



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 3, 2026, Regular Board Meeting Minutes

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

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

Motion by Mr. Prince, second by Mr. Kines to amend the agenda to remove FA03-02-26. The motion was approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Michael Cook, 184 Carr St

Stated \$50,000.00 from Talmadge should go to the county.

Cary Bishop, 209 Evergreen Ln

Need a moratorium on all racetracks in the county.

PRESENTATIONS

Satellite Internet Opportunity during Disasters – Matt Walker

Mr. Walker is a lifelong resident of Grady County. He is in a leadership program with UGA. Their project is to provide 25 mobile internet units with two years of internet service for use in case of disaster or for rural field/classroom opportunities. They are attempting to raise \$50,000.00 to fund the project but he would like for Grady County to be on the list to use the program. The commissioners stated they would investigate the program.

GA Pines – Opiate Funds – Nicole Cromer

Mrs. Cromer presented information on using Opiate funds to help fund a Co-Responder for Grady County Mental Health. They are asking for \$32,277 which will fund ¼ of the position. Sheriff Prince spoke in favor of having this position.

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. Public Works/Public Properties Committee Meeting, March 11, 2026, at 9:30 am.
2. Popes Museum 5K Fundraiser Honoring Women Veterans, March 14, 2026.
3. Comprehensive Plan SWAT Meeting, March 17, 2026, 5:00 pm.
4. Board of Commissioners Meeting, Tuesday, March 17, 2026, 6:00 pm.
5. Whigham Rattlesnake Roundup, Saturday, March 7, 2026.

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



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CONSENT ITEMS (ONE MOTION)

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

The minutes of February 17, 2026, Regular Meeting.

The motion was approved.

FORMAL ACTIONS

FA03-01-26 Motion by Mr. Prince, second by Mr. Kines to approve the purchase of material for Lower Cairo Road Project from Peavy & Son Construction. The motion was approved.

FA03-02-26 This Formal Action was removed from the agenda.

FA03-03-26 Motion by Mr. Prince, second by Mr. Kines to approve the lease agreement with USDA. The motion was approved.

FA03-04-26 Motion by Mr. Kines, second by Mr. Maxwell to approve funding \$32,277.00 from Opiate Settlement funds for the Co-Responder position for Grady County with Georgia Pines. The motion was approved.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Administrator Matters

Mrs. Tyler stated that Harrell Road closure had to be extended but should be passable by the end of the week.

Mrs. Tyler stated that the materials purchased for the Lower Cairo Road project will be reimbursed.

The commissioners will be going to Arlington to visit the Solar Farm on Monday, March 16, 2026.

Mrs. Tyler reminded the commissioners that on March 17, 2026, at 5:00 pm, we will finish the Comprehensive Plan SWAT meeting.

Commissioner Matters

Mr. Kines asked about the striping bid. Mrs. Tyler stated it has been submitted to Watkins and Associates.

Mr. Prince stated we needed to start preparing to get FLOST on the ballot in May.

Mr. Kines stated he wanted to say thank you to the county for allowing him to attend the NACO Legislative Conference in Washington DC. He stated he feels he made very important connections for the county at the conference.

Mrs. Copeland then spoke about how the department heads need to show a little respect, transparency, and be truthful. They need to reach out to the administrator and keep her informed about what they are doing. It is a requirement, not a suggestion.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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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At 9:54 am, motion by Mr. Kines, second by Mr. Maxwell to enter Executive Session to discuss personnel. The motion was approved.

At 10:42 am, motion by Mr. Kines, second by Mr. Maxwell to exit Executive Session. The motion was approved.

REPORTS

1. Attorney's Report – None

IX. Adjournment Motion by Mr. Maxwell, 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. Adoption of Agenda
4. Public Comments

II. Presentations

1. Satellite Internet Opportunity during Disasters - Matt Walker
2. GA Pines - Opiate Funds - Nicole Cromer

III. Upcoming Events

1. Public Works/Public Properties Committee Meeting, March 11, 2026, at 9:30 am.
2. Popes Museum 5K Fundraiser Honoring Women Veterans, March 14, 2026
3. Comprehensive Plan Meeting, March 17, 2026, 5:00 PM.
4. Board of Commissioners Meeting, Tuesday, March 17, 2026, 6:00 PM.

IV. Consent Items –(One motion)

Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes from 02/17/26.

V. Formal Actions

FA03-01-26 Approve or Disapprove the purchase of material for the Lower Cairo Road Project.

FA03-02-26 Approve or Disapprove the GMASS Contract for 2026

FA03-03-26 Approve or Disapprove the lease agreement with USDA.

VI. New and Unfinished Business

1. Administrator Matters
2. Commissioner Matters

VII. Executive Session

VIII. Reports

1. Attorney's Report

IX. Adjournment

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

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ATTEST:

John White, County Clerk

LaFaye Copeland, Chair

Sam Kines, Vice Chair

Phillip Drew, Commissioner

Yancey Maxwell, Commissioner

Ray Prince, Commissioner