



Coweta County Board of Commissioners

Public Hearing/Regular Session

22 E Broad Street
Newnan, GA 30263
www.coweta.ga.us

Shannon Zerangue
770.254.2601

Tuesday, January 9, 2024

6:00 PM

Commission Chambers

~ Minutes ~

COWETA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Call to Order

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
John Reidelbach	District 4 - Chairman	Present	
Paul Poole	District 1 - Vice Chairman	Present	
Bill McKenzie	District 2	Present	
Bob Blackburn	District 3	Present	
Al Smith	District 5	Present	
Michael Fouts	County Administrator	Present	
Eddie Whitlock	Associate Administrator	Absent	
Kelly Mickle	Assistant Administrator	Present	
Sandy Wisenbaker	Assistant Administrator	Present	
Tod Handley	Public Works Administrator	Present	
Nathan Lee	County Attorney	Present	
Shannon Zerangue	County Clerk	Present	

The Honorable Board of Commissioners of Coweta County, Georgia met in Public Hearing/Regular Meeting Session on Tuesday, January 9, 2024.

Meeting Called to Order

Chairman Reidelbach called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Reidelbach led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation

Invocation was given by Commissioner McKenzie.

Notification of Location of Rules

Chairman Reidelbach explained that the rules governing the meeting could be found on the County's website as well as on the table located in the lobby outside the meeting room.

REGULAR SESSION

BEGINNING OF THE YEAR BUSINESS

1. 13905 Beginning of the Year Appointments - Vice-Chairman, Counsel, Clerk, and Deputy Clerk

RESULT: ACCOMPLISHED

Motion To: **Appoint Vice-Chairman**

The Board voted to appoint Commissioner Bill McKenzie to serve as Vice-Chairman for calendar year 2024.

RESULT: **APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER: John Reidelbach, District 4 - Chairman
SECONDER: Al Smith, District 5
AYES: Reidelbach, Poole, McKenzie, Blackburn, Smith

Motion To: **Appoint Chaplain**

The Board voted to appoint Commissioner Al Smith to serve as Chaplain for calendar year 2024.

RESULT: **APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER: John Reidelbach, District 4 - Chairman
SECONDER: Bill McKenzie, District 2
AYES: Reidelbach, Poole, McKenzie, Blackburn, Smith

Motion To: **Appoint Counsel**

The Board voted to appoint the firm of Glover and Davis, PA to serve as legal counsel to the Coweta County Board of Commissioners for calendar year 2024.

RESULT: **APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER: Bob Blackburn, District 3
SECONDER: Bill McKenzie, District 2
AYES: Reidelbach, Poole, McKenzie, Blackburn, Smith

Motion To: **Appoint Clerk**

The Board voted to appoint Ms. Shannon Zerangue to serve as Clerk to the Coweta County Board of Commissioners for calendar year 2024.

RESULT: **APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER: Bob Blackburn, District 3
SECONDER: Bill McKenzie, District 2
AYES: Reidelbach, Poole, McKenzie, Blackburn, Smith

Motion To: **Appoint Deputy Clerk**

The Board voted to appoint Ms. Fran Collins to serve as Deputy Clerk to the Coweta County Board of Commissioners for calendar year 2024.

RESULT: **APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER: Bob Blackburn, District 3
SECONDER: Bill McKenzie, District 2
AYES: Reidelbach, Poole, McKenzie, Blackburn, Smith

2. 13609 Appointments by the Chairman

RESULT: **ACCOMPLISHED**

Motion To: **Appoint Member to the Transportation Coordinating Committee of the Atlanta Regional Commission**

The Board voted to appoint Transportation Planning Director Sid Bedenbaugh to serve as a member of the Transportation Coordinating Committee (TCC) of the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) and to appoint Public Works Administrator Tod Handley to serve as alternate for calendar year 2024.

RESULT: **APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER: Bob Blackburn, District 3
SECONDER: Paul Poole, District 1 - Vice Chairman
AYES: Reidelbach, Poole, McKenzie, Blackburn, Smith

Motion To: **Appoint Member to the Workforce Investment Board**

The Board voted to appoint Chairman Reidelbach to serve as a member of the Workforce Investment Board for calendar year 2024.

RESULT: **APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER: Bob Blackburn, District 3
SECONDER: Paul Poole, District 1 - Vice Chairman
AYES: Reidelbach, Poole, McKenzie, Blackburn, Smith

Motion To: **Appoint NACo Representative**

No action was taken by the Board regarding an appointment of a NACo representative for calendar year 2024.

