



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

April 7, 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, Holly Murkerson, and Attorney Gabe Ridley.

The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman LaFaye Copeland at 9:00 a.m. The Invocation was given by Mr. Maxwell, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Mrs. Copeland opened the Public Hearing on the abandonment of Plantation Road at 9:15 am and turned the hearing over to Mrs. Tyler. Mrs. Tyler asked Curt Stringfellow who requested the road abandonment if he wanted to speak in favor of the abandonment.

Curt Stringfellow, 483 Plantation Rd

Mr. Stringfellow stated it started as a simple request. He just wanted to upgrade the road with some gravel so it would not be so bad. Mr. Stringfellow stated the road could be shared between the property owners that share the road.

David Poole, 468 Beth Page Rd

Mr. Poole is the caretaker of Red Hills Plantation, which is owned by the Bean Brothers. He spoke against the county abandoning the road due to having access to the property.

Michael Cook, 184 Carr St.

Mr. Cook spoke about the road and did not speak for or against.

The Public Hearing was closed at 9:22 am.

Motion by Mr. Prince, second by Mr. Kines to amend the agenda to add FA04-04-2026. The motion was approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kiley Henderson, 175 Redwood Dr Bainbridge, GA

Mrs. Henderson spoke about an incident that happened at the baseball game between Cairo High School and Bainbridge High School last Friday that involved Sheriff Earl Prince.

Mike Moss 935 Piney Grove Rd

Mr. Moss wanted to give applause to EMT's and the job they do. He gave specific praise to Mr. Joshua Kines and the job he did responding to the call.

Jeff Worsham, Tax Commissioner

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



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Mr. Worsham spoke about the upcoming tax sale he is preparing to conduct. He stated there are several small properties that owe taxes, penalties, and interest that will not sell because they are so small and the taxes, penalties, and interest are more than the properties are worth. Mr. Worsham stated that once he has a full list of the properties, he would like to request that the penalties and interest be forgiven to attempt to sell the properties.

Gwyn McElreath, 2517 Pierce Chapel Rd

Mrs. McElreath stated she has lived in this county for 43 years and the Private Racetrack provision of the Land Use Ordinance needs to be addressed.

Cary Bishop 209 Evergreen Ln

Mr. Bishop stated GPF violated the Land Use Ordinance during their last event. Go back to the original ordinance.

Charlene Bishop, 209 Evergreen Ln

Mrs. Bishop asked how the county is better off with changing the ordinance especially when it was changed in Executive Session. Attorney Ridley stated the ordinance was not passed in Executive Session. Mrs. Bishop stated she wanted to know when it will be returned to the previous ordinance.

Leisha Glover 176 Walden Rd

Mrs. Glover asked how she could find out what is being built around her and what services are being provided to the Beachton area. She asked how long it would take for the fire department to respond to a structure fire.

PRESENTATIONS

None

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. Public Works/Public Property Committee Meeting, Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at 9:30 am.
2. Public Hearing - Data Center Moratorium, Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at 5:30 pm.
3. Board of Commissioners Meeting, Tuesday, April 21, 2026, 6:00 pm.

CONSENT ITEMS (ONE MOTION)

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

The minutes of March 17, 2026, Regular Meeting.

Ratify vote to purchase a walk-in cooler and freezer from Mills Heating and Cooling for the Help Agency at a cost of \$70,700.00.

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



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Approve Alcohol License for Dhiraj Patel, Quick Buys #2, 4539 US Hwy 84 E Cairo, GA 39828

Re-appoint Howard Cochran to serve on the Planning Commission.

The motion was approved.

FORMAL ACTIONS

FA04-01-26 Motion by Mr. Drew, second by Mr. Kines to approve the purchase of budgeted Turnout Gear from Bennett Fire Products Co., Inc. for \$48,120.00. The motion was approved.

FA04-02-26 Motion by Mr. Kines, second by Mr. Prince to approve amending the 2026 budget for the EMA Grant to \$17,600 and to add \$79,900.00 to pay off the dump trucks. The motion was approved.

