



Opportunity Awaits

Grady County Board of Commissioners

Ray Prince, Chair
District 2

LaFaye Copeland, Vice-Chair
District 4

Yancey Maxwell
District 1

Sam Kines
District 3

Celeste Tyler
County Administrator

Phillip Drew
District 5

August 19, 2025, Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Present at the meeting were commissioners, Ray Prince, Yancey Maxwell, Sam Kines, LaFaye Copeland and Phillip Drew. Staff Celeste Tyler, John White, Holly Murkerson, and County Attorney Gabe Ridley. Mr. Paul Fryer, representative with Congressman Sanford Bishop's office was also in attendance.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ray Prince at 6:00 p.m. The Invocation was given by Mr. Drew, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Motion by Mr. Drew, second by Mr. Kines to approve the agenda after amending FA10-08-25 Approve or Disapprove the Resolution to begin the process of abandoning Plantation Road. The agenda was also amended to add a special presentation prior to presentations. The motion was approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Michael Cook, 184 Carr St

Mr. Cook wanted to know when the meetings will be back online.

Mr. Cook stated he was happy to see that the representatives were brought to the lake today.

He praised Stanley Elkins for the job the road department is doing with the roads. Need to assist with mowing.

Mr. Cook stated that Mr. Binion and the Lake Authority need to be fired. At least the lake was getting mowed, and the trash was picked up. Mr. Cook stated they are still looking for the Drone and Boat. Just for clarification, there have been no inquiries at the Board of Commissioners office concerning the location of these two items.

Jeff Worsham, 509 Ulmer Rd

Mr. Worsham stated that there is now a second vendor the state has approved of a kiosk for citizens to pay their taxes. Mr. Worsham is still looking for a location in Grady County for the kiosk. Mr. Worsham stated that he is looking for more ways for the people to be served by his office.

Gary Keve, 169 Lewis Rd

Mr. Keve stated that Lewis Road was paved in 1988. He stated that the road needs to be paved and would like it placed on the list to be paved.

Dian Pyles, 620 Old 179 S

Mrs. Pyles stated prayer, communication, and transparency. She asked what went on today at Tired Creek Lake, who attended, and how much did it cost. Mr. Prince provided a response.

Gabe Ridley, **County Attorney**, John White, **HR Director/County Clerk**, Holly D Murkerson, **Finance Director**



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Commissioner Copeland presented a proclamation from the Grady County Board of Commissioners to Cloud Funeral Home to acknowledge 100 years of business in Cairo.

Mr. Paul Fryer, representative for Congressman Sanford Bishop, presented a Congressional proclamation from Congressman Sanford Bishop celebrating Cloud Funeral Home being in business for 100 years.

PRESENTATIONS

Pauper Funerals – Rusty Powe, Coroner

Mr. Powe stated he had called four funeral homes for bids on Pauper Funerals and asked if any had been received. There have been no bids received at the Board of Commissioners Office. Mr. Cloud stated he was not aware of this so Mr. Powe will get with him on what has been requested.

Mr. Powe stated that he is requesting creating a team to handle decomposing bodies. He is suggesting that a team of four individuals respond and be paid \$100.00 per person for the call. He was told to put his proposal in writing and submit it to Mrs. Tyler.

Taylor Benefits Resources Renewal – Brittany Ryals

Ms. Ryals stated that the county had a good year and as a result, there will be a 4% decrease in fixed cost this next year.

UPCOMING EVENTS

None listed.

CONSENT ITEMS (ONE MOTION)

Motion by Mr. Drew, second by Mrs. Copeland to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2025 Regular Meeting. The motion was approved.

FORMAL ACTIONS

FA08-08-25; Motion by Mr. Kines, second by Mrs. Copeland to approve the renewal of Taylor Benefits with Northwind. The motion was approved.

FA09-08-25; Motion by Mrs. Copeland, second by Mr. Kines to approve a Letter of Support for the HPG (Housing Preservation Grant) through the Southwest Georgia Community Action Council. The motion was approved.

FA10-08-25 Motion by Mr. Kines, second by Mr. Drew to approve a Resolution to begin the process of abandoning Plantation Road. The motion was approved.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Administrator Matters

Mrs. Tyler stated that they have started the Cranford Road project which is being done in partnership with Golden Triangle.

Gabe Ridley, **County Attorney**, John White, **HR Director/County Clerk**, Holly D Murkerson, **Finance Director**

33 17th Ave NW • CAIRO, GEORGIA 39827 • P: 229.377.1512 • F: 229.377.1039



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Mrs. Tyler stated that the county is now seeking bids on the resurfacing projects.

She also stated we are trying to move fast on completing the EMS building as we need to get them moved into the new building.

Mrs. Tyler also stated that we have received official notice from Decatur County that the Decatur-Grady 911 will be separated by August 2026.

Mr. Elkins stated that the company will begin paving on Long Branch Road the middle of next week.

Commissioner Matters

Mrs. Copeland stated she would like to do a Town Hall Meeting in her district and have all the commissioners participate. She asked the commissioners to come up with a date and time to hold the town hall meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

REPORTS

1. Attorney's Report – None
2. Roads and Bridges 07-25
3. Animal Control 07-25
4. Extension Service 07-25
5. Permit Report 07-25
6. Plat Activity Report 07-25
7. Plats 07-25

ADJOURNMENT – Motion by Mrs. Copeland, second by Mr. Drew to adjourn. The motion was approved.

RESOLUTIONS/AGREEMENTS/AGENDA

I. Executive Duties

1. Call to Order - 6:00 PM
2. Invocation/Pledge
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Public Comments

II. Presentations

1. Pauper Funerals - Rusty Powe, Coroner

Gabe Ridley, **County Attorney**, John White, **HR Director/County Clerk**, Holly D Murkerson, **Finance Director**



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2. TBR Renewal

3. Car Camera System - Kent Harvey

III. Upcoming Events

IV. Consent Items –(One motion)

Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes from

a August 5, 2025

V. Formal Actions

FA08-08-25 Approve or Disapprove the TBR Renewal.

FA09-08-25 Approve or Disapprove a letter of Support for the HPG (Housing Preservation Grant) through the Southwest Georgia Community Action Council.

VI. New and Unfinished Business

1. Administrator Matters

2. Commissioner Matters

VII. Executive Session

VIII. Reports

1. Attorney's Report

2. Roads and Bridges 07-2025

3. Animal Control 07-25

4. Extension Service

5. Permit Report 07-25

6. Plat Activity Report 07-25

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IX. Adjournment

ATTEST:

John White, County Clerk

Ray Prince, Chair

LaFaye Copeland, Vice Chair

Phillip Drew, Commissioner

Yancey Maxwell, Commissioner

Sam Kines, Commissioner