

# EXECUTIVE SESSION AFFIDAVIT

(AS REQUIRED UNDER O.C.G.A 50-14-4 (b))

The undersigned Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of Miller County, under oath, Hereby states and certifies that at the meeting held on November 11, 2024 the following.

- 1) The board properly entered executive session as permitted by O.C.G.A § 50-14-1 and 50-14-3 were as follow:
  - ( ) Consult and meet with legal counsel pertaining to pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions.
  - ( ) To discuss tax matters which are confidential by state law.
  - ( X ) To authorize negotiations to purchase, dispose of, or lease real estate, subject to approval in a subsequent public vote.
  - ( ) To discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal or periodic evaluation or rating of a public officer or employee, but not determine disciplinary action.
  - ( ) To discuss information exempt from public inspection or disclosure pursuant to Article of Chapter 18 of Title 50.

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- 2) To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, no matter than those of a purely personal and/or nongovernmental nature were discussed during said executive session.
  - 3) By executing this affidavit, the undersigned does hereby state that he/she in no way waives any rights granted under the 5<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the United States Constitution.
  - 4) This Affidavit is executed solely for the purpose of compliance with the mandate of O.C.G.A § 50-14-4(b) and shall serve no other purpose.

This 11th day of November 2024

  
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CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD





**Miller County Government**  
304 W. Pine Street  
Colquitt, Georgia 39837  
P: 229.758.4104 | F: 229.758.2229  
**Board of Commissioners**



**REGULAR SESSION MEETING**  
11/11/2024, 6:00 P.M., County Government Complex

## **MINUTES**

**Present:** Chairman Ladon Calhoun, Vice Chairman Jeff Cox, Commissioner Niki Nixon, Commissioner Edwards, Commissioner Worsley. Others Present: Douglas Cofty, Faye Whittaker, Austin Lambert, Shane Holt, , Andy Moore , Mike Middleton, members of the community.

Chairman Calhoun called the meeting to order. Regular session 11/11/2024 and called for prayer then the pledge of allegiance.

### **HOUSEKEEPING:**

#### **Approval of Agenda:**

Chairman Calhoun stated has everybody looked at the agenda. Do we need to add anything? Take anything off or adjust? If not, I need a motion to approve the agenda. Vice Chairman Cox made motion to approve. Commissioner Worsley seconded. All in favor? Commissioner Edwards stated I wasn't here, so I have to. Chairman Calhoun stated It's just the agenda. Commissioner Edwards stated Oh, okay. Aye. All in favor. Motion carried.

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

Chairman Calhoun stated next is the minutes. Everything look in order? If so I need a motion to approve. Commissioner Worsley made motion. Vice Chairman Cox seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

#### **Approval of Financial Report:**

Chairman Calhoun stated we will go to financial report. If everything's in order, I need a motion to approve the financial report. Commissioner Edwards made motion. Vice Chairman Cox seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

### **APPEARANCES:**

Stevie Jackson – Deacceleration lane – Mr. Jackson did not appear before the board.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Fueling Center Report:**

Chairman Calhoun stated let's move on to old business. Fueling Center report. Mr. Cofty stated we did have one issue with the fuel station, which has been resolved, it was the, the DEF tank leaking, Andy got that, did you get it fixed now? Mr. Moore stated it's still got a small little drip, but we're working on getting that fixed. Mr. Cofty stated so they're coming to change out the ditch? Mr. Moore stated it's a lot better than it was. Mr. Cofty stated it's actually still, it's still holding the same as far as, the amount we are selling to the other entities.

### **DNR Shooting range**

Chairman Calhoun stated alright, update on the DNR shooting range. Mr. Cofty stated that's been put back on the, the agenda. I talked with Mr. Gerald Green and he made one phone call and kind of got it, put back on. They've replaced the person that was, that was handled it and put in the hands of somebody else. He's going to be down next week. I will be meeting, and it'll be Gerald, Brian Vickery with the DNR, and probably the Chairman. They'll probably request that, but he hasn't yet, but I'll let y'all know when it goes down.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Tax Assessor Board Appointment**

Chairman Calhoun stated alright. Now we move on to new business. We've got tax assessor board appointment, but I think we're going to table that until we can discuss it with the Tax Assessor board, I need a motion to table. Commissioner Edwards made motion, Vice Chairman Cox seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

### **New Commissioner Orientation**

Mr. Cofty stated I've reached out and I've got Mr. Keith booked and everything is ready to go. It will be the 4th through the 6th of December, so we're good on that.