2026 APPROVED REVENUE

GENERAL FUND	2026 APPROVED	April 7, 2026 Amendments	INCREASES
	\$	\$	\$
ASSIGNED FUND BALANCE BUDGET	3,844,300	3,941,800	97,500
	\$	\$	
ASSIGNED FUND BALANCE DEPT 26	1,504,000	1,504,000	
	\$	\$	
REAL PROPERTY TAXES - CURRENT	9,854,200	9,854,200	
	\$	\$	
TIMBER TAX	60,600	60,600	
OTHER FEES, INTEREST REAL	\$	\$	
PROPERTY	10,000	10,000	
REAL PROPERTY TAXES - PRIOR	\$	\$	
YEARS	40,000	40,000	
	\$	\$	
PERSONAL PROPERTY - CURRENT	598,100	598,100	
	\$	\$	
MOTOR VEHICLE TAXES	131,300	131,300	
	\$	\$	
MOTOR VEHICLE TITLE AD VALOREM	1,261,300	1,261,300	
	\$	\$	
MOBILE HOME TAXES	222,400	222,400	
	\$	\$	
OVERGE/SHORTAGE (TAXES)	100	100	
	\$	\$	
PERSONAL PROPERTY - PRIOR YEARS	1,000	1,000	
	\$	\$	
REAL ESTATE TAX TRANSFER TAX	44,000	44,000	
	\$	\$	
CABLE FRANCHISE FEES	8,000	8,000	
	\$	\$	
RAILROAD EQUIP CAR TAX	18,000	18,000	

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	\$	\$
SALES TAX - 1% (LOST)	2,240,000	2,240,000
	\$	\$
BEER EXCISE TAXES	67,400	67,400
	\$	\$
ENERGY EXCISE TAXES	60,000	60,000
	\$	\$
INSURANCE PREM TAX	1,600,000	1,600,000
BUSINESS LICENSE TAX (BANKS ONLY)	\$	\$
	42,000	42,000
	\$	\$
REAL PROP PEN/INTRST	75,000	75,000
	\$	\$
PERSONAL PROP PEN/INTRST	1,000	1,000
	\$	\$
INTEREST, PENALTY, COST & FIFA	1,300	1,300
	\$	\$
PENALTIES/INTEREST OTHER	10,000	10,000
	\$	\$
BEER LICENSE	7,500	7,500
	\$	\$
CONSTRUCTION PERMITS	169,500	169,500
	\$	\$
FOREST LAND PROTECTION ACT	80,000	80,000
	\$	\$
RECORDING INTANGIBLES	156,000	156,000
	\$	\$
MOTOR VEHICLE TITLE FEE	80,000	80,000
	\$	\$
TAX COMM - OTHER GENERAL	100	100
	\$	\$
QUALIFYING FEES	5,200	5,200
	\$	\$
SALE OF MAPS	3,000	3,000
	\$	\$
COMMISSIONS	190,000	190,000
	\$	\$
FEES TAVT	100	100
	\$	\$
SHERIFF OFFICE REMIT	30,000	30,000
	\$	\$
INMATE PAID MEDICAL EXPENSES	700	700
	\$	\$
STATE INMATE REIMBURSEMENT	100	100
	\$	\$
JAIL BOND FEES	12,000	12,000
	\$	\$
CAIRO/WHIGHAM INMATE FEE	20,000	20,000

