



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

Thursday, November 2, 2023

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	Present	
Kelly Mickle	Assistant Administrator	Absent	
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 Thursday, November 2, 2023.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. **Minutes of Tuesday, October 17, 2023**

The Board voted to approve the minutes from the Public Hearing/Regular Meeting Session held on Tuesday, October 17, 2023.

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

SUPPLEMENTAL AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Motion To: **Supplemental and/or Non-Agenda Items**

The Board voted to approve the addition of one (1) Non-Agenda item for discussion as presented by staff.

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

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

Motion To: **14092 : Proposed Abandonment of Sawmill Road**

Public Works Director Tod Handley explained that at the Commission meeting held on February 1, 1994, the Board voted to close Sawmill Road in the Raymond Community and allow the adjoining property owners to erect a gate to block access to the road. The road has remained closed to public travel since that time. The current owner of the majority of the old roadbed has requested that the road be formally abandoned and the right-of-way area be conveyed to the adjoining property owner(s) via a Quit Claim Deed.

Chairman Reidelbach called for any comments in support of the proposed abandonment.

Mr. Thomas Caldwell, Bee Road, Newnan explained that the roadbed divides his property and requested that the Board abandon it.

In response to a question from Commissioner Smith, Mr. Handley explained that the road is an old gravel roadbed that is now overgrown.

Chairman Reidelbach called for any comments in opposition to the proposed abandonment. There were none.

The Board voted to close the Public Hearing regarding a proposed abandonment of Sawmill Road.

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

2. 14092 Public Hearing Regarding a Proposed Abandonment of Sawmill Road - District 2

The Board voted to abandon Sawmill Road and to convey the right-of-way area to the adjoining property owner(s) via a Quit Claim Deed.

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

REGULAR SESSION

PUBLIC COMMENT (Items on the Agenda)

Public Comments Regarding Items On the Agenda

Chairman Reidelbach called for comments regarding any items on the agenda. There were none.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

3. 14152 Request Appointments to Various Boards/Authorities

No action was taken by the Board regarding appointments to various boards/authorities.

RESULT: NO ACTION TAKEN

NEW BUSINESS

Bids and Contracts

4. 14161 Request Approval/Execution of a Revised Memorandum of Agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation Associated with Replacement of the Bridge at Old Corinth Road at Sandy Creek - District 2

Administrator Fouts explained that the Old Corinth Road bridge over Sandy Creek has been included in the Georgia Department of Transportation's Local Bridge Replacement Program. The project is currently under design and is scheduled for construction in Fiscal Year 2025. At the Commission meeting held on January 6, 2022, the Board voted to execute a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with GDOT for this project. In response to guidance from their legal counsel, GDOT has revised their template for MOAs and is requiring local governments with active projects to approve and execute the revised Memorandum of Agreement. The MOA establishes the responsibilities of the Department and the County in relation to the project and as established by GDOT policy. A local contribution of \$50,000 is required which will be used by GDOT in the right-of-way acquisition efforts for the project.

The Board voted to execute a revised Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) associated with replacement of the bridge on Old Corinth Road at Sandy Creek, including a local participation in the amount of \$50,000.

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

5. 14162 Request Approval/Execution of Amendment # 1 to the Contract Associated with the 2023 Mill and Inlay Pavement Rehabilitation Project (RB23.8) - Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5

Administrator Fouts explained that the Board of Commissioners approved a contract with

C. W. Matthews on April 18, 2023 for Mill and Inlay of just over twenty-five (25) miles of County roadways with a contract time of 120-calendar days. Although a Notice to Proceed was issued to the contractor on June 8, 2023, there were twenty (20) cross-drain pipes in very poor condition on the roadways in the contract that were in need of replacement prior to resurfacing of these roads. Because of the pipe work that was necessary by County forces, the contractor was asked to delay its mobilization and start of work until the pipe replacements were underway to prevent a situation in which the pipe work interfered with the paving work. At this time, most of the pipes have been replaced and the contractor was able to begin their paving operations in September. However, the established contract time of 120-days expired on October 16, 2023. Because of the delay in the project caused by the County's pipe replacement work, weather patterns that are normally experienced during the fall and early winter that control when paving work can be performed, and the upcoming holidays, staff is recommending that an extension in contract time of 107-calendar days (January 31, 2024) be approved for the project.

