



February Commission Meeting Summary: Commissioners Review SPLOST Planning, County Operations during February Meeting

Posted on February 6, 2026 by Carey Fauscett-Anderson

TRENTON, Ga. (Feb. 6, 2025) — The Dade County Board of Commissioners met Thursday, Feb. 5, for its February workshop and regular monthly meeting, reviewing county operations, receiving updates from department leaders and community partners, and taking formal action on a wide range of policy, financial and capital matters. Items discussed during the workshop were later considered for official action during the regular meeting.

Workshop session

The board opened the evening with its February workshop, approving the agenda and prior meeting minutes and reviewing the county's personnel status report.

Commissioners reviewed several proclamations recognizing community organizations and statewide observances. These included Optimist Day in recognition of the Trenton-Dade Optimist Club; Arbor Day on Feb. 20; Severe Weather Preparedness Week from Feb. 2–6; American Heart Month and Go Red Day on Feb. 6; and National Future Farmers of America Week from Feb. 21–28.



The board also reviewed resolutions related to board appointments, including the appointment of Clifton Reasor to the Special Use Permit Board; the reappointment of Kathy Ragon to the Dade County Department of Family and Children Services Board; and appointments to the Trenton-Dade Animal Center Advisory Board. Individuals appointed to the advisory board include Ann Brown, Amy Garrett, Jimmy Stewart and Debbie Tringle, with staggered initial terms established in accordance with county ordinance.

Commissioners received a monthly update on the new elections building project. The discussion addressed value-engineering efforts underway to reduce overall project costs while maintaining required security, ballot storage and operational features. Updated cost estimates and construction planning considerations were reviewed.

Representatives from Henderson Hutcherson & McCullough presented the county's fiscal year 2025 annual financial statements for the period ending June 30, 2025. Auditors issued an unmodified opinion on the county's financial statements, indicating no material weaknesses were identified.

Larry Walker, Senior Center Site Manager, provided a senior services update, outlining ongoing operations, meal services and participation at the county's senior center.



During the workshop, the board reviewed a resolution authorizing the sale and disposal of surplus county capital equipment, including a Sheriff's Office vehicle, through an approved public process.

Commissioners also reviewed a resolution authorizing an agreement with Verida Inc. for transportation services associated with the Georgia Department of Human Services coordinated transportation program, supporting continued public transportation services for eligible residents.



The board reviewed SPLOST planning materials, including an intergovernmental agreement among Dade County, the City of Trenton, the Dade County Industrial Development Authority and the Dade County Water and Sewer Authority. The agreement outlines estimated allocations and

eligible project categories should voters approve continuation of the tax. Commissioners also reviewed a resolution calling for a SPLOST referendum to be placed on the May 19 ballot.

Additional workshop discussion included a resolution authorizing participation in the Georgia County Internship Program, supporting workforce development opportunities within county government.

Commissioners also reviewed a resolution authorizing acceptance of a USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Grant to support an ambulance replacement initiative. As part of emergency services planning, the board discussed issuance of a request for proposals for emergency medical services as the county prepares for the final year of its current EMS contract.

Commissioners discussed proposed amendments to the county's solar power generation ordinance, which would require special use permits for certain solar facilities. The ordinance amendment was reviewed but not advanced for action at that time. To allow additional time for ordinance review and policy development. The board also discussed a resolution reimposing a temporary moratorium on acceptance and processing of applications for commercial solar panel facilities in the unincorporated county.

Regular meeting

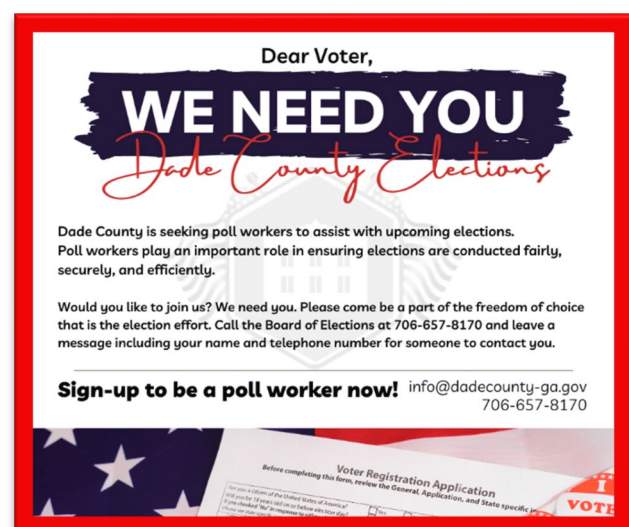
The board reconvened for its regular monthly meeting following the workshop. After the call to order, invocation and pledge of allegiance, the county clerk confirmed proper notice of the meeting and recorded the roll call; all commissioners were present for the meeting.

Citizens were given the opportunity to address the board, followed by points of personal privilege.

Commissioners then delivered individual district reports summarizing recent activities and areas of focus.

Commissioner Bill Pullen reported on infrastructure and public safety matters, including updates related to the U.S. 11 bridge at Squirrel Town Creek; winter weather response and Public Works operations; E-911 activity; progress related to the County Road 145 and Slygo Road bridge replacement at Interstate 24; and elections-related information.

Commissioner Phillip Hartline provided updates on electrical inspections, parks and recreation programming.



Commissioner Bob Woods reported on matters related to the Trenton-Dade Animal Center, senior center operations and meal services, and additional community topics, including discussion related to community centers, SPLOST, citizen property rights considerations and elections.

Commissioner Melissa Bradford shared updates related to the Trenton-Dade Animal Center and announced plans for an upcoming Tire Amnesty Day which will be Saturday, May 2nd.

County Executive Chairman Don Townsend concluded commissioner reports with updates on a range of regional and community initiatives, including work with the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing; participation in a multi-county opioid response meeting; winter weather briefings; attendance at a Lookout Mountain Judicial Circuit Drug Court graduation; participation in Coffee and Connections events focused on human trafficking awareness; continued involvement in Trenton-Dade Animal Center planning meetings; and attendance at recent Alliance for Dade business openings and community events.

The board received presentations from community partners, including an update from Laura Beth Cunningham, 4-H educator with the University of Georgia Extension Dade County office; an online presentation from Lydia Soucy, Manager of the Dade County Public Library; and an online presentation from Sandy White, President and CEO of Alliance for Dade Inc.

Chief Financial Officer Rebecca Jones presented the monthly financial reports. Commissioners approved the monthly financials and investments as presented. No legal matters were listed for action.

As new business, commissioners formally considered and approved items previously reviewed during the workshop. Clerk Gidget Knight read the consent agenda, which was approved as presented. No executive session was held, and the meeting adjourned upon completion of the agenda.

This article provides as a summary of the February Commission Meeting. Full-length articles on individual agenda items will follow.

