

The Turner County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, May 6th, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the Turner County Agricultural Center for the monthly 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 J. Edward Shipp, County Attorney. Others present were Robby Royal, Dustin Beaty, Sheriff Andy Hester, Mary Lee Green, Howard Jordan, Edythe Washington, Ashley Miller, Bruce Burgess, Jodi Spooner, Elizabeth Knight, Nancy Bryan, Janet Winter, Johnny Duckworth, Ben Baker, Editor of the Wiregrass Farmer, Kristian Morrison, and others.

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

Mr. Ben Baker gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Commissioner Burgess seconded by Commissioner Calhoun to add speakers for CASA and Ruth Cottage, add bids for equipment for Road Department, and add agreement on use of mobile phone, and adopt the agenda as presented, motion passed with Commissioners James Burgess, Joe E. Burgess, Brad Calhoun, Nick Denham, and Dana L. Whiddon voting in favor of the motion.

Motion by Commissioner Burgess seconded by Commissioner Calhoun to approve the minutes of the previous meeting for April 1st, 2025, and April 29th, 2025, as printed, motion passed with Commissioners James Burgess, Joe E. Burgess, Brad Calhoun, Nick Denham, and Dana L. Whiddon voting in favor of the motion.

Speakers:

Mrs. Lynn Davis gave recognition to students for participation in 4-HPublic Speaking Project.

Mrs. Kristen Morrion, representative from CASA, gave an update on the CASA Program for Turner County.

Mrs. Nancy Bryan, representative from Ruth Cottage and Patticake House, gave an update on RCPC programs for Turner County.

Mrs. Jodi Spooner, representative of the Victim Assistance with the District Attorney Office, gave an update of the Victim Assistance services provided by the District Attorney Office. Public Comments: (concerning agenda items): None

Motion by Commissioner Whiddon seconded by Commissioner Burgess to approve the MOU for facility and maintenance agreement between Turner County and Turner County School District and authorize the Chairman to sign agreement on behalf of the County, motion passed with Commissioners James Burgess, Joe E. Burgess, Brad Calhoun, Nick Denham, and Dana L. Whiddon voting in favor of the motion.

Motion by Commissioner Burgess seconded by Commissioner Whiddon approve Intergovernmental Agreement between Turner County and the City of Ashburn for animal control services and authorize the Chairman to sign agreement on behalf of the County, motion passed with Commissioners James Burgess, Joe E. Burgess, Brad Calhoun, Nick Denham, and Dana L. Whiddon voting in favor of the motion.

Motion by Commissioner Joe E. Burgess seconded by Commissioner Whiddon to adopt Liquor by the Drink Ordinance for Turner County (Ordinance # 2025-04-01), motion passed with Commissioners James Burgess, Joe E. Burgess, and Dana L. Whiddon voting in favor of the motion. Commissioners Calhoun and Denham opposed the motion.

Motion by Commissioner Calhoun seconded by Commissioner Denham to approve board re-appointment for Mr. Jerry Lewis to the Turner County Board of Family and Children Services term beginning July 1, 2025, and term ending June 30, 20230, motion passed with Commissioners James Burgess, Joe E. Burgess, Brad Calhoun, Nick Denham, and Dana L. Whiddon voting in favor of the motion.

Motion by Commissioner Denham seconded by Commissioner Joe E. Burgess to approve board appointment for Mrs. Juretha McMilliam to the Aging Advisory Council Board for Turner County to serve a term of three years, motion passed with Commissioners James Burgess, Joe E. Burgess, Brad Calhoun, Nick Denham, and Dana L. Whiddon voting in favor of the motion.

Motion by Commissioner Whiddon to approve BOC request for updated job classifications, job vacancies, and any promotions from Department Heads and Elected Officials before budget conversations begin. Motion died for a lack of a second.

Motion by Commissioner Whiddon seconded by Commissioner Joe E. Burgess to approve disbursement of \$100,000 CD for LVAF as follows: \$5,000.00 to the District Attorney Office for Administrative Services, \$15,000.00 to CASA, \$15,000.00 to Patticake House/Ruth Cottage and \$15,000.00 to District Attorney, and the remaining funds of \$62,000.00 to remain in the CD, motion passed with James Burgess, Joe E. Burgess, Brad Calhoun, and Dana L. Whiddon voting in favor of the motion. Commissioner Denham abstained from voting.

Motion by Commissioner Calhoun seconded by Commissioner Denham to revise the percentages breakdown for Victim Assistance Funds (quarterly disbursements) to CASA -60%, Ruth Cottage/Patticake House -20%, District Attorney -20%, motion passed with Commissioners James Burgess, Joe E. Burgess, Brad Calhoun, and Dana L. Whiddon voting in favor of the motion. Commissioner Denham abstained from voting.

