

MINUTES

Butts County Board of Tax Assessors – Regular Session

625 W. 3rd Street, Jackson, GA 30233, Meeting Room A, Admin Bldg.

February 19, 2025 – 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 February 19, 2025 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 and Deputy Chief Appraiser, Betsy Bernier.

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 to the interest of directing 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 for more than three (3) minutes or more than once, unless the Board votes to suspend this rule.

None

C. AGENDA

1. Consider the adoption of the February 19, 2025 agenda.

Motion by Member Nolan to adopt the agenda, motion was seconded by Member Bateman and carried unanimously 5-0.

D. MINUTES

1. Consider the approval of the minutes from January 15, 2025 regular meeting.

Motion by Member Nolan to approve the January 15, 2025 minutes, motion seconded by Member Bateman and carried unanimously 5-0.

2. Consider the approval of the minutes from February 5, 2025 special called meeting.

Motion by Vice Chairperson Brewer to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2025 special called meeting, motion was seconded by Member Hobgood and carried unanimously 5-0.

E. OLD BUSINESS

1. Lift from the table to consider the approval of a request for non-disclosure of public information.

Motion by Member Nolan to lift from the table to consider the approval of a request for non-disclosure of public information, motion was seconded by Member Bateman and carried unanimously 5-0.

Discussion on the opinion of legal counsel. Staff recommendation to deny.

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

F. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Consider the approval of 2025 homestead applications for Disabled Veteran (S5).
GABRIELA BERNARDEZ
0033C-013-000

DENEISHA GHANT-STONE
0033C-014-000

2. Consider the approval of 2025 new applications for Conservation Use Valuation Assessment (CUVA).
SEE ATTACHED LIST MARKED EXHIBIT A: 2025 NEW CUVA APPLICATIONS
3. Consider the approval of 2025 renewal applications for Conservation Use Valuation Assessment (CUVA).
SEE ATTACHED LIST MARKED EXHIBIT B: 2025 RENEWAL CUVA APPLICATIONS
4. Consider the approval of 2025 continuation applications for Conservation Use Valuation Assessment (CUVA).
SEE ATTACHED LIST MARKED EXHIBIT C: 2025 CONTINUATION CUVA APPLICATIONS

Member Hobgood recused himself due to personal interest in a CUVA application on the consent agenda.

Motion by Vice Chairperson Brewer to approve consent agenda, motion was seconded by Member Nolan and carried unanimously 4-0.

G. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider the approval of a Conservation Use Valuation Assessment (CUVA).
DAVID & GERRI WICKS
00220-023-F00, 5.51 AC

Discussion on the qualifications of the use of the property. Staff recommendation to approve.

Motion by Member Bateman to approve CUVA, motion was seconded by Member Nolan and carried unanimously 5-0.

2. Consider the approval of the submission of the 2025 preliminary tax digest to the Tax Commissioner's Office.

Discussion on the preliminary digest to be used in estimating the roll back millage rate as required by HB581.

Motion by Member Nolan to approve the preliminary digest for submission to the Tax Commissioner, motion was seconded by Member Hobgood and carried unanimously 5-0.

H. CHIEF APPRAISER REPORT

1. 2025 tax digest preparation.

Discussion of work being completed by appraisal staff. Anticipated mail date of the annual Notices of Assessment is April 17, 2025.

As of today, the 2025 sales ratios show progress in meeting DOR standards. Chief Appraiser Johnson will continue to review and analyze the data.

2. CAVEAT 2025 registration.

Board members are registered for the conference. The hotel portal is not available yet.

Chief Appraiser Johnson indicated the FY2026 budget for the department is due to Administration on February 25, 2025.

Chief Appraiser Johnson informed the board about vacant lots that are owned by churches but not tax exempt. Exempt Property applications have been mailed to the owners.

Discussion on appraisal staff and plans for future positions.

I. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. 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 Executive Session at 10:55AM, motion was seconded by Vice Chairperson Brewer and carried unanimously 5-0.

Motion by Member Nolan to exit Executive Session and return to regular session at 12:20PM, motion was seconded by Member Bateman and carried unanimously 5-0.

J BOARD COMMENTS

None

K. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Member Bateman to adjourn at 12:20PM, motion was seconded by Member Nolan and carried unanimously 5-0.