BRANTLEY COUNTY COMMISSION
Work Session 6:00 PM
August 4, 2026
County Commission Office

The Brantley County Board of Commissioners held a Work Session meeting on August 4, 2026, 6:00 PM, in the Commission Office.

Present were Chairman, Chris Harris, Board Members, Andy Riggins, Randy Davison, Hal Herndon, and Brian Hendrix. Also present was Joey Cason, County Manager and Patrick Brooks, County Attorney.

Chairman Harris called the meeting to order; Mr. Beal gave the invocation and led in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

The County Manager made a recommendation for the board to amend the agenda to add the following items:

8A. Consider Resolution with Georgia Department of Revenue to formally accept funds set aside for Brantley County by the Georgia Trees Act.

8B. Consider recommendation from Planning Commission to approve a variance to open an event center 9014 Central Ave. Waycross, Ga. 31503.

8C. Consider recommendation from Planning Commission on holding a Public Hearing for a Special Exception for a Equine Boarding on Dewey Hickox Road.

Commissioner Riggins made a motion to approve the agenda with the additional changes. Commissioner Hendrix seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Update on Little Buffalo Creek Bridge Project & Other projects- Ben Pierce

Little Buffalo Creek Bridge Replacement Project:

County awarded a GTIB grant of up to $600,000 for design phase (10% County match, $60,000). Design phase includes engineering, alternatives evaluation, environmental permitting, right-of-way acquisition, and construction documents. Concept development: September–December; preliminary engineering/60% design: January–Spring 2027; final design to follow environmental permitting and ROW acquisition. Construction anticipated Spring 2028 (8–15 months), estimated at $3–4 million, to be funded through successive LMIG cycles with possible LRA supplemental funding. County to finalize GTIB grant agreement, procure a design consultant, and issue notice to proceed for design/survey services. Full road closure (approx. 10–12 months) recommended during construction to reduce costs.

Road Resurfacing Operations:
LRA funding continues to supplement annual GDOT LMIG funding (typically $800,000–$900,000 annually, 10% match). Knox Road work (shoulder improvements, paving, restriping) expected complete by end of August. Central Avenue Phase 1 resurfacing (approx. 3.8–3.9 miles, county line to near Bennett Road) underway, including full-width resurfacing and lane-width correction. County to apply for LMIG 2027 funding for Central Avenue Phase 2 (Bennett Road to Morris Hill Road), the second of a three-phase paving program. Pavement transition repairs near a Central Avenue convenience store also underway.

Water and Sewer Infrastructure Planning Grant:
County is pursuing a GPA grant (up to $150,000) for water/sewer infrastructure planning in partnership with Brantley County and other clients; application due end of month. Handouts provided and attached to minutes.

Public Participation:

1. Mathew McGrath- life in Brantley County

Mr. McGrath commented on events that occurred during the previous month's meeting, specifically referencing the arrest of a citizen. He stated that he believed education is essential and encouraged the Board to review the Constitution and their oaths of office. Mr. McGrath expressed concern that the Board was creating laws and alleged that intimidation was being used. He further stated that he anticipated multiple lawsuits as a result of the Board's actions and that, in his view, members of the Board could face imprisonment..

2. James Flanders- 1st Amendment protected free speech, Heckler's Veto, retraining of Brantley County Officials and staff.

Mr. Flanders was not in attendance.

3. Nicholas Dunegan- Data Center Concerns & Environmental Impacts

Mr. Dunegan expressed concerns regarding potential data center development in Brantley County and stated that the current proposed ordinance may not provide adequate protections related to setbacks, fencing, barriers, building height, and emergency response capabilities. He emphasized the potential demands on the County's electricity, water, and emergency services.

4. Dennis Dudek- Brantley Fire Victims' lives

Mr. Dudek addressed the impact of the Highway 82 wildfire and expressed concerns regarding the County's emergency response, communication, and availability of assistance. He recognized firefighters, citizens, ministries, volunteers, organizations, and businesses for providing housing, supplies, cleanup, and other support to affected residents. Mr. Dudek

commended the community's response and encouraged continued unity as Brantley County recovers.

5. Shannon Gregory- Upcoming river-wide cleanup & Data Center moratorium

Ms. Gregory announced an upcoming river-wide cleanup, with online registration available and dumpsters located at the Highway 121 boat ramp. She also expressed concerns regarding potential impacts of data center and AI infrastructure development and reiterated her request for a twelve-month moratorium on data center approvals to allow additional time for evaluation.

