



# JOINT MEETING SUMMARY MINUTES

WITH MEMBERS FROM:  
PAULDING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
PAULDING COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
PAULDING COUNTY INDUSTRIAL BUILDING AUTHORITY  
PAULDING COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY  
PAULDING COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION, PAULDING COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, MAYORS OF DALLAS AND HIRAM

January 26, 2023 - 8:30 AM

Hiram Annex Building  
219 Main Street  
Hiram, Ga 30141

**CALL TO ORDER:** David L. Carmichael, BOC Chairman

**INVOCATION & PLEDGE:** Clifford McGrady, Zoning Administrator/Project Manager

**PRESENT:**

David Carmichael, Chairman; Commissioner Dunn, Commissioner Stover, Commissioner Kaecher, County Manager Frank Baker, County Clerk Rebecca Merideth, Scott Greene, Angelia Farries, Terry Tibbitts, Yolanda Newell, Tommy Morris, Colonel Chad Hunton, Chief Jefferson, Remi Martel, Tracy Hulseley, Kendall Smith, Jim Henson, Dan Nolan, Steve Barnette, Tom Cable, Stacy Hamby, Mayor Moran, Teresa Philyaw, Doris Devey, Jody Palmer, Melissa Bayardelle, Chief Turner, Marguerite Simmons, Isabella Orr, Hiram City Clerk Melissa Chosewood, Jason James, Clifford McGrady.

**EDO/IBA BOARD CHAIRMAN & DIRECTOR REPORTS:**

*Sandy Kaecher, EDO Board Chairwoman* spoke to the group regarding the new EDO website, the social media platforms that are being used to get Paulding looked at, and the meeting schedule for 2023. Ms. Kaecher also updated the group on the new projects the EDO is involved in such as the Helping Hands Project, Citco and the Hatchery Planning Group. She stated the County is being looked at.

*Tom Morris, IBA Board Chairman* stated he believes these joint meetings are beneficial to the community. He listed three tracks of land the IBA currently has and are trying to market, and the continued work on mixed development. Mr. Morris announced to the group that Paulding County will be featured in the George Trend Magazine in the next couple of months.

**PCAA CHAIRMAN REPORT:**

*Terry Tibbitts, Executive Director* stated when outside companies come to look at the County they fly-in and fly-out of our Airport, it acts like a hub for the County and is an economic driver. The AMP School is within a year of being completed. We currently have a list of over 100 pilots waiting to house their planes at our Airport. We are about 60 days away from having the City of Dallas sewer connection complete. He further stated the airport currently has 12 independent businesses renting offices and space at the location. Mr. Tibbitts touched on new projects like an aviation education program, new hangars within the next few months, and continued work on expansion projects. The Airport is starting to have an impact on the County with tax base business.

**BOC REPORT:**

*Dave Carmichael, Chairman*, stated the County currently has the lowest M & O in history at 4.22 mills. In November Commissioner Galloway was elected to serve a four-year term. The County has completed the Unified Development Ordinance update with several different zoning categories. We have raised the Homestead Exemption from \$2,000 to \$6,000 and it will go to \$10,000 in 2024. The Chairman thanked the Cities for working with the County on SPLOST and LOST and for coming to an agreement that benefits everyone. The County has changed its form of Government, going from a County Administrator to a County Manager.

*Frank Baker, County Manager* spoke regarding Team Work, stating “we are all Paulding County.” Mr. Baker went over some of the current and future projects such as the demolition of the old Jail and hopefully building a Fleet Maintenance building in the location. Stating the County has a need for a much bigger facility to house that department. A new Senior Center facility, the County has reached out to the seniors of the community to provide information as to what the needs would be for a new center. Richland Creek Park, the County is working with companies for ideas of what to put in the Park, as well as seeking input from the citizens regarding what they would like to see there which will be done in phases and over time. Mr. Baker touched on the ADAD Program and thanked the School District for their continued support in the program.

#### **CITY OF HIRAM REPORT:**

*Frank Moran, Mayor* introduced the staff and Council present and announced Isabella Orr as the new Deputy City Clerk for Hiram. Mayor Moran stated there are several projects that the City of Hiram is working on such as sidewalk, curbing, and construction for additional parking and waterline projects. Continuation of sewer line extension to Gray’s Mill Park and the sewer extension on Hwy. 92 which will open up the area for additional business opportunities. Mayor Moran announced the new Public Safety Ambassador position; the ambassador will take reports of accidents or disturbances on private property freeing up officers to handle the more serious issues. The City will be adding a Veterans Memorial site soon and he announced the City did not have a property tax again this year.

