



Miller County Government

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



SPECIAL SESSION MEETING

12/28/2023, 6:00 P.M., County Government Complex

MINUTES

Present: Chairman Worsley, Vice Chairman Ladon Calhoun, Commissioner Cox, Commissioner Edwards Others Present: Douglas Cofty, Sheriff Jimmy Holt, Gail Johnson, Garison Clenney, Tate Bryan, Shane Holt, Belba Lawson.

Chairman Worsley calls the called meeting to order. Special session 12/28/2023.

Chairman Worsley stated we have heard from all parties involved and now we need to move forward with shutting down the state court. If you all good with that we will go ahead and call for a motion to approve it. Commissioner Edwards made the motion, Vice Chairman Calhoun seconded. All in favor of closing down the state court.

Chairman Worsley stated next pages three through eight. Mr. Cofty stated you may want to go ahead and stated what the letter is about. Chairman Worsley stated would it be better get read. Mr. Cofty stated you can because what it is, it's just it's the letter to do away with the State Court. Chaiman Worsley stated okay, we'll go ahead and clear that up, it's a letter to do away with state court but I'll go ahead and read it says

“Dear Honorable Green, we hope this letter finds you in good health and in high spirits, we are writing to formally notify you of the intent of the Miller County Board of Commissioners to close down the state court here in Miller County. As you are aware the state court in Miller County has been serving our community for many years share access to justice for all residents however due to the inability to handle the backlog of cases and the need for cost effective administration, the Board of Commissioners has made the difficult decision to cease operations of the state court. While this decision was not taken lightly it is essential for the Board of Commissioners to allocate resources effectively to prioritize the need of this of the county. The closure of the state court will allow us to reallocate the case logs to probate/magistrate court and hear the cases on a more regular basis. As our elected representative we kindly request your support in this matter. We will value your expertise and guidance as we navigate through this transitional period and strive to maintain a fair and efficient legal system for the residents of Miller County. We will greatly appreciate any assistance you can offer in ensuring a smooth transition for our community.”

Chairman Worsley stated, so we've already got a motion second and everyone agreed, that's took care of okay. Pages 3 through 8 list of cases pre-2020 amount the county would receive if collected. So, I reckon that's just more or less. Mr. Cofty stated yes sir, that's just for your information. Chairman Worsley stated that's just for our information.

Page 9, State Court budget and Salaries.

This is list of what it's costing us to run State Court every year \$51,885 so we stand to save a tremendous amount of that by doing what we're doing with Probate Court.

Page 10 Instructions presented to Gerald Greene published in newspaper.

Mr. Cofty stated what that is, now that you all passed it. I just have to get it to the Newspaper. Ww have to run it at least one week, one time and then he will be able to present it to the general assembly. Chairman Worsley asked do you a motion for any of that. Mr. Cofty stated no, you all have already made your motion. You all have already taken care of it.

Pages 11 through 12 Bill to abolish State Court

Chairman Worsley stated Pages 11 through 12 Bill to abolish State Court.

Mr. Cofty stated that's the bill that they've already drafted up if you approve it that's what Gerald's going present to the general assembly.

Chairman Worsley stated okay so next thing, we don't have it on there. but it's just not list on here. Mr. Cofty stated all that was for the State Court, this is for the Tax Assessor. Chairman Worsley stated okay we have a position that's come open on the tax assessor board brother William Smith has said he would like to continue to serve do we have a motion to put him back on again. Commissioner Cox made motion, Vice Chairman Calhoun seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Chairman Worsley stated that's it for this, I guess so we need a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Edwards made motion, Vice Chairman Calhoun 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