

**REGULAR SESSION MEETING
BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2025
6:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman, Jimmy Parker, called the regular session meeting of the Berrien County Board of Commissioners to order on Tuesday, October 7, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. Members of the Board of Commissioners present were Commissioners Pixie Harrod, Ronnie Gaskins, John Nugent and Kylon Fort.

Invocation: Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins

Pledge: Commissioner Pixie Harrod

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner John Nugent made a motion to approve the September 2, 2025 Regular Session Minutes, the September 19, 2025 Special Called Meeting Minutes, the September 19, 2025 Executive Session Minutes, the September 30, 2025 9:00 am Public Hearing Minutes and the September 30, 2025 6:00 pm Public Hearing Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING: 3RD Public Hearing for Tax Increase

Commissioner John Nugent made a motion to move into public hearing at 6:03 pm, seconded by Commissioner Kylon Fort. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Parker stated the board intends to not rollback the millage and keep it at the same millage rate as last year. He asked if there were any comments for or against it. No one had comments. Motion to move out of Public Hearing by Commissioner John Nugent, seconded by Kylon Fort. The motion carried unanimously.

INVITED GUEST:

Clay Davis – Prissy Massengill requested permission to do upgrades to the Saddle Club. They have donations that will cover the cost. She requested the public works department to help haul off debris and level the dirt prior to work getting started. She mentioned bleachers that the Chamber removed for repairs and never brought back.

Emily Beeman – Ms. Beeman spoke about the smell in the Flat Creek area and asked that we work together to get this resolved.

Anette Baker – Allenville Rd drainage issue – Ms. Baker stated that she complained about the drainage and pipe issue in front of her house and nothing has been done. Ben Warren stated they replaced two pipes today and one will be replaced tomorrow. Commissioner Harrod said there is no where for the water to go. We will continue to work on this to get it resolved.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. JAIL MAINTENANCE - Administration received a request from Sheriff Ray Paulk, about maintenance on the jail for sensors in the fire system. The Ivory Detector is discontinued. The request is to replace all sensors operating under the older CLIP mode protocol due to communication issues with the new ASDPL3 Series sensors that operate under the new Velociti mode communication protocol. The price is \$34,860.00 from Valdosta Technical Systems, Inc. This can be funded through the Jail Fund. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins. The motion carried unanimously.

B. FY 2025 LRA LMIG AWARD - Administration received a recommendation for award for the FY 2025 LRA LMIG for Roadway Resurfacing. Watkins & Associates, LLC is recommending Reames & Son Construction Company, Inc. in the amount of \$810,519.15

<u>BIDS RECEIVED:</u> Reams & Son Construction	\$810,519.15
East Coast Asphalt, LLC	\$897,032.34
Scruggs Company	\$977,883.32

Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve the FY 2025 LRA LMIG for Roadway Resurfacing project to Reames & Son Construction Company, Inc. in the amount of \$810,519.15 and give County Administrator approval to execute, seconded by Commissioner John Nugent. The motion carried unanimously.

C. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – DA - Administration received a request from the District Attorney’s Office to execute a Memorandum of Understanding for the Victim Assistance Program. The MOU represents the efforts of the agencies to coordinate services for victims of crime as defined under OCGA Section 17-17-1. Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. The motion carried unanimously.

D. STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES – ANIMAL CONTROL - Administration is recommending approval of the Standard Operating Procedures for the Animal Control Office. Department of Agriculture reviewed the procedures and are in agreement. Commissioner John Nugent made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Kylon Fort. The motion carried unanimously.

E. BOARD APPOINTMENT & RESOLUTION – BOARD OF ASSESSORS - Administration received a request from Greg Nimmo, Board of Tax Assessors, to appoint Tony Lanier to fill the unexpired term of Barry McMillan on the Board of Assessors. His term will expire December 31, 2026. This will fill Position # 3. Commissioner Kylon Fort made a motion to approve the appointment and resolution as presented, seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. The motion carried unanimously.

F. JAIL MAINTENANCE – GATE/LOCKS - Administration received a request from Sheriff Ray Paulk, about maintenance at the jail for the roll gate, locks, etc. One quote was

provided by Focus Communication Solutions in the amount of \$17,040.10. This can be paid for out of the Jail Fund. Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Kylon Fort. The motion carried unanimously.

