

May 1, 2025, Commissioners Board Meeting Minutes 6:45 PM

Chairperson Kenneth Petty called May 1,2025, the Board of Commissioners meeting to order at 6:45 PM. The invocation and pledge of allegiance followed.

Alexandra Arzayus with SGRC came to speak with an update on Echols County hazard mitigation plan. Mrs. Arzayus has been working closely with the county manager and several of the community stakeholders pertaining to the different things that are required by state with GEMA and FEMA. There is a work program there that should be checked into and reviewed on an annual basis to see what you can do as far as mitigation procedures to prepare for hurricanes, wildfires, and various other hazards that they have listed there. Mrs. Alex is also working on the comprehensive plan for Echols County out of five projects that SGRC has submitted. Three of them has been awarded, there were two projects that the county needs to look for other alternatives for them to go through. Mrs. Arzaus also spoke about public transit which would not start until July. She gave out a survey on SGRC transit development plan for feedback on potential transit service enhancements and new transit options to better serve travel needs throughout the eighteen county regions that participate.

Mrs. Arzayus also introduced her coworker Lindsey who writes grants for SGRC in the Community Economic Development division. She writes grants for community facilities for local government such as streets that need paving, health departments, water sewer infrastructure, recreation. Mrs. Lindsey just wanted to make the county aware that they are here to work with the county on any grants that the county might be available as well if the county has a project, they will be glad to come and speak with the county on that and help get funding for that.

Chairperson of the Board of Elections Patrick Dupree gave a brief update on the last board meeting. Mr. Dupree updated the commission that Mrs. Renee Church, the Election supervisor, attended training this week, Mrs. Church advised the Board about the interactive web mapping for the district and post divisions for elections the mapping will be purchased from SGRC, as well as other county offices may be able to utilize this as well. The Election Supervisor requested information regarding an open records request, from the County Attorney back in April, and Mr. Durpee stated that Mrs. Church still has not received any response from the county attorney. The County attorney’s office previously said they would have the information to her by email by April the 14th. Mr. Dupree is concerned that the lack of information provided in a timely manner could cause issues for the county.

6:55 Pm Chairperson Kenneth Petty requested a motion to close the Echols Board of Commissioners workshop. Commissioner Stanley Corbet made motion. Commissioner Justin Staten seconded. Motion carried 5/0.

7:00 PM Chairperson Kennth Petty called the May 1, 2025, meeting to order.

Chairperson Kenneth Petty requested a motion to approve the agenda for the May 1,2025 board meeting. Vice-Chairperson Bobbi Pohlman Rodgers made motion. Commissioner Bobby Walker seconded. Motion carried 5/0.

Chairperson Kenneth Petty requested a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the April 10,2025 bord meeting. Commissioner Justin Staten made a motion. Commissioner Stanley Corbett seconded. Motion carried 5/0.

Chairperson Kenneth Petty requested motion to adopt the Echols County Hazard Mitigation plan. Commissioner Stanley Corbett made a motion. Commissioner Bobby Walker seconded. Motion carried 5/0.

Commissioner Justin Staten discussed the county taking over the Water Authority. Some the constitutes expressed their concern or not it was an acceptable idea on this matter.

Chairman Kenneth Petty requested a motion for the Board of Commissioners to move forward with taking over the water Authority. Commissioner Bobby Walker made a motion to take over the Water Authority as long as it did not cost the taxpayers. Commissioner Justin Staten seconded. Vice-Chairman Bobbi Pohlman Rodgers recused her vote as she is a member of the Water Authority Board. Commissioner Stanley Corbett opposed. Motion carried 3/1.

Chairperson Kenneth Petty requested a motion to start the process with hiring a part time code enforcer officer. Commissioner Justin Staten made a motion to start the process of hiring a part-time code enforcement officer. Vice-Chairperson Bobby Pohlman Rodgers seconded. Commissioner Stanley Corbett opposed. Motion carried 4/1.

There was no executive session.

8:00 PM Chairperson Kenneth Petty requested a motion to adjourn May 1,2025, Board of Commissioners meeting. Vice-Chairperson Bobbi Pohlman Rodgers made a motion to close the May 1,2025, Board of Commissioners meeting. Motion Carried 5/0.