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	\$	\$	
EMS - REVENUE	1,220,000	1,220,000	
	\$	\$	
METAL RECYCLER REGISTRY FEES	200	200	
	\$	\$	
SALE OF RECYCLE MATERIALS	3,500	3,500	
	\$	\$	
ANIMAL CONTROL FEES	6,500	6,500	
	\$	\$	
RECREATION RECEIPTS	30,000	30,000	
	\$	\$	
FISHING FEES	9,000	9,000	
	\$	\$	
DUCK HUNTING PERMITS	100	100	
	\$	\$	
OTHER FEES FOR SERVICES	47,000	47,000	
	\$	\$	
SUPERIOR COURT REMIT	162,000	162,000	
	\$	\$	
STATE COURT REMIT	250,000	250,000	
	\$	\$	
CHIEF MAGISTRATE REMIT	25,000	25,000	
	\$	\$	
PROBATE JUDGE REMIT	45,000	45,000	
	\$	\$	
JUVENILE CRT REMIT	1,000	1,000	
	\$	\$	
INTEREST EARNED	125,000	125,000	
	\$	\$	
NSF RETURNED CHECK FEE	100	100	
	\$	\$	
RENTS	55,000	55,000	
	\$	\$	
REC FIELD RENTAL FEE	100	100	
	\$	\$	
INMATE PHONE COMM	18,000	18,000	
	\$	\$	
INMATE VENDING COMM	6,000	6,000	
	\$	\$	
INMATE VIDEO VISIT COMM	30,000	30,000	
	\$	\$	
INMATE TEXTING COMM	45,000	45,000	
	\$	\$	
OTHER INCOME	15,000	15,000	
	\$	\$	
SALE OF CULVERT	30,000	30,000	
	\$	\$	
REIMBURSEMENTS	100	100	

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	\$	\$	
FIREHOUSE SUBS GRANT	5,000	5,000	
	\$	\$	
CONSERVATION/COVENANT FEES	500	500	
	\$	\$	
OPERATING TRANSFERS IN	100	100	
	\$	\$	
SALE OF ASSETS/SURPLUS	40,000	40,000	
	\$	\$	
EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS	100	100	
TOTAL APPROVED REVENUE	\$ 24,617,500	\$ 24,715,000	\$ 97,500
2026 APPROVED EXPENDITURES			
	\$	\$	
01 COMMISSIONERS OFFICE	900,200	900,200	
	\$	\$	
02 ROAD DEPT	2,353,300	2,353,300	
	\$	\$	
03 SHOP	400,700	400,700	
	\$	\$	
04 DETENTION CENTER	2,345,500	2,345,500	
	\$	\$	
05 SHERIFF OFFICE	3,330,200	3,330,200	
	\$	\$	
06 EMS	3,291,700	3,291,700	
	\$	\$	
07 CLERK OF COURT	422,100	422,100	
	\$	\$	
08 COURTS	629,600	629,600	
	\$	\$	
09 PROBATE/ELECTIONS	234,700	234,700	
	\$	\$	
10 MAGISTRATE	346,600	346,600	
	\$	\$	
11 TAX COMMISSIONER OFFICE	488,400	488,400	
	\$	\$	
12 TAX ASSESSORS OFFICE	570,700	570,700	
	\$	\$	
13 REC DEPT	552,000	552,000	
	\$	\$	
14 EXTENSION	172,900	172,900	
	\$	\$	
15 BLDGS/GROUNDS	849,900	849,900	
	\$	\$	
17 CODE ENFORCEMENT	346,600	346,600	
	\$	\$	
18 ANIMAL CONTROL	173,100	173,100	

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19 VFD	\$ 677,400	\$ 695,000	\$ 17,600	XFR TO EMA GRANT FUNDING
20 GENERAL GOVT	\$ 1,653,400	\$ 1,653,400		
21 INTERAGENCY	\$ 1,350,900	\$ 1,350,900		
22 SOLID WASTE	\$ 1,471,800	\$ 1,471,800		
23 TIRED CREEK	\$ 338,900	\$ 338,900		
24 BOARD OF EQUALIZATION	\$ 8,800	\$ 8,800		
26 CAPITAL OUTLAY	\$ 1,421,000	\$ 1,500,900	\$ 79,900	
27 ELECTIONS	\$ 230,800	\$ 230,800		
28 CORONER	\$ 56,300	\$ 56,300		
TOTAL APPROVED EXPENDITURES	\$ 24,617,500	\$ 24,715,000	\$ 97,500	

FA04-03-26 Motion by Mr. Drew, second by Mr. Kines to approve declaring items from the Old EMS Building and the replaced Fire Turnout Gear surplus and authorizing the sale or disposal of such items by the County Administrator or her designee. The motion was approved.