The Board voted to execute Amendment # 1 to the existing contract with C. W. Matthews associated with a time extension of 107-calendar days for the 2023 Mill and Inlay Pavement Rehabilitation Project on various County roads (RB23.8).

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

6. 14163 Request Approval to Implement Segmented Road Closures Associated with the Sullivan Road Widening and Improvement Project (RB16.13) - District 4

Public Works Director Handley explained that the widening and improvement project on Sullivan Road will require the removal of trees and brush within the existing right-of-way along both sides of the road to provide room for the installation and construction of storm drainage and proper shoulders and slopes along the new roadway. Many of the existing trees along the road are of substantial size and are in close proximity to the roadway. The contractor for the project has requested permission to temporarily close sections of Sullivan Road between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and provide detour routing during these hours for safety purposes to perform the tree felling and removal operations without the interaction of live traffic. The closed portion of the road will be reopened to traffic at the end of each workday. Any proposed detours will be subject to approval by the Coweta County Public Works Department. It should be noted that the contract for the project allows for the conversion of Sullivan Road to a one-way operation for the duration of the project. However, the contractor has advised that they will not implement the one-way operation until work on the roadway begins. So, during the clearing operations, the road will remain open to two-way traffic except during the short duration daytime closures when clearing work is being performed.

Chairman Reidelbach requested that signage be placed on both ends of Sullivan Road to notify the traveling public.

In response to a question from Commissioner Smith, Mr. Handley explained that Sullivan Road will be transitioned to one-way traffic (temporarily) after the tree removal project is completed and the widening project begins.

The Board voted to approve segmental closures on Sullivan Road between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. during tree and brush removal associated with the roadway widening and improvement project with the caveat that the total closures shall not exceed 20 work days and any detour routes must be approved by the

Coweta County Public Works Department.

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

7. 14078 Bid Award Associated with Enforcement of Ordinance Regulating Rank Plant Growth and Trash Accumulation for Property Located at 55 Nottingham Drive, Newnan - District 3

The Board voted to retain TWR Lawn Services, LLC to perform cleanup of property located at 55 Nottingham Drive, Newnan (Parcel # 073A-071) at a total cost of \$300.00 and to place a lien on said property, should it become necessary, to recoup associated costs for said services.

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

Additional Action Items

8. 14164 Request Approval/Execution of an Indication of Roundabout Support Associated with the SR 54 at Gordon Road Project - Districts 1 and 2

County Administrator Fouts explained that the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) is currently in the design stages for a roundabout project at the intersection of SR 54 and Gordon Road. GDOT has requested a letter of support from the Board of Commissioners for this roundabout, and since the roundabout will include lighting for safer nighttime operations, GDOT requires that the local government fund the utility costs of lighting the roundabout and the ongoing maintenance of the grassing and landscaping that are normally installed in and around the roundabout.

The Board voted to execute an Indication of Roundabout Support for a proposed roundabout at the intersection of SR 54 and Gordon Road, to commit to fund the ongoing monthly utility costs associated with lighting, and to maintain the grassing and landscaping in and surrounding the intersection.

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

9. 14151 Request Approval of a Public Safety Radio Reprogramming Project Associated with the WestNet Alerting System for 911/EMA

Administrator Fouts explained that Coweta County 911/EMA has been working with the Newnan Fire Department to add them to the WestNet Alerting System to unify the dispatching process for fire and EMS services countywide. Currently, 911/EMA dispatches Coweta County Fire Rescue using a WestNet station alerting system. The City of Newnan Fire Department utilizes a different method, which increases response times and the opportunity for human errors. The use of WestNet by the City of Newnan Fire Department will help serve citizens faster. At the Commission

meeting held on July 12, 2022, the Board voted to approve the use of Level Two SPLOST funds in the amount of \$171,334.94 associated with the purchase of the WestNet First-In Alerting system to unify and improve dispatch services for the City of Newnan. At the Commission meeting held on September 20, 2022, the Board further voted to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the City of Newnan associated with this project. Reprogramming is the final segment to complete this project and will allow the Newnan Fire Department, Newnan Police Department, Coweta County Fire Rescue and Coweta County 911/EMA to all have new radio talk groups needed to maximize the functionality of the WestNet Alerting System.

