



**FLOYD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**December 9, 2025**

**Floyd County Administration Building**

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**Caucus - Suite 204                      3:30 pm**  
**Regular Meeting - Suite 206        6:00 pm**

**CAUCUS**

PRESENT: Commissioners: Allison Watters, Mike Burnes, David Thornton, and Scotty Hancock; County Manager Jamie McCord, County Clerk Lauren Chumbler, County Attorney Virginia Harman, Susie Gass, Amanda Tierce, Ron Swinford, Kristie Miner, Adam Carey, Mike Bell, Elizabeth Diprima, Randy Self, Ryan Davis, Barbara Penson and John Bailey.

Not present: Vice Chair Rhonda Wallace

Chair Watters called the caucus session to order at 3:34 p.m.

Chair Watters recommended deferring the budget until the first meeting in January so that the whole commission is present and gives the commission time to continue to review. Mr. McCord began review of the budget. The current draft budget shows \$102,495 surplus. Mr. McCord then went over the capital and SPLOST budgets.

Chair Watters and Mr. McCord began review of the agenda. The changes to the agenda will be to defer adopting the FY26 budget and add a resolution to continue the budget.

Ms. Harman reviewed the items on the agenda for Mercy Senior Care.

Mr. McCord and Chair Watters continued review of the agenda.

Mr. Hancock motioned to enter executive session to discuss property acquisition, litigation and personnel at 5:20 p.m., seconded by Mr. Burnes. The motion carried 4-0. Mr. Hancock motioned to exit executive session at 5:53 p.m. seconded by Mr. Burnes. The motion carried 4-0.

**I.        CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Watters called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

**II.       INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO FLAG --  
         Commissioner Thornton**

**III.      APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Hancock made a motion to approve the agenda with two amendments, seconded by Mr. Thornton. Item number four on New Business was deferred to the Jan. 13, 2026 meeting and the addition of a continuing budget resolution as item number four under the resolution section. The motion carried 4-0.

**IV.      APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- 1.    Adopt minutes of Caucus and Regular Meeting of November 25, 2025 and Budget Workshop Discussion and Public Hearing of December 1, 2025.**

The minutes were approved through common consent.

**V. SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

**VI. PROCLAMATION**

**VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REGARDING MATTERS ON THE AGENDA**

Kristie Miner spoke to the commission regarding the budget as it pertains to the Rome Floyd County Development Authority.

Mark Swanson asked questions about the budget process.

**VIII. FIRST READING**

**IX. SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING**

**X. PUBLIC HEARING**

1. Public Hearing Regarding Mercy Senior Care, Inc. request for change in use of building located at 300 Chatillon Road, Rome, Floyd County, Georgia, which was the beneficiary of CDBG Grant # 10p-y-057-1-5229.

Chair Watters stated the rules of the public hearing and declared the public hearing open then asked if there was anyone in the meeting to speak in favor:

Kathryn Lawler, CEO of Mercy Care: Good evening I'm Kathryn Lawler and I serve as the CEO of Mercy Care and I just wanted to introduce myself and tell you a little more about the building and our plans for the building. As you know, it was purchased and renovated into a beautiful facility that has operated as a terrific support for older individuals and their families for many years with a great team of staff from the Rome area. But after about a year and a half discernment process we did have to make the decision to close the facility. The last day of service was on June 30, 2025. And we were able to help place all of those individuals into other care environments, provide some support and were also able to provide very generous packages to all the employees so they had time to take care of themselves and their own jobs. So we not have the opportunity to bring back, fill the building again with wonderful services for the community here in Rome and have an organization that was already mentioned to providing support to individuals and their families who have autism. If you've ever been by or ever been inside it is a wonderful building and I have met more people who have went to school there. It is very exciting for us that it once again be filled with people of Rome and the care and support they need if this were all to come through. I'm here to help with anything as part of the process and it is a delight to meet you.

Bethany Oliver Craig, CEO of North Georgia Autism Center: Hey there I'm Bethany Oliver Craig, our address 325 West Ninth Street here in Rome. I'm the CEO of North Georgia Autism Center and we intend to take over that facility and provide services through healthcare to children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. It's a really perfect facility for us, a lot of space for our kids to run and a beautiful outdoor area for our kids to learn and play so we're really excited about that opportunity. Thank you

Chair Watters asked if there was anyone to speak in opposition. Seeing none, she closed the public hearing.

**XI. RESOLUTIONS**

1. Adopt resolution to adopt the 2026 Fee Schedule

Mr. McCord presented the resolution to the commission.