FA04-04-26 Motion by Mr. Drew, second by Mr. Maxwell to approve the purchase of budgeted stock pipe for the Road Department from Winsupply for \$53,417.66. The motion was approved.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Administrator Matters

Mrs. Tyler asked Mr. Elkins to give an update on the Patching and Resurfacing project. Mr. Elkins stated they have completed Harrell Road and have completed the patching on Springhill. They will soon start resurfacing on Springhill and Union Springs. Mr. Kines asked if they could move to McCraeville Road next and Mr. Elkins stated he would check with them.

Mrs. Tyler presented Commissioner Kines with a Certificate of Completion from NACO Professional Development Academy for completion of the Leadership course.

Commissioner Matters

Commissioner Kines stated he has learned a lot as a commissioner and Motorcross is an issue. He has attempted to make the right decision but was focusing on the event in the north part of the county. He agrees we need to have a workshop to produce an agreement that could help both sides.

Commissioner Drew stated that we need to set the date for the Motorcross workshop.

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Mrs. Copeland asked Mr. Mike Binion, Lake Director to update the commissioners on the discussion about having a pavilion and restrooms at the lake. Mr. Binion stated it depends on where you want to place the Pavilion and restrooms as to who owns the property. Mr. Binion stated he will get pricing for the commissioners.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 10:43 am, motion by Mr. Maxwell, second by Mr. Prince to enter Executive Session to discuss potential litigation. The motion was approved.

At 11:56 am, motion by Mr. Prince, second by Mr. Drew to exit Executive Session. The motion was approved.

FA04-05-26 Motion by Mr. Prince, second by Mr. Maxwell to approve the Block-time proposal for BloughTech for work on the 911 project. The motion was approved.

REPORTS

1. Attorney's Report – None
2. Grand Jury Report 03-26
3. Animal Control 03-26
4. Roads and Bridges 03-26

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

RESOLUTIONS AND AGENDAS

- I. Executive Duties
 1. Call to Order - 9:00 AM
 2. Invocation/Pledge
 3. Public Hearing - Plantation Road Abandonment
 4. Adoption of Agenda
 5. Public Comments
- II. Presentations
- III. Upcoming Events
 1. Public Works/Public Property Committee Meeting, Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at 9:30 am.
 2. Public Hearing - Data Center Moratorium, Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at 5:30 pm.
 3. Board of Commissioners Meeting, Tuesday, April 21, 2026, 6:00 pm.
- IV. Consent Items –(One motion)

Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes from March 17, 2026.

Ratify vote to purchase a walk-in cooler and freezer from Mills Heating and Cooling for the Help Agency at a cost of \$70,770.00.

Approve Alcohol License for Dhiraj Patel, Quick Buys #2, 4539 US Hwy 84 E Cairo, GA 39828

Re-appoint Howard Cochran to serve on the Planning Commission.
- V. Formal Actions

FA04-01-26 Approve or Disapprove the purchase of budgeted Turnout Gear.

FA04-02-26 Approve or Disapprove Amending the 2026 Budget for the EMA Grant to \$17,600.00.

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FA04-03-26 Approve or Disapprove declaring items from the old EMS Building as surplus and authorizing the sale, or disposal of such items by the County Administrator or her designee.

- VI. New and Unfinished Business
 - 1. Administrator Matters
 - 2. Commissioner Matters
- VII. Executive Session
- VIII. Reports
 - 1. Attorney's Report
 - 2. Grand Jury Report 03-26
 - 3. Animal Control 03-26
 - 4. Roads and Bridges 03-26
- IX. Adjournment

ATTEST:

John White, County Clerk

LaFaye Copeland, Chair

Sam Kines, Vice Chair

Phillip Drew, Commissioner

Yancey Maxwell, Commissioner

Ray Prince, Commissioner