*Police Chief Turner* estimated the amount of cars that travel through the area of Hwy. 278 and Hwy. 92 a month to be 1.7 million vehicles. The Chief stated there have been a number of thefts in the area, the perpetrators are coming from other areas to the more rural areas thinking it will take the police longer to respond to the locations, giving the thieves time to get away. Recently, Hiram Police Officers worked a case which involved individuals that had stolen over \$6,000 in merchandise from the Hiram Kohl’s, evidence from this case lead to arrests in a theft ring. Chief Turner cautioned these are not mom and pop rings. He spoke regarding the homeless camps in the County, stating this will need to be addressed as a County, but we have to remember there is a mental health aspect to this as well.

#### **CITY OF DALLAS REPORT:**

*Kendall Smith, City Manager* stated a lot is going on west of Dallas the sewer project is underway, new City Hall plans have been completed and the project will go out for bid in February, it is expected to be an 18 month project. In November citizen voted for the City to have Redevelopment Powers, the City is working with consultants to revitalize the area with mix-use development. We are in the study stages of looking where the best location of a bridge over Hwy. 278 would be for connectivity from the Silver Comet Trail to downtown Dallas, which would then make a complete loop around Dallas coming off the Silver Comet Trail. Mr. Smith stated that Sara Babb Park is full all of the time and the City would like to have discussions regarding a future Spots Complex. Further, the City has applied for a Quite Zone designation with Norfolk Railways.

#### **CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPORT:**

*Stacy Hamby, Director* updated the attendees of the many programs the Chamber was involved with in 2022. She announced that the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Awards Gala will be held in March at Greystone Power. She touched on tourism, vendors for the Dallas and Hiram Farmers Markets, and future drive through capabilities for the Hiram Farmers Market. Ms. Hamby stated the Chamber is actively working on the Paulding County Map Project stating this year they are working to have an online access showing locations on the Silver Comet Trail with interactive capability. She also stated that the Chamber has acquired a Uniform Collection dating back to the Silver War and has secured temporary storage for the collection.

#### **BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT:**

*Steve Barnette, Superintendent* stated the Board has been in the news lately and he would like to state that the Board values and supports the Drivers that make over 6 million special package deliveries a year. He stated the Board plans to address the overcrowding, they are looking at building a 10<sup>th</sup> Middle School in the County, and an Elementary School near Burnt Hickory, as well as adding additions to North Paulding High School. Mr. Barnett gave an update on the new School Security Guards and the new CTAE program which include additional staff such as Counselors and Social Workers this program is offered to the 4% of students that have been suspended or have another school related issue.

*Dan Nolan, Chairman* stated how important it is to have these joint meetings, and how important it is to let the citizens know that these Board are meeting and working together. Mr. Nolan stated the

School District will have to build another High School in Paulding within five to seven years, this will cost upwards of 150 million. He stated the County needs a pool for the different swim teams. He thanked the Board of Commissioners for placing a Board of Education representative on the Zoning Commission and requested a representative from the Board of Education be placed on the Development Team. The new CTAE program will help to integrate the 4% of students back in to the school environment and help get them back on track.

Councilwoman Melissa Bayardelle stated she has concerns regarding the closing of the Boys and Girls Club and asked what can be done to help the 200 family's this closing has affected.

*Chairman Carmichael* stated everyone is concerned and cares about the Boys and Girls Club but due to our time restraints we will have to move on to the speaker for the day.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

*Colonel Chad Hunton*, Chief Deputy Paulding County Sheriff's Office stated some of the key issues the Sheriff's Office is facing with the biggest being overdoses, the Sheriff's Office responds to a tremendous amount of calls regarding overdoses. In 2022, they responded to 152 calls regarding overdoses of those, 9 were fatal, 59 Narcan was used and 14 of the 59 more than one dose of Narcan was used to revive the person. The second issue facing the Sheriff's Office would be the Cartel operating in the County, they are buying up property and renting property to use for storing Meth. The third issue would be the Homeless population, which is increasing. Some of the homeless do not want help but of those that do the County does not have resources to help them. There are several homeless camps in the County which also bring in a criminal element. Colonel Hunton continued with the next issue, Mental Health problems. Due to the State of Georgia closing mental health facilities the problem has now been shifted to the Sheriff's whose jails are becoming the mental health facilities. In 2022, the Paulding Sheriff's Office spent over \$61,000 on mental health medication for inmates. Colonel Hunton addressed the deputy shortage, stating the Sheriff's Office currently has 56 vacancies, we are getting creative and are trying to utilize technology and social media as productive tools to recruit new officers. He announced that Sheriff's Offices has a new Crowd Control Unit that can be utilized for events, protest or any other issue regarding crowd control. He thanked everyone for allowing him to speak.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FROM CITIZENS:** Ms. Marguerite Simmons spoke to the Boards regarding the upcoming Voice Program by the Board of Elections. A forum giving citizen the opportunity to voice any concerns or ask questions. She stated there would be three other forums scheduled. The one for today will be held this afternoon at this location.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:** May 2023

**ADJOURNMENT:** Chairman David Carmichael made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mayor Frank Moran. The motion carried unanimously.

---

Rebecca Merideth, County Clerk

---

David L. Carmichael, Chairman