

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

District 3 Commissioner Frank May

**MEDIA PRESENT:**

Zach Mitcham, Madison County Journal

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Christina Baxter, County Clerk  
Mike Pruett, County Attorney

Chairman Higdon called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. and led in the pledge to the American Flag.

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

**Minutes of the February 28, 2022 Regular Business Meeting  
Minutes of the March 7, 2022 Agenda Setting Work Session**

On motion by Commissioner Chandler and second by Commissioner Doster the Board voted to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2022 Regular Business Meeting and the March 7, 2022 Agenda Setting Work Session The vote was as follows: Commissioners Adams, Chandler, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

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

There was no Business Involving Guests, Groups or Multiple Visitors

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

Chairman Higdon presented a Proclamation for National Library Week, April 3-9, 2022 to the Madison County Library Board of Trustees. Commissioner Doster made a point of order to move this to New Business to be considered.

Chairman Higdon proceeded with the Chairman's report update on the Evergreen Solutions Wage Study projected completion date of June 30, 2022. Highway 281 is scheduled to be closed starting May 2<sup>nd</sup> for a complete bridge replacement with a re-route detour. The Chairman has planned a public meeting April 11<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. in the Public Meeting room for concerned citizens to attend the information briefing of the closure. The project at Diamond Hill Ball Park is nearing completion to become compliant with the American with Disabilities Act Standards. April 25<sup>th</sup> Hall Consulting will be presenting a 10 minute presentation during the

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Regular Business Meeting to show citizens who they are and what they are here to do for the citizens of Madison County. Also, the Comer Emergency Medical Service building will have the slab floor poured Wednesday, March 30<sup>th</sup>.

Update from the Recreation Maintenance Department:

Sammy Haggard Park trails erosion issues have been resolved, batting cages and concessions have been pressure washed and cleaned. Future Goals for the spring are to have all buildings washed and painted by June playoffs.

Diamond Hill Park vandalism to concession stand from December 2021 has been repaired and ready for spring sports. The old well house has been reduced down and now has a table top for safety and security. Mize Park has been pressure washed and concessions cleaned for spring. Future goals for Mize Park are to work on fixing trails and painting by the month of May.

Brewer Phillips Park is on schedule for pressure washing.

**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 the First Amendment to Contract for Inmate Medical Services**

On motion by Commissioner Doster and second by Commissioner Kirk the Board voted to approve the First Amendment to Contract for Inmate Medical Services. The vote was as follows: Commissioner Adams, Chandler, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

**Item No.6. Discuss American Rescue Plan Act funding for Negative Economic Impact**

The Board discussed issuing a Negative Economic Impact payment to Volunteer Fire Fighters, First Responders, Sheriff's Department and Board of Commissioner employees full time and part time.

On motion by Commissioner Chandler and second by Commissioner Kirk the Board voted to approve all qualified recipients must have been employed, active and certified during August 2021 and still employed/active as of the motion made and as presented. The vote was as follows: Commissioner Adams, Chandler, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

**Item No. 7. Discuss approving a Referendum for Liquor by the drink**

The Board discussed adding the sale of Liquor by the drink to the Referendum for citizens to vote. The Board would like more information from the Board of Elections Office regarding when this would be on a ballot if approved. The Board also discussed with the County Attorney, Mike Pruet a new Beer and Wine license for this Referendum and the process of applying for a new type of licenses to sell liquor by the drink.

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**NEW BUSINESS:**

Chairman Higdon asked for a motion for the Proclamation presented during the Chairman's Report for Nation Library Week, April 3-9, 2022. On motion by Commissioner Chandler and second by Commissioner Kirk the Board voted to approve the Proclamation presented. The vote was as follows: Commissioner Adams, Chandler, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

**Item No. 8. Consider appointing Katie Morris to the Library Board of Trustees**

On motion by Commissioner Chandler and second by Commissioner Kirk the Board voted to approve appointing Katie Morris to the Library Board of Trustees. The vote was as follows: Commissioner Adams, Chandler, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

**Item No. 9. Consider 2021 Budget Amendments**

On motion by Commissioner Doster and second by Commissioner Adams the Board voted to approve the 2021 Budget Amendments as presented. The vote was as follows: Commissioner Adams, Chandler, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

**Item No. 10. Discuss sealed bids for Tree and Stump Removal for Lem Edwards Road**

The Board discussed the bids received for the Tree and Stump Removal Construction for Lem Edwards Road. On motion by Commissioner Chandler and second by Commissioner Doster to table awarding the sealed bid for Lem Edwards Road. The vote was as follows: Commissioner Adams, Chandler, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

**Item No. 11. Roads Update**

Chairman Higdon gave an update on road projects. The Road Survey from Neel-Schafer is nearing completion. HV Chandler Rail Road Crossing project has been completed. The Patch Wagon is out and running repairs through the County and will continue to catch up on the pot hole repair list. The Patch Wagon does not operate year round due to weather temperatures and conditions. The Road Department will begin grass cutting along County Roads next week. Cadence Spring entrance construction has been completed. Wesley Chapel Drive project will be completed Wednesday, March 30, 2022. Commissioner Chandler asked the Chairman to have the Road Department visit Power road for repairs. Commissioner Adams also asked for the Road Department to visit the intersection of Lucky Jones Road and Neese Commerce Road concerning a need for a culvert extension. Commissioner Adams also mentioned the need of attention to Ingram Hancock Road. The Board discussed taking a second look at asking for sealed bids for Lem Edwards Road project.

**Item No. 12. Urgent Matters**

There were no urgent matters.

**Item No. 13. Statements and Remarks from Citizens**

Chairman Higdon asked if there were any statements or remarks. Victor Boutier asked the Board about the potential of buying some of the County's older vehicles that are not currently in use. Chairman Higdon explained the Road Department has been selling older vehicles on

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Govdeals.com. If citizens are interested in purchasing any County vehicles or equipment that is where to search for them.

Stephanie Harvin asked for an update regarding Highway 98 and Highway 172 construction. The Board advised the Georgia Department of Transportation is beginning a resurfacing project on those Highways. Drago Tesanovich inquired the status of the Nosie study that is being conducted by Arpeggio.

**Item No. 14. Statements and Remarks from Commissioners**

The Board expressed their concerns for the need of Private Drive Ordinances and Driveway Ordinances. Commissioner Adams also raised his concern with zoning requests from A1 to A2 with the future liability of A2 zones being broken into smaller parcel for a cluster of homes. The Board discussed the future possibility of adding to the rezone application the future intent of the parcel and a site plan. Mike Pruett advised the Board of current practices and procedures of this process.

**Item No. 15. Executive Session to discuss real estate acquisition, personnel matters and/or potential litigation**

Chairman Higdon asked County Attorney if there was a need to enter into an Executive Session. County Attorney, Mike Pruett advised the Board should enter into Executive Session in accordance with O.C.G.A § 50-14-3(b)(2). On motion by Commissioner Chandler and second by Commissioner Kirk to enter into Executive Session. The vote was as follows: Commissioner Adams, Chandler, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

The Board exited the Public Meeting Room and entered Chairman Higdon's office.

The Board returned to the Public Meeting Room.

On motion by Commissioner Doster and second by Commissioner Kirk to approve the Executive Session minutes. The vote was as follows: Commissioner Adams, Chandler, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

**Item No. 16. Adjourn.**

On motion by Commissioner Doster and second by Commissioner Kirk the meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.