



Opportunity Awaits

Grady County Board of Commissioners

Ray Prince
District 2

LaFaye Copeland, Chair
District 4

Yancey Maxwell
District 1

Sam Kines, Vice-Chair
District 3

Celeste Tyler
County Administrator

Phillip Drew
District 5

March 17, 2026, 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, and Attorney Gabe Ridley.

The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman LaFaye Copeland at 6:03 p.m. The Invocation was given by Mrs. Copeland, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Motion by Mr. Drew, second by Mr. Kines to amend the agenda to add FA03-08-2026. The motion was approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mike Moss 935 Piney Grove Rd

No Solar Farms

Cary Bishop 209 Evergreen Ln

Were the commissioners aware there was an event at GPF this weekend? No Variance has been requested.

Mr. Bishop asked why they cannot vote on a Moratorium to stop the Family Motocross tracks tonight.

Leisha Glover 176 Walden Rd

Spoke about the increase in property taxes. The taxes need to stabilize. She also asked about the development going on next to her and what they are doing about dust abatement. Mr. Kines provided her with his card and stated he would investigate it.

Velma Davison 176 Walden Rd Lt 5

Mrs. Davison wanted to know if she could put her trash can out on the new road that has been cut in the new development. Mr. Kines stated he would find an answer.

Michael Cook 184 Carr St

Mr. Cook stated McCraeville Road is a disaster. Mr. Cook also stated that if taxes are not addressed, it will run those 65 and older out of the county.

PRESENTATIONS

WorkSource Southwest Georgia – Melody Pierce, Executive Director

Ms. Pierce shared that WorkSource Southwest Georgia has received funds to help with displaced workers, especially from the Georgia Pacific Closure. The funds are for all 14 counties in Southwest Georgia. She stated they can help displaced workers or under-employed workers with training, equipment, and transportation. They can help employers

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



Opportunity Awaits

Grady County Board of Commissioners

Ray Prince
District 2

LaFaye Copeland, Chair
District 4

Yancey Maxwell
District 1

Sam Kines, Vice-Chair
District 3

Celeste Tyler
County Administrator

Phillip Drew
District 5

by paying up to 50% of the worker's salary. They have 18 months to spend \$985,000.00 and want to help as many workers as possible.

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. Recreation Department Opening Ceremonies, Thursday, April 2, 2026 at 6:00 pm.
2. Good Friday Holiday April 3, 2026.
3. Public Hearing on the abandonment of Plantation Ln Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at 9:00 am.
4. Board of Commissioners Meeting, Tuesday, April 7, 2026, 9:00 am.

CONSENT ITEMS (ONE MOTION)

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

The minutes of March 3, 2026, Regular Meeting and the Public Works/Public Properties Committee meeting minutes from March 11, 2026.

Approval of the Steve Bell Plat.

Approval of the Faircloth Plat.

Approval of Alcohol License for Dhiraj Patel, Quick Buys 106 2752 Hwy 112 N Cairo, GA.

The motion was approved.

FORMAL ACTIONS

FA03-05-26 Motion by Mr. Prince, second by Mr. Maxwell to approve the Resolution with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources for the operation of the boat ramp at Hadley Ferry. The motion was approved.

FA03-06-26 Motion by Mr. Drew, second by Mr. Kines to approve the appointment of Mr. Joshua Seth Stanaland to the Grady County Tax Assessor's Board for a three-year term.

FA03-07-26 Motion by Mr. Prince, second by Mr. Drew to approve the temporary Moratorium on Data Centers. The motion was approved.

FA03-08-26 Motion by Mr. Drew, second by Mr. Kines to approve the new National Opioids Settlement: Six Remnant Defendants Notice and Claims Administrator. The motion was approved.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Administrator Matters

Mrs. Tyler stated that LMIG Project and the Striping Project will be going out to bid very soon.

Mrs. Tyler followed up on the comments made during Public Comments. She stated McCraeville Road is on our current Repair and Resurfacing Project and will be repaired in the next few months.