6. Jason Rhodes- Data Center & First Amendment rights

Mr. Jason Rhodes addressed the Board regarding events at the previous month's meeting involving an arrest. He expressed concerns regarding citizens' rights to criticize public officials, the involvement of law enforcement during public meetings, and the handling of the incident. He also suggested consideration of a larger meeting space to better accommodate public attendance.

7. Elizabeth Snipes- Animal Control, Transparency of Community leaders and citizens of Brantley County

Ms. Elizabeth Snipes addressed the Board regarding concerns with government transparency and the absence of a County animal control service. She expressed concerns regarding the lack of dedicated funding for animal control and ongoing issues involving animal dumping and public safety.

8. Lilly Fulk- Treason, Tyranny and Mockery

Ms. Fulk addressed the Board regarding liberty, law enforcement presence at meetings, the role of the chaplain, and concerns regarding transparency. The speaker also discussed the Joint Comprehensive Plan, land-use matters, and concerns regarding technology and privacy.

9. Lois Vassilion-Justice - Animal Care & Control

Ms. Vassilion- Justice addressed concerns regarding the absence of County animal control services, the reliance on private citizens and nonprofit organizations, and the allocation of County funds. She requested greater financial transparency and urged the Board to establish a permanent animal control solution to enforce applicable laws and issue fines when necessary.

10. Tim Justice- Animal Control

Mr. Justice addressed the Board regarding animal control and road maintenance concerns and suggested a $0.25 tax increase to support an animal control facility.

11. Michaela Sanders- Integrity

Mrs. Sanders commented on recent website updates and requested improved microphones for public audibility. She expressed concerns regarding a recent meeting incident and related law enforcement documentation, requested consideration of the associated charges, and

discussed sharing meeting information publicly. She also expressed concerns regarding a proposed board appointment.

12. Ruby Thomas- Brantley County in years past

Mrs. Thomas spoke about her faith and encouraged respect for others. She also expressed concerns regarding artificial intelligence and its potential effects on employment, education, and everyday life.

13. Kathy Wainright- Citizens United for Brantley County's Future

Mrs. Wainright discussed Citizens United for Brantley and expressed concerns regarding a recent meeting incident and related charges. She also suggested revisions to the County's meeting decorum provisions and requested that meetings be livestreamed for greater public access.

14. Shannon Denbow- Data Centers & Suicide Barriers for Sidney Lanier Bridge

Ms. Denbow addressed the Board regarding animal control, board vacancies, data center development, and the heavy industrial land-use district. She expressed concerns regarding the handling, production, and costs associated with open records requests and referenced nondisclosure agreements and document management practices.

Commissioner Herndon had advised her that Glynn County was notified of Brantley County's support regarding the Sidney Lanier Bridge safety barrier matter.

15. Robert Wilson- Data Centers

Mr. Wilson expressed concerns regarding artificial intelligence, including its potential effects on employment, digital currency, labor markets, and critical infrastructure. He also expressed concerns regarding the long-term societal impacts of increased reliance on artificial intelligence.

16. Joey Shuman- Revenue & Decorum

Mr. Shuman addressed the importance of respectful and productive public participation. He encouraged citizens to communicate their concerns appropriately and work toward constructive solutions, emphasizing that respectful communication can help achieve positive results.

Open Public Participation: *Agenda Items Only*

Lilly Fulk: addressed the Board regarding the proposed online warrant software and requested clarification regarding its purpose, costs, and related County technology. The County Manager explained that the software was requested by the Magistrate Court to assist with warrant processing and provided information regarding implementation and ongoing costs.

Shannon Denbow: addressed the Board regarding the Recreation Department scoreboards and wildfire recovery efforts, including the availability of recovery resources and debris removal. The

County Manager provided information regarding the scoreboard quotes and stated that wildfire recovery resources continue to be coordinated through Family Connection and the Long-Term Recovery Group.

Michaela Sanders: addressed the Board regarding the proposed insulation work at the wildfire recovery building and asked about the bidding process. The County Manager explained the County's purchasing requirements and stated that the appropriate bid process would be followed.

Lois Vassillion-Justice: addressed the Board regarding several agenda items and expressed concerns regarding County spending priorities and funding for animal-related services.

Tim Justice: addressed the Board regarding the proposed equine special exception. The County Manager explained that the request involves a special exception for an equine-related business on approximately 18 acres near Dewey Hickox Road.