G. MITIGATION GRANT – GENERATORS - Administration received a request from ER Assist/FEMA to execute the agreement and maintenance agreement on the generators. The county contribution is \$225,319.08 with the annual maintenance for each generator being \$9,700.00. These documents are to be signed electronically by the Chairman. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins. The motion carried unanimously.

H. OPIOID SETTLEMENT – Administration received a request for a new opioid settlement. We need to submitted an executed Memorandum of Understanding and a Subdivision Participate and Rlease Form. This is to be signed electronically by the Chairman or County Administrator. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner John Nugent. The motion carried unanimously.

I. DRUG COURT SUPPLIES - Administration received a request from Drug Court to purchase supplies. This is 100% funded through a grant. One quote was provided.

<u>QUOTES:</u>	Microgenics Corporation/Thermo Fisher Scientific	\$8,538.73
	Microgenics Corporation/Thermo Fisher Scientific	\$ 346.50

Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Kylon Fort. The motion carried unanimously.

J. AMENDMENT TO MINUTES – JUNE 18, 2025 - Administration realized that on the June 18, 2025 minutes, Item A states FY 2024-2025 Budget Adoption Resolution – Administration prepared the Resolution for the FY 2025-2025 Budget Adoption. It should read as follows:

A. **FY 2025-2026 BUDGET ADOPTION RESOLUTION** – Administration prepared the Resolution for the FY 2025-2026 Budget Adoption. Total budgets are:

General Fund	\$13,247,609.00
Recreation	382,051.00
Jail Fund	43,280.00
Solid Waste	84,500.00
Fire Fund	719,745.00
SPLOST V	1,707,147.00
SPLOST VI	2,201,300.00
TSPLOST	1,154,870.00
Special Drug Fund	1,500.00
E-911	741,852.00
Airport	379,900.00
DATE Fund	499,594.00

Debt Service Fund	395,729.00
RLF Fund	1,525.00
ARPA	<u>522,916.00</u>
TOTAL BUDGET	\$22,083,518.00

This includes some increases in pay and wage adjustments as discussed in budget meetings as well as continuing with the retirement program for the employees. The cashing in of 40 hours one time per fiscal year is included but will be paid out at the pay rate on July 1, 2025 or hire date if after July 1, 2025. Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins made a motion to approve the budget and resolution as presented and to continue with the retirement program, seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner John Nugent made a motion to approve the amended minutes, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins. The motion carried unanimously.

K. MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH ATKINSON COUNTY – SAINT LUKE CHURCH ROAD BRIDGE - Administration is requesting the board approve the Memorandum of Agreement between Berrien County and Atkinson County concerning Saint Luke Church Road Bridge. The Commitment from Berrien County with GDOT for this bridge was \$50,000.00. Since the bridge is partially in Atkinson County, we requested they pay half of it and received a verbal commitment from Atkinson County. Commissioner Kylon Fort made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins. The motion carried unanimously.

L. BOARD APPOINTMENT - LIBRARY – Administration received a request from Angi Hughes, requesting an appointment to fill an unexpired term which will end June 30, 2026. Commissioner Fort recommended Ann Morris who is willing to serve. Commissioner Kylon Fort made a motion to appoint Ann Morris to the Library Board with a term ending June 30, 2026, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins. The motion carried unanimously.

M. TECHNOLOGY FEE RESOLUTION – MAGISTRATE – Administration is requesting that the board approve a Technology Fee Resolution for the magistrate Court. The funds generated from this can only be used in Magistrate Court. Commissioner Kylon Fort made a motion to approve the resolution as presented, seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. The motion carried unanimously.

N. VEHICLE ACQUISITION - Administration received a request from Marc Mathis, to purchase a vehicle for EBFD. This is to replace their 22 year old F550. The transmission quit. Cory Gray is worried that the motor is what led to the transmission issue and does not recommend fixing it.

