

## GRADY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

### MEETING MINUTES

May 2, 2023, Meeting

The Grady County Board of Commissioners met on May 2, 2023, at 9:00 am for a regular meeting. Commissioners LaFaye Copeland, Ray Prince, June Knight, Keith Moye, Phillip Drew, County Administrator Buddy Johnson, County Clerk John White, County Finance Director Holly Murkerson, County Attorney Gabe Ridley, Road Superintendent Stanley Elkins, and Fire Chief/EMA Director Richard Phillips were present.

Mr. Drew opened the meeting with the invocation and pledge to the flag.

Motion by Mr. Moye, second by Mrs. Knight to amend the agenda to include FA030-23 and an executive session. The motion was approved.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Michael Cook, 184 Carr St Calvary, GA

Mr. Cook stated that vehicles for Mr. Elkins and Mr. Johnson should be marked according to law. Mr. Cook thanked Stanley for the road improvements. Mr. Cook stated the commissioners need to hold community meetings. He stated it was political to move out of the courthouse and that people were scared to come to the meetings.

Mr. Drew stated he is approached every day by people with good comments, bad comments, and he investigates every one of them. Mr. Moye states he is out in the community as well.

Mrs. Copeland stated I want to say one thing Mr. Cook, I've heard the same thing; I don't have town meetings, but I do talk to the people at my church and have them ask questions or whatever. Concerning the hostile, I hate to say this but this is what they say and take it with love okay, they don't like to come before us because of the way sometimes our administrator talk to them. I am just being transparent. You know what I am saying Buddy. Mr. Johnson said he does not. Mr. Johnson stated that he does not agree with the remarks, and he will discuss it with Mrs. Copeland later.

Mr. Drew stated he talks to people all the time and if we are doing something wrong then Mr. Gabe will tell them they are wrong.

Rettia Barrineau, 146 Curtis Ln

Mrs. Barrineau was talking about her road in Grady County. She hit a pothole and busted a tire while taking her husband to surgery. The pothole was on Stagecoach Road. Had to wait for her brother-in-law to come pick them up and they just barely made the surgery.

Mr. Johnson stated that he could not approve the expense so that is why it was brought to the board. Mrs. Barrineau stated the cost of a new tire was \$228.72.

Mr. Drew stated we are attempting to address the road issues as quickly as we can.

Attorney Ridley stated that he would advise not paying the claim unless an official demand letter is sent to the county in writing so a legal and informed decision could be made. Mrs. Barrineau stated that when she calls Stanley with an issue, it is usually addressed.

#### **PRESENTATIONS**

None

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Calendar of Events was reviewed.

Regular Board Meeting, Tuesday, May 16, 2023, at 6:00 pm.

Popes Museum Concert, Big Poppa and the Shuffle Brothers Band, 5/13/23 at 6:00 pm

#### **CONSENT ITEMS**

Motion by Mr. Moye, second by Mr. Prince to approve:

C022-22 Regular Meeting Minutes from 04/18/2023.

C023-23 Ratify approval of White Plat

C024-23 Approval of the Miller Plat

The motion was approved.

#### **FORMAL ACTIONS**

FA029-23 Motion by Mr. Moye, second by Mr. Prince to table FA029-23 Georgia Indigent Defense Services Agreement. The motion was approved.

FA030-23 Motion by Mr. Moye, second by Mrs. Copeland to approve the purchase of the EMA message Sign for \$26,241.90 which will be reimbursed through a grant once it is purchased. The motion was approved.

#### **NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Mrs. Knight stated that she only has three roads remaining in her district and Magnolia Road is in bad condition.

Mrs. Copeland asked about TSPLOST for Cedar Springs Road, but it is not on the TSPLOST list.

Mr. Johnson stated that a motor grader will be coming off lease and the board will need to look at either purchasing the equipment or re-leasing the equipment. Will hopefully have more information on this by the next meeting.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Motion by Mr. Prince, second by Mrs. Copeland to enter Executive Session to discuss litigation.

Motion by Mr. Moye, second by Mrs. Knight to exit Executive Session.

FA031-23 Motion by Mr. Moye, second by Mr. Prince to retain Raleigh Rollins with Alexander and Vann to handle the Betty Godwin lawsuit against Buddy Johnson, Gabe Ridley, and John White. The motion passed.

