

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 July 19, 2023 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.
 - () 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.
 - (X) To discuss information exempt from public inspection or disclosure pursuant to Article of Chapter 18 of Title 50.

PERSONNEL

- 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 5th 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 19th day of July 2023



CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO
Before me this 19 day of July 20 23

NOTARY PUBLIC
My Commission Expires





Miller County Government

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Colquitt, Georgia 39837
P: 229.758.4104 | F: 229.758.2229
Board of Commissioners



REGULAR SESSION MEETING

06/05/2023, 6:00 P.M., County Government Complex

MINUTES

Present: Chairman Worsley, Commissioner Nixon, Commissioner Cox Others Present: Faye Whittaker, Douglas Cofty, Sheriff Jimmy Holt, Austin Lambert

Chairman Worsley calls the special called meeting to order. Special session 07/19/2023.

Chairman Worsley states on the agenda is Hwy 91 project and Executive session - Personnel. Mr. Cofty starts by saying there have been problems with the new signs and the new traffic and I think everybody in this room has been involved in it. I was talking to the sheriff a little while ago. He's probably got a little bit of extra news if you'll tell them, but they did put new signs down there at Avenue and they did put new signs down there at Kimbrell and Johnny Freeman, am I correct. Tell them about what they told you about trying to shut it down at Mural City.

Sheriff Holt stated we discussed that Monday night you know but then state regulations, you know, they'd have to warn them so far ahead of that. We looked at it Monday night out there, you know, on the coming south, you know, up there in Notchaway Church it was marked pretty good but what was so confusing to people when you cross Spring Creek Bridge going north, the flashing sign said, 91 North closed, turn left at the lot. Well, people were turning left at the light, and they were crossing the Courthouse Square and then soon as they got right there where the side, it was 91 North, back then because y'all changed that to 91 North straight ahead now. But people were turning right but then there was nothing when they got out of the railroad tracks, signed over there saying, state route 91 North closed, six miles ahead. Well, it's really nothing saying that they couldn't go that way. People just get going out there and getting lost out there, and there's nowhere for them to turn around but what happened Monday night was the signs there at Avenue, there had been barricades there and I don't know who moved and they got moved and they was over the hill there and my thought was when I got called out there was people were going to go top over the hill or out of all the seven youngins drowned at, you know, and there a few years ago, that's reason they're building the road up, you know, because of the ones that got drowned there. When you pop over that hill, there were barricades down there. and then, the road was gone, they pulled all the trees out in there with burning the trees, in the middle of the road and but then, the DOT came out Monday night again and they moved the signs back and warned them for the back and all, but I mean, my solution would have been, you know, along. We're going to just close it right there at Mural City where they couldn't turn right. They have to go on toward Damascus, you know, but and

then there again, those coming off of 27 up 4th street turning right there, crossing the railroad track going to 91 and they have moved the move the signs out a little bit further out on the road there, you know. So, I think it's since Monday night is improved a lot. Chairman Worsley stated you got DOT's attention, didn't you? Sheriff Holt stated well, you still got a lot of lot of trucks, and we discussed that several times as far as the law when you can say no trucks or, but you got to actually give them before you can make cases. You have got to give them the signs have to be up and warn them I think 30 days in advance or something like that or you can actually go to writing tickets, once you change any speed reduction sign or anything, you got to give them, it's got to be so many days' notice and all before you do anything. I've talked to the state patrol several times in motor carrier compliance and they, I said y'all can ride on overweight tickets out on it on Bellview Road and Cooktown Road and all, but you know, all that money goes to the state on overweight, I think. I think over length and all of some of the county, you know, get some fine money out of it but so but I think the last couple of days, you know, it's improved somewhat.