RESULT: **NO ACTION TAKEN**

3. 13904 Request to Set the 2024 Holiday Schedule

The Board voted to set the following holiday schedule for calendar year 2024:

- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Monday, January 15, 2024
- Memorial Day - Monday, May 27, 2024
- Independence Day - Thursday, July 4, 2024
- Labor Day - Monday, September 2, 2024
- Veteran's Day - Monday, November 11, 2024
- Thanksgiving - Thursday, November 28, 2024 and Friday, November 29, 2024
- Christmas - Tuesday, December 24, 2024 and Wednesday, December 25, 2024
- New Year's - Wednesday, January 1, 2025

RESULT: **APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER: Bob Blackburn, District 3
SECONDER: Bill McKenzie, District 2
AYES: Reidelbach, Poole, McKenzie, Blackburn, Smith

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

4. 14277 Coweta Transit - Frank J. Hill Award

Administrator Fouts explained that each year the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and the Office of Intermodal nominate and select a Transit Program as the recipient of the Frank J. Hill Outstanding Service Award from among Georgia's rural transit operators. This award is named after Frank J. Hill, the founder of the state's first regional rural transit system, the Mountain Area Transit System (MATS), serving multiple North Georgia counties. To be nominated for this award, the transit operator must participate and receive funding as part of the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) 5311 rural transit assistance program. Each GDOT District Transit Project Manager may nominate one rural transit operator and from this list

of nominees, an award recipient is selected. In 2023, Coweta County was selected to receive this award. During 2023, Coweta County took on the task of moving the day-to-day operations of the Transit program in-house to be operated by County employees. This recognition shows that Coweta County is dedicated to serving the community and being a helping hand to its transit riders. Staff has continued to improve handling the ups and downs of the operation becoming more efficient and gaining more experience. In closing, he expressed his appreciation to everyone involved with the Coweta Transit Program for all their hard work and dedication to serving Coweta County's riders and for going above and beyond when called upon to do so.

Transportation Planning Director Sid Bedenbaugh and Transit Manager Denis Bourque were present.

Mr. Bourque expressed his appreciation to the Board and all parties involved in the transition of Coweta's transit program to an in-house operation. He explained that the program is a great success and he is honored to be a part of it. He further explained that approximately 18,000 trips have been provided since July 1, 2023 with the majority of the users being those with special needs or the elderly. In closing, he expressed appreciation to all the transit drivers for their service and dedication.

Administrator Fouts expressed appreciation to Mr. Bourque for his hard work along with the Coweta County Fire Rescue fleet shop, and the 911 staff for taking on the transit calls and providing support during the transition.

RESULT:	PRESENTED
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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5. Minutes of Tuesday, December 19, 2023

The Board voted to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting Session held on Tuesday, December 19, 2023.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Bill McKenzie, District 2
SECONDER:	Bob Blackburn, District 3
AYES:	Reidelbach, Poole, McKenzie, Blackburn, Smith

CONSENT AGENDA

6. 13907 Confirm Execution of Proclamation in Remembrance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Board voted to confirm execution of a proclamation declaring January 12-13, 2024 as "Dr. Martin Luther, King Jr Commemorative Service and Parade Days" in Coweta County.

RESULT:	CONFIRMED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Bob Blackburn, District 3
SECONDER:	Bill McKenzie, District 2
AYES:	Reidelbach, Poole, McKenzie, Blackburn, Smith

7. 14274 Confirm Execution of a Proclamation in Memoriam of Mr. Clarence "C-Bo" Bohannon

The Board voted to confirm execution of a proclamation declaring January 14, 2024 as "Clarence Bohannon Day" in Coweta County.

RESULT: **CONFIRMED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER: Al Smith, District 5
SECONDER: Bill McKenzie, District 2
AYES: Reidelbach, Poole, McKenzie, Blackburn, Smith

8. 14261 Confirm Execution of a Corrective Deed to Convey Right-of-Way to Mr. George Ricky Willis - District 1

The Board voted to confirm execution of a Corrective Deed associated with conveyance of excess property (right-of-way) acquired by the County for a road project at Marion Beavers/Willis Road at SR 154 to Mr. George Ricky Willis.

RESULT: **CONFIRMED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER: Paul Poole, District 1 - Vice Chairman
SECONDER: Bob Blackburn, District 3
AYES: Reidelbach, Poole, McKenzie, Blackburn, Smith

SUPPLEMENTAL AND/OR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supplemental and/or Non-Agenda Items

There were no Supplemental or Non-Agenda items to be added for discussion.

