

**Houston County Commissioners Meeting  
January 7, 2025  
Perry, Georgia**

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 7, 2025, at the Houston County Courthouse in Perry, Georgia. Chairman Perdue presided, and Commissioners Gottwals, Robinson, and Talton were present. County Attorney Tom Hall, Director of Administration Robbie Dunbar, and Director of Operations Brian Jones were also present. Commissioner Byrd was not in attendance.

Commissioner Robinson gave the Invocation.

Commissioner Gottwals led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Colonel Middents, Commander of the 950th Spectrum Warfare Group, spoke about his military career and appointment as Commander of the new 950th SWG at Robins Air Force Base. He explained that the overall mission of the 950th SWG is to develop, test, improve, and keep ahead of near-peer adversaries in the world of electronic warfare. In conclusion, he spoke about the various bases he has served, his wife of twenty years, and their three children.

Chairman Perdue and each of the commissioners expressed their appreciation for Colonel Middents sharing information about his career and military service. They recognized his critical work in supporting the United States military and welcomed him and his family to Robins Air Force Base and Houston County.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Mr. Gottwals, to approve the minutes from the December 17, 2024, meeting. Upon voting, Mr. Talton, Mr. Gottwals, and Ms. Robinson voted yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Gottwals presented a request to add the position of Finance Clerk (0017) to the position control listing.

Motion by Mr. Gottwals, second by Ms. Robinson, to approve adding the position of Finance Clerk (0017) to the Houston County Position Control list at Grade 17. Upon voting, Mr. Gottwals, Ms. Robinson, and Mr. Talton voted yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Gottwals presented a request for approval of an employment contract for a court reporter for the new Superior Court Judge.

Motion by Mr. Gottwals, second by Mr. Talton, to approve signing an employment contract with Ms. Courtney Bridges for court reporting services on a full-time basis for Judge Amy Smith from January 8 through June 30, 2025. This six-month term will be paid as follows: \$4,483.85 for January 2025, \$5,791.66 for February 2025 through May 2025, and \$5,791.74 for June 2025, for a total of \$33,442.23. Also, to allow Accounting to make any necessary budget adjustments. Upon voting, Mr. Gottwals, Mr. Talton, and Ms. Robinson voted yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Perdue explained that a different applicant previously signed a similar contract, but they had decided not to take the position.

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Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Mr. Gottwals, to approve the following Board appointments:

Hospital Authority

Gail Robinson 01/01/2025 - 12/31/2028

Dan Perdue 01/01/2025 - 12/31/2028

Land Bank

Dan Perdue 01/01/2025 - 11/5/2028

Mental Health Developmental Disabilities & Addictive Diseases Advisory Council. Region 6  
Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee  
Brian Wise 11/5/24 - 11/3/2027

Upon voting, Mr. Talton, Mr. Gottwals, and Ms. Robinson voted yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Talton expressed his appreciation to those who serve on these Boards.

Mr. Talton presented a request from the Solicitor General's Office to approve a grant that supports direct victim services for crime victims.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Ms. Robinson, to approve acceptance of the 2025 VOCA Grant C23-8-249 for \$96,505 for the Solicitor General's Office from the Prosecuting Attorney's Council of Georgia. The required matching funds for this grant have been waived. Upon voting, Mr. Talton, Ms. Robinson, and Mr. Gottwals voted yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Perdue commented that this grant supports services for victims of crime. He then recognized Superior Court Judge Amy Smith and asked for her comments.

Judge Smith commented on the grant and expressed how important it was to fund services, support, and help for victims of crime.

Ms. Robinson presented a request to distribute Project SOAP funds to the Development Authority of Houston County to support the eventual purchase of additional properties in the abatement zone surrounding Robins Air Force Base.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Gottwals, to approve the distribution of Project SOAP funds in the amount of \$429,176.04 to the Development Authority of Houston County. Upon voting, Ms. Robinson, Mr. Gottwals, and Mr. Talton voted yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Perdue explained that these funds are the reimbursement of matching funds for the property purchased for a solar array on property north of Robins Air Force Base. He continued explaining that these funds will be held by the Development Authority of Houston County and used to purchase property northwest of the Base to create a usable parcel for economic development opportunities.

Mr. Talton presented a request to ratify the final audit budget adjustment for FY24.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Ms. Robinson to approve ratification of the following budget adjustments made during the FY24 audit process:

