

**MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**  
**February 28, 2022 6:00 PM**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Commission Chairman Todd Higdon  
District 1 Commissioner Dennis Adams  
District 2 Commissioner Terry Chandler  
District 3 Commissioner Frank May  
District 4 Commissioner Brian Kirk  
District 5 Commissioner Derek Doster

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

None

**MEDIA PRESENT:**

Zach Mitcham, Madison County Journal

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Christina Baxter, County Clerk  
Mike Pruet, County Attorney

Chairman Higdon called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. and led in the pledge to the American Flag.

**Item No. 1. Approval of minutes:**

**Minutes of the January 31, 2022 Regular Business Meeting**  
**Minutes of the February 7, 2022 Agenda Setting Work Session**

On motion by Commissioner Doster and second by Commissioner Chandler the Board voted to approve the minutes of the January 31, 2022 Regular Business Meeting and the February 7, 2022 Agenda Setting Work Session. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Adams, Chandler, May, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

**Item No. 2. Business Involving Guests, Groups or Multiple Visitors**

Tax Commissioner, Lamar Dalton spoke to the Board about outreach programs for the Veterans Advocate Board. Mr. Dalton is a contact person for anyone interested in helping local veterans. Also, if anyone who knows a veteran would like to add their photo to our veteran wall at the courthouse can submit their information with a photo to the Tax Commissioner's Office.

Mr. Dalton is also gathering a group of volunteers to begin cleaning and clearing brush of historical cemeteries within Madison County. If anyone would like to participate or request any historical cemeteries for this volunteer program they can contact Mr. Dalton at the Tax Commissioner's Office.

**Item No. 3. Chairman's Report**

Chairman Higdon gave a report on regarding several updates throughout the county:  
-New Vehicles have been purchased for the EMS/EMA Director, Code Enforcement and Property Valuation.  
-Diamond Hill Ball Park is currently under construction for installation of new ramps and parking areas for ADA Compliance.

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- Shred Event at the Government Complex held April 24<sup>th</sup> and the Tire Amnesty will be during the month of April held at the Transfer Station.
- Adopt a Road Program- Chairman Higdon announced enrollment for the Adopt a Road Program. Higdon encouraged citizens to adopt their county roads and do their part.
- Industrial Development & Business Authority 2020 audit is complete.
- H&J Fiber Solutions have completed the security camera installation throughout county locations. The final invoice came in under the quoted amount by \$1,330.44.
- Campaign Signs need to be out of county and state right of ways.
- Chairman Higdon gave the Board an update on the Department of Agriculture is in the process of creating a draft ordinance for the soil and land application process for sludge disposal.
- Animal Shelter is in the process of renovations including lights and painting. The animal Shelter will be hosting fundraisers soon to help with renovations.
- Recreation Department's 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Festival/egg hunt will be held March 26<sup>th</sup>. All vendor and booth applications are due by March 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Update from the GDOT HWY 281 bridge construction will begin the beginning of June. This projected is projected as a 320 calendar day completion.

**Item No. 4. Statements and Remarks from Citizens on agenda items**

Chairman Higdon asked if there were any statements or remarks on agenda items. No one came forward.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Item No. 5. Consider awarding the Request for Proposal for the Madison County Wage Study**

On motion by Commissioner Kirk and second by Commissioner Adams the Board voted to approve the Request for Proposal for the Madison County Wage Study to Evergreen Solutions, LLC. The vote was as follows: Commissioner Adams, Chandler, May, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

**Item No. 6. Consider adopting a Resolution amending the Code of Ordinance Flood Ordinance**

On motion by Commissioner Doster and second by Commissioner Chandler the Board voted to approve adopting the Resolution to amend the Code of Ordinance Flood Ordinance. The vote was as follows: Commissioner Adams, Chandler, May, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

**Item No. 7. Consider awarding the Request for Proposal for Personal Business Property Audit**

On motion by Commissioner Kirk and second by Commissioner Chandler the Board voted to approve the Request for Proposal for Traylor Business Services, Inc. The Board decided to begin the auditing process with cell towers and moving forward would require Board approval on the class of accounts. The vote was as follows: Commissioner Adams, Chandler, May, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

**Item No. 8. Consider the abandonment of a portion of Osley Mill Road (at the Forge)**

Chairman Higdon opened the public hearing. Chairman Higdon asked if there was anyone to speak in favor of the abandonment: Mr. Mark Jackson and Mrs. Holbrook both spoke in favor of the closing. Chairman Higdon asked if anyone would like to speak in opposition. Ms. Lisa Collins spoke in opposition. Ms. Collins also submitted a signed petition. Chairman Higdon closed the public hearing.

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On motion by Commissioner Kirk and second by Commissioner Chandler the Board voted to approve the abandonment of a portion of Osley Mill Road at the forge. The vote was as follows: Commissioner Adams, Chandler, May, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

**Item No. 9. Consider abandoning a portion of Madico Drive**

Chairman Higdon opened the public hearing. Chairman Higdon asked if anyone would to speak in favor of the abandonment. Mr. Thomas from SMI spoke in favor of the abandonment. Chairman Higdon asked if anyone would like to speak in opposition. No one came forward.