The Board voted to approve a radio reprogramming project to add the Newnan Fire Department to the WestNet Alerting System as proposed by Motorola Solutions to be completed by Metropolitan Communications in the amount of \$25,000.00.

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

10. 14160 Request Approval/Execution of a Right-of-Entry Associated with Storm Drain Repairs at 25 Lafayette Court and 844 Andrew Bailey Road, Sharpsburg - District 4

In response to a question from Chairman Reidelbach regarding the storm drain repairs necessary at 25 Lafayette Court and 844 Andrew Bailey Road, Sharpsburg, Mr. Handley explained that these repairs typically take three (3) to four (4) hours to complete and staff will speak with property owners in the area to determine when/if they will need to access the roadway before crews begin work on the storm drains.

The Board voted to execute Rights-of-Entry with David and Anne Gasser and with James and Deborah Coleman for the purposes of performing storm drain repairs at 25 Lafayette Court and 844 Andrew Bailey Road, Sharpsburg, respectively.

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

SUPPLEMENTAL/NON-AGENDA ITEMS

11. 14167 Request Approval/Execution of the Annual Equitable Sharing Agreement and Affidavit for the Sheriff's Office

Administrator Fouts explained that the Department of Justice Asset Forfeiture Program is a nationwide law enforcement initiative that removes the tools of crime from criminal organizations, deprives wrongdoers of the proceeds of their crimes, recovers property that may be used to compensate victims, and deters crime. Equitable sharing further enhances this law enforcement objective by fostering cooperation among federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. Federal law authorizes the Attorney General to share federally forfeited property with participating state and local law enforcement agencies. Any state or local law enforcement agency that directly participates in an investigation or prosecution that results in a federal forfeiture may request an equitable share of the net proceeds of the forfeiture. The Coweta County Sheriff's Office has continued its participation in this program for their fiscal year ending on September 30, 2023, and they have completed the Federal Equitable Sharing Agreement and Certification Report. They

are requesting execution of the agreement and affidavit by the Board.

The Board voted to execute the annual Federal Equitable Sharing Agreement and Affidavit for the Coweta County Sheriff's Office.

RESULT:	EXECUTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	John Reidelbach, District 4 - 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 overcrowding at the Animal Shelter, euthanization lists/rates, challenges to increase adoption rates, lack of a full-time veterinarian, a desire for the Board to suspend the Animal Services Ordinance associated with capacity limits, a need to utilize crates despite prohibition of such by the Department of Agriculture, illegal breeding and selling of animals, better use of the Adoption Coordinator, the need for an enhanced spay/neuter program, offers from volunteers to regularly transport animals to other facilities for spay/neuter, and appreciation for Saturday hours of operation. They requested a collaborative effort with the Board to resolve these issues.

* Ms. Linda Earhart, Ashley Court, Newnan

* Ms. Gail Lustig, Stoney Oaks Drive, Newnan

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

Motion To: **Enter Into Executive Session**

The Board voted to enter into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing personnel and litigation issues.

Members in attendance included Chairman Reidelbach, Commissioner Poole, Commissioner Blackburn, Commissioner Smith, and Commissioner McKenzie. Staff members in attendance included Administrator Fouts, Associate Administrator Whitlock, Assistant Attorney Lee, and County Clerk Zerangue.

Commissioner McKenzie exited the meeting prior to discussion of one (1) personnel issue.

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

REGULAR SESSION

Motion To: **Return to Regular Session**

The Board discussed personnel and litigation issues during Executive Session and voted to return to Regular Session.

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

AFFIDAVIT

Motion To: **Execute Affidavit and Resolution for Executive**

The Board voted to execute an Affidavit and Resolution for Executive Session.

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

Motion To: **Approve Personnel Actions as Discussed in Executive Section**

The Board voted to approve personnel actions as discussed in Executive Session.

RESULT: **APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER: Al Smith, District 5
SECONDER: Paul Poole, District 1 - Vice Chairman
AYES: Reidelbach, Poole, McKenzie, Blackburn, Smith

ADJOURNMENT

Motion To: **Adjourn**

The Board voted to adjourn the meeting.

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