

# PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



117 Putnam Drive, Suite A ♦ Eatonton, GA 31024

## Minutes

**Tuesday, January 17, 2023 ♦ 6:30 PM**

*Putnam County Administration Building – Room 203*

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at approximately 6:30 PM in the Putnam County Administration Building, 117 Putnam Drive, Room 203, Eatonton, Georgia.

### *PRESENT*

Chairman Bill Sharp  
Commissioner Gary McElhenney  
Commissioner Daniel Brown  
Commissioner Alan Foster  
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 Sharp 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

Coroner Hollis Harrison requested to add an item to the agenda to approve the purchase of a new coroner van. He submitted a handout and advised that his current vehicles are old and having mechanical issues leaving him with nothing safe to transport bodies to the Atlanta crime lab. He also requested two new cots.

Attorney Fleming read the rules for adding items to the agenda.

### **Motion to add the coroner's request for discussion.**

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

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

Minutes	Page 1 of 5	Approved
January 17, 2023		February 3, 2023

Chairman Sharp noted that this item will be added to the agenda as item 9.5.

**Motion to approve the Agenda as amended.**

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

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

3. Invocation

Attorney Fleming gave the invocation.

4. Pledge of Allegiance (AF)

Commissioner Foster led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Regular Business Meeting**

5. Public Comments

None

6. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Minutes - January 6, 2023 Regular Meeting (staff-CC)
- b. Approval of Minutes - January 6, 2023 Executive Session (staff-CC)
- c. Approval of 2023 Alcohol Licenses (staff-CC)

**Motion to approve the Consent Agenda.**

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

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

(Copies of alcohol licenses made a part of the minutes on minute book pages \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.)

7. Request by AT&T for a Right-of-Way Permit for Pea Ridge Road and MLK Jr Drive (staff-PW)

County Manager Van Haute and Public Works Foreman Frazier advised that AT&T wants to bore under Pea Ridge Road and expressed concern due to the new paving.

**Motion to approve the request by AT&T for a Right-of-Way Permit for Pea Ridge Road and MLK Jr Drive.**

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

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

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

Minutes	Page 2 of 5	Approved
January 17, 2023		February 3, 2023

8. Discussion and possible action regarding the LMIG project(s) for 2023 (staff-CM)  
County Manager Van Haute presented a list of road priorities from each district and advised that the total requests equal approximately \$2,000,000 but the available funds is only \$742,252.72. Commissioner Foster agreed to remove New Phoenix Road and Long Shoals Avenue due to the limited funding.

Commissioner Brown agreed to remove Little Circle.

Commissioner Wooten agreed to change Dennis Station Road from two miles to one mile. County Manager Van Haute recalculated the remaining requests at approximately \$925,000.00 and advised that the excess could be funded from TSPLOST.

**Motion to approve the 2023 GDOT LMIG projects as follows: Sammons Parkway (0.7 miles); Dennis Station Road (1 mile); Little Road and Clarks Fork Road (Booger Bear) intersection (0.3 miles); Clarks Fork Road (Booger Bear) (0.7 miles); Old Phoenix Road (1 mile) at an estimated cost of \$925,000.00.**

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

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

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

9. Approval of County Manager Contract (staff-CM)

Attorney Fleming advised that the County Manager's contract was discussed at the last meeting and the proposed terms were put into a new contract that is included in the meeting package.

**Motion to approve the County Manager Contract as presented.**

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

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

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

9.5 Request from the Coroner to purchase a new van and two new cots

Coroner Harrison restated his request and answered questions from the board.

Commissioner Brown advised that a repurposed ambulance could be coming his way as soon as EMS gets a new one.

Commissioner Foster suggested looking for a used cargo van.

Commissioner McElhenney advised that removal services are available to take bodies to the Atlanta crime lab for approximately \$300-400 and that could be an option instead of purchasing another vehicle.

**Motion to request staff to look into a used cargo van for the coroner.**

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

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

## Reports/Announcements

10. County Manager Report

County Manager Van Haute had no report but thanked the board for renewing his contract.

Minutes	Page 3 of 5	Approved
January 17, 2023		February 3, 2023

11. County Attorney Report  
No report.

12. Commissioner Announcements  
Commissioner McElhenney: thanked the county departments for what they do and said a lot of work goes on behind the scenes and he appreciates the efforts.

Commissioner Brown: none

Commissioner Foster: none

Commissioner Wooten: advised that he attended his first Sinclair Water Authority board meeting and realized just how close we were to being out of water. He thanked the people who got out in cold weather night and day to fix things; especially SWA, EPWSA, and Public works employees.

Chairman Sharp: thanked everyone for their prayers while he was in the hospital for a few days.

**Executive Session**

13. 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 Real Estate.**

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

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

Meeting closed at approximately 7:31 p.m.

14. Reopen meeting following Executive Session

**Motion to reopen the meeting.**

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

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

Meeting reconvened at approximately 8:36 p.m.

Minutes	Page 4 of 5	Approved
January 17, 2023		February 3, 2023

15. Execute Affidavit concerning the subject matter of the closed portion of the meeting  
Attorney Fleming advised that one real estate matter was discussed with no final action.  
**Motion to authorize the Chairman to sign the Affidavit concerning the subject matter of the closed portion of the meeting.**

**Motion made by Commissioner Foster, Seconded by Commissioner McElhenney.  
Voting Yea: Commissioner McElhenney, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Foster,  
Commissioner Wooten**

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

16. Action, if any, resulting from the Executive Session  
No action was taken.

**Closing**

17. Adjournment

**Motion to adjourn the meeting.**

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

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

**Voting Nay: Commissioner Foster**

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:38 p.m.

ATTEST:

Lynn Butterworth  
County Clerk

B. W. "Bill" Sharp  
Chairman

Minutes	Page 5 of 5	Approved
January 17, 2023		February 3, 2023