Mr. Burnes motioned to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Hancock. The motion carried 4-0.

2. Adopt resolution requesting change of the hotel/motel tax statute, increase tax rate from 6% to 8%, and redirect funds from the Forum River Center to the Agriculture Center.

Mr. McCord presented the resolution to the commission.

Mr. Hancock motioned to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Thornton. The motion carried 4-0.

3. Consider Resolution requesting on behalf of Mercy Senior Care, Inc., that the Georgia Department of Community Affairs waive the Special Condition of CDBG Grant # 10p-y-057-5229 requiring that the building located at 300 Chatillon Road, Rome, Floyd County, Georgia, be used by Mercy Senior Care, Inc. as a care facility for adults for 20 years, that the requirement be reduced to 10 years, and for other purposes.

Mr. McCord presented the resolution to the commission.

Mr. Thornton motioned to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Burnes. The motion carried 4-0.

4. Consider a resolution to move the budget vote to the Jan. 13, 2026 meeting.

Mr. McCord presented the resolution to the commission.

Mr. Hancock motioned to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Thornton. The motion carried 4-0.

## **XII. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

1. Consider appointment to the Board of Elections to fill an unexpired term.

Mr. Hancock motioned to approve the appointment of Daniel Eason, seconded by Mr. Burnes. The motion carried 4-0.

## **XIII. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Thornton presented a report concerning recent meetings with the Floyd County Baptist Association and the Rome Floyd County Commission on Children and Youth.

### **1. Public Safety Committee**

a. Next Meeting, Thursday, December 18, 10:00 AM, 2025

### **2. Administrative Services Committee**

a. Next Meeting, Thursday, January 22, 10:00 AM, 2026

### **3. Elected Officials Committee**

a. Next Meeting, TBD

### **4. Public Utilities & Transportation Committee**

a. Regular Meeting, Wednesday, December 17, 8:00 AM, 2025

### **5. Special Committee Reports**

#### **a. Fire Overview Committee**

i. Next Meeting, TBD, 2026

#### **b. Joint Services Committee**

i. Next Meeting, TBD, 2026

**c. Rome-Floyd Planning Commission**

- i. Next Meeting, Thursday, January 8, 2:30 PM, 2026

**d. Joint Development Oversight Committee**

- i. Next Meeting, TBD, 2026

**e. Joint Solid Waste Commission**

- i. Next Meeting, TBD, 2026

**f. Transportation Policy Committee**

- i. Next Meeting, TBD, 2026

**g. Airport Commission**

- i. Next Meeting, Wednesday, January 28, 4:00 PM, 2026

**h. SPLOST Project Overview Committee**

- i. Next Meeting, TBD

**i. RFPR Advisory Committee**

- i. Next Meeting, Tuesday, December 16, 12:00 PM, 2025

**j. Floyd County Library Board**

- i. Next Meeting, Thursday, January 15, 4:00 PM, 2026

**XIV. MANAGER'S REPORT**

**XV. ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

Ms. Harman reported that the clerk's office has had a significant increase in open records requests in 2025 primarily from people posting police bodycam and wreck videos to YouTube pages. The number of requests number around 2,800 for the year. Redacting personal information from those videos is a lengthy process.

**XVI. CONSENT AGENDA**

Ms. Chumbler reported the consent agenda was in order. Mr. Burnes motioned to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Mr. Hancock. The motion carried 4-0.

- 1.** Consider request to approve amendment to contracts for Inmate Medical Services with Genesys Health Alliance at the Jail & Prison increasing the annual cost by 5.25% for 2026. This is included in the 2026 budget.
- 2.** Consider request to approve renewal of inmate detail contracts for 2026 with the following organizations:
  - City of Rome,
  - City of Rome Tourism - Forum
  - Rome/Floyd Sara Hightower Regional Library
  - Rome/Floyd Solid Waste Commission
  - Polk County
  - Bartow County
- 3.** Consider request from Sheriff's Office to approve the purchase of NearHub Board S65 Pro for Sheriff's Office in the amount of \$4,800.00 using technology grant funds. This purchase will be charged to the Sheriff's Office Equipment account and will require an increase of \$4,800 to the budget.

