

**Charlton County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Commissioners Conference Room  
68 Kingsland Drive, Suite B  
Folkston, GA 31537  
Thursday, January 8, 2026  
6:00 PM**

1/8/2026 - Minutes

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

Present was Commissioner Jesse Crews, Chairwoman Alpha Benefield, Vice Chairman Luke Gowen, Commissioner Drew Jones, Commissioner James Everett, County Attorney Remington East, Interim County Administrator Rebecca Harden, and County Clerk Madeline Nettles.

All guests are recorded hereafter.

**Invocation and Pledge to the Flag**

The invocation was led by Chairwoman Benefield.

**Adoption of the Agenda**

Commissioner Crews made a motion to Adopt the Agenda as Presented. Commissioner Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Annual Appointments and Adoptions**

1. Motion to Appoint the 2026 Board of Commissioners Chairman  
Vice Chairman Gowen made a motion to Appoint Alpha Benefield as Chairwoman. Commissioner Crews seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Motion to Appoint the 2026 Board of Commissioners Vice Chairman  
Commissioner Crews made a motion to Appoint Luke Gowen as Vice Chairman. Commissioner Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Motion to Appoint Madeline Nettles the 2026-2027 County Clerk  
Vice Chairman Gowen made a motion to Appoint Madeline Nettles as County Clerk. Commissioner Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
4. Confirm Appointment of Remington East of Joe East Law as County Attorney  
Commissioner Jones made a motion to Confirm Appointment of Remington East of Joe East Law as County Attorney. Vice Chairman Gowen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.  
  
Interim County Administrator Harden clarified that services of Remington East, Joe East, and the entire firm are included in the appointment of Mr. East.
5. Motion to Approve the 2026 Board of Commissioners Meeting Calendar  
Commissioner Everett made a motion to Approve Board of Commissioners Meeting Calendar as Presented. Vice Chairman Gowen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Adoption of Minutes**

6. Motion to adopt the December 18th, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes

Vice Chairman Gowen made a motion to Adopt the Minutes as Presented. Commissioner Crews seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Presentations**

7. Hear Presentations from 4-H Students attending District Project Achievement in February

Brittney Whitehead, the Charlton County 4-H agent, was present.

Mrs. Whitehead explained to the Board of Commissioners what Project Achievement is and how the students prepare for it. Project Achievement takes place at Rock Eagle in February, where students will compete alongside 560 other youth from across the state.

Mrs. Whitehead introduced the student presentation for the evening, Jazmine Newvine.

- A. Presentation from Jazmine Newvine, 11th Grade 4-H Representative from Charlton County High School, on "How Technology Affects Children"

Jazmine Newvine, of Folkston, Georgia, was present.

Ms. Newvine is an 11th grader at Charlton County High School.

Ms. Newvine presented on How Technology Affects Children and Older People.

Chairwoman Benefield asked Ms. Newvine several questions, including if Ms. Newvine's interest in the topic was because she saw effects on herself. Ms. Newvine stated that this was a major reason.

Chairwoman Benefield asked if there were any ideas Ms. Newvine had on how to help others put down their phone or if she had any interest in finding solutions. Ms. Newvine said one of her goals is to help others. This is her second year doing public speaking on her topic, but she does not have any ideas on how to help others with this issue at this time. Chairwoman Benefield encouraged Ms. Newvine to continue on the path and complimented her on her presentation.

The Board expressed their compliments of the presentation to Ms. Newvine.

Vice Chairman Gowen thanked Ms. Newvine for sharing the topic with them and again complimented her on her presentation.

## **Public Hearings**

### **Petitions**

### **Purchasing Items**

### **Grants and SPLOST Project**

### **Agreements**

### **Ordinances**

### **Resolutions**

### **Miscellaneous**

8. Motion to Approve the 2026 Qualifying Fees

Interim County Administration Harden said all the fees are the same. The Board of Elections is required to get the qualifying fees approved and advertise them by February.

Commissioner Jones asked if the fees are supposed to reflect a portion of the positions' pay. Interim County Administrator Harden confirmed that it is 3% of the positions' pay.

Vice Chairman Gowen made a motion to Approve the Qualifying Fees. Commissioner Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Receive November 2025 Monthly Progress Report

No discussion was had.

**County Attorney's Action Items**

10. Motion to Enter Executive Session to Discuss Personnel

Vice Chairman Gowen recently spoke to Brenda Hodges. In July, they are going to implement handwritten ballots again. The Board of Elections has asked that the Board reach out to legislators and ask that we keep ballots the same.

Commissioner Crews recommended hearing public comments first before entering executive session. The board agreed. Comments were heard prior to executive session.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to Enter Executive Session to Discuss Personnel. Commissioner Crews seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board entered executive session at 6:36 PM.