### **Holiday Schedule and Meeting Schedule**

Chairman Calhoun stated Alright, the holiday schedule and meeting schedule. Mr. Cofty stated I've attached the holiday schedule for next year for you all to look at. That's the first page. And then the meeting schedule is pretty much the same it is the second Monday of every month. But those two are just for you all to look at. We didn't really have any issues this time with the holiday schedule. So, I just said let's just leave that the same as you all are doing now. Chairman Calhoun stated do you need a motion to

approve that? Mr. Cofty stated not unless we change it. Chairman Calhoun stated ok we're on just page. Mr. Cofty stated the next one is that follows on that, I guess, would be we can't call it bonus anymore, so it'd have to be a supplement. So, if you all want to discuss that, Faye's going to give you all some information. Ms. Whittaker stated last year, we gave \$250.00 to everybody five years and under. If you've been here five years plus, we did \$500.00. And we said we were going to try each time to, like, maybe do, over 10 years, give them a little more, go up to \$750.00 for everybody over 10. And we don't have the EMS anymore, so that's going to save us a lot. So, my suggestion is \$250.00 and \$750.00. Chairman Calhoun stated and you'll handle all that? You'll look into who's been here the longest? I do not have any problem with that. Anybody else? You all okay? Need a motion for that? Mr. Cofty stated yes, you do need a motion on that. All right. Need a motion to do Christmas supplements, \$250.00 and \$750.00. And it'll be tied to how many years they've been working here. Commissioner Worsley made motion, Vice Chairman Cox seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

### **Hospital Board Appointment**

Chairman Calhoun stated on to hospital board appointment. Mr. Cofty stated in your packet is a letter from the hospital. There are two members up for renewal. That's Ladon Calhoun and Rex Cook, and they are requesting them to be reappointed. Chairman Calhoun stated do you need a motion to approve, Mr. Cofty stated yes unless you all want to discuss it. Chairman Calhoun stated any discussion. I need a motion to approve Ladon Calhoun and Rex Cooke for the hospital board appointment that's a one-year deal to correct. Vice Chairman Cox made motion, Commissioner Edwards seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

### **Vehicle Damage Repair**

Mr. Cofty stated the Sheriff is not here to present this, during Hurricane Helene, they were giving out sand bags. They initially started giving out the sand bags inside the fence. One lady when she loaded up sand bags and came out the gate, the gate closed on her vehicle. There was damage to her vehicle. I have attached the police report and both quotes. Holts paint and body was the cheapest under 1100.00. We have a \$5,000 deductible with ACCG, so we'll have to pay it before we decide if you want to go Holts or Twins, which was \$1,100 and Holtz was \$1,053.00. Chairman Calhoun stated I'd make a motion to go with the cheapest or the most inexpensive. Commissioner Worsley made motion to go with Holts. Commissioner Edwards seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

### **Comms Coach pilot program.**

Chairman Calhoun stated comms coach program. Ms. Whittaker stated al right, so Whitney's not here, so she kind of typed up something for me. This basically just helps her see where they're going wrong, what they're doing wrong when they take calls and where they're right. Now if something goes wrong on the call, she has to sit there and go call by call to see what's going on. This kind of keeps up with that, keeps up with what they're doing wrong, what they're doing right. We can pay for it out of the 911 account, which isn't a general fund, so it wouldn't affect the budget. And she said that she really feels like they need it, so it would be a lot easier to make sure the call is right. Mr. Cofty stated it's more of an AI program. This is going to play into the role of, you know, with Survival Flight now with EMS. They have offered to pay for all of our dispatchers to be EMD certified, which is the highest level of training. And something like this will play, it'll play hand-in-hand with that. That's going to cost them probably about \$18,000 to get our dispatchers certified. Vice Chairman Cox asked who has offered to pay for it? Mr. Cofty stated Survival Flight. Chairman Calhoun stated so we need a motion to approve that? Vice Chairman Cox made motion, Commissioner Edwards seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