4. Consider request from Sheriff's Office to approve a change to the Central Square product from the Legacy Platform to the Cloud Platform. This will require no additional payment in 2026 above the contract amount. The new contract amount will start in 2027.
5. Consider request from County Clerk's Office to approve a change of ownership for consumption off premises beer and wine license and self- service fuel license to Gurminder Singh for R-S Food Mart LLC dba Mr. C's at 6280 Martha Berry Highway. All fees and signatures have been obtained by the application.
6. Consider request from County Clerk's Office to approve a change of ownership for consumption off premises beer and wine license and self- service fuel license to Qader Ali Mohammed for Rome 203 Inc. dba A-1 Food Mart at 203 Burnett Ferry Road SW. All fees and signatures have been obtained by the application.
7. Consider request from County Clerk's Office to approve change of ownership for consumption off-premises beer and wine license and self-service fuel license to Ahmad Farooq for Boala Company LLC dba Fast Trip #2 located at 9522 Alabama Highway. All fees and signatures have been obtained by the application.
8. Consider request from Parks and Recreation to approve a sponsorship contract for United Rentals at Alto Park.
9. Consider request from Airport to approve an agreement with the USDA Wildlife Services for wildlife management not to exceed \$7,499.95 using GL Account # 505650 - 52215, no budget increase is required.
10. Consider request from Purchasing to approve awarding the Electronic Waste Services Agreement to Cornerstone Technologies, Inc. This vendor supplied a responsive and responsible bid with the best pricing.
11. Consider request from Purchasing to award the Purchase and Hauling of Recyclable Cardboard Services Agreement to Georgia Power Harmon Recycling, LLC. This vendor supplied a responsive and responsible bid with the best pricing.
12. Consider request from Purchasing to approve awarding the Household Hazardous Waste Services Agreement to Clean Harbors in the amount of \$36,275.00. This vendor supplied a responsive and responsible bid with the best pricing.
13. Consider request from Purchasing to approve awarding Bid #25-036 "Porta Toilet Services Agreement" to S & W Septic and Portable Services, LLC. This vendor supplied a responsive and responsible bid with the best pricing for Floyd County. The cost is \$850.00 per event.
14. Consider request from Purchasing to deem the vehicles and equipment listed as surplus items to be auctioned on GovDeals.com. The Public Works Department Staff have examined the vehicles, and they have been considered unsalvageable for Floyd County use.
15. Consider request from Public Works to approve an application with GDOT for the Local Maintenance Improvement Grant in the amount of \$1,533,585. This is included in the 2026 budget and no change to the 2025 budget is required.
16. Consider request from Airport to for approval of application for installation of gas line by the City of Summerville for the SPLOST corporate hangar. There is no cost to the budget.

## **XVII. OLD BUSINESS**

## **XVIII. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Consider request from Purchasing to approve awarding the Exterior Renovations of the Floyd County Historic Courthouse to Midwest Maintenance, Inc. in the amount of \$474,300.00 using

2017 SPLOST Funds from GL Account # 319639 - 66123 - 60016. This amount includes \$50,000 additional in case there are change orders. This vendor supplied a responsive and responsible bid with the second lowest pricing. Midwest Maintenance, Inc. provided details in their proposal that was in the best interest of Floyd County for this project.

Mr. McCord presented the item to the commission.

Mr. Thornton motioned to approve, seconded by Mr. Hancock. The motion carried 4-0.

2. Consider request from Purchasing to approve the purchase of a used 15 Passenger Van for Public Works Inmate Transport from Prater Ford, Inc in the amount of \$29,500.00 using 2023 SPLOST funds from GL Account #320648-66144. This vendor was able to supply us with a used van that was on the lot and available immediately. This was not included in the original budget but is using savings from 2024 and 2025 cash flow. A budget increase of \$14,950 is required.

Mr. McCord presented the item to the commission.

Mr. Burnes motioned to approve, seconded by Mr. Hancock. The motion carried 4-0.

3. Consider request from Airport to approve change order for Runway 1/19 Extension - Jones Mill Relocation project with Bartow Paving.

Mr. McCord presented the item to the commission.

Mr. Thornton motioned to approve, seconded by Mr. Burnes. The motion carried 4-0.

4. Adopt FY26 Budget

Item #4 was deferred to the Jan. 13, 2026 meeting.

## **XIX. OTHER BUSINESS**

## **XX. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Ron Swinford addressed commissioners concerning Rome Floyd County Development Authority minutes, agendas.

## **XXI. ADJOURN**

Chair Watters said the commission entered into executive session to discuss property acquisition, litigation and personnel. No action was taken.

Chair Watters noted that the meeting was her last as chair and shared several accomplishments the commission achieved during her tenure as chair including: competitive pay, the completion of an airport runway extension, the moving of the police department to the former Glenwood Elementary School, passing the COAM ordinance, moving the elections office, passing the spay/neuter ordinance and furthering economic development in Floyd County.

Seeing no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned by common consent at 6:41 pm.