The Board exited executive session at 6:58 PM.

No action was taken.

**County Administrator Comments**

At 6 :20 PM, prior to executive session, Interim County Administrator Harden updated the board on dump truck incident. The driver was not seriously injured and is recovering well. ACCG is aware of incident and is sending an adjuster to determine if the dump truck can be repaired.

**Public Comments**

Public Comments are limited to 3 minutes.

The floor for public comments opened at 6:21 PM, prior to executive session.

Deborah Milton of Jackqueline Lane, Folkston, Georgia was present.

Mrs. Milton was here today to talk about dirt road. Mrs. Milton said 15 or more years ago, the neighborhood had signed off on a ditch being put in, so another street could be paved. Ever since the ditch was put in, Mrs. Milton has had issues with the road. Mrs. Milton said she needs help and needs the road fixed. Every time it rains, the road washes out and the neighbors have to travel through people's yards to get passed it. Mrs. Milton said that she feels that the claims that the road is private is just an excuse to not have to maintain the road.

Dia Harris of Jackqueline Lane, Folkston, Georgia was present..

Mrs. Harris is also here to address the road issue. Mrs. Harris stated that they did not have the problem

with the road before they put the ditch on Mitchell Road. Mrs. Mitchell stated that "they" came door to door to convince them to give up the property in order to put the ditch in. The community was under the impression that "he" would maintain the ditch and the road. Another lady's property gets flooded when the ditch is full. Mr. Stager, previous mayor, was the one who was supposed to be maintaining the road, according to Mrs. Harris.

Jennifer Milton of Jackqueline Lane, Folkston, Georgia was present. Mrs. Milton has the same problem with the road. Mrs. Milton expressed her personal issues with the ditch and the road.

Commissioner Crews asked Ronnie Pollock, Director of Infrastructure and Development, if Jackqueline Lane was a private road. Director Pollock confirmed it was a private road. When the county asked for the drainage ditch, they agreed to maintain the road as needed. Director Pollock stated that they have been grading the road. The county never took control of the road. The county has a maintenance agreement for the ditch.

Deborah Milton stated that where the ditch was put, their deeds indicated that it was where the road was supposed to be.

Commissioner Jones asked what the problem with the road is. Director Pollock stated that water is running from their yards into the road. Citizens stated that the issues stem from Mitchel Street and did not happen before the ditch was put in.

Chairwoman Benefield ended the discussion.

Chairwoman Benefield thanked Mrs. Deborah Milton for teaching her something tonight.

Chairwoman Benefield informed Mr. East that there was some information from when Mr. Al Crace was the administrator and John Adams was the attorney. The county would need to go back into the records to see what was done. Chairwoman Benefield recalls that a meeting was held but there was no one in attendance other than the county, so the county could not move forward with signing the necessary paperwork for the county to be able to maintain the road.

Chairwoman Benefield asked Mr. East to go through the records and provide guidance on how to move forward.

Mrs. Deborah Milton alleged that they dug the ditch through Jennifer Milton's backyard illegally as well.

### **Commissioners' Comments**

At 6:58 PM, after executive session, Commissioner Crews mentioned that the Board needs to discuss auditorium. Commissioner Jones agreed.

Interim County Administrator Harden said the auditorium needs a new heat and AC unit, since the big units were the problem. The Board needs to think on how extensive they want to repair the sound and lights, as the project could become costly.

Commissioner Everett stated that the sign on Glenn Gibson Memorial bridge had been taken down.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on January 22nd, 2026, in the Board of Commissioners meeting room.

### **Adjourn**

Commissioner Crews made a motion to Adjourn. Commissioner Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:01 PM.

---

Alphya Benefield, Chairman

---

Madeline Nettles, County Clerk

## 2026 Charlton County BOC Meeting Calendar

**Meetings held on 1st and 3rd Thursday each month**

Time	Date	Location	
6:00 PM	8-Jan	Commission Chambers	Meetings for January changed due to New Year's Day
6:00 PM	22-Jan	Commission Chambers	
6:00 PM	5-Feb	Commission Chambers	
6:00 PM	19-Feb	Commission Chambers	
6:00 PM	5-Mar	Commission Chambers	Capital Connection Conference, Atlanta, March 4-5
6:00 PM	19-Mar	St. George	
6:00 PM	2-Apr	Commission Chambers	
6:00 PM	16-Apr	Commission Chambers	
6:00 PM	7-May	Commission Chambers	
6:00 PM	21-May	Commission Chambers	
6:00 PM	4-Jun	Commission Chambers	
6:00 PM	18-Jun	St. George	
6:00 PM	2-Jul	Commission Chambers	
6:00 PM	16-Jul	Commission Chambers	
6:00 PM	6-Aug	Commission Chambers	
6:00 PM	20-Aug	Commission Chambers	
6:00 PM	3-Sep	Commission Chambers	
6:00 PM	17-Sep	St. George	
6:00 PM	1-Oct	Commission Chambers	
6:00 PM	15-Oct	Commission Chambers	
6:00 PM	5-Nov	Commission Chambers	
6:00 PM	19-Nov	Commission Chambers	
6:00 PM	3-Dec	Commission Chambers	
6:00 PM	17-Dec	Commission Chambers	