<u>QUOTES:</u>	Wade Ford	\$82,745	Diesel
	Donohoo Chevrolet	\$61,348.00	2025 3500 HD 4WD
	Bozard Ford	\$64,999.00	2024 F450 Reg Cab 4X4

Marc Mathis, Fire Chief, stated it will be an additional cost of approximately \$11,000.00 to

equip the truck with lights, radio, etc. The equipment from the old truck will be refurbished. Marc Mathis did not provide the quotes for the equipment. Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins made a motion not approve the purchase from Donohoo Chevrolet in the amount of \$61,348.00 plus the equipment, seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. The motion carried unanimously.

O. CONTRACT AGREEMENT – R & T CONSTRUCTION – NLFD –
Administration received the Contract Agreement for NLFD. This contract is between R & T Construction and Berrien County in the amount of \$114,099.88. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Kylon Fort. The motion carried unanimously.

P. SURPLUS EQUIPMENT - Administration received a request to surplus the following equipment:

2007 Dodge Charger	2B3KA43G47H737537
2014 Chevy Tahoe	1GNLC2E02ER217536
1983 GMC High Sierra 3500	1GDJK34W2EV501539

Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve the equipment as surplus and advertise for bids in Berrien Press, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins. The motion carried unanimously.

Q. RATIFICATION ITEMS - Administration is requesting ratification on the following items:

Tire Store – Road	\$1,360.00
Southeastern Chapter National Safety Council – Flagger Certification	
\$2,850.00	
Tire Store – Road	\$2,720.00
Cowart Electric – Jail	\$1,060.00
Yancey Brothers – Road	
\$2,044.66	
Renolds-Warren – Road	
\$1,933.40	
Lee Farm Supply – Road	
\$2,038.50	

It was previously approved for the Sheriff to purchase a truck from Prince Automotive Group in the amount of \$74,070.00. Instead he purchased the truck from Parker Chevrolet GMC, Inc. in the amount of \$74,433.99

Commissioner Kylon Fort made a motion to ratify the items presented, seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS:

Gerald Sumner – Asked if we had an update on the bid for the EMS/911 Building. Chairman

stated that County Administrator has been in contact with Stacy Watkins and he is working on the bid. Commissioner Harrod said this is taking too long and may need to move or do something different. He asked if we can put our own bid out? County Attorney, Jennifer Herzog explained the requirements. She will look more into it. She will be get with Stacy and Brenda next week. Commissioner Harrod stated it has been too long. Gerald Sumenr explained some of the issues with the EMS Building.

Ben Warren – Ernest Sumner Rd at the Holbrook and 125 is messed up do to heavy traffic and heavy weight. Commissioner Fort stated Enigma Rd is dangerous with limited visibility. When you are on tractors and semi’s it could be dangerous. The public needs to be aware.

Ben Warren – Presented several requests that was not submitted to Administration in time to get on the agenda. The following items were presented:

Pipe Request – Winsupply	\$6,508.00
Pipe Request – Cherokee Culvert	\$6,871.23
Yancey – Swing Gear Box	\$4,400.00

Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSIONERS ITEMS: None.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS: None


PUBLIC COMMENTS:

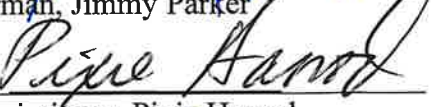
Gregory Fleck – Mr. Fleck stated he lives on Indian Camp Rd. he is concerned with the 14 acres beside him which is zoned R4 which is agriculture. His concerns are if the property is sold it could be more dogs, trespassing, thieves and could mean rezoning if developed into residential. He is just asking for more awareness if this comes about.


Tony Lanier – Mr. Pleasant road is in rough shape.

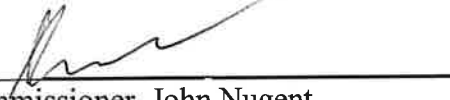
ADJOURN

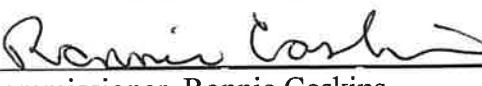
With no other business to come before the Board, Commissioner Kylon Fort made the motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. The meeting was adjourned at 87:20 p.m.



Chairman, Jimmy Parker


Commissioner, Pixie Harrod


Commissioner, Kylon Fort


Commissioner, John Nugent


Commissioner, Ronnie Gaskins

ATTEST: 
County Clerk