Chairman Worsley stated I was out there yesterday morning I called Andy and me and grandson went out there waiting on Andy and Andy's put those barricades across Avenue Road on the paved part and the dirt part he left room for people go around on the dirt part. I got out there. Somebody's moved to sign to go over there to the ditch. So, I got back out waiting on Andy. I put them back to the you know and pulled them over right in front of the old Floyds Juke joint. We're sitting there. People coming up there, turning around, stopping it asking what to do. I told them the best thing to do. I said, go right back up there to the square, turn right at 45 North. Go down and hit 200 and take you back into Newton. Oh, some of them got pretty ugly. Sheriff Holt stated the DOT put that on the sign down there was to turn around and go back 6 miles. I mean, they put that on the sign out there. You know, on Monday night, I think, you know, so I mean, you know, it it's I hadn't had near the complaints Tuesday and today that I we'd had up until Monday. So, I think they will get it warned on the GPS system and all, so you know which way to go. So, but of course, I know, I mean, we would discuss nobody just before I walked over here. You know, they've been out there today, and they said, well, they still have some trucks going down Bellview. A lot of them use Babcock Road. Now, they go in Babcock going over and going up that way and hitting 253 and go out that way. So, I mean, but they got to go some way and it's like with and then some of the local people said, you know, it's got trucks and all. Well, you can't even though it says no trucks, you, if, if this, they're doing local deliveries or they're based in that area, you can't stop them from using that road. I mean, it's just like going through, I said, if I was in Atlanta, you know, they said, no trucks unless you know, they got supposed to take too many of that. Then, unless, unless they make a deliveries their home bases within that area. You can't stop them. You can't legally. I don't want to get into writing a bunch of tickets on folks, you know, that that and it's going to be thrown out in court and everything else and get us back in more lawsuits and all, you know, I mean, if we do anything legally, it's going to be legal, you know.

Chairman Worsley stated yeah, one of those people pulled over from Florida yesterday told these that I'm just fixing to go around these signs. I suggested to not do that, the signs are up for a reason because just need to turn around. Go back up. Go across the railroad track. Go up to the square. Turn right. You know. I repeated myself two or three times to him. He's sitting there and he looked at me. I said sir. I said I wouldn't advise that. You go down that road. I said you know I said you may get fine. Sheriff Holt stated well, you know, if they went over that hill, of course, they corrected that problem. It was

corrected but I mean, I was actually afraid somebody's going to pop over that hill right there at Floyd's Place, Monday night. The sign was there but they jumped over that hill, went through, there were barricades. It was over the hill right there and they'd wind up in a burn pile down there burning, you know? Chairman Worsley stated yeah, I spoke to them numerous times over the weekend, you know, and told them what we were concerned about. One of them like Nikki concerned about over there on Cooktown Road coming out on Kimbrell Road, it comes right off there onto that intersection. Now, what's going to happen? Somebody's not paying attention. You got to a semi cat across the road there, stuck in a ditch, whatever. I said somebody was going to get messed up. You know, and I told her the second thing was the destruction it was doing to our roads, I said you all have destroyed Cooktown. Gerald Greene called me back and said that they would be willing to pay for the damages to the road but before they said they wasn't going to pay for damages because there wouldn't be any damages. I told her, ma'am, third thing I should say is we got sure Sheriff deputies out there. I said we got road departure personnel out there doing this and I said, well, we do not have a manpower. I said, y'all have laid this thing in our lap. Take that sign up on the railroad track? If you don't catch it just right, it's just a black sign. You know, it hasn't got the information they really need on it. You can't be black for a few seconds. Somebody not paying attention. They can go around here. And then you got the next one down. Now, you know. But it isn't very clear, you know.