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General Fund				Water Fund			
100	100-1555	\$ (409,967.00)	Decrease	505	505-0000	\$ (880,046.00)	Increase
100	100-1540	\$ 10,200.00	Increase	505	505-4400	\$ 880,046.00	Increase
100	100-2155	\$ 233,054.00	Increase	<hr/>			
100	100-2600	\$ 80,000.00	Increase	<b>Total For Fund 505</b> \$ -			
100	100-3320	\$ 5,013.00	Increase	Solid Waste Fund			
100	100-3600	\$ 12,000.00	Increase	540	540-0000	\$ (625,891.00)	Increase
100	100-5452	\$ 7,000.00	Increase	540	540-4530	\$ 625,891.00	Increase
100	100-6100	\$ 62,700.00	Increase	<hr/>			
<b>Total For Fund 100</b> \$ -				<b>Total For Fund 540</b> \$ -			
Fire Fund				Internal Service Fund			
270	270-3500	\$2,161,276.24	Increase	600	600-1555	\$ (562,818.31)	Decrease
<hr/>				600	600-1556	\$ 562,818.31	Increase
<b>Total For Fund 270</b> \$2,161,276.24				<b>Total For Fund 600</b> \$ -			
SPLOST Fund				Special Revenue Funds			
320	320-2300	\$ (1,545,444.00)	Decrease	<i>Law Library</i>	\$ 50,000.00	Increase	
320	320-4200	\$ (7,121,638.00)	Decrease	<i>District Attorney</i>	\$ 150,000.00	Increase	
320	320-1400	\$ 1,800.00	Increase	<hr/>			
320	320-1517	\$ 800.00	Increase	<b>Total Special Rev Funds</b> \$ 200,000.00			
320	320-1530	\$ 2,700.00	Increase				
320	320-1545	\$ 5,900.00	Increase				
320	320-1565	\$ 6,026,980.00	Increase				
320	320-2320	\$ 1,600.00	Increase				
320	320-2450	\$ 300.00	Increase				
320	320-2800	\$ 13,000.00	Increase				
320	320-3600	\$ 327,031.00	Increase				
320	320-3800	\$ 5,300.00	Increase				
320	320-3910	\$ 38,221.00	Increase				
320	320-4250	\$ 368,700.00	Increase				
320	320-4960	\$ 1,635,450.00	Increase				
320	320-6100	\$ 67,300.00	Increase				
320	320-6500	\$ 172,000.00	Increase				
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<b>Total For Fund 320</b> \$ -							

Upon voting, Mr. Talton, Ms. Robison, and Mr. Gottwals voted yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Perdue stated that the only budget increase was from the fire department due to the construction of the new fire station in Bonaire. He expressed appreciation to the Board for authorizing senior staff to handle final budget adjustments to keep from needing a called meeting to finalize the audit.

Mr. Gottwals presented a request for approval of a Memorandum of Agreement to combine LMIG projects for the bidding process to increase the possibility of lower costs.

Motion by Mr. Gottwals, second by Mr. Talton, to approve signing a Memorandum of Agreement with The City of Warner Robins, The City of Centerville, The City of Perry, and The City of Byron to bid all Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant projects together to gain a lower bid price. Upon voting, Mr. Gottwals, Mr. Talton, and Ms. Robinson voted yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Perdue commented that this memorandum of agreement is an example of cooperation among local municipalities and the County.

Ms. Robinson presented a request for approval of the 2025 LMIG road list.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Gottwals, to approve the following list of roads for the 2025 LMIG totaling 8.07 miles:

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Road Name	Beginning	Ending	Length (Miles)	Description of Work
Macy Ave	Second Street	Dead End	0.30	Resurface
Second Street	SR127	Macy Ave	0.07	Resurface
Third Street	SR127	Macy Ave	0.10	Resurface
Saddle Creek Rd	SR 247 Spur	US 341	2.58	Base Repair/Resurface
Tidwell Rd	Mt. Zion Rd	Moody Rd	0.97	Resurface
Willingham Dr	Mt. Zion Rd	Moody Rd	1.06	Base Repair/Resurface
Mt. Zion Rd	Country Rd	Houston Lake Rd	1.00	Resurface
Williams Circle	Old Vienna Rd	Whitfield Rd	1.99	Resurface

Upon voting, Ms. Robinson, Mr. Gottwals, and Mr. Talton voted yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Talton, to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$3,183,491.71. Upon voting, Ms. Robinson, Mr. Talton, and Mr. Gottwals voted yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Perdue explained that the Commissioners would need to enter Executive Session but would continue with public comments and Commissioner comments before recessing for the session.

The chairman closed the regular portion of the meeting and opened the floor for Public Comments.

As there were no Public Comments, Chairman opened the floor Commissioner's Comments.

Mr. Gottwals expressed his appreciation to the leadership and staff of the County for the way in which the meetings are prepared and conducted. He also read a quote from author Lucy Maud Montgomery's book *Anne of Greene Gables*.

Ms. Robinson thanked everyone for attending and commented on how honored she was to serve. She concluded by wishing everyone a Happy New Year.

Chairman Perdue wished everyone a Happy New Year and expressed what an honor it was to serve the residents of Houston County.

Mr. Talton stated that it was an honor to serve the residents of Houston County for the last two and a half years on the Board and thanked the voters for again having him serve for the next four years.

Chairman Perdue asked everyone to remember and reflect on the life of the Late President Jimmy Carter and spoke of his recent passing.

Chairman Perdue closed the Commissioner's Comments and reopened the regular portion of the meeting.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Gottwals, to approve Entering into Executive Session for Attorney Client Matters as set out in O.C.G.A. 50-14-2(1). Upon voting, Ms. Robinson, Mr. Gottwals, and Mr. Talton voted yes. Motion carried.

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At the end of the Executive Session, Chairman Perdue stated there would be no action taken on matters discussed in the session.

Motion by Mr. Gottwals, second by Mr. Talton to approve adjourning the meeting. Upon voting Mr. Gottwals, Mr. Talton, and Ms. Robinson voted yes. Motion carried.

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Robbie Dunbar  
Director of Administration

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Chairman

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Commissioner  
Commissioner Byrd was not in  
attendance so does not sign  
Commissioner

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Commissioner

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Commissioner