

# PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



117 Putnam Drive, Suite A ♦ Eatonton, GA 31024

## Minutes

Friday, May 7, 2021 ♦ 9:00 AM

Putnam County Administration Building – Room 203

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on Friday, May 7, 2021 at approximately 9:00 AM 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 9:00 a.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 - Rev. Avis Williams

Rev. Avis Williams gave the invocation.

4. Pledge of Allegiance (GM)

Commissioner McElhenney led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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**Regular Business Meeting**

5. Public Comments

Ms. Allison Anderson and Mr. Randy Mason spoke in support of the golf course and asked for it to stay open.

Mr. Buddy Nolan commented on civics and that Putnam County is a representative form of government. He asked the board to not submit to recent attacks on the county attorney. He has experience in local government law which is what is needed.

6. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Minutes - April 20, 2021 Regular Meeting (staff-CC)
- b. Approval of Minutes - April 20, 2021 Executive Session (staff-CC)
- c. Approval of Minutes - April 21, 2021 Called Meeting (staff-CC)

**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**

7. Awarding of Solicitation 21-42001-001 LMIG Asphaltic Concrete Resurfacing and Striping (staff-CM)

County Manager Van Haute reviewed the bids and recommended the low bidder, Garrett Paving Company, at \$953,325.71.

**Motion to award Solicitation 21-42001-001 LMIG Asphaltic Concrete Resurfacing and Striping to Garrett Paving Company at \$953,325.71.**

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

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

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

8. Authorization for Chairman to sign Technical Assistance Letter to the Middle Georgia Regional Commission requesting assistance with updating the Putnam County Personnel Manual (BW)

Chairman Webster advised that the Personnel Manual hasn't been fully updated in a number of years.

**Motion to authorize the chairman to sign a Technical Assistance letter to the Middle Georgia Regional Commission requesting assistance with updating the Putnam County Personnel Manual.**

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

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

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

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9. Discussion of Uncle Remus Golf Course Operations (staff-CM)

County Manager Van Haute advised that eight days ago the Uncle Remus Golf Course Director, Ricky Duvall, resigned and today is last day. In addition, Golf Shop Attendant, David Frye also resigned as of May 2. The golf course has always lost money each year, but had been improving. Staff has been small to help mitigate the losses. Mr. Duvall knew how to do it all and was very dedicated and put in tons of hours. County Manager Van Haute further advised that it took months to hire Mr. Duvall when the director before him left; this is not a position that can be filled in eight days, which is the reason for the current closure of the golf course. He also noted that if the greens aren't kept up, it won't take long for the course to ruin. There are lots of options before the board at this time, such as: lease it, run it, sell it, add it to the Recreation Department, etc. He requested guidance from the board. He also advised that employment is down county-wide with 13 fulltime vacancies and over 20 part-time vacancies.

Commissioner Wooten commented that he grew up with the golf course and would hate to see the county lose it.

Commissioner Sharp commented that he is in favor of keeping the golf course and has received several phone calls asking to keep it open. He asked if volunteers could be utilized to keep it going and asked if any of the golfers present have any contacts for someone we can hire. He also asked if Hotel/Motel funds could be used to help with any costs of the golf course since it is a tourist attraction.

Commissioner Brown commented that the high dollar golf courses are getting all the qualified people. He advised that he has no problems with golf course and knows that lots of people enjoy it and use it. He would like to see us get with the City of Eatonton and the Development Authority for ideas to generate more income in order to pay people and get upgrades to the course. He commented that he is open to suggestions but would like to find a way to maintain it until we come up with direction.

Commissioner McElhenney commented that the golf course has been here a long time and he is in favor of keeping it. He knows it will be tough to find somebody to take over and that we should concentrate on looking for people right now.

Chairman Webster commented that finding people is the main driver right now and maintaining the greens will be the biggest challenge. He summarized that it seems to be the sense of the board to keep the golf course in operation and to find a way to keep it open at least a few days a week. The County Manager was tasked to put it back in operation and keep it in operation.

No official action was taken.

**Reports/Announcements**

10. County Manager Report

No report.

11. County Attorney Report

No report.

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12. Commissioner Announcements  
Commissioner McElhenney: none

Commissioner Brown: none

Commissioner Sharp: none

Commissioner Wooten: none

Chairman Webster: none

**Closing**

13. 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 9:47 a.m.

ATTEST:

Lynn Butterworth  
County Clerk

Billy Webster  
Chairman

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