PUBLIC HEARING (The Chairman will Call for Any Comments Regarding the Following Items After Each Item is Presented)

9. Motion To: **13906: Public Hearing/Adoption of the Rules Governing BOC Meetings - 2024**

Administrator Fouts explained that staff is requesting changes to Section 2.8 of the Rules Governing Commission Meetings associated with public participation to provide clarification regarding sign up and when to speak during the Commission meetings.

Chairman Reidelbach called for comments in support of or in opposition to proposed amendments to the Rules Governing Commission Meetings. There were none.

The Board voted to close the Public Hearing regarding proposed amendments to the Rules Governing Commission Meetings.

RESULT: **PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER: Bob Blackburn, District 3
SECONDER: John Reidelbach, District 4 - Chairman
AYES: Reidelbach, Poole, McKenzie, Blackburn, Smith

13906 Public Hearing Regarding the Rules Governing Coweta County Commission Meetings

The Board voted to execute amendments to the Rules Governing Commission meetings as presented by staff to become effective on January 10, 2024.

RESULT: **ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER: Bob Blackburn, District 3
SECONDER: Al Smith, District 5
AYES: Reidelbach, Poole, McKenzie, Blackburn, Smith

10. Motion To: **14240 : New Consumption Beer & Wine License - Karvelas Pizza Company**

Business License Coordinator Joy Thompson explained that Nicholas Karvelas, license representative and co-owner of Karvelas Pizza Company located at 6855 Highway 16, Suite 200, Senoia (Parcel # 157-1230-052) has applied for a new beer and wine license. This location has had an active alcohol license within the past twelve (12) months (Lepoma's Pizzeria, LLC), therefore, a certificate from a Georgia registered land surveyor indicating distances as defined in *Section 6-46* is not required. The Business and Alcohol License Division has reviewed the application and finds that it is in order, meets the applicable requirements and should be considered by the Board of Commissioners in accordance with *Chapter 6* of the *Coweta County Code of Ordinances*. The required background checks (GCIC) and fingerprint reports (GBI) for Mr. Karvelas as applicant for license representative of the establishment are complete and show that he meets the requirements set forth in the *Alcohol Ordinance* to be the license representative.

The applicant was present but declined an opportunity to address the Board.

Chairman Reidelbach called for any comments in support of or in opposition to the proposed alcohol license. There were none.

The Board voted to close the Public Hearing regarding a new beer and wine license application filed by Nicholas Karvelas, license representative and co-owner of Karvelas Pizza Company located at 6855 Highway 16, Suite 200, Senoia (Parcel # 157-1230-052).

RESULT: PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: John Reidelbach, District 4 - Chairman
SECONDER: Al Smith, District 5
AYES: Reidelbach, Poole, McKenzie, Blackburn, Smith

14240 Public Hearing Regarding a New Consumption Beer and Wine License Filed by Nicholas Karvelas in Operation of Karvelas Pizza Company Located at 6855 Highway 16, Suite 200, Senoia - District 1

The Board voted to grant a new beer and wine license to Nicholas Karvelas, license representative and co-owner of Karvelas Pizza Company located at 6855 Highway 16, Suite 200, Senoia (Parcel # 157-1230-052).

RESULT: GRANTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Paul Poole, District 1 - Vice Chairman
SECONDER: Bob Blackburn, District 3
AYES: Reidelbach, Poole, McKenzie, Blackburn, Smith

11. Motion To: **14219 : New Package Beer & Wine License - Family Dollar Stores of Georgia, LLC**

Business License Coordinator Thompson explained that Bertha George, license representative and manager of Family Dollar Stores of Georgia, LLC located at 2005 West Highway 16, Newnan (Parcel # 046-5129-015) has applied for a new package beer and wine license. The certificate from a Georgia registered land surveyor indicating distances as defined in *Section 6-46* which demonstrates that the license request meets the ordinance has been provided. The Business and Alcohol License Division has reviewed the application and finds that it is in order and meets the applicable requirements and should be considered by the Board of Commissioners in accordance with *Chapter 6* of the *Coweta County Code of Ordinances*. The required background checks (GCIC) and fingerprint reports (GBI) for Ms. George as applicant for license representative of the establishment are complete and show that she meets the requirements set forth in the *Alcohol Ordinance* to be the license representative.

The applicant representative was present but declined an opportunity to address the Board.

In response to a question from Chairman Reidelbach, Ms. Thompson confirmed that Ms. George is the store manager and is the one responsible for the license. If there is ever a change in managers, the applicant will not need to re-apply. A license representative change would need to be filed but would not require Board approval (as long as the new manager meets all requirements of the ordinance).

