



ECHOLS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES

March 19, 2026

6:00 PM

The Echols County Board of Commissioners held a Workshop Meeting on March 19, 2026, at 6:00 PM. Chairman Justin Staten called the meeting to order. The invocation and Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Attendees

Chairman Justin Staten
Vice-Chairman Stanley Corbett
Commissioner Kenneth Petty
Commissioner Bobbi Pohlman Rodgers
Commissioner Bobby Walker
County Manager Alan Levesque
County Clerk Shona Carte
Mitchell Church
Renee Church
Deb Cox
Tiffany Linkwiler
Jimmy Tucker

Public Hearing / Comprehensive Plan Update

An update was presented to the County's Comprehensive Plan to add the water system to the Service Delivery Strategy.

Building / Space Requirements

Jimmy Tucker, Renee Church, and representatives from the Lowndes County Board of Elections addressed the Commission regarding requirements for the Elections Office to host voting. The Commission is gathering information on leasing space from the Board of Education to house voting machines and bring the Elections Office up to required standards. This item will be placed on the agenda for the April 2, 2026 meeting at 7:00 PM.

Jimmy Tucker also addressed the need to hire a full-time employee for the Elections Office to assist with daily operations.

This would require amending the Elections Office budget to \$32,500.00.

This item will also be added to the April 2, 2026 agenda for consideration.

April is Volunteer Month

Commissioner Bobbi Pohlman Rodgers suggested providing lunch for volunteers in appreciation for their service at the monthly food drive held on the fourth Thursday of each month.

Several commissioners expressed that this may not be necessary, noting that volunteers also benefit from the food drive.

Tires / Landfill – STAR Grant

The Commission discussed the Scrap Tire Abatement Reimbursement (STAR) Grant.

Echols County plans to hold a Tire Amnesty Day on August 24, 2025.

Water System Resolutions / Policies

The Commission discussed:

- Bulk water withdrawal
 - Establishing water utility rate authority
 - Adoption of a utility fee schedule
 - Public Water System connection and use ordinance
 - Establishment of a financial management reserve policy
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Flexible Spending Account

The Commission discussed implementing a Flexible Spending Account (FSA) for employee health insurance.

It was agreed that current employees enrolled in the county insurance plan should be consulted before moving forward.

Nuisance Laws (Continued Discussion)

The Commission continued discussion from the previous meeting regarding nuisance laws.

Development of county-wide ordinances is still in progress.

Special District Overlay

The Commission discussed special district overlays, which are zoning tools used to apply additional regulations within existing zoning districts.

These overlays help address community needs, preserve key features, and guide development in designated areas.

Finance Policy Rewrite

The Commission agreed to place this item on the agenda for the April 2, 2026 meeting at 7:00 PM.

Code Enforcement

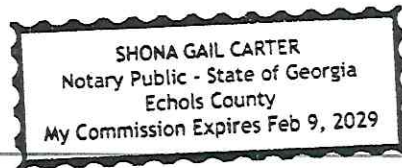
Code enforcement was discussed and will be further developed once related ordinances are finalized.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Workshop Meeting was adjourned at 7:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Clerk Shona Gail Carter
Date: 4-2-2026



Approved this 2nd day of April, 2026

Justin Staten, Chairman
Echols County Board of Commissioners
Date: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin Staten".