

*Justin Staten, Chairman
(229) 415-2942*

*Stanley Corbett, Vice-Chair
(229) 560-3026*

*Bobbi-Pohlman-Rodgers,
Commissioner
(229) 300-8998*



*Kenneth Petty, Commissioner
(229) 561-0930*

*Bobby Walker, Commissioner
(229) 300-0821*

*William Holland, County Attorney
(229) 242-7562*

CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT

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ECHOLS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Date: September 3, 2026

Location: Echols County Courthouse, 110 Hwy 94 E, Statenville, GA

Regular Meeting: 7:00 PM

REGULAR SESSION

7:00 PM – Chairman Justin Staten called the September 3, 2026, Board Meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- **Motion:** Commissioner Bobby Walker
- **Second:** Commissioner Kenneth Petty
- **Vote:** 5 to 0

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Meeting Date: August 6, 2026

- **Motion:** Commissioner Bobbi Pohlman Rodgers
- **Second:** Commissioner Bobby Walker
- **Vote:** 5 to 0

Meeting Date: Workshop – August 20, 2026

- **Motion:** Commissioner Bobbi Pohlman Rodgers
 - **Second:** Commissioner Kenneth Petty
 - **Vote:** 5 to 0
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CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution to Allow SGRC to Apply for the Rural Transportation Grant

- **Motion:** Commissioner Bobbi Pohlman Rodgers
 - **Second:** Vice-Chairman Stanley Corbett
 - **Vote:** 5 to 0
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PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Dan Davis approached the Board regarding AI Data Centers and requested that the Board adopt a 60-day moratorium as a temporary measure in case a data center is ever considered in Echols County.

OLD BUSINESS

Item: Landfill Sticker Program

Discussion: Consider repealing the landfill sticker/decal program due to administrative cost and duplication of residency verification. Because transferable stickers do not independently establish eligibility and may require verification of the user's identity and residence at the landfill, direct verification by government-issued identification may provide a simpler and more effective means of controlling access.

- **Motion:** Commissioner Bobby Walker
- **Second:** Commissioner Kenneth Petty
- **Vote:** 5 to 0

Item: Request for Approval to Remove Uncollectible Taxes from the Active Receivables Listing

Discussion: The Tax Commissioner requests Board approval to administratively write off delinquent personal property taxes associated with cable television equipment. The last return filed with the Tax Assessor's Office was in 2014, and the equipment is believed to have been out of service since that time. The write-off is for accounting purposes only and does not extinguish any valid tax lien or other legal collection rights.

Benefit: Removing these uncollectible amounts from active receivables provides a more accurate representation of the County's collectible tax revenue and prevents obsolete accounts from continuing to overstate outstanding receivables. The administrative write-off also cleans up long-standing tax records while preserving any valid liens or legal collection rights.

- **Motion:** Vice-Chairman Stanley Corbett
- **Second:** Commissioner Kenneth Petty

- **Vote:** 5 to 0
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NEW BUSINESS

Item: Dump Truck – Discussion and Consideration of Repair, Replacement, or Rental

Discussion: The County's current dump truck is in need of significant repair. A good faith estimate to repair or replace the transmission is approximately \$10,000. Given the age and condition of the truck, the Board should consider whether the repair is warranted or whether replacement or rental provides a better long-term value to the County.

Options for Consideration:

- Repair the existing truck – approximately **\$10,000**, with the County assuming the risk of additional repairs due to the age and condition of the vehicle.
- Purchase a new 6-yard dump truck – approximately **\$130,000** for a Peterbilt.
- Purchase a new 12–14-yard dump truck – approximately **\$212,000** for IHC and **\$215,000** for a Freightliner.
- Long-term rental – approximately **\$5,400 per month / \$64,800 annually**, for a 13-yard truck, with maintenance included.
- Long-term rental – approximately **\$2,700 per month / \$32,400 annually**, for a 5-yard truck, with maintenance included.

The Board discussed all options and decided that the County would repair the old dump truck as well as rent one until the old dump truck is repaired.

- **Motion:** Commissioner Bobbi Pohlman Rodgers
- **Second:** Vice-Chairman Stanley Corbett
- **Vote:** 5 to 0

Item: Door-to-Door Solid Waste Collection Fee

Discussion: The Tax Commissioner has requested that the Board determine whether the current rate will remain unchanged or be increased for the upcoming tax year. The Board will consider the annual rate increase for door-to-door solid waste collection services. The current rate is \$13.79 per month (\$165.48 annually). Due to increased costs associated with providing collection services, staff recommends increasing the monthly rate to **\$14.25**, resulting in an annual assessment of **\$171.00** to be included on the property tax bill.

- **Motion:** Vice-Chairman Stanley Corbett
- **Second:** Commissioner Kenneth Petty
- **Vote:** 5 to 0

Item: Howell Road Striping

Discussion: Due to the current condition of the roadway and completion of the necessary road improvements, the road is now in suitable condition for striping. Staff recommends

proceeding with the striping work at an estimated cost of **\$61,778.00**, with the expenditure to be funded through SPLOST funds designated for the renovation, improvement, and preservation of roads, streets, and bridges.

- **Motion:** Commissioner Bobby Walker
- **Second:** Commissioner Bobbi Pohlman Rodgers
- **Vote:** 5 to 0

Item: Live Recording and Streaming of Board of Commissioners Meetings

Discussion: A Commissioner has requested that the Board consider live recording and streaming Board of Commissioners meetings to provide greater public access to County proceedings. Options include utilizing Facebook Live or a similar social-media platform at little or no additional cost or utilizing a professional streaming service that provides enhanced audio/video, web-based broadcasting, social-media distribution, and archived recordings. The County has received pricing of approximately **\$2,300 annually** for a professional streaming service, with an additional one-time cost of **\$1,300** for equipment.

The Board motioned to authorize the streaming service for Board meetings with a one-time cost of **\$1,300.00**.

- **Motion:** Commissioner Bobby Walker
- **Second:** Commissioner Bobbi Pohlman Rodgers
- **Vote:** 5 to 0

EXECUTIVE SESSION

7:34 PM – Chairman Justin Staten requested a motion to go into Executive Session.

- **Motion:** Commissioner Bobby Walker
- **Second:** Commissioner Bobbi Pohlman Rodgers
- **Vote:** 5 to 0

7:53 PM – Chairman Justin Staten requested a motion to come out of Executive Session.

- **Motion:** Commissioner Bobby Walker
- **Second:** Commissioner Bobbi Pohlman Rodgers
- **Vote:** 5 to 0

The Board announced that personnel matters were discussed and that no further action was taken at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

Time: 7:55 PM

- **Motion:** Commissioner Bobbi Pohlman Rodgers

- **Second:** Commissioner Kenneth Petty
 - **Vote:** 5 to 0
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ATTENDEES

Commissioners:

- Chairman Justin Staten
- Vice-Chairman Stanley Corbett
- Commissioner Kenneth Petty
- Commissioner Bobbi Pohlman Rodgers
- Commissioner Bobby Walker

Staff:

- County Manager Alan Levesque
- County Clerk Shona Carter
- Judge Carl Rodgers
- Road Superintendent Larry Fender
- Tax Assessors Board Evelyn Howell
- Election Board Jimmy Tucker

Public Attendees:

Sandra Giddens, John Darling, Karen Black, Dan Davis, Charlene Davis, Dave Howell, Devon Bennet, Jed Williams, and other names were ineligible.

APPROVAL

These minutes were approved by the Echols County Board of Commissioners on the 2nd day of October, 2016.


Justin Staten, Chairman


Shona Carter, County Clerk