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



Opportunity Awaits

Grady County Board of Commissioners

Ray Prince
District 2

LaFaye Copeland, Chair
District 4

Yancey Maxwell
District 1

Sam Kines, Vice-Chair
District 3

Celeste Tyler
County Administrator

Phillip Drew
District 5

The Tax Assessors could provide Mrs. Glover insight into how her property is valued. We are looking at placing FLOST on the ballot that could potentially provide tax relief to homeowners.

Mrs. Tyler stated the commissioners have looked at a moratorium on racetracks but there are legalities since there are Land Use Regulations that govern Motorcross.

Commissioner Matters

Mr. Drew stated we need to schedule the workshop for Motorcross and figure out what is best for the county.

Mr. Prince stated that speed limit signs for 35 mph are needed on Drew Rd. Mr. Elkins stated he would get them placed on the road.

Mr. Kines stated he is still getting complaints about no striping on Meridian Road from 93 to 319.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:59 pm, motion by Mr. Prince, second by Mr. Drew to enter Executive Session to discuss litigation and potential litigation. The motion was approved.

At 8:36 pm, motion by Mr. Drew, second by Mr. Prince to exit Executive Session. The motion was approved.

Following Executive Session, motion by Mr. Drew, second by Mr. Prince to appoint Sam Kines to the E911 Committee to replace Chris Dorsey. The motion was approved.

REPORTS

1. Attorney's Report – None
2. Roads and Bridges 02-26
3. Permit Reports 02-26
4. Plat Activity Report 02-26
5. Plats 02-26

IX. Adjournment Motion by Mr. Drew, second by Mr. Maxwell to adjourn. The motion was approved.

RESOLUTIONS AND AGENDAS

- I. Executive Duties
 1. Call to Order - 6:00 PM
 2. Invocation/Pledge
 3. Adoption of Agenda
 4. Public Comments
- II. Presentations
 1. WorkSource Southwest Georgia - Melody Pierce
- III. Upcoming Events
 1. Recreation Department Opening Ceremonies Thursday, April 2, 2026, at 6:00 pm
 2. Good Friday Holiday April 3, 2026

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



Opportunity Awaits

Grady County Board of Commissioners

Ray Prince
District 2

LaFaye Copeland, Chair
District 4

Yancey Maxwell
District 1

Sam Kines, Vice-Chair
District 3

Celeste Tyler
County Administrator

Phillip Drew
District 5

3. Grady County Board of Commissioners Meeting Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at 9:00 am.

IV. Consent Items –(One motion)

Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes from March 3, 2026, and the Public Works/Public Properties Committee meeting minutes from March 11, 2026.

Approval of the Steve Bell Plat

Approval of the Faircloth Plat

Approval of Alcohol License for Dhiraj Patel, Quick Buys 106 2752 Hwy 112 N Cairo, GA

V. Formal Actions

FA03-05-26 Approve or Disapprove the Resolution with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources for the operation of the boat ramp at Hadley Ferry.

FA03-06-26 Approve or Disapprove the appointment to the Grady County Tax Assessor's Board.

FA03-07-26 Approve or Disapprove a Moratorium on Data Centers.

VI. New and Unfinished Business

1. Administrator Matters

2. Commissioner Matters

VII. Executive Session

VIII. Reports

1. Attorney's Report

2. Roads and Bridges 02-26

3. Permit Reports 02-26

4. Plat Activity Report 02-26

5. Plats 02-26

IX. Adjournment

ATTEST:

John White, County Clerk

LaFaye Copeland, Chair

Sam Kines, Vice Chair

Phillip Drew, Commissioner

Yancey Maxwell, Commissioner

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



Opportunity Awaits

Grady County Board of Commissioners

Ray Prince
District 2

LaFaye Copeland, Chair
District 4

Yancey Maxwell
District 1

Sam Kines, Vice-Chair
District 3

Celeste Tyler
County Administrator

Phillip Drew
District 5

Ray Prince, Commissioner

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