



September 4,2025

Echols County Board of Commissioners Meeting

6:45 PM

The Echols County Board meeting was called to order at 6:45 PM with the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

WORKSHOP

My. Tyler Carter addressed the board regarding the Statenville Cemetery. He suggested that the county consider placing a sign with guidelines or a timeline on how long arrangements, trash, and other items may remain before removal. Carter, who also handles the Lawn care for the county, explained that such measure would greatly assist with keeping the cemetery clean and maintained. The commission agreed they would assist in getting a sign put up for the cemetery.

Mr. Jimmy Tucker addressed the commission about district voting. He expressed concerns that district divisions are unnecessary and suggested that voting districts for Echols County be dissolved. Mr., Tucker noted that the change could allow more qualified candidates to run, as the current district system limits opportunities for individuals to seek office outside their designated districts.

Sheriff Randy Courson addressed the commission regarding the need for two new vehicles for the Sheriffs Office, as two of the current vehicles have reached high mileage (the county's mileage limit is approximately 150,000). The estimated cost of two trucks with necessary equipment is \$61,487.00. Sheriff Courson also presented a quote for body armor needed for the deputies and reported that he is obtaining a quote for two replacement computers, as the current ones are falling.

6:59 PM Chairman Kenneth Petty requested a motion to close the workshop. Vice-Chairman Bobbi Pohlmon Rodgers made motion. Commissioner Bobby Walker seconded. Motion carried 4/.

New Business

7:00 PM Chairman Kenneth Petty called the September 4, 2025 business meeting to order.

Chairman Kenneth Petty requested a motion to approve the agenda of the September 4,2025 board meeting. Commissioner Bobby Walker made motion. Commissioner Justin Staten

seconded. Motion carried 4/0.

Chairman Kenneth Petty requested a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the August 7, 2025 board meeting. Commissioner Bobby Walker made motion. Vice-Chairman Bobbi Pohlman Rodgers seconded. Motion carried 4/0.

Chairman Kenneth Petty requested a motion to approve the HB223 Trees Act- Temporary Property Tax relief for eligible standing timber. The motion held 0/4 opposed.

Chairman Kenneth Petty Requested a motion to approve the updated animal control ordinance. Commissioner Justin Staten made motion. Commissioner Bobby Walker seconded. Motion carried 4/0.

Chairman Kenneth Petty requested a motion to approve the resolution to dissolve the Echols County Water Authority and assuming and assume the assets of said Authority. Commissioner Justin Staten made motion. Commissioner Bobby Walker seconded. Motion carried 3/1 rescinded.

Chairman Kenneth Petty requested a motion to dissolve the voting districts for Echols County. Commissioner Justin Staten made motion. Vice-Chairman Bobbi Pohlman Rodgers seconded. Motion Carried 4/0.

Chairman Kenneth Petty requested a motion to approve the purchase of 2 trucks for the Office of the Sheriff in the amount of \$122,974.00. Vice-Chairman Bobbi Pohlman Rodgers made motion. Commissioner Justin Staten seconded. Motion carried 4/0.

Chairman Kenneth Petty requested a motion to amend the sheriff's budget in the amount of \$14000.00 For ballistic vest. Commissioner Justin Staten made motion. Vice-Chairman Bobbi Rodgers seconded. Motion carried 4/0.

Announcements:

The Georgia Department of Transportation and Echols County have Partnered to replace two bridges on J Frank Culpepper Road.

Millage rate public hearing will be held on Monday September 15, 2025 at 10 AM and 6 PM and then again on Monday September 22 at 6PM, Where the millage rate and budget will be adopted.

Also, our LMIG, we got the grant turned in for \$250,604.19. So that will be free. We got that.

Vice-Chairman Bobbi Pohlman Rodgers stated that she had the opportunity to attend the South Georgia Area Agency on Aging back on August 27 in Nashville. Currently, we only have four people on the waiting list to get food during the week, which is great compared to others that have significant number of elderly people waiting to get on the food list.

Vice-Chairman Bobbi Pohlman Rodgers made the announcement the commission did go ahead and approve to have the public transit available here in Eccles County. It is a 24-hour notice ahead of time. It is \$3 each way on your transportation, up to 10 miles.

And 10 miles plus is an additional \$0.50. But one of the things that I learned is the area on aging now has that to \$2. So, if you are 60 or older, it's \$2 one way. You still have the additional \$0.50 per mile, 10 miles and beyond.

So that is available to our citizens. In Eccles County, it runs in all 18 counties that create the Southern Georgia Agency.

Mr. Anthony Everett requested that the county reach out to Russ Goodman about us taking over the water Authority. He wanted the county to be aware of what is happening in Atkinson County with their water authority. The commission has agreed that they have researched the county taking over the water authority.

Executive Session

7:40 PM Chairman Kenneth Petty requested a motion to go into executive session. Commissioner Bobby Walker Made motion. Vice-Chairman Bobbi Pohlman Rodgers seconded. Motion carried 4/0.

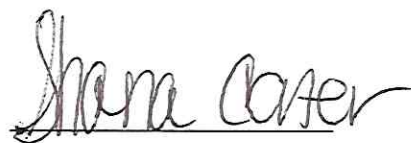
7:45 PM Chairman Kenneth Petty made motion to come out of executive session. Vice-Chairman Bobbi Pohlman Rodgers made motion. Commissioner Justin Staten seconded. Motion was carried 4/0.

Chairman Kenneth Petty stated that personnel were discussed in executive session and no decision was made at this time.

7:47 Chairman Kenneth Requested a motion to close the September 4, 2025 board meeting. Vice-Chairman Bobbi Pohlman Rodgers made motion. Commissioner Justin Staten Seconded. Motion carried 4/0.



Kenneth Petty, Chairman



Shona Carter, County Clerk

