

The Turner County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, January 7th, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the Turner County Agricultural Center for the Combined “advertised” Work Session/Board Meeting with Commissioners James Burgess, Joe E. Burgess, Brad Calhoun, Nick Denham and Dana L. Whiddon present. Staff present were Latrice Wilson, County Clerk and Brent Hyde, County Attorney. Others present were Bruce Burgess, Fire Chief, Coroner Jim Lumpkin, Judge Blake Christian, Ashley Miller, Raymond Poore, Sheldon Smith, Torie Smith, Mandi Cole, Ann Kendrick, Sandra Blue, Sami Mastrario, Howard Burgess, Dustin Beaty, Public Works Director, Sheriff Andy Hester, Chief Deputy Charles Dean, Mayor Gary Walker, Mike Tanner, Janet Winter, Elections Superintendent, Robby Royal, EMS Director, Mark Robinson, Jackie Johnson and wife, and Warren Lewis.

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

Mr. Mark Robinson gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

Motion by Commissioner Calhoun seconded by Commissioner Burgess to add a letter of support for Georgia’s gaming prohibition and adopt the agenda as presented, motion passed with Commissioners Burgess, Burgess, Calhoun, Denham and Whiddon voting in favor of the motion.

Approval of Financial Information for August and September 2024 was tabled until the next board meeting.

Motion by Commissioner Joe Burgess seconded by Commissioner Calhoun to approve minutes of previous meeting as printed for December 2024, motion passed with Commissioners Burgess, Burgess, Calhoun, Denham and Whiddon voting in favor of the motion.

Public Comments: None

Commissioners discussed the Chairman position for 2025.

Commissioners discussed the Vice-Chairman appointment for 2025.

Commissioners discussed the re-appointment of County Clerk, Latrice Wilson.

Commissioners discussed the re-appointment of County Attorney, Brent W. Hyde.

Commissioners discussed the Phoebe Building.

Commissioners discussed bids for grass cutting services for Turner County.

Commissioners discussed repairs at the old 911 Building.

Commissioners discussed board appointment for TCDA.

Commissioners discussed purchasing an ambulance for EMS.

Commissioners discussed setting the 2024 tax levy.

Commissioners discussed Commissioners roles and responsibilities.

Commissioner James Burgess accepted the Chairman position for 2025.

Motion by Commissioner Joe Burgess seconded by Commissioner Whiddon to appoint Commissioner Brad Calhoun as the Vice-Chairman for 2025, motion passed with Commissioners James Burgess, Joe Burgess, Brad Calhoun, Nick Denham and Dana L. Whiddon voting in favor of the motion.

Motion by Commissioner Calhoun seconded by Commissioner Joe Burgess to re-appoint Latrice Wilson as County Clerk. Motion passed with Commissioners James Burgess, Joe Burgess, Brad Calhoun, Nick Denham and Dana L. Whiddon voting in favor of the motion.

Motion by Commissioner Denham seconded by Commissioner Calhoun to re-appoint Brent W. Hyde as County Attorney, motion passed with Commissioners James Burgess, Joe Burgess, Brad Calhoun, Nick Denham and Dana L. Whiddon voting in favor of the motion.

Motion by Commissioner Whiddon seconded by Commissioner Burgess to accept the bid from Chapman's Lawn Service for grass cutting services for Turner County in the amount of \$56,150.00, motion passed with Commissioners James Burgess, Joe Burgess, Brad Calhoun, Nick Denham and Dana L. Whiddon voting in favor of the motion.

Motion by Commissioner Joe Burgess seconded by Commissioner Denham to get bids on the old 911 building for repairs, motion passed with Commissioners James Burgess, Joe Burgess, and Nick Denham voting in favor of the motion. Commissioners Calhoun and Whiddon opposed the motion.

Motion by Commissioner Calhoun seconded by Commissioner Whiddon to approve board appointment for Raymond Poore to the TCDA Board for a term of 5 years, motion passed with Commissioners James Burgess, Brad Calhoun, Nick Denham and Dana L. Whiddon voting in favor of the motion. Commissioner Joe Burgess opposed the motion.

Motion by Commissioner Denham seconded by Commissioner Calhoun to adopt Resolution #2025-01-01 setting the 2024 tax levy for maintenance and operation of county affairs at 13.00 mills and for maintenance and operation of public schools in Turner County at 14.500 mills for tax year 2024 and authorize the Chairman to sign the resolution on behalf of the County, motion passed with Commissioners James Burgess, Joe Burgess, Brad Calhoun, Nick Denham and Dana L. Whiddon voting in favor of the motion.

Motion by Commissioner Whiddon seconded by Commissioner Calhoun to approve purchase of ambulance to be split into two payments for Turner County EMS, motion passed with Commissioners James Burgess, Joe Burgess, Brad Calhoun, Nick Denham and Dana L. Whiddon voting in favor of the motion.

Motion by Commissioner Calhoun seconded by Commissioner Denham for approval of letter of support for Georgia's gaming prohibition, motion passed with Commissioners James Burgess, Joe Burgess, Brad Calhoun, Nick Denham and Dana L. Whiddon voting in favor of the motion.

Motion by Commissioner Whiddon seconded by Commissioner Calhoun to go into Executive Session at 6:44 p.m. to discuss real estate and personnel, motion passed with Commissioners James Burgess, Joe Burgess, Brad Calhoun, Nick Denham and Dana L. Whiddon voting in favor of the motion.

Motion by Commissioner Calhoun seconded by Commissioner Joe Burgess to end the Executive Session and go back to the regular meeting at 6:56 p.m. Motion passed with Commissioners with Commissioners James Burgess, Joe Burgess, Brad Calhoun, Nick Denham and Dana L. Whiddon voting in favor of the motion.

Motion by Commissioner Burgess seconded by Commissioner Denham to increase the salary of Latrice Wilson, County Clerk from \$72,280.00 to \$85,000.00. Motion passed with Commissioners James Burgess, Joe Burgess, and Nick Denham voting in favor of the motion. Commissioners Calhoun and Whiddon opposed the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

James Burgess, Chairman

Attest: _____
Latrice L. Wilson, County Clerk