

**Charlton County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting Minutes
Commissioners Conference Room
68 Kingsland Drive, Suite B
Folkston, GA 31537
Thursday, July 2, 2026
6:00 PM**

7/2/2026 - Minutes

Call to Order

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

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

Absent was County Attorney East.

All guests are recorded hereafter.

Invocation and Pledge to the Flag

The invocation was led by Commissioner Everett.

Adoption of the Agenda

Vice Chairman Gowen made a motion to Amend to Include an Executive Session and Adopt the Agenda as Amended. Commissioner Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Adoption of Minutes

1. Motion to Adopt the June 18th, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes

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

Presentations

Public Hearings

Petitions

Purchasing Items

2. Motion to Approve the Purchase of a New Grapple Loader and Body

Ronnie Pollock, Director of Road and Infrastructure, was present.

The county has 3 grapple trucks and 2 of them have older bodies. This will put a new body on the second oldest truck.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to Approve the Purchase of a New Grapple Loader and Body. Commissioner Crews seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairwoman Benefield asked Director Pollock if he needed anything further. Director Pollock

declined.

Commissioner Jones talked about Director Pollock being short-staffed and having to work the trash truck himself.

Grants and SPLOST Project

Agreements

Ordinances

Resolutions

3. Motion to Adopt the Resolution for Open Roads Policy

Tiffany Yearwood, Director of Emergency Management, was present.

The Georgia Open Roads policy is endorsed by GDOT, The Georgia Department of Public Safety, and the governor.

Jeff Cotter with AtkinsRéalis, a contractor for GDOT, was present as well.

This program provides free training for safe clearance of roadways.

By adopting the policy, the county will be open for a grant opportunity of up to \$20,000 with no match requirement.

The policy blanket covers all departments of the county. All departments can put in for separate grant opportunities under this policy.

Commissioner Jones asked if Sheriff read it and was okay with it. The Sheriff had been provided a copy of the policy.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to Adopt the Resolution for Open Roads Policy. Vice Chairman Gowen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Jones asked about red lights in some areas of the county which had safety concerns.

Mr. Cotter talked about traffic studies and how he can help make the request through his internal avenues.

The Sheriff stated they had previously requested Indian Trail and US 1 be reviewed. GDOT did a traffic study and determined there was not sufficient traffic to warrant a red light. GDOT also turned down a safety crossing at St. George Elementary School.

Director Yearwood stated that she has also provided information to the cities, as they would have to adopt resolution separately in order to have access to the same grants.

Miscellaneous

County Attorney's Action Items

County Administrator Comments

Item was heard at 6:15 PM.

County Administrator Harden and Chairwoman Benefield went to the FLOST/LHOST meeting in Pierce County and brought back a packet for all Board members. County Administrator Harden is working on the FLOST study and will schedule a meeting with the cities to move forward.

County Administrator Harden met with GDOT last week for the airport inspection. Some things may be coming from that soon. GDOT will be sending an official report.

Commissioner Jones asked if the county is good for FLOST to be on the November ballot. County Administrator Harden said yes, but there are steps that have to be followed, which the county is working through now.

Chairwoman Benefield asked if the department heads or the Sheriff have any updates. Director Yearwood shared that EAS is active. Director Yearwood has posted the information on social media. All department heads and local stakeholders should have information as well.

Public Comments

Public Comments are limited to 3 minutes.

This item was heard at 6:18 PM.

Elaine Bailey, of Folkston, Georgia, was present.

Mrs. Bailey piggy backed off concern about US 1. Mrs. Bailey talked to Folkston, GDOT. Mrs. Bailey says not everyone yields at the yield sign like they should and that something needs to be done.

Chairwoman Benefield encouraged Mrs. Bailey to follow up with office next week regarding the phone conversation they had earlier.

Bill Murray, of Folkston, Georgia, was present.

The 9-and-10-year-old boys went to state this year. Mr. Murray thanked County Administrator Harden, Director Shivar, and Director Powell for their work that allowed the boys to experience this.

Mr. Murray would like the county to invest more money in these parks. Mr. Murray thinks baseball is coming back. Over last couple of years, there has been more and more kids signing up.

Commissioner Jones congratulated Mr. Murray and the children. Commissioner Jones thanked Mr. Murray for coaching and expressed his appreciation for all he does for community.

Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Jones shared birthday sentiments to Mrs. Sallie Chatman and stated that he would like to commend her again.

County Clerk Nettles updated the Board on the Junior Board of Commissioners.

