

# PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



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117 Putnam Drive, Suite A ♦ Eatonton, GA 31024

## Minutes

Friday, April 6, 2018 ♦ 9:00 AM

Putnam County Administration Building – Room 203

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on Friday, April 6, 2018 at approximately 9:00 AM in the Putnam County Administration Building, 117 Putnam Drive, Room 203, Eatonton, Georgia

### *PRESENT*

Chairman Stephen Hersey  
Commissioner Kelvin Irvin  
Commissioner Daniel Brown  
Commissioner Alan Foster  
Commissioner Trevor Addison

### *STAFF PRESENT*

County Attorney Barry Fleming  
County Manager Paul Van Haute  
Assistant County Manager Lisa Jackson  
County Clerk Lynn Butterworth

### **Opening**

1. Welcome - Call to Order

Chairman Hersey called the meeting to order at approximately 9:02 a.m. (Copy of agenda made a part of the minutes on minute book page \_\_\_\_\_.)

2. Invocation

The invocation was given by Rev. Garland Hart, Eatonton Presbyterian Church.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Hersey.

4. Special Presentation - Retirement Proclamation

Ms. Cheryl Fincher Merritt retired from the Sheriff's Office after 16 years, but was unable to attend the meeting to receive her watch and proclamation. (Copy of proclamation made a part of the minutes on minute book page \_\_\_\_\_.)

5. Special Presentation - Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation

A proclamation was presented to Mr. Jesse Little to proclaim April as child abuse prevention month. Mr. Little reminded all of the pinwheel ceremony to be held on the courthouse lawn on April 10, 2018. (Copy of proclamation made a part of the minutes on minute book page \_\_\_\_\_.)

**Regular Business Meeting**

6. Public Comments

Mr. Don Cottrell commented on building permits.

7. Approval of Agenda

Chairman Hersey advised that an Executive Session needed to be added to the agenda.

**Motion made by Commissioner Addison, seconded by Commissioner Irvin, to approve the agenda with the addition of an Executive Session. Motion carried with Commissioners Irvin, Brown, Foster, and Addison and Chairman Hersey voting yes.**

8. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of Minutes - March 20, 2018 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting (staff-CC)

b. Approval of Minutes - March 20, 2018 Executive Session (staff-CC)

c. Authorization for Chairman to sign Putnam County Transit Procurement Manual (staff-Transit)

**Motion made by Commissioner Addison, seconded by Commissioner Irvin, to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried with Commissioners Irvin, Brown, Foster, and Addison and Chairman Hersey voting yes.** (Copy of procurement manual made a part of the minutes on minute book pages \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.)

9. Update from Sheriff Sills (PCSO)

Sheriff Howard Sills asked the board to consider prohibiting parking on Edwards Reeves Road, Old Milledgeville Road, Parks Road, and the North Bypass tie-in due to races at the Headhunters Racetrack. He explained that emergency personnel cannot get in due to the number of cars parked in the right-of-way. Ms. Patrice Terrell spoke regarding right-of-way vs. private property for no parking on Edwards Reeves Road.

**Motion made by Commissioner Foster, seconded by Commissioner Addison, to authorize the Chairman to sign a no parking resolution. Motion carried with Commissioners Irvin, Brown, Foster, and Addison and Chairman Hersey voting yes.** (Copy of resolution made a part of the minutes on minute book page \_\_\_\_\_.)

Meeting recessed at approximately 9:18 a.m. to see the new Fire/Rescue Pumper truck.

Meeting reconvened at approximately 9:32 a.m.

10. Approval of Local TSPLOST Project Implementation Revision (staff-CM)

Mr. Larry Kaiser explained the revised project sheet – no real changes made, just combined LMIG projects and Off-System Safety projects with TSPLOST projects and removed duplicates. The following additional changes were discussed:

- removed LMIG Match as an expenditure; **ADD** to the Available Local TSPLOST, \$150,000 x 5 years = \$750,000. BOC stated that other future county funding sources will be utilized to fund LMIG Match requirement
- corrected Local TSPLOST allocation on the spreadsheet for ROW Mowing from \$100,000 for 1 year **TO** \$100,000 for 5 years; **DEDUCT** \$500,000
- Temporary removal of the Scott Road @ Harmony intersection re-alignment project from the Local TSPLOST program pending the 5/22/2018 Regional sales tax vote. No changes to the "Available LOCAL TSPLOST" funding until which time the vote occurs.
- Commissioner Addison asked for the following changes to his project list:
  - Remove the west end of Blue Gill Road from the resurfacing list and stripe with PAINT
  - Resurface east Blue Gill but no widening; restripe with THERMOPLASTIC
  - Mill/Resurface and stripe with THERMOPLASTIC South Shore Road from Twin Bridges Road to Blue Gill Road
  - Remove PAINT Striping and asphalt patching of South Shore Road