Motion by Commissioner Calhoun seconded by Commissioner Denham to approve shared space with the State Court and CASA and reduce the rent for CASA to \$500.00 per month and covering the utilizes cost for the CASA/State Court building, motion passed with Commissioners James Burgess, Joe E. Burgess, Brad Calhoun, and Nick Denham voting in favor of the motion. Commissioner Whiddon opposed the motion.

Motion by Commissioner Denham seconded by Commissioner Whiddon to approve the appointment for Mr. J. Edward Shipp as County Attorney for Turner County, motion passed with Commissioners James Burgess, Joe E. Burgess, Brad Calhoun, Nick Denham, and Dana L. Whiddon voting in favor of the motion.

Motion by Commissioner Calhoun seconded by Commissioner Whiddon to accept the approved official logo and marketing logos for Turner County and develop a Turner County Georgia Facebook page where the clerk can post, motion passed with Commissioners James Burgess, Joe E. Burgess, Brad Calhoun, Nick Denham, and Dana L. Whiddon voting in favor of the motion.

Motion by Commissioner Calhoun seconded by Commissioner Denham to approve Turner County 2025 LRA application for funding for Turner County Road Projects and authorize the Chairman to sign application on behalf of the County, motion passed with Commissioners James Burgess, Joe E. Burgess, Brad Calhoun, Nick Denham, and Dana L. Whiddon voting in favor of the motion.

Motion by Commissioner Whiddon seconded by Commissioner Denham to approve upgrades to the elevator at the Courthouse in the amount of \$ 10,370.00, motion passed with Commissioners James Burgess, Joe E. Burgess, Brad Calhoun, Nick Denham, and Dana L. Whiddon voting in favor of the motion.

Motion by Commissioner Whiddon seconded by Commissioner Burgess to approve Phone Use Agreement between Turner County and Turner County Department Heads, motion passed with Commissioners James Burgess, Joe E. Burgess, Brad Calhoun, and Dana L. Whiddon voting in favor of the motion. Commissioner Denham opposed the motion.

Motion by Commissioner Burgess seconded by Commissioner Calhoun to approve bid for two motor graders and two backhoes for Turner County Road Department, motion passed with Commissioners James Burgess, Joe E. Burgess, Brad Calhoun, Nick Denham, and Dana L. Whiddon voting in favor of the motion.

Motion by Commissioner Calhoun seconded by Commissioner Whiddon to approve Executive Session Minutes for Tuesday, April 1, 2025, and Tuesday, April 29th, 2025, at printed, motion passed with Commissioner James Burgess, Joe E. Burgess, Brad Calhoun, Nick Denham, and Dana L. Whiddon voting in favor of the motion.

Chairman Updates:

Chairman gave an update on Mercer and Commissioner Denham was appointed to oversee coordinating the committee for Mercer.

Motion by Commissioner Calhoun seconded by Commissioner Whiddon to appoint Commissioner Denham in charge of coordinating the committee for Mercer.

Public Comments:

Ashley Miller, Chamber Director, spoke stating that Turner County will be going to Warner Robins to present a Grant Application for College and Career Academy.

Sarah Cook spoke on behalf of Ruth Cottage services for Turner County.

Melissa Wood spoke on behalf of Patticake House for Turner County.

Commissioner Whiddon spoke stating she appreciates what Ruth Cottage does for Turner County.

Commissioner Calhoun spoke stating he appreciates what Ruth Cottage/Patticake House and everyone else does for Turner County.

Motion by Commissioner Whiddon seconded by Commissioner Calhoun to go into Executive Session at 6:59 p.m. for personnel, litigation and real estate, motion passed with Commissioners James Burgess, Joe E. Burgess, Brad Calhoun, Nick Denham, and Dana L. Whiddon voting in favor of the motion.

Motion by Commissioner Burgess seconded by Commissioner Calhoun to end the Executive Session at 7:34 p.m. and return to the regular board meeting, motion passed with

Commissioners James Burgess, Joe E. Burgess, Brad Calhoun, Nick Denham, and Dana L. Whiddon voting in favor of the motion.

Motion by Commissioner Calhoun seconded by Commissioner Whiddon to amend vote on percentage breakdown for LVAf to 50% CASA, 30% Ruth Cottage/Patticake House, and 20% to District Attorney, motion passed with Commissioners James Burgess, Joe E. Burgess, Brad Calhoun, Nick Denham, and Dana L. Whiddon voting in favor of the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

James Burgess, Chairman

Attest: _____
Latrice L. Wilson, County Clerk