Chairman Reidelbach called for any comments in support of or in opposition to the proposed alcohol license. There were none.

Commissioner McKenzie explained that he had spoken with representation for this Family Dollar Store and the representative reviewed their request with him.

The Board voted to close the Public Hearing regarding a new package beer and wine license application filed by Bertha George, license representative and manager of Family Dollar Stores of Georgia, LLC located at 2005 West Highway 16, Newnan (Parcel # 046-5129-015).

RESULT:	PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	John Reidelbach, District 4 - Chairman
SECONDER:	Bill McKenzie, District 2
AYES:	Reidelbach, Poole, McKenzie, Blackburn, Smith

14219 Public Hearing Regarding a New Package Beer and Wine License Filed by Bertha George in Operation of Family Dollar Stores of Georgia, LLC Located at 2005 West Highway 16, Newnan - District 2

The Board voted to grant a new package beer and wine license to Bertha George, license representative and manager of Family Dollar Stores of Georgia, LLC located at 2005 West Highway 16, Newnan (Parcel # 046-5129-015).

RESULT:	GRANTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Bill McKenzie, District 2
SECONDER:	Al Smith, District 5
AYES:	Reidelbach, Poole, McKenzie, Blackburn, Smith

12. Motion To: **14221 : New Package Beer & Wine License - Newnan BP Food Mart (ARN 2 Enterprises, LLC)**

Business License Coordinator Thompson explained that Ameen Rajani, license representative and manager of Newnan BP Food Mart (ARN 2 Enterprises, LLC) located at 1670 East Highway 34, Newnan (Parcel # 097-5079-009) has applied for a new package beer and wine license. The certificate from a Georgia registered land surveyor indicating distances as defined in *Section 6-46* which demonstrates that the license request meets the ordinance has been provided. The Business and Alcohol License Division has reviewed the application and finds that it is in order and meets the applicable requirements and should be considered by the Board of Commissioners in accordance with *Chapter 6 of the Coweta County Code of Ordinances*. The required background checks (GCIC) and fingerprint reports (GBI) for Mr. Rajani as applicant for license representative of the establishment are complete and show that he meets the requirements set forth in the *Alcohol Ordinance* to be the license representative.

The owner and store manager (applicant) were present but declined an opportunity to address the Board.

Chairman Reidelbach called for any comments in support of or in opposition to the proposed alcohol license. There were none.

The Board voted to close the Public Hearing regarding a new package beer and wine license application filed by Ameen Rajani, license representative and manager of Newnan BP Food Mart (ARN 2 Enterprises, LLC) located at 1670 East Highway 34, Newnan (Parcel # 097-5079-009).

RESULT: PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: John Reidelbach, District 4 - Chairman
SECONDER: Bob Blackburn, District 3
AYES: Reidelbach, Poole, McKenzie, Blackburn, Smith

14221 Public Hearing Regarding a New Package Beer and Wine License Filed by Ameen Rajani in Operation of Newnan BP Food Mart (ARN 2 Enterprises, LLC) Located at 1670 E Highway 34, Newnan - District 3

The Board voted to grant a new package beer and wine license to Ameen Rajani, license representative and manager of Newnan BP Food Mart (ARN 2 Enterprises, LLC) located at 1670 East Highway 34, Newnan (Parcel # 097-5079-009).

RESULT: GRANTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Bob Blackburn, District 3
SECONDER: Paul Poole, District 1 - Vice Chairman
AYES: Reidelbach, Poole, McKenzie, Blackburn, Smith

13. Motion To: **14220 : New Consumption Distilled Spirits, Beer & Wine License - Lalo's Tacos, LLC**

Business License Coordinator Thompson explained that Stephanie Hogans, license representative and owner of Lalo's Tacos, LLC located at 3500 East Highway 34, Suite 1, Sharpsburg (Parcel # 121-6070-003) has applied for a new consumption distilled spirits, beer, and wine license. This location has had an active alcohol license within the past twelve (12) months (Taco Criss), therefore, a certificate from a Georgia registered land surveyor indicating distances as defined in *Section 6-46* is not required. The Business and Alcohol License Division has reviewed the application and finds that it is in order, meets the applicable requirements and should be considered by the Board of Commissioners in accordance with *Chapter 6* of the *Coweta County Code of Ordinances*. The required background checks (GCIC) and fingerprint reports (GBI) for Ms. Hogans as applicant for license representative of the establishment are complete and show that she meets the requirements set forth in the *Alcohol Ordinance* to be the license representative.