### **School Tax**

Chairman Calhoun stated e had a question about a school tax, but I would like to table it because the school board wants to talk with us before we talk about it in public. So, if everybody's okay with that, I need a motion to table it, until we can discuss it with the superintendent. Commissioner Worsley asked well, would it hurt anything for us to talk about it between ourselves to start off with. Chairman Calhoun stated no, but if we talk about it here everybody's going to know what we're talking about. Commissioner Worsley stated well, I spoke with Gerald Green today over the situation that he, told me that you had to have all five, commissioners in favor of it, and it only applies to the primary house you live in up to five acres. So otherwise, it's going to knock all the school tax off every time. And then I say, if you get the five in favor, then you've got, uh, second thing is the resolution, and you forward it up to Gerald Green and Freddie Sims. And if it makes it through legislation, then it will be sent back down to be voted on in the next election cycle by the registry voters. So you're not going, I'd do away with all the school tax, you know. Oh, yeah, no. It's just, it's very difficult for these seniors, I tell you, to live on fixed income. Oh, I agree, I agree. Because some of them have talked to a man about it. They've had to decide to cut back on food, or they're going to cut back on medicine. You know, you just can't pick up the phone and call these people up and say, hey, they went up on my taxes. But it don't work that way. And if we don't try to look after the seniors, one day we all going to be seniors. Oh, yeah, I agree. Take a comment from the floor on that? Yes, sir. Got a 94-year-old mother-in-law. Her school tax is \$1,000. She lives on Social Security. I live right across the pond from her there. I'm only 75, and I live on Social Security. I'm not quite \$1,000, but it's bad enough. I paid that tax for 60-

something years. Never had a kid in the school, in the system. Never complained about anything. I believe in a good, solid school system. But when you reach a certain age, I don't feel like you should be responsible for supporting on the little opinions that the government sees fit to give us back out of our social security. It's ridiculous, sir. And I personally like to see this go before the board and go before the people for a vote. I'd like to see it advertised. I think you guys spread the word. But I think we need to give what the people have to say about this. Chairman Calhoun stated yeah, so the reason I wanted to is the superintendent got wind of this and so it kind of blindsided him and he wanted to talk with us and his board about this going forward before we see what kind of course of action we need to take moving forward. Mr. Phillips stated well, information is a wonderful thing and swapping information is always good. I've got no problem with that. But then the two boards are the governing bodies of both the individuals, so to speak, involved. The people never have a vote. The people never have a say. If we don't put it on the ballot, that's sort of against, you know, it's a little un-American. Chairman Calhoun stated I don't think we're saying we're not going to put it on the ballot. Mr. Phillips stated we had taxation without representation in this country. That's what this smells like that, taxation without representation. Now, we went to war one time about that. Do you remember? Chairman Calhoun stated I do. Mr. Phillips stated well. Chairman Calhoun stated I didn't say we weren't going to put it on the ballot. That's not what I said. I said we just wanted to talk with them, common courtesy to talk with them about it before we moved forward any more with it. That was the only thing that I was saying. Mr. Phillips stated I don't see that the Board of Education has anything to do with it. Chairman Calhoun stated well, it's just common courtesy. I mean, it's just how they're funded. So, I mean, he just wanted to discuss it. So, we haven't talked to him. Mr. Phillips stated I disagree, sir, respectfully. Chairman Calhoun stated right. Mr. Phillips stated I don't see where the involved individuals should have influence whatsoever. All they're looking for is a dollar mark, and it's going to come from somewhere. We know that. We all know that. The schools are going to survive and get better and better, hopefully. And that's what we all want. But where we're getting the tax from is killing some of us, and you're the people that we elected to represent us, and the sooner you can act on that, the better off we are all going to be. Because I think if the word goes out that you're going to have a meeting on it, you're going to have a crowd of people in here, some in wheelchairs, some in walkers. But they're all going to be involved. The school boards are not going to be involved. All they're wanting is money. There's no reason for them to be involved. Chairman Calhoun stated it's just common courtesy to talk with them and discuss it with them before you just throw it on them. I mean, that was all that was. We just hadn't even had a conversation with them about this was even going on. So we haven't even discussed it on this board. Ms. Miller stated I would like to request you all to fill us in because I'm totally lost and do not know what you're talking about. Chairman Calhoun stated so I guess we're just going to dive into it. We're talking about over 65 school tax.

