



HALL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BOARD RETREAT MINUTES
The Ridges Resort on Lake Chatuge
3499 Highway 76
Young, Harris, GA 30852
May 13-14, 2025

Meeting on Tuesday, May 13, 2025 began at 1:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman David Gibbs, Commissioners Kathy Cooper, Billy Powell, Gregg Poole, Jeff Stowe and staff members Zach Propes, Casey Ramsey, Sarah Crowe, Bill Linkous, Bill Nash, Taylor Samples, Brent Holloway, Jason Stephenson

Welcome/Intro

Property Acquisition/Countywide Space Needs:

- Landfill: Discussed potential new landfill entrance at Candler that separates commercial and residential drop-offs, the reopening of Allen Creek Landfill, Recycling Center relocation and Wauka Mountain Compactor Site upgrade, as well as the potential for gas collection from landfill.
- Spout Springs Phase II: Discussed funding opportunities and ROW.
- Fire Training Facility: Board was presented with four potential properties for consideration for the location of a new Fire Training Facility. Further discussion is needed in order to move forward.
- Judicial Complex Expansion: Jason Stephenson joined. Discussed size and location of potential expansion, as well as desire to utilize a Construction Manager at Risk, a Capital Projects Manager and to form a committee of subject matter experts to value engineer project prior to placing plans out to bid.
- Spout Springs Phase I, Excess ROW: Discussed deeming excess ROW property as surplus to sell.
- Elections: Discussed current and future space needs for the Elections Department, including potential for relocation.
- Chicopee Woods Area Park Commission: Discussed cleanup of existing agreements for the Ag Center and the Transitional Home, and divesting interests in the Chicopee Woods Golf Course and Elachee.

Meeting on Wednesday, May 14, 2025 began at 8:30 a.m.

Present: Chairman David Gibbs, Commissioners Kathy Cooper, Billy Powell, Gregg Poole, Jeff Stowe and staff members Zach Propes, Casey Ramsey, Sarah Crowe, Bill Linkous, Bill Nash, Taylor Samples, Brent Holloway, Dr. LisaRae Jones, Joseph Boyd, Kevin Ivey, Barry Shaw, Dennis Udzenski, Kristie Turner, Beth Garmon, Zach Brackett, Jerry Smith, Daniel Sexton

Parks:

- South Hall Active Life Center: Discussed potential plans and design for new South Hall Active Life Center, including potential partnerships to pursue aquatics center in plans and design.
- Healan's-Head's Mill: Reviewed current projects and associated timelines, as well as property donation to expand land.
- Sardis Creek Park: Brief overview of July 1 plans for Sardis Creek Park.
- Butler Park: Discussed the status of sidewalks within Butler Park as well as the Athens Street sidewalks.
- Rafe Banks Park: Discussed the need to invest in park improvements in Lula and additional baseball fields needed throughout County, as well as funding through SPLOST.
- Gillsville Park: Discussed the need to invest in park improvements in Gillsville, as well as funding through SPLOST.
- Community Center Operations: Discussed community desire to have community centers open on Sundays. Parks to evaluate to maximize hours of operation to offset costs for Sunday operations.
- Parks Fee Revisions: Discussed updating Parks fee structure, as no update since 2013, and potential to move to cashless operations.
- Cedar Creek Reservoir: Reviewed current agreement in place and discussed the need for a dam inspection at the property.

Cybersecurity Training:

- Board completed annual cybersecurity training – topic was AI.

SPLOST XI:

- Presentation of the SPLOST IX project list and funding allocations across all project categories.

Impact Fees:

- Reviewed history and status of current impact fees in Hall County and discussed the need to do an Impact Fee Study.

Budget:

- Presentation of the current FY 2025 financial status, proposed FY 2026 Budget and update regarding the current status of the tax digest following HB 581 Clean-up bill.

Purchasing Ordinance:

- Reviewed the history and current state of Hall County’s Purchasing Ordinance.

MPO:

- Presented history of MPO and SR 13 Corridor Study.

Judicial Salaries:

- Briefly discussed new legislation regarding Superior Court salaries following the passage of HB 85, Court Compensation Reform.
-