The applicant was present but declined an opportunity to address the Board.

Chairman Reidelbach called for any comments in support of or in opposition to the proposed alcohol license. There were none.

The Board voted to close the Public Hearing regarding a new consumption distilled spirits, beer, and wine license application filed by Stephanie Hogans, license representative and owner of Lalo's Tacos, LLC located at 3500 East Highway 34, Suite 1, Sharpsburg (Parcel # 121-6070-003).

RESULT: PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Al Smith, District 5
SECONDER: John Reidelbach, District 4 - Chairman
AYES: Reidelbach, Poole, McKenzie, Blackburn, Smith

14220 Public Hearing Regarding a New Consumption Distilled Spirits, Beer and Wine License Filed by Stephanie Hogans in Operation of Lalo's Tacos, LLC Located at 3500 E Highway 34, Suite 1, Sharpsburg - District 4

The Board voted to grant a new consumption distilled spirits, beer, and wine license to Stephanie Hogans, license representative and owner of Lalo's Tacos, LLC located at 3500 East Highway 34, Suite 1, Sharpsburg (Parcel # 121-6070-003).

RESULT:	GRANTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	John Reidelbach, District 4 - Chairman
SECONDER:	Al Smith, District 5
AYES:	Reidelbach, Poole, McKenzie, Blackburn, Smith

REGULAR SESSION

PUBLIC COMMENT (Items on the Agenda)

Public Comments Regarding Items On the Agenda

Administrator Fouts explained that no members of the audience had signed up to address the Board regarding any items on the agenda.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

14. 14251 Request Appointments to Various Boards/Authorities

The Board voted to appoint Mr. Russell Berry to serve as the 3rd District representative to the Board of Zoning Appeals for the term beginning January 1, 2024 and expiring December 31, 2026.

Commissioner Blackburn expressed his appreciation to Mr. George Harper for his tenure as 3rd District representative to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Bob Blackburn, District 3
SECONDER:	Al Smith, District 5
AYES:	Reidelbach, Poole, McKenzie, Blackburn, Smith

NEW BUSINESS

Bids and Contracts

15. 14247 Request Approval/Execution of Amendment # 3 to the Contract with VHB Associated with the Shaw Road Connector (RB22.7) - District 4

Administrator Fouts presented Amendment # 3 to the existing contract with Vanasse Hangen Brustlin (VHB) in the amount of \$19,138. He explained that the alignment of the Shaw Road Connector was shifted to the north to help mitigate impacts to wetlands and minimize the area of required right-of-way. In addition, curb and gutter was added to further minimize the area of right-of-way required and to improve the overall safety of the corridor. The project includes a sidewalk connecting Blake Bass Middle School with Northgate High School and the curb and gutter section will help provide some additional separation between the roadway and sidewalk.

The Board voted to execute Amendment # 3 to the existing contract with Vanasse Hangen Brustlin (VHB) to perform additional design and survey work on the Shaw Road Connector project in the amount of \$19,138 (RB22.7) [SPLOST].

RESULT: EXECUTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: John Reidelbach, District 4 - Chairman
SECONDER: Paul Poole, District 1 - Vice Chairman
AYES: Reidelbach, Poole, McKenzie, Blackburn, Smith

16. 14266 Request Approval/Execution of a Landscape Agreement with KH Cresswind Spring Haven, LLC Associated with Property Located on Newnan Crossing Bypass - District 2

Administrator Fouts explained that the developer of the Cresswind Subdivision (Spring Haven) development that is currently under construction off the Newnan Crossing Bypass has requested permission from the County to perform landscaping and maintenance within the County right-of-way along the property frontage. An agreement establishing the terms of the allowed landscaping and preserving the County's right to require removal or relocation of the landscaping has been prepared for consideration by the Board.

The Board voted to execute a Landscape Agreement associated with property located on Newnan Crossing Bypass (Cresswind/Spring Haven) as presented by staff.