Sheriff Holt stated well, like I said, and we were looked at Monday night, you know, at Notchaway Church. But that was, I mean, if you were coming south, if you, if you come on out there then, you know, well, yeah, you were wrong, you know, but these people going to the beach, you know. The Saturday and Sunday before it's closed. They come all in down through here 100 miles an hour we do. Of course, we've always, for years, we rode many speed tickets on people going to the beach and all they don't care there, they going to run 100 miles an hour to the beach, all they see is the white sands and waves and they go, and they don't care but when they came back Saturday and Sunday, when they were coming back, I said, even if I hadn't known, I'd been confused the way it was because you come in to sign at Burger King, you know, said, State Route 91 North closed. You have turned left at the light and people would do that. I mean, I would follow them. They would turn left at the light, you know. Go across the courthouse square but then they turn right back right on 91 North then they were going out that way. They were getting up there at the railroad track. Well, that sign set over there and, on the side, said state route. Well, everybody was assuming that well six miles ahead of the road was closed. There had to be a detour around, but they weren't. You know they were getting up there and bottlenecked and you know there. I mean one time I think we had 41 tractor trailers. Somebody opened the gate up there at Notchaway Church on last Friday. Somebody moved the barricades out of the way. It was a trooper called it in. he says, a Calhoun County deputy. I don't know who the Calhoun County deputy was, but he said, well, Calhoun County did but he was up there and moved the side of the way. We wind up a 41-tractor trailer into the closed zone up there and then, they stuck and where they were all trying to turn around. We had 3 deputies that went up there. We were supposed to be in school. We were having an active shooting school Friday. But they went up there and they moved some signs around you know to try to get those trucks out of the closed area. And then I did have, and I don't remember his name, but I had did have a guy from DOT call and said your deputies moved signs. I said yes sir. We did. We moved them to get those forty-one. We put them back when they got through them. We had to get those trucks. They were in the they were between Notchaway Church and the closed zone you know, they'd come in there and they would know where

for them to go. And so, I mean, like I said, last 2 days, I really hadn't had many complaints about it. So, I think it's improving. Maybe, you know, people are becoming aware and everything. So, I don't know what the solution is. You know. Commissioner Nixon asked so are they going to close it at Mural City? Sheriff Holt stated I think the DOT can't close at Mural City. That would be my suggestion. I said, I just had it closed right there. And then everybody would have had to have stayed on 45 North of it, you know, but I think and I'm not clear with all the DOT regulations, but I think they got to warn them so many hundreds of feet back, you know, it has to be warned that, you know, it is closed, and I don't know how you would do that. That's on the DOT. Chairman Worsley stated I have suggested that. set up on barricade down there before we get to the railroad track. You know, when you come off. Sheriff Holt stated well, you would need one down there because those coming off of 27 of those going all the way down. You know, years ago, that was going to be the truck route. They were going to, you were going to come on through the red light, going down, you know, and turn left down there and go by Holt's garage and go by the patrol station. You know, that was going to be the truck route. So, a lot of trucks still go that way but then they get there to Main Street and 91. They turned right and went and the sign there at the time was not clear. It just said road closed six miles ahead you know. Well, everybody said, well, okay, that's a warning sign. You're six miles ahead. The road's closed but they were there expecting a detour. So, I said I can't get out here right folks traffic citations when it's not clear, you know, which way it's supposed to go. And if I've been coming through here not knowing, I would probably go the same way they did. But I think it's better.

