

Minutes

Spalding County Board of Assessors – Regular meeting
June 10, 2025 – 9:00AM
Meeting Room 108, Annex Building
119 East Solomon Street
Griffin GA 30223

A. CALL TO ORDER

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR CELL PHONES AND ALL OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES.

The Spalding County Board of Assessors regular scheduled meeting was held on June 10, 2025 at 9:00AM in the Courthouse Annex Meeting Room. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Johnie McDaniel with Vice Chairman Byron Pearce and Member Joe Bailey attending. Others present include Chief Appraiser Robby Williams, Board Secretary Peggy Terry and staff 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 your 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 Chairman has the right to limit your comments in the interest of disposing 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

C. MINUTES

1. Consider the approval of the May 13, 2025 regular meeting minutes.

Motion by Member Bailey to approve the May 13, 2025 regular meeting minutes, seconded by Vice Chairman Pearce and carried unanimously 3-0.

D. OLD BUSINESS

1. Lift from the table to consider the approval of the 2025 Values of Heavy Equipment.

Motion by Member Bailey to lift from the table to consider the 2025 values of Heavy Equipment, seconded by Vice Chairman Pearce and carried unanimously 3-0.

Discussion on the calculations that were presented during the May 13, 2025 meeting contained errors. The calculation errors have been corrected.

Motion by Vice Chairman Pearce to approve the 2025 values of Heavy Equipment, seconded by Member Bailey and carried unanimously 3-0.

E. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Consider the approval of 2025 S5 Disabled Veteran homestead exemptions:

SMITH, HOPE ELAINE
201-02-002

WATERS, NATHANIEL
201c-01-056

2. Consider the approval of 2026 S5 Disabled Veteran homestead exemptions.

SEE ATTACHED LIST

3. Consider the approval of a request for non-disclosure of public information.

Motion by Vice Chairman Pearce to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Member Bailey and carried unanimously 3-0.

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider the appointment of Betsy Bernier as the Secretary for the Spalding County Board of Tax Assessors for the remainder of the 2025 calendar year.

Discussion that the new appointee will serve for the rest of the year. Chief Appraiser Williams expressed gratitude for Ms. Terry's past work as the Board Secretary.

Motion by Member Bailey to appoint staff appraiser Betsy Bernier as Board Secretary, seconded by Vice Chairman Pearce and carried unanimously 3-0.

2. Consider the approval of a retroactive S5 Disabled Veteran homestead exemption for 2024.

LEWIS, WENDELLE P
316-01-026

Discussion on the applicant's qualifications to receive the homestead exemption beginning tax year 2024.

Motion by Vice Chairman Pearce to approve the retroactive homestead exemption, seconded by Member Bailey and carried unanimously 3-0.

3. Consider the approval of a retroactive S5 Disabled Veteran homestead exemption for 2024.

BUSH, DOUGLAS
143B-02-009

Discussion on the applicant's qualifications to receive the homestead exemption beginning tax year 2024.

Motion by Member Bailey to approve the retroactive homestead exemption, seconded by Vice Chairman Pearce and carried unanimously 3-0.

G. CHIEF APPRAISER'S REPORT

1. Update on new format for Notice of Assessments.

The Board reviewed samples of the new Notices. Chief Appraiser Williams made note of the changes to the format which includes the removal of County M & O tax calculations as well as the removal of fire district tax calculations.

There will be an informational insert included with each Notice of Assessment to help property owners understand the changes. The insert will include stating the opportunity to file for homestead exemption during the 45 day appeal period.

Chief Appraiser Williams focused on the priority of the Notices which is to inform the property owners of the 2025 values.

2. Review final Digest numbers.

Chief Appraiser Williams reviewed the overall percentage of properties that declined in value, increased in value and the percentage that stayed the same as last year's values.

Discussion on the 2025 internal ending sales ratios which were approved during the May 13, 2025 meeting.

3. Percent changes on residential property 2025.

Chief Appraiser Williams reported the percentage of increase for residential properties is about 5.9 percent over last year.

4. Report on office closing June 20, 2025.

The office will be closed on June 19, 2025 for a county holiday. The Assessors office will also be closed on June 20, 2025.

5. Employee training update.

Three staff members are scheduled to attend Department of Revenue classes in July.

6. Renewed agreement with GAP Group for services.

A renewal agreement with WinGap has been received.

H. ASSESSORS COMMENTS

Chairman McDaniel thanked Peggy Terry for her time as the Board Secretary and welcomed Betsy Bernier into the role.

I. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, motion by Chairman McDaniel to adjourn at 10:11AM, seconded by Member Bailey and carried unanimously 3-0.