RESULT: EXECUTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Bill McKenzie, District 2
SECONDER: Bob Blackburn, District 3
AYES: Reidelbach, Poole, McKenzie, Blackburn, Smith

Additional Action Items

17. 14265 Request Approval/Execution of an Attestation Statement Associated with Procurement Functions Related to Federally Funded Projects

Public Works Administrator Tod Handley explained that local governments that complete the Georgia Department of Transportation's training courses, pass the associated testing, and demonstrate the ability to properly manage transportation projects are designated by GDOT to be "Local Administered Project" certified (LAP certified). One portion of the LAP training and certification pertains to the procurement process for engineering and architectural services that is established by Federal law and associated Federal regulations. This section of the law and the associated regulations require that certain steps and processes be followed in the selection of firms to perform architectural or engineering services on federally funded projects to ensure that the most qualified firm(s) are utilized and that the selection of an engineering or architectural firm is not based solely on price. Coweta County most recently received LAP recertification in March of 2022 and that certification is valid for three (3) years. However, until now, all local governments were considered only to be "conditionally" approved to perform procurement activities for architectural and engineering services on federally funded projects and documentation of all local procurement efforts was required to be submitted to GDOT for review and approval. GDOT has now requested that conditionally approved local governments execute an attestation statement affirming that the local government has read and understands all of the federal requirements of the procurement process for architectural and engineering services. Submittal of the executed attestation statement to GDOT will allow the local government to transition to "full" approval status, eliminating the need and requirement for GDOT review of all procurement documents during the local government's procurement process on federally funded projects. Public Works staff is very familiar with the federal procurement processes and is careful and deliberate in following the established requirements on every federally funded project.

The Board voted to execute an Attestation Statement for submission to the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) associated with procurement functions related to federally funded projects.

RESULT:	EXECUTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	John Reidelbach, District 4 - Chairman
SECONDER:	Bill McKenzie, District 2
AYES:	Reidelbach, Poole, McKenzie, Blackburn, Smith

18. 14257 Request Adoption of the Public Transit Agency Safety Plan (PTASP)

Assistant Administrator Mickle explained that at the Commission meeting held on October 3, 2023, the Board voted to approve submission of the new Public Transit Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) to the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) for review. The PTASP is a new Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requirement in order for transit agencies to access 5307 (urban) funding. The Plan establishes a policy statement, a Safety Committee to assess risks and related processes, recurring training for transit staff, and a way for drivers to submit safety concerns, among other things. GDOT has completed their review and made minor revisions, primarily the addition of language related to requirements in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. In closing, she explained that staff is requesting that the Board approve the final reviewed PTASP, and that the Safety Committee met on January 8, 2024 and approved the Plan.

In response to a question from Commissioner Smith regarding the Plan, Ms. Mickle explained that it was created from a template provided by GDOT.

The Board voted to adopt the final GDOT reviewed Public Transit Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) for Coweta Connect, the County's transit program.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Bill McKenzie, District 2
SECONDER:	Paul Poole, District 1 - Vice Chairman
AYES:	Reidelbach, Poole, McKenzie, Blackburn, Smith

19. 14253 Request Approval/Execution of the Victims of Crime Act Grant Award Documents for the Solicitor's Office

Administrator Fouts explained that the Coweta County Solicitor's office has been awarded a Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant of \$54,519 for the continuation of a full-time staff person to provide victim assistance services. There is a 20% matching requirement of \$13,630. If the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) revokes the temporary waiver during the grant performance period, the matching requirement will be met with a combination of volunteer hours and County funds. According to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), a match waiver may be granted, and the CJCC has indicated a temporary waiver of the local match requirement for this subaward. The Prosecuting Attorney's Council of the State of Georgia (PACGA) receives the subgrant from the Georgia CJCC under the Federal Victims of Crime Act Assistance Grant Program. As PACGA is the centralized subgrant recipient on behalf of all prosecuting attorneys in Georgia receiving the VOCA funds, PACGA requires each County and Solicitor to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlining responsibilities and policies relating to the grant program. In closing, he explained that this grant is slowly being phased out and Coweta is fortunate to receive this funding again.

The Board voted to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the

Prosecuting Attorneys' Office of Georgia (PACGA) and the Solicitor, to execute the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant award documents, and to designate the County Administrator as the authorized official to execute related documents.

RESULT:	EXECUTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Bill McKenzie, District 2
SECONDER:	Paul Poole, District 1 - Vice Chairman
AYES:	Reidelbach, Poole, McKenzie, Blackburn, Smith

20. 14248 Request Approval of a Proposal to Provide Senior Meals Program for the Three Rivers Regional Commission

Assistant Administrator Mickle explained that the Three Rivers Regional Commission Area Agency on Aging (TRAAA) periodically requires that senior meals program service providers receiving federal and state funds through TRAAA go through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process. TRAAA issued an RFP in late November to its service providers. Coweta County and the Tommy Thompson Senior Activity Center have been the recipient of federal and state funds to provide senior meals since 2011. Meals are served to seniors at the Tommy Thompson Senior Activity Center five (5) days a week with some home delivery. Currently, these meals are prepared locally at the Coweta County Correctional Institute (CI) and transported to the Tommy Thompson Senior Center where they are served under guidance of a serv safe certified employee. For the State's Fiscal Year 2024, the County is to receive approximately \$165,643 in federal funds and \$18,472 in state funds. The Fiscal Year 2024 grant includes a local match of \$14,424. The total department budget for Senior Services for the County's Fiscal Year 2024 is \$272,368.