Ms. Miller stated okay. Chairman Calhoun stated and it's been brought to our attention that they wanted to look at people over 65 not paying school tax. Ms. Miller stated okay. Chairman Calhoun stated that's what it is. And so, it was just brought up. And so, we haven't even discussed it as a board. The superintendent, he got word of it, and so he wanted to discuss it before, you know. We kind of, I mean, we just hadn't discussed it before it got out into the public. Ms. Miller stated so where did the recommendation come from? Chairman Calhoun stated It wasn't really a recommendation. It was just a. Vice Chairman Cox asked recommendation of what? Ms. Miller stated of 65 and older not paying the school tax. Chairman Calhoun stated It was just a thought from a community person. Ms. Miller stated oh, okay. Mr. Phillips stated some counties do that. Ms. Miller stated yeah, some counties do, do that. Commissioner Worsley stated yeah, one governor enacted a law. Ms. Miller stated I didn't know if it was from a state level or county level. Chairman Calhoun stated so I mean, so I don't know if you own property. Do you own property? So, if we do away with that, your property tax is going to go up. So, I mean, it's just going to go up either way. So, I mean, 65, you're still going to, the money's got to come from somewhere. So that's what we're looking at is how is it going to affect everybody. Ms. Miller stated so have you all done a study on it to find out? Vice Chairman Cox stated it was just brought to our attention. No. Mr. Cofty stated that's what it needs to be. There needs to be research. Chairman Calhoun stated right. We hadn't done any research, we hadn't done anything, and that's what we were just saying, table it until we could do a little research and ask some questions and find out more about it. Ms. Miller stated and look at other counties. Ms. Smith stated well, Georgia Tech and Carl Vinson at UGA both have some deep-dive studies on tax exemptions per age basis, and what that does to county economics and the funding of public-school systems. Ms. Miller stated I would recommend doing a lot of research on that. Chairman Calhoun stated yes, absolutely. But that's what we want to do, I think, and maybe next meeting we can talk about it again. Ms. Miller stated Because you get more educated, then you can educate other people. Chairman Calhoun stated right. All right, moving on.

### **Department Reports**

Chairman Calhoun stated Department reports? Mr. Cofty stated I don't really have much. Andy, you got anything. We've got your reports there. Jayme do you have anything. Ms. Smith stated not unless you all have any questions for me? I'll be glad to answer anything. Chairman Calhoun asked anything else. Mr. Cofty stated just executive session to discuss real estate. Chairman Calhoun called for motion to enter executive session. Vice Chairman Cox made motion. Commissioner Edwards seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

### **Executive Session**

## Real Estate

Chairman Calhoun stated we need a motion to come out of executive session. Commissioner Worsley made motion. Vice Chairman Cox seconded. All in favor motion carried. Chairman Calhoun stated all right, any more discussion? We need a motion to adjourn. Ms. Miller stated can we just ask what the executive session was about, was it. Mr. Cofty stated it was real estate. We can't just go. Ms. Miller stated that is ok I just wanted to see if it was one of the 4 reasons. Mr. Phillips stated would it be possible to ask for a sound system because we can't hear it. Mr. Cofty stated we actually have it, the person that runs it is sick today. Chairman Calhoun stated he isn't here today he is out, we usually have that, you just came on the on time he isn't here. Mr. Phillips stated maybe but we can't hear what's going on half the time. Ms. Smith stated well you may have to sit closer. Chairman Calhoun called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Worsley made motion. Commissioner Edwards seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

SIGNATURE PAGE:



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Cristene Edwards, Commissioner – District 1

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Jeff Cox, Commissioner – District 2

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Allen Worsley, Chairman – District 3

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Niki Nixon, Commissioner – District 4

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Ladon Calhoun, Vice Chairman – District 5

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Douglas Cofty, County Manager