On motion by Commissioner Doster and second by Commissioner Chandler the Board voted to approve of the portion of Madico Drive as presented. The vote was as follows: Commissioner Adams, Chandler, May, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

**Item No. 10. Discuss the Industrial Development and Building Authority Debt Abatement**

ID&BA Chairman, Josh Chandler spoke to the Board regarding the Joint Resolution to pay and satisfy in full two debt obligations of the IDBA to the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority. Loan # DW11024 principal balance of \$699,264.31 and loan # DW12005 principle balance of \$776,695.98.

After Board discussion, the Board agreed they were ready to move forward with a motion. On motion by Commissioner Doster and second by Commissioner Adams the Board approved the Joint Resolution of the Madison County Board of Commissioners and the Madison County Industrial Development and Building Authority. The vote was as follows: Commissioner Adams, Chandler, May, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

**Item No. 11. Discuss the public concerns with the Madison County recreation Department**

Recreation Department Director, Shelly Parham approached the Board and spoke of the current and previous enrollment participation. For the 2022 spring sports the Recreation Department has a total of 732 children registered in the program. Ms. Parham presented this seasons jerseys for all spring sports. Ms. Parham discussed the seasonal employee numbers. The Recreation Department is still in need of a minimum of 10 new employees to carry out the needs of the Recreation Department. Ms. Holley Hanes, Program Coordinator updated the Board on the Recreation Department's 2022 Summer Camp program as well as the Scholarship Program. Any business or individual is encouraged to donate to the Scholarship Program. If you would like to purchase a sign with you company name or personal message you can purchase a sign for \$250 through the Recreation Department.

Ms. Angela Rouse also spoke to the Board about changes beginning at the Recreation Department as well as new opportunities. The Board asked the Recreation Department staff questions about the information presented.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Item No. 12. Consider appointing Ms. Amelia Ross to the Madison County Library Board of Trustees**

On motion by Commissioner Kirk and second by Commissioner Chandler the Board voted to approve appointing Ms. Amelia Ross to the Madison County Library Board of Trustees. The vote was as follows: Commissioner Adams, Chandler, May, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

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**Item No. 13. Discuss approval of a Special 2 day Event Letter for Boutier Winery**

Chairman Higdon explained Mr. Boutier's request for the permit. County Attorney, Mr. Pruett also gave the Board advice on moving forward with a letter from the Board of Commissioner's Office for approval.

**Item No. 14. Discuss amending the Code of Ordinance Travel Policy section 2-206 (New State Travel**

**Rates)** Chairman Higdon explained the Georgia State Accounting Office increased mileage rates and meals rates for the calendar year 2022. This amendment would reflect the new rates set forth by the State of Georgia. The Board agreed to move forward with a vote.

On motion by Commissioner Chandler and second by Commissioner May the Board approve the amendments to Code section 2-206 of the Madison County Code of Ordinances. The vote was as follows: Commissioner Adams, Chandler, May, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

**Item No. 15. Consider the contract with Hall Consulting for the Comprehensive Plan**

On motion by Commissioner Chandler and second by Commissioner Doster the Board voted to approve entering to the presented contract with Hall Consulting, Inc. The vote was as follows: Commissioner Adams, Chandler, May, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

**Item No. 16. Roads Update**

Chairman Higdon gave a roads update on Barwick Hill stating the culvert has been completed and backfilled. The Board of Commissioners are requesting; Request for Proposals for Tree and Stump Removal on Lem Edwards Road for a future widening project. Higdon also explained the Neel-Schaffer Inc. road study survey is 70% complete and should be finished the beginning of April.

Commissioner May requested shoulder work on Stone Stewart road. Commissioner Adams presented a list of road repairs for District 1.

**Item No. 17. Urgent Matters**

Chairman Higdon presented a contract with CorrCare to the Board. This contract is for Inmate Medical Services and is a renewal with the current provider for the Madison County Jail.

On motion by Commissioner Chandler and second by Commissioner the Board voted to approve the contract with CorrCare. The vote was as follows: Commissioner Adams, Chandler, May, Kirk, and Doster voted YES.

The Planning and Zoning Department requested the Board of Commissioners to approve the Codification of the Zoning Ordinance. This was to correct a few errors from the January Codification.

On motion by Commissioner Kirk and second by Commissioner Chandler the Board voted to approve the Codification of the Zoning Ordinance. The vote was as follows: Commissioner Adams, Chandler, May, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

**Item No. 18. Statements and Remarks from Citizens**

Chairman Higdon asked if there were any statements or remarks from citizens. Mrs. Stephanie Harvin suggested to the Recreation Department staff you discuss the future possibilities of parents to of the home teams to be required to score keep for softball and baseball games.

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**Item No. 19. Statements and Remarks from Commissioners**

Chairman Higdon asked if there were any statements or remarks from commissioners. Chairman Higdon expressed his appreciation for the number of citizens in attendance at tonight's meeting. Higdon encouraged the public to attend meeting and be involved within their communities.

**Item No. 20. Executive Session to discuss real estate acquisition, personnel matters and/or potential litigation.** There was no need for Executive Session.

**Item No. 21. Adjourn**

On motion by Commissioner Chandler and second by Commissioner Kirk the meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.