Joey Shuman: addressed the Board regarding the Forestry Commission Board appointment. The County Manager clarified the purpose of the advisory position and explained that the item was recommended to be tabled while the Georgia Forestry Commission reviews the structure of local advisory groups.

Ruby Thomas: addressed the Board regarding data centers. The Board clarified that data centers were not an agenda item for the meeting and provided information regarding the distinction between agenda items and matters raised during public comment.

AGENDA

1. Consideration of board appointment for Shawn Weerts- Forestry Commission

The County Manager made a recommendation to table due to the possibility of this board disbanding. Commissioners agreed and tabled until further notice

2. Consideration of Payment to Golden Isles Collision for 2025 F250- Waynesville VFD

The County Manager advised that the 2025 Ford F-250 assigned to the Waynesville Volunteer Fire Department sustained damage during the Highway 82 fires. Payment to Golden Isles Collision for the necessary repairs was presented for consideration. Regular Agenda.

3. Consideration of software for online warrants- Magistrate

The County Manager presented the proposed online warrant software for Magistrate Court and stated that implementation of the software would improve the efficiency of daily operations. Regular Agenda.

4. Consideration of quotes for Scoreboards- Rec Dept

The County Manager advised that quotes were received for new scoreboards for the Recreation Department and recommended accepting the lowest quote submitted by Electro Tech. Regular agenda.

5. Consideration of Maintenance agreement with Stryker- EMS

The County Manager presented the annual maintenance agreement covering EMS Stryker equipment at a cost of $16,458.88. The agreement is proposed to be paid from Opioid Funds, consistent with prior years. Regular agenda.

6. Consideration of Quotes for foam insulation- Rec Dept

The County Manager presented three quotes for foam insulation for the Recreation Department: Sanders Insulation in the amount of $45,878.89; Southern Blue Farms in the amount of $47,670.00; and The Insulation Company in the amount of $52,983.15. The project is proposed to be funded through SPLOST Funds. A recommendation was made to go with the lowest quote from Sanders. Regular Agenda.

7. Consideration to Purchase Pumper truck- Hoboken VFD

The County Manager presented the proposed purchase of a 2008 Crimson International Pumper from Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus for $190,000. The vehicle has approximately 16,000 miles and was inspected by Assistant Chief Matt Johns and Fire Liaison Towne. The purchase is proposed to be paid from Hoboken Budget Reserves, which currently total approximately $479,000. Regular Meeting.

8. Consideration to Purchase Brush truck- Hoboken VFD

The County Manager presented quotes for the purchase of a 2026 Ford F-350 Super Duty Brush Truck for the Hoboken Volunteer Fire Department. Robbie Roberson Ford submitted a quote of $71,131, and Woody Folsom Ford submitted a quote of $74,289. The purchase is proposed to be paid from Hoboken Budget Reserves. Regular Meeting.

8A. Consider Resolution with Georgia Department of Revenue to formally accept funds set aside for Brantley County by the Georgia Trees Act.

The County Manager stated that it was approximately $122,000. Is available to us for the Grant. The Act was passed to provide support for Hurricane Helene. Regular Agenda.

8B. Consider recommendation from Planning Commission to approve a variance to open an event center 9014 Central Ave. Waycross, Ga. 31503.

This building was formerly The Refinery Church. The Planning Commission recommended this be approved as they have met all the requirements. Regular Meeting

8C. Consider recommendation from Planning Commission on holding a Public Hearing for a Special Exception for a Equine Boarding on Dewey Hickox Road.
The County Manager stated that this site was formally utilized for horses by a past owner and they have met all the requirements to

9. County Manager Report

The County Manager provided a six-month budget review and reported that general operations are approximately 75% more efficient compared to the prior year, while noting year-to-date overages related to airport lighting and fire expenses and E-911 expenses associated with the new building and Next Generation 911. He also reported that Knox Road is complete except for final striping, the first phase of Central is nearing completion, and the Long-Term Recovery Group continues working to provide solutions for submitted requests.

10. Executive Session- personnel, Legal and Real Estate

Commissioner Davison made a motion to go into executive session. Commissioner Hendrix seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Reconvening after the Closed Session, Commissioner Davison made a motion to affirm matters discussed in Closed Session, which was Real Estate and directed the Chairman to sign the affidavit required by O.C.G.A. 50-14-4(b). Commissioner Hendrix seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Chairman Harris stated that information was received and no action taken.

11. Adjournment

Commissioner Hendrix made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Riggins seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned in regular order at approximately 8:37pm.