Commission Chambers, Annex Building, 68 Kingsland Drive, Folkston, GA

St. George Meetings held at the Fire Station, 13063 Florida Avenue, St. George, GA

**QUALIFYING FEE FOR CHARLTON COUNTY OFFICES FOR 2026**

STATE LAW PERTAINING TO QUALIFYING FEES, O.C.G.A. SECTION 21-2-131, REQUIRES EACH COUNTY GOVERNING AUTHORITY TO FIX AND PUBLISH QUALIFYING FEES FOR COUNTY OFFICES NOT LATER THAN FEBRUARY 1 OF ANY YEAR IN WHICH A GENERAL PRIMARY, NONPARTISAN ELECTION, OR GENERAL ELECTION IS TO BE HELD.

<b>County Commissioner</b>	<b>\$180.00</b>
<b>School Board – Dist 1</b>	<b>\$109.20</b>
<b>School Board – Dist 3</b>	<b>\$110.40</b>
<b>School Board – Dist 5</b>	<b>\$110.40</b>
<b>Solicitor General</b>	<b>\$1,050.00</b>

---

QUALIFYING DATES FOR CHARLTON COUNTY CANDIDATES

**POLITICAL PARTY CANDIDATE QUALIFYING BEGINS MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2026 AT 9:00 A.M.**

**POLITICAL PARTY CANDIDATE QUALIFYING ENDS FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2026 AT 12:00 NOON**

---

# MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

CHARLTON COUNTY

November 2025

Program Manager: Kristin Bowie  
Health Coach: Jill Sloan  
Client Success Manager: Susie O'Brian

## Coaching

	Results Coaching Sessions	Follow Up Coaching Sessions
Totals	0	46

### Accomplishments from October

- Follow-Up Coaching
  - Coach Jill was onsite and completed 46 - follow-up coaching sessions
- Health Promotion
  - The November healthy break “Navigating the Holidays” was presented on three separate dates. Seven employees attended and learned how to better manage their stress around the holidays.
- Monthly Wellness Resources
  - An email blast & bulk text notification were sent to all wellness participants introducing the monthly health promotion resources that are available on the wellness portal.



*Congratulations!*

**Navigating the Holidays  
Healthy Break Raffle  
\$25 Gift Card Winners**

Clyde Lewis  
Sandra Bartram  
Marquise Davis  
Thomas Brantley



### Objectives for December

- Follow-Up Coaching
  - Coach Jill will be onsite to finish up the remaining follow-up coaching sessions.
- The December challenge “Maintain Don’t Gain” started December 1<sup>st</sup>. Five employees are enrolled in the challenge.
  - This challenge is designed to encourage participants to avoid weight gain during the holiday season by limiting alcohol consumption, eating lots of fruits and vegetables, getting adequate sleep, and staying active.
  - Participants will be entered into a \$50 gift card raffle.
- Monthly Wellness Resources
  - Continue to share the monthly health resources available on the wellness portal through email and bulk text notifications.

**WHAT'S HAPPENING FOR YOUR HEALTH** **ENGAGEMENT HEALTH GROUP**

**QUARTERLY CHALLENGE**  
Challenge runs December 1st - 28th  
Making healthy choices during the holiday season can be a challenge. Engage in healthy, sustainable habits during this 4-week challenge! Track your progress on the [Tracking Page](#) of the wellness portal!

**QUARTERLY HEALTHY BREAK**  
Learn more about how to better manage your emotional well-being during the holiday season. Watch a recording of this presentation on the [Learn Page](#) of the wellness portal!

**MONTHLY CAMPAIGN**  
December 1st - 31st  
Belly breathing helps control the nervous system and encourages the body to relax and calm down. Try it out on the [Learn Page](#) of the Wellness Portal.

**MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**  
Read this month's newsletter to learn more about how to slow down and be present this holiday season. The newsletter will be delivered to your email.

**DEC 2025**

**SCAN**  
QR code for newsletter

For more information, contact Member Support: [MemberSupport@ehg-inc.com](mailto:MemberSupport@ehg-inc.com)