In response to a question from Chairman Reidelbach, Ms. Mickle and Parks and Recreation Director Jim Gay explained that approximately fifty (50) meals are served per day, five days per week, year-round at the Center. In addition, Ms. Mickle explained that some home delivered meals are provided through this program that are not related to the local nonprofit (Meals on Wheels of Coweta, Inc) program.

In response to a question from Chairman Reidelbach regarding the home delivered meals, Mr. Gay explained that frozen meals and staples are provided by a third-party contractor. The meals that are served at the Tommy Thompson Center are meals that meet a nutritional profile, are served hot, and are prepared by the Correctional Institute.

In response to a question from Commissioner Poole regarding how seniors can participate, Mr. Gay explained that they can call staff at 770.683.7275 for assistance.

In response to a question from Commissioner McKenzie regarding expanding the meals program to additional senior centers in the county, Ms. Mickle explained that in the past, prior to the CI providing the meals, staff attempted a pilot program to expand the program but there was a lack of interest from the seniors in those areas and the program was not well-received.

Mr. Gay explained that the meals drastically improved when the CI began preparing them.

Ms. Mickle explained that staff will be happy to explore the possibility of expanding the program if additional funding is available from the Area Agency on Aging while not overtaxing the CI. She also explained that staff is actively working to expand other senior programs throughout the county.

The Board voted to approve submission of a proposal to the Three Rivers Area Agency on

Aging (TRAAA) to continue to provide the senior meals program at the Tommy Thompson Senior Activity Center.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Paul Poole, District 1 - Vice Chairman
SECONDER:	Bill McKenzie, District 2
AYES:	Reidelbach, Poole, McKenzie, Blackburn, Smith

21. 14256 Request Approval of a Budget Amendment to Purchase a Tug for Use at the Newnan-Coweta County Airport

Administrator Fouts explained that the Newnan-Coweta County Airport currently does not have the proper equipment to move aircraft at Whitlock Field. Given the small size of the transient parking ramp, an airplane tug could be used for stacking aircraft as well as removing disabled aircraft from the airside operations area (AOA). An airplane tug is a standard piece of equipment found at nearly all professional Fixed-Based Operators (FBO). If the Airport is to continue running the FBO, a tug capable of moving/repositioning aircraft for parking and for removal is necessary. Funding for a lease payment (\$28,000) was included in the Fiscal Year 2024 budget, however, staff has determined that it is more fiscally prudent to purchase the equipment. Staff is requesting a budget amendment in the amount of \$82,219 to purchase a tug and associated towing accessories totaling \$110,219. Airport staff obtained quotes for diesel and electric powered tugs with the preference being electric. The quote for the proposed Lektro electric tug was obtained from the only southeast dealer in Georgia.

In response to a question from Chairman Reidelbach regarding procurement versus lease, Mr. Fouts explained that the lease included a 7% interest rate and when the County's bond attorney reviewed the lease option, it was a complicated transaction.

County Attorney Lee explained that the lease option included interest charges, and there are laws specific to when local governments can borrow money. These typically must be approved by the voters and are very expensive to administer. Because of the legal fees involved with accomplishing a lease contract that is not considered to be a "loan", more cost savings can be achieved by directly purchasing the equipment.

Mr. Fouts fielded questions from the Board regarding the tug's capacity, sole source provider, lifespan, and warranty.

Commissioner Smith asked that staff investigate an extended warranty for the equipment.

The Board voted to approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$82,219 for the purchase of a tug to be utilized by the Newnan-Coweta County Airport for the purposes of moving/repositioning aircraft.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Bill McKenzie, District 2
SECONDER:	John Reidelbach, District 4 - Chairman
AYES:	Reidelbach, Poole, McKenzie, Blackburn, Smith

22. 14255 Request from the Town of Sharpsburg for Assistance with Installation of Signage on Various Streets - District 1

The Board voted to assist the Town of Sharpsburg by providing labor and equipment to install street signs on Main Street, Williams Circle, Marsha Way, and Wellsburg Drive.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Paul Poole, District 1 - Vice Chairman
SECONDER:	Bob Blackburn, District 3
AYES:	Reidelbach, Poole, McKenzie, Blackburn, Smith

PUBLIC COMMENT (Items Not on the Agenda)

Public Comments Regarding Items Not on the Agenda

Chairman Reidelbach called for comments regarding any items not on the agenda.