Chris Harris, Chairman

ATTEST: _____

Taylor Sheppard, County Clerk

BRANTLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SEAL GA

BRANTLEY COUNTY COMMISSION
Regular Meeting 6:00 PM
August 6, 2026
County Commission Office

The Brantley County Board of Commissioners held a Regular meeting on August 6, 2026, 6:00 PM, in the Commission Office.

Present were Chairman, Chris Harris, Board Members, Andy Riggins, Randy Davison, Hal Herndon, and Brian Hendrix. Also present was Joey Cason, County Manager.

Chairman Harris called the meeting to order; Pastor Beal gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Commissioner Hendrix made a motion to accept the July 2026 Minutes. Commissioner Davison seconded the motion. All in favor motion carried.

The County Manager made a recommendation for the board to amend the agenda to add the following item:

10A. Consideration to award Satilla Plantation property to Skippers Bluff LLC.

Commissioner Riggins made a motion to approve the agenda with the additional changes. Commissioner Hendrix seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

AGENDA

1. Consideration of Payment to Golden Isles Collision for 2025 F250- Waynesville VFD

Commissioner Riggins made a Motion to pay Golden Isles Collision for 2025 F250- Waynesville VFD at a cost of $12,135 paid out of the Repair and Maintenance budget. Commissioner Hendrix seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion Carried.

2. Consideration of software for online warrants- Magistrate

Commissioner Davison made a motion to purchase software for online warrants from I3 Vertical for the Magistrate Court for $10,000 to be paid out of their operations budget. Commissioner Hendrix seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion Carried.

3. Consideration of quotes for Scoreboards- Rec Dept

Commissioner Herndon made a Motion to purchase two Scoreboards for the Sports Complex from Electro Mech for $13,901.20 to be paid out of SPLOST. Commissioner Davison seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion Carried.

4. Consideration of Maintenance agreement with Stryker- EMS

Commissioner Riggins made a Motion to continue annual Maintenance agreement with Stryker for $16,458.88 This will be paid for from Opioid funds. Commissioner Hendrix seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion Carried.

5. Consideration of Quotes for foam insulation- Rec Dept

Commissioner Hendrix made a motion to approve a contract with Sanders Insulation for $45,878.89 to provide foam insulation in the new building at the Recreation Department. This is to be paid out of SPLOST funds. Commissioner Davison seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion Carried.

6. Consideration to Purchase Pumper truck- Hoboken VFD

Commissioner Hendrix made a motion to purchase a 2008 Crimson International Pumper from Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus for $190,000 to be paid from Hoboken Fire Department Budget Commissioner Riggins seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion Carried.

7. Consideration to Purchase Brush truck- Hoboken VFD

Commissioner Davison made a motion to purchase a 2026 F-350 Super Duty Brush truck for Hoboken VFD from Robbie Robinson Ford for $71,131 to be paid from Hoboken Fire Department Budget. Commissioner Hendrix seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion Carried.

8. Consideration of Resolution for Georgia Trees Act

Commissioner Hendrix made a motion to approve the Resolution for Georgia Trees Act. Commissioner Riggins seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion Carried.

9. Consideration of the recommendation from the Planning Commission to approve a variance for an event center located at 9014 Central Ave. Waycross.

Commissioner Herndon made a motion to accept the recommendation from the Planning Commission to approve a variance for an event center located at 9014 Central Ave. Waycross. Commissioner Hendrix seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion Carried.

10. Consideration of the recommendation from the Planning Commission to hold a Public Hearing for a Special Exception Equine Boarding facility located on Dewey Hickox Road.

Commissioner Davison made a motion to accept the recommendation from the Planning Commission to hold a Public Hearing for a Special Exception Equine Boarding facility located on Dewey Hickox Road. Commissioner Riggins seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

10A. Consideration to award Satilla Plantation property to Skippers Bluff LLC.

The County Manager stated that the Development Authority did not approve the proposed conveyance discussed at the previous month's meeting, resulting in the property remaining in the County's possession and allowing the County to proceed with awarding the bid.

Commissioner Davison made a motion to award the Satilla Plantation property bid to Skippers Bluff, LLC. Commissioner Hendrix seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

11. Adjournment

Commissioner Riggins made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Hendrix seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned in regular order at approximately 6:10 pm.

Chris Harris, Chairman

ATTEST:

Taylor Sheppard, County Clerk

BRANTLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SEAL BRANTLEY CO., GA