

**Charlton County Board of Commissioners
Georgia Bend Fire Station Grand Opening & Dedication Minutes
Georgia Bend Fire Station
3464 Stokes Road
St. George, GA 31562
Thursday, April 16, 2026
5:30 PM**

4/16/2026 - Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM.

Present was Commissioner Jesse Crews, Chairwoman Alphya Benefield, Vice Chairman Luke Gowen, Interim County Administrator Rebecca Harden, and County Clerk Madeline Nettles.

Absent was Commissioner Drew Jones, Commissioner James Everett, and County Attorney Remington East.

All guests are recorded hereafter.

Adoption of the Agenda

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

Adoption of Minutes

1. Motion to adopt the April 2nd, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes

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

Georgia Bend Fire Station Grand Opening Ceremony

Vice Chairman Gowen made a motion to Open the Grand Opening and Dedication Ceremony. Commissioner Crews seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

County Administrator Harden provided the Welcome and Introductions.

Commissioner Everett entered the meeting at 5:32 PM.

Chairwoman Benefield provided General Remarks.

Chairwoman Benefield recognized all first responders.

Chaplan Jimmy Knight blessed the station.

Chief CL Lewis provided the Acknowledgments and spoke to the timeline and efforts that went into building the new station.

The meeting was temporarily paused for the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at 5:47 PM.

The Board, staff, and guests went to the front door of the fire station to take photos and cut the Grand Opening Ribbon.

The meeting resumed at 5:52 PM.

Georgia Bend Fire Station Dedication Ceremony

Vice Chairman Gowen Recognized Commissioner Crews.

Vice Chairman Gowen shared his personal experience with Commissioner Crews, as a Coach, as a commissioner, and a community member.

Chairwoman Benefield Dedicated the Georgia Bend Fire Station to Commissioner Jesse Crews Jr.

Chairwoman Benefield shared some of the accomplishments of Commissioner Crews and his history as a commissioner.

Chairwoman Benefield recognized previous County Administrator Hampton Raulerson, who worked with Commissioner Crews to put this new fire station build in motion.

Commissioner Crews shared some sentiments.

Commissioner Crews thanked Adam Bell, with Charlton Sports Net for broadcasting the Grand Opening. Commissioner Crews stated that the new Georgia Bend Fire Station has been a long time coming and talked about what it took to get it built.

Commissioner Crews recognized Gary Tippins, Chuck Edwards, Conner Edwards, and Skylar Harvey for their work constructing the building.

Commissioner Crews shared his experiences as a commissioner in Charlton County.

Commissioner Crews also recognized previous County Administrator Hampton Raulerson.

Commissioner Drew Jones arrived at 6:05 PM.

The Brantley County JROTC presented the colors at 6:13 PM, after a brief delay due to navigation issues.

Chuck Edwards and Gary Tippins present Commissioner Crews with the Dedication Plaque.

County Administrator Harden read the plaque.

Mr. Edwards shared a few words about Commissioner Crews.

Commissioner Everett blessed the food.

Adjourn

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

Passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:18 PM.

Light refreshments and tours of the fire station were available to attendees after the meeting adjourned.

Alphya Benefield, Chairman

Madeline Nettles, County Clerk