**Motion made by Commissioner Foster, seconded by Commissioner Irvin, to approve the Local TSPLOST project implementation revised list with additional discussed changes.**

**Motion carried with Commissioners Irvin, Brown, Foster, and Addison and Chairman Hersey voting yes.** (Copy of project list made a part of the minutes on minute book pages \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.)

11. Approval of a work session concerning the MOU between Putnam County and Piedmont Water Company, following the May 4th BOC meeting (AF)

Commissioner Foster requested a work session to discuss the Putnam County and Piedmont Water Company MOU. Chairman Hersey called a work session for May 4, 2018 following the regular meeting.

12. Discussion and possible action regarding the fee for collection of school taxes (SH)

Chairman Hersey reminded all of the March 20, 2018 meeting when County Manager Van Haute advised that we need to charge 2.5% for collecting school taxes. He went over the history of this issue since 2006. He would like to submit local legislation to set the fee at a reasonable rate.

County Attorney Fleming advised that the resolution passed in 2009 to collect .45% is not legally sufficient to override the law requiring the 2.5% collection.

**Motion made by Commissioner Addison, seconded by Commissioner Foster, to direct staff (County Manager and County Attorney) to come up with a solution regarding the fee for collection of school taxes for the future, passing local legislation in the next legislative session, and to also investigate what our options are for the current situation and perhaps any arrearages, should it matter. Motion carried with Commissioners Irvin, Brown, Foster, and Addison and Chairman Hersey voting yes.**

## **Executive Session**

12.1 Motion to enter Executive Session as allowed by O.C.G.A. 50-14-4, if necessary, for Personnel, Litigation, or Real Estate

**Motion made by Commissioner Addison, seconded by Commissioner Brown, to enter Executive Session for litigation purposes. Motion carried with Commissioners Irvin, Brown, Foster, and Addison and Chairman Hersey voting yes.**

Meeting closed at approximately 10:57 a.m.

12.2 Motion to reopen meeting and Execute Affidavit concerning the subject matter of the closed portion of the meeting

**Motion made by Commissioner Addison, seconded by Commissioner Irvin, to reopen the meeting and execute an affidavit concerning the subject matter of the closed portion of the meeting. Motion carried with Commissioners Irvin, Brown, Foster, and Addison and Chairman Hersey voting yes.** (Copy of affidavit made a part of the minutes on minute book page \_\_\_\_\_.)

Meeting reopened at approximately 11:37 a.m.

12.3 Action, if any, resulting from the Executive Session

County Attorney Fleming reported that one legal matter was discussed with no final action.

## **Reports/Announcements**

### 13. County Manager Report

County Manager Van Haute reported the following:

- Public Works Shop Foreman Anthony Frazier briefed the board on the vacuum truck demo – he was impressed with it – it has a lot of potential
- thanked the board for support with the new fire truck
- staff has stepped up with Magistrate Judge Ellen Pierce’s passing – Jesse Copelan was appointed Chief Magistrate for the remainder of the year
- courthouse is being pressure washed now
- the Martin Mill bridge replacement project is on hold for now, GDOT is working on right-of-way costs – original estimate was \$138,000 for 1.19 acres
- Villanova is NCAA National Champs!!

### 14. County Attorney Report

No report

15. Commissioner Announcements

Commissioner Irvin: none

Commissioner Brown: none

Commissioner Foster: the Georgia Heart program for rural hospitals now allows you to donate to Putnam General and receive a 100% state income tax credit. He advised to make contributions as early as possible so we don't exceed the state cap of \$60 million.

Commissioner Addison: expressed sympathy to Ellen Pierce's family

Chairman Hersey: advised that the Senate did not pass HR158; expressed sympathy to County Attorney Fleming in the recent loss of his mother; and advised we would not be at the next regular meeting.

**Closing**

16. Adjournment

**Motion made by Commissioner Addison, seconded by Commissioner Foster, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried with Commissioners Irvin, Brown, Foster, and Addison and Chairman Hersey voting yes.**

Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:52 a.m.

ATTEST:

Lynn Butterworth  
County Clerk

Stephen J. Hersey  
Chairman