The following individuals addressed the Board regarding their beliefs that the current voting machines (ballot marking devices/BMDs) are vulnerable to being hacked/manipulated, foster a lack of voter confidence, do not provide verifiable results, are significantly more expensive than hand-counted paper ballots, and are now several generations old without being updated. In addition, they expressed concerns regarding their beliefs that the voter registrations are fraudulent/fake, possible foreign espionage, hacking of the cellular network provider associated with transmission of ballot results, unreadable/illegal QR codes on the ballots, inaccurate vote tabulations, equipment failures, and subversive, irresponsible reporting by the Newnan Times-Herald regarding the use of paper ballots and the lack of authority by the County to make that decision. In addition, the group requested that the Board place their request to offer an option to use hand-marked, hand-counted paper ballots in Coweta County on the agenda for consideration.

- * Ms. Linda Menk, Avondale Circle, Newnan
- * Mr. Mike Nixon, Lawn Market, Sharpsburg
- * Ms. Jasmine Mehan, Quig Youngs Road, Moreland
- * Mr. Maxwell Britton, Marion Beavers Road, Sharpsburg
- * Mr. Phillip Fields, Mann Road, Tyrone
- * Mr. Alan Brady, Barrington Overlook, Sharpsburg
- * Ms. Sandy Haner, McIntosh Trail, Senoia

In addition, Ms. Menk explained that the demonstration of a ballot counter for hand-marked paper ballots procured by another supporter of paper ballots that will be conducted in Fayetteville on January 27, 2024 from 10:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. is at capacity for participants and there is a waiting list. Ballot counters have been trained and can now hand-count test paper ballots in eight (8) seconds. Another demonstration of this equipment is planned at Coweta Community Church on February 3, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. This is a non-partisan effort and an opportunity to learn about the equipment. She invited everyone to attend.

At the request of Chairman Reidelbach, Attorney Lee explained that regarding paper ballots, it appears that the group has been attending Commission meetings to express their concerns regarding the following:

- Whether the electronic voting equipment is safe and secure.
- Whether the Board of Commissioners can mandate paper ballots.

With respect to the safety and security of the current electronic voting equipment, Mr. Lee explained that he is not an Information Technology (I.T.) specialist and cannot provide a professional opinion regarding this issue. However, there is currently a case in Federal Court in Atlanta set to be tried this month regarding this issue.

Regarding whether the Board of Commissioners can mandate paper ballots, his professional opinion is that the Board does not have the legal authority to do so because the Legislature adopted O.C.G.A. 31-2-300 which provides the systematic way that voting is conducted in all 159 counties in Georgia. He further explained that the Secretary of State is authorized to make the rules that the Board of Commissioners must follow. In addition, Rule 183-1-12-01 not only states that elections must be conducted on machines, but also, on a specific machine. Therefore by state law, the Commission is not even allowed to choose the machine. This is important because the Doctrine of Preemption prohibits local governments from passing laws regarding a subject matter that conflict with the laws already adopted by the State associated with said subject matter. In his research, he found that the law does allow for the use of paper ballots in an emergency. Athens-Clarke County, Georgia previously declared such an emergency, and starting using paper ballots. The office of Secretary of State enforces elections and told Athens-Clarke County to stop using paper ballots, fined them, and informed them that if they did not cease using paper ballots, they would be fined \$5,000 per day based upon the exact same Rule (183-1-12-01). While he understands the frustration and concerns regarding electronic ballots, the law regarding this issue is very clear; therefore, the Board is very limited in their legal authority regarding what they can do about it.

In response to a question from Chairman Reidelbach regarding the authority of the Board to make the decision regarding the use of paper ballots, Mr. Lee explained that State law specifies that all 159 counties in Georgia must use the current electronic voting machines. He reached out to numerous colleagues and they are all in agreement.

In response to another question from Chairman Reidelbach, Attorney Lee explained that the voting laws are established by the State Legislature and regulations enacted by the Secretary of State. He reiterated that he is expressing no opinion regarding whether the electronic voting machines are a good or bad system because that is not his area of expertise.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - In accordance with O.C.G.A. 50-14-4

Executive Session

There were no issues to be discussed in Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion To: **Adjourn**

The Board voted to adjourn the meeting.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	John Reidelbach, District 4 - Chairman
SECONDER:	Al Smith, District 5
AYES:	Reidelbach, Poole, McKenzie, Blackburn, Smith