Chairman Worsley stated yeah, like I said yesterday morning. It was really slow to start off with. Sheriff Holt stated it'll pick back up tomorrow afternoon, Friday, you'll have southbound traffic. You know, all the years of state patrol Fridays, Saturday mornings, I went out and hit 91 and I'd write many tickets between the Baker County Line and the Seminole County Line, you know, because everybody, Friday afternoon, Saturday mornings, they are going south. Now, rental places now, they usually close about eleven, ten, 11 o'clock in Florida. So, you can figure about two hours later as they close. There's going to be a solid line of traffic. Saturdays Sunday's coming back. Some of them, you know, close out on Saturday, some on Sunday. Like we was talking about, you know, they probably more traffic with 91 right now than there is on 27. This time of year, especially, you know, right now. Was it? 27 people are beginning to realize that 27 is there. It's a good road and there are more and more people coming through here every day from out of state that's using 27 is really increased, you know. I mean, it's getting busier. People are getting off I-75. You know, they're using US 19, US 27, you know, more than ever north, south and it's a lot of traffic that comes through but this time of year, 91 is a busy road. Chairman Worsley stated Jeff, you can't get them to four lane from Albany down to the Florida line on 91. Yeah. Commissioner Cox stated No but that'd be nice. Chairman Worsley stated Andy asked me if he needed to come because He'd been out in the sun. I told him I know he's going to the house and cool off and rest. So, Andy worked his butt off out there this weekend out there at the 91 mess. And he told me that these schools had called wanting to know about Avenue Road being closed. I said just tell them that when it comes time for the buses to run, we'll make you know we do what we have got to do. You know buses where they can. And I said maybe by then, we'll have the public train that they know to stay off the road over there. Sheriff Holt stated well, I was out of school today with GEMA all day. They were doing the inspection schools and just, I mean, I know I might have a turn talking here but the transportation director and the superintendent said, are you all going to have the roads open by August 2nd? School starts. And I said, well, I'm going to recommend to the

county road department that they grade all the roads and have all the dirt roads open prior to August 2nd. And I think it you know, they've been wet, you know, and I know that a lot they can't do when they went and all and tractor trailers going down the road. They were, they would get stuck on dirt roads and everything else. We'd be out there on a lot of dirt roads. They were taking dirt roads and it was wet. They would get but the schools were concerned about them, you know, being, I said, my recommendation be that all the signs would be moved, and they will be graded and all, you know, good before school starts. Chairman Worsley stated yeah Andy and them, they are trying to get everything ready. He has got all three road graders running, you know, trying to be really good for school to start and they are cleaning just as many roads and in between all the stuff you know. They're strung out. But another Andy asked, and I wish Ms. Cristine was here because that's her district. Cooktown Road. Andy wants, well Oxford wants to know. They should wind up Grimsley mostly tomorrow or the next day. You know after that they are going to go out with another next route. I'm not sure if it's Draper Jones or they are going on to Cooktown you know to start widening. Andy said they needed to know if we want to run one mile to start at Phillipsburg Road. You know laying it down. Do we want to run one mile on both sides, or do you want to run one or two miles just down one sided? You know, with a wide bit. He said, they need an answer, you know, where they'll know what to do. So, we can either run on one side for 2 miles or do both side of the road, you know, for one mile.

Commissioner Nixon asked Commissioner Cox what is your situation on that? Commissioner Cox stated I would both sides. Chairman Worsley asked run both sides? Alright go ahead do one mile for both sides, okay? Now, I'll pass that on to it when I get out of here. Commissioner Cox stated that's what you all want to do. Commissioner Nixon stated that's fine with me. Chairman Worsley stated I am fine with it. Well, I guess we got our discussion on that done, Next, we got the executive session. Is there any reason to go to the executive session over this. Mr. Cofty stated you don't have to when you're talking personnel and salaries, you have to go into the executive session. Chairman Worsley stated okay. I need a motion to go into the executive session. Commissioner Nixon made motion, Commissioner Cox seconded. All in favor. Motion carried. Chairman Worsley stated Alright, we are going into executive session.

Executive Session:

Board returned from executive session, Chairman Worsley called for motion to return. Commissioner Cox made the motion, Commissioner Nixon second. All in favor. Motion carried. Chairman Worsley stated we are back in regular session. There was no decision made regarding personnel. I guess we need a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Cox made motion, Commissioner Nixon seconded. All in favor motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

SIGNATURE PAGE:

Cristene Edwards, Commissioner – District 1

Jeff Cox, Commissioner – District 2

Allen Worsley, Chairman – District 3

Niki Nixon, Commissioner – District 4

Ladon Calhoun, Vice Chairman – District 5

Douglas Cofty, County Manager