.)

10. Discussion and possible action concerning a one time lump sum payment to the Sinclair Water Authority (BW)

Chairman Webster explained that the BOC was asked to put up \$250K to match Baldwin County's \$250K for work on the Sinclair Water Authority plant and for the purchase of needed equipment. County Manager Van Haute has determined that State Rescue money can be used to cover this expense.

**Motion to approve a one time lump sum payment of \$250K out of rescue money to SWA.**

**Motion made by Commissioner Brown, Seconded by Commissioner Sharp.**

**Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Sharp, Commissioner Wooten**

11. Awarding of Solicitation 21-36001-001 Type I Ambulance (staff-CM & EMS)

EMS Director Murphey advised that only one bid was received. It was from Custom Truck & Body Works for a total bid of \$197,479.00.

**Motion to award Solicitation 21-36001-001 for a Type I Ambulance to Custom Truck & Body Works at \$197,479.00.**

**Motion made by Commissioner McElhenney, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.**

**Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Sharp, Commissioner Wooten**

Minutes	Page 3 of 6	Approved
December 21, 2021		January 7, 2022

12. Request from Fire Chief for approval of the purchase of a fire boat (staff-CM & Fire) Chief McClain requested approval of funding for fire boats for Lakes Sinclair and Oconee and provided statistics regarding miles of shoreline on both lakes and the number of homes on each. He explained how fire boats can be used, such as: lake rescues, locating people under water, boat fires, shoreline fires, and as a water source for pumpers on the streets. He advised that funding for one can come from SPLOST 8 and for the other one from SPLOST 9. Chief McClain further advised that it will take approximately 277 days to receive the boats and the cost for each is \$326K boat.

**Motion to approve the request from the Fire Chief to purchase two fire boats at \$326,000.00 each with funding from SPLOST 8 and SPLOST 9.**

**Motion made by Commissioner Wooten, Seconded by Commissioner McElhenney.**

**Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Sharp, Commissioner Wooten**

13. Request from Fire Chief for approval of purchase of fire apparatus (staff-CM & Fire) Fire Chief McClain explained that this firetruck purchase is part of his 10 year apparatus plan. The lead time is approximately 15-17 months which would mean it wouldn't arrive until 2023. The current price is \$701,500 but is expected to increase by 7% at the end of January. He further advised this could be funded with SPLOST 9 funds.

**Motion to approve the purchase of a firetruck in the amount of \$701,500.00 from SPLOST 9 funds.**

**Motion made by Commissioner McElhenney, Seconded by Commissioner Sharp.**

**Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Sharp, Commissioner Wooten**

### **Reports/Announcements**

#### 14. County Manager Report

County Manager Van Haute reported the following:

- thanked the board for support of the Fire Department and EMS and thanked Chief McClain and Director Murphey for looking ahead
- wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
- the City has responded to our request for a face to face meeting regarding the LOST renegotiations; we will provide some suggested dates
- the office will be closed tomorrow for a Christmas lunch; commissioners are invited to join the staff
- there is approximately one half million left in SPLOST 8 and one million left in SPLOST 9; the county is also approximately 400K away from repaying the debt of funding the TSPLOST projects in advance

#### 15. County Attorney Report

County Attorney Fleming advised that he has two items to report in Executive Session.

Minutes	Page 4 of 6	Approved
December 21, 2021		January 7, 2022

16. Commissioner Announcements

Commissioner McElhenney: wished everyone a Merry Christmas and said he has enjoyed this year, learned a lot and is looking forward to next year

Commissioner Brown: expressed appreciation for what the Fire Department and EMS does for the county and hopes they have a peaceful Christmas

Commissioner Sharp: wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a healthy, prosperous new year

Commissioner Wooten: wished everyone a Merry Christmas and said he has had an enjoyable year; he commented he is proud of the Department Heads

Chairman Webster: advised that Commissioner Larry Harvey from Putnam County Florida will be driving through here next Monday and will drop by the office for a short visit around 9:45 a.m. Commissioners are invited to stop by to greet him.

**Executive Session**

17. Enter Executive Session as allowed by O.C.G.A. 50-14-4 for Personnel, Litigation, or Real Estate

**Motion to enter Executive Session as allowed by O.C.G.A. 50-14-4 for Litigation.**

**Motion made by Commissioner Sharp, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.**

**Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Sharp, Commissioner Wooten**

Meeting closed at approximately 8:12 p.m.

18. Reopen meeting and execute Affidavit concerning the subject matter of the closed portion of the meeting

**Motion to reopen the meeting and execute the Affidavit concerning the subject matter of the closed portion of the meeting.**

**Motion made by Commissioner Sharp, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.**

**Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Sharp, Commissioner Wooten**

(Copy of affidavit made a part of the minutes on minute book page \_\_\_\_\_.)

Meeting reopened at approximately 10:00 p.m.

19. Action, if any, resulting from the Executive Session

No action was taken.

Minutes	Page 5 of 6	Approved
December 21, 2021		January 7, 2022

**Closing**

20. Adjournment

**Motion to adjourn the meeting**

**Motion made by Commissioner Sharp, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.**

**Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Sharp,  
Commissioner Wooten**

Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:01 p.m.

ATTEST:

Lynn Butterworth  
County Clerk

Billy Webster  
Chairman

Minutes	Page 6 of 6	Approved
December 21, 2021		January 7, 2022