



*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

### January 6, 2026, Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Present at the meeting were commissioners, Ray Prince, Yancey Maxwell, Sam Kines, Phillip Drew, and LaFaye Copeland. Staff Celeste Tyler, John White, Holly Murkerson, and Attorney Gabe Ridley.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ray Prince at 9:00 a.m. The Invocation was given by Mr. Drew, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

#### Appointments:

Chair – Motion by Mr. Kines, second by Mr. Drew to name LaFaye Copeland as Chair. The motion was approved.

Vice-Chair – Motion by Mr. Maxwell, second by Mrs. Copeland to name Sam Kines as Vice-Chair. The motion was approved.

Attorney – Motion by Mr. Drew, second by Mrs. Copeland to appoint Gabe Ridley as County Attorney.

Clerk – Motion by Mrs. Copeland, second by Mr. Kines to appoint John White as County Clerk.

911 Committee – Motion by Mr. Kines, second by Mr. Maxwell to appoint Phillip Drew and Chris Dorsey to the Decatur-Grady 911 Committee.

Lake Authority – Motion by Mr. Kines, second by Mrs. Copeland to table the appointment pending further information. The motion was approved.

Motion by Mr. Drew, second by Mr. Kines to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was approved.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mike Moss, 935 Piney Grove Rd

Mr. Moss stated say no to Solar Panels and keep Grady County pristine and beautiful. He also presented that Piney Grove Road could not take the use for two years of building.

Richard Jordan, 303 Jordan Rd

Stated Grady County does not need Solar Farms.

Sheriff Earl Prince

Sheriff Prince thanked the commissioners for their support. Sheriff Prince stated that the county is growing and so is crime. Sheriff Prince shared some numbers with the Commissioners that show the work that was done in 2025. Several commissioners thanked Sheriff Prince for the job he was doing.

#### PRESENTATIONS

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



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None

### UPCOMING EVENTS

1. January 19, 2026, Dr Martin Luther King Jr. Parade, 11:00 am.
2. January 20, 2026, Board of Commissioners Meeting, 6:00 pm.

### CONSENT ITEMS (ONE MOTION)

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

The minutes of December 16, 2025, Regular Meeting and December 22, 2025 Called Meeting,

Approval of the Borden Plat,

Ratify approval of the Alcohol License Renewal for Route 84 Country Store.

The motion was approved.

### FORMAL ACTIONS

FA01-01-26 Motion by Mr. Drew, second by Mr. Kines to approve setting the qualifying fees for 2026 as follows:

Board of Commissioners: \$501.58

Board of Education: \$126.00

Clerk of Court: \$1,778.89

State Solicitor: \$1,021.00

State Court Judge: \$1,380.00

The motion was approved.

FA01-02-26 Motion by Mr. Drew, second by Mr. Prince to approve the Resolution imposing a Short-Term Moratorium on the acceptance and consideration of New Solar Farm Permit Applications in Unincorporated Grady County. The motion was approved.

FA01-03-26 Motion by Mr. Drew, second by Mr. Prince to approve Celeste Tyler to be the authorized signer for the Commercial Card Agreement with Ameris Bank. The motion was approved.

### NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Administrator Matters

Mrs. Tyler hoped everyone enjoyed the holidays and she looks forward to an exciting and packed 2026.

Commissioner Matters

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

33 17<sup>th</sup> Ave NW • CAIRO, GEORGIA 39827 • P: 229.377.1512 • F: 229.377.1039



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Mr. Kines stated the county roads are dangerous with no striping and asked if the contractor has started on the repair/patching of the roads. Mrs. Tyler stated she is getting an estimate for the striping to present to the commissioners. Mr. Elkins stated he spoke with the contractor yesterday and he anticipates starting the patching/repair work in two weeks.

Mr. Prince stated it has been a pleasure to service as Chairman this past year and he feels as if we have accomplished a lot this past year. Commissioners expressed their appreciation to Mr. Prince.

Mr. Drew stated we need to set a public hearing date for the Solar Farm Moratorium. The commissioners agreed to hold the Public Hearing on Thursday, January 22, 2026, at 6:00 pm.

Mr. Drew also stated that we needed to set a Public Hearing date for zoning. Mrs. Tyler stated she would look at some dates and get back with the commissioners.

Mrs. Copeland stated that her mother had passed away suddenly on December 26, 2025. She thanked the commissioners and staff for their support during this time.

None

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

### REPORTS

1. Attorney's Report
2. Roads and Bridges 12-25
3. Grand Jury Report 12-04-25

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

### RESOLUTIONS AND AGENDAS

- I. Executive Duties
  1. Call to Order - 9:00 AM
  2. Invocation/Pledge

Appointment for the following positions:

Chair

Vice-Chair

Attorney

Clerk

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



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### 911 Committee

Lake Authority: Charles Renaud, Jennifer Jarvis, Ray Prince, and Phillip Drew's terms are up. The Lake Authority recommend reappointing these individuals.

3. Adoption of Agenda

4. Public Comments

a Sheriff Earl Prince

II. Presentations

III. Upcoming Events

1. January 19, 2026, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Parade, 11:00 am

2. January 20, 2026 Board of Commissioners Meeting, 6:00 pm.

IV. Consent Items –(One motion)

Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes from 12/16/25 and Called Meeting Minutes from 12/22/25.

Approval of Borden Plat

Ratify approval of Alcohol License Renewal for Route 84 Country Store

V. Formal Actions

FA01-01-26 Approve or Disapprove setting the qualifying fees for 2026 as follows:

Board of Commissioners: \$501.58

Board of Education: \$126.00

Clerk of Court: \$1,778.89

State Solicitor: \$1,021.00

State Court Judge: \$1,380.00

FA01-02-26 Approve or Disapprove the Resolution imposing a Short-term Moratorium on the acceptance and consideration of New Solar Farm Permit Applications in Unincorporated Grady County

FA01-03-26 Approve or Disapprove setting the mileage reimbursement rate at \$.725/ mile to match the IRS rate.

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

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FA01-04-26 Approve or Disapprove Celeste Tyler to be the authorized signer for the Commercial Card Agreement with Ameris Bank.

VI. New and Unfinished Business

- 1. Administrator Matters
- 2. Commissioner Matters

VII. Executive Session

VIII. Reports

- 1. Attorney's Report
- 2. Grand Jury Report 12-4-25
- 3. Roads and Bridges 12-25

IX. Adjournment

ATTEST:

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John White, County Clerk

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LaFaye Copeland, Chair

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Sam Kines, Vice Chair

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Phillip Drew, Commissioner

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Yancey Maxwell, Commissioner

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Ray Prince, Commissioner