#### **REPORTS**

- A. Attorney's Report – None
- B.
- C.

#### **RESOLUTIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND AGREEMENTS**

Regular Board of Commissioners Meeting Agenda AMENDED

May 2, 2023, 9:00 AM

I. Executive Duties

- A. Call to Order – 9:00 AM
- B. Invocation/Pledge
- C. Adoption of Agenda
- D. Public Comments (3 Mins)

II. Presentations

None

III. Correspondence

- A. Calendar of events

Regular Board Meeting, Tuesday, May 16 2023, at 6:00 pm

Popes Museum Concert, Big Poppa, and the Shuffle Brothers Band, 5/13/23 at 6:00 pm

IV. Consent Items – (One motion)

C022-23 Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes from 04/18/2023.

C023-23 Ratify approval of White Plat.

C024-23 Approval of Miller Plat

V. Formal Actions

FA029-23 Approve/Disapprove Georgia Indigent Defense Services Agreement.

FA030-23 Approve/Disapprove EMA Information Sign

VI. New and unfinished Business

VII. Executive Session

Litigation

VIII. Reports

- a. Attorney's Report
- b.

C.

VIII. Adjournment

Individuals with disabilities who require certain accommodations to allow them to observe and/or participate in this meeting, or who have questions regarding the accessibility of the meeting, or the facilities are required to contact the ADA Coordinator at 229-377-1512 promptly to allow the County to make reasonable accommodations for those persons.

EXECUTIVE SESSION AFFIDAVIT

[A copy of the Affidavit must be filed with the minutes of the open meeting]

STATE OF GEORGIA  
COUNTY OF GRADY

AFFIDAVIT OF PRESIDING OFFICER

Phillip Drew, Chair of the Grady County Board of Commissioners, being duly sworn, states under oath that the following is true and accurate to the best of his knowledge and belief:

1. The Grady County Board of Commissioners met in a duly advertised meeting on May 2, 2023.
2. During such meeting, the Board voted to go into executive session.
3. The executive session was called to order at \_\_\_\_\_ a.m./p.m.
4. The subject matter of the closed portion of the meeting was devoted to following matter(s) within the exceptions provided in the open meeting law:
  - Consultation with the county attorney or other legal counsel to discuss pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought by or against the county or any officer or employee or in which the county or any officer or employee may be directly involved as provided in O.C.G.A. §50-14-2(1);
  - Discussion of tax matters made confidential by state law as provided by O.C.G.A. §50-14-2(2)
  - Discussion or voting on:
    - Authorizing a settlement as provided in O.C.G.A. §50-14-3(b)(1)(A);
    - Authorizing negotiations to purchase, dispose of, or lease property as provided in O.C.G.A. §50-14-3(b)(1)(B);
    - Authorizing an appraisal as provided in O.C.G.A. §50-14-3(b)(1)(C);
    - Entering a contract for the purchase, disposal of or lease of property as provided in O.C.G.A. §50-14-3(b)(1)(D);
    - Entering into an option to purchase, dispose of, or lease property as provided in O.C.G.A. §50-14-3(b)(1)(E);
  - Discussion or deliberation on the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic review O.C.G.A. §50-14-3(b)(2);
  - Interviewing candidates for executive positions as provided in O.C.G.A. §50-14-3(b)(2);
  - Other
5. During the course of the closed session devoted to exempt topics, an incidental remark regarding a non-exempt topic or an attempt to discuss a non-exempt topic was made.
  - The attempt was immediately ruled out of order and attempts to discuss same ceased immediately.
  - The attempt was immediately ruled out of order. However, the comments did not cease, so the closed/executive session was immediately adjourned without discussion or action being taken regarding any non-exempt topic.

Minutes were taken of this meeting.

This 2nd day of May, 2023.

Phillip M  
Chair, Grady County Board of Commissioners

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 2nd day of May

Holly P. Murkerson  
Notary Public

My commission expires: Sept 30, 2025



The motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Knight and second by Mr. Prince. The motion was approved.

PHILLIP DREW, CHAIR

June Knight, VICE-CHAIR

RAY PRINCE, COMMISSIONER

Keith Moye, COMMISSIONER

LAFAYE COPELAND, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

JOHN WHITE, COUNTY CLERK

