

MINUTES

Butts County Board of Tax Assessors – Regular Session
625 W. 3rd Street, Jackson, GA 30233, Meeting Room A, Admin Bldg.
June 18, 2024 – 10:00AM

A. CALL TO ORDER

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR CELL PHONES AND ALL OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES.

The Butts County Board of Assessors regular scheduled meeting was held on May 15, 2024, at 10:00AM in Meeting Room A of the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Leah Preston-Frickey, with Vice Chairperson Ellen Brewer and Board Members Michael Bateman, Jimmie Hobgood, and Terry Nolan attending. Others present include Chief Appraiser, Jerry Johnson, Deputy Chief Appraiser, Betsy Bernier and Board Secretary, Leigh Ann Jeffcoat.

B. CITIZENS COMMENT

Speakers must sign up prior to the meeting and provide their names, addresses and the topic they wish to discuss. Speakers must direct their remarks to the Board and not to individual Member or to the audience. Personal disagreements with individual Members or County employees are not a matter of public concern and personal attacks will not be tolerated. The Chairperson has the right to limit your comments in the interest of directing of the County's business in an efficient and respectable manner.

Speakers will be allotted three (3) minutes to speak on their chosen topics as they relate to matters pertinent to the jurisdiction of the Board of Tax Assessors. No questions will be asked by any of the members during citizen comments. Outbursts from the audience will not be tolerated. Common courtesy and civility are expected at all times during the meeting. No speaker will be permitted to speak more than three (3) minutes or more than once, unless the Board votes to suspend this rule.

None present.

C. AGENDA

1. Consider the adoption of the June 18, 2024, agenda.

Motion by Vice Chairperson Brewer to approve the June 18, 2024, agenda as submitted, motion was seconded by Member Bateman and carried unanimously, 5-0.

D. MINUTES

1. Consider the approval of the minutes from the May 15, 2024, regular meeting.

Motion by Member Bateman to approve the minutes of the May 15, 2024, regular meeting, motion was seconded by Member Nolan and carried unanimously, 5-0.

E. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Consider the approval of 2024 new applications for Conservation Use Valuation Assessment (CUVA).

JEFFERY COLEMAN

00120-079-000, 11.84 ACRES W/ HOUSE

00130-033-B00, .50 ACRES, CONTIGUOUS

2. Consider the approval of 2024 renewal applications for Conservation Use Valuation Assessment (CUVA).

SEE EXHIBIT A: 2024 CUVA RENEWAL APPLICATIONS

3. Consider the approval of the law enforcement officer's request for non-disclosure.

Motion by Vice Chairperson Brewer to approve the consent agenda as submitted, motion was seconded by Member Bateman and carried unanimously, 5-0.

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider the approval of request for non-disclosure.

General discussion of Georgia Code 50-18-72 and the application process.

Chief Appraiser Johnson explained that we had only received an email asking for privacy with no further explanation. Staff recommendation to deny.

Motion made by Member Bateman to deny the non-disclosure request, motion was seconded by Vice Chairperson Brewer and was carried unanimously, 5-0.

2. Consider the approval of the 2024 Recommended Record Disposal List.

Deputy Chief Appraiser Bernier explained that all records to be disposed are within the timelines set by The Georgia Archives Records & Information Management Services.

Motion made by Member Bateman to approve the 2024 Recommended Record Disposal List, motion seconded by Vice Chairperson Brewer and was carried unanimously, 5-0.

3. Consider the approval of an appeal directly to Superior Court.

Discussion on the process of forwarding an appeal directly to Superior Court and general details of the taxpayer's claims. Staff recommendation is to not consent to the appeal directly to Superior Court.

Motion made by Member Nolan to not consent to the appeal directly to Superior Court, motion seconded by Member Bateman and was carried unanimously, 5-0.

4. Review late appeals filed after the June 3, 2024, deadline.

Discussion on forwarding late appeals directly to the Board of Equalization for determination of late filings.

Motion made by Member Bateman to submit the late filed appeals to the Board of Equalization, motion seconded by Vice Chairperson Brewer and was carried unanimously, 5-0.

G. CHIEF APPRAISER REPORT

1. Appeal Update

Discussion of the number and status of appeals for 2024.

2. Training Update

Discussion of classes scheduled for the office staff and board members.

3. Tax Commissioners Office/Tax Assessors Office Reconciliation

Discussed with item G (6) below.

4. Monthly Activity Report

Chief Appraiser Johnson gave a brief monthly update of the office activity.

5. Annual Renewal of Non-Disclosure

Discussion on annual renewal of non-disclosure of public information.

6. Digest Submission to Tax Commissioners Office

Chief Appraiser Johnson explained the process of reconciling the digest between the two departments. The digest was submitted to the Tax Commissioners Office on June 3, 2024.

7. August BOA Meeting

Chief Appraiser Johnson informed the Board that he would not be present for the August 21, 2024, meeting. Deputy Chief Appraiser Bernier will be leading the meeting in his absence.

H. BOARD COMMENTS

Vice Chairperson Brewer asked for an update of new employment applications.

Motion made by Member Bateman to amend the agenda to add a Closed Session, motion seconded by Member Nolan and was carried unanimously, 5-0.

I. CLOSED SESSION

1. Chairman Leah Preston-Frickey requests to conduct a Closed Session for discussion or deliberation on the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a county officer or employee as provided in O.C.G.A.50-14-3(6).

Motion by Member Bateman to enter Closed Session for purposes identified by Agenda Item (I.1), motion was seconded by Vice Chairperson Brewer and was carried unanimously, 5-0. Entered closed session at 11:11AM.

Motion by Member Bateman to exit Closed Session, motion seconded by Member Nolan and carried unanimously, 5-0. Exited closed session at 12:16PM

No action taken.

Member Hobgood exited the meeting at 12:17PM.

Motion made by Vice Chairperson Brewer to resume regular meeting, motion seconded by Member Bateman and carried unanimously, 4-0. Regular resumed at 12:17PM.

J. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, motion by Vice Chairperson Brewer to adjourn at 12:18PM, motion was seconded by Member Bateman and was carried unanimously, 4-0.