Chairwoman Benefield advised everyone to have a safe 4th of July and asked that no one burn anything. Chairwoman Benefield thanked everyone for being present and asked everyone to pray for local government.

Commissioner Crews asked the directors if they have enough drinks to keep staff hydrated. If not, Commissioner Crews advised that they get it.

Sheriff Phillips said they are doing the annual July 4th road check today. They have several cases of water for this event.

Chairwoman Benefield stated board is not involved and has not been informed about Mr. Monroe Todd's Fourth of July event.

Commissioner Crews made a motion to Enter Executive Session to Discuss Possible Litigation and Real Estate. Commissioner Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board and staff entered executive session at 6:29 PM.

The Board and staff exited executive session at 6:50 PM. No action was taken.

Next Meeting

There will be a Special Called meeting on July 7th, 2026, at the Farm at Okefenokee.

The next Regular meeting will be on July 16th, 2026, in the Board of Commissioners Meeting Room.

Adjourn

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 PM.

Alphya Benefield, Chairman

Madeline Nettles, County Clerk

Item Narrative

Event #: **Department:** Infrastructure and Development **Date:** July 2, 2026

From: Ronnie Pollock, Director of Infrastructure and Development

Subject: Motion to Approve the Purchase of a New Grapple Loader and Body

Procurement Summary:

Cost: \$

Type of Procurement:

Contract Term (if applicable):

S/DBE:

Matrix (if applicable):

Funding Verification:

Total Funding Amount: \$133,600.00

Funding Source:

Budget Year	Fund	Department	Account
2020	320- SPLOST	Road- 42100	54-2601

Fiscal Impact Statement:

Narrative:

I respectfully request approval to purchase a new Grapple Loader and 20-foot body with a 30-yard capacity to replace the existing grapple body currently in service. The current grapple body was transferred to a new truck purchased several years ago and has continued to experience wear due to age and extensive use. Replacing the body will improve reliability, reduce maintenance costs, and ensure the continued efficiency of our solid waste collection operations.

Two quotes were obtained for the purchase and installation of the new grapple loader body:

- Sansom Equipment Company – \$133,600.00
- Solid Waste Applied Technologies, Inc. – \$140,600.00

Staff also attempted to obtain a third quote; however, no response was received from the vendor.

Both quotes include the removal of the existing body and the installation of the new grapple loader body. Representatives from both vendors have advised that the estimated delivery and installation timeframe is approximately six (6) months due to manufacturing lead times. Based on the quotes received, I recommend awarding the purchase to Sansom Equipment Company in the amount of \$133,600.00, as the lowest responsive quote.

Funding for this purchase will come from the 2020 SPLOST account.

I respectfully request the Board's approval to purchase the new Grapple Loader and 20-foot, 30-yard capacity body from Sansom Equipment Company in the amount of \$133,600.00.



QUOTE

QUOTE # SECQ9771

DATE Mar 26, 2026

CONTRACT CUSTOMER ID # 41512

CONTRACT # 040621-HMC

To: Ronnie Pollock
Charlton County (GA)
68 Kingsland Drive Suite B
Folkston, GA 31537-2872

Sales Contact: Katie Bielecki
706-912-5825
Katie@secequip.com

Phone: 912-496-4321
rpollock@charltoncountyga.gov

QUOTE STATUS	SHIPPING TERMS	DELIVERY IN DAYS	PAYMENT TERMS
Sourcewell	Customer Location	150 - 180 Days	Net Delivery

QTY	DESCRIPTION
1	Pac-Mac KB20 Grapple Loader with 20' Body and 30 yard capacity
1	Includes the following features: H-style outriggers Hot Shift PTO 6' Tip Boom with 4' Extend 10' Main Boom w/ Extend Tip Hydraulic Joystick Controls Paint: Red/Black Loader, Black Body Strobe Light on Pivot Boom Up Alarm Rear Post Corner Strobes (2) Additional strobe lights on rear body (2) Tail light boxes under body (4 hole light box) Single door with air latches Spring Assist Tarp Grapple Hook (armless window shade tarp) Tool Holders Outrigger strobe lights, amber
1	Removal of old body and mounting of new body
1	Chassis: Used International MV607 with older grapple currently mounted
1	Freight & Delivery - Folkston, GA

This quote does not include any federal, state, or local taxes.

* In stock equipment are subject to prior sale. *

This Quote is valid for 30 Days.

TOTAL \$133,600.00

BIRMINGHAM OFFICE

2800 Powell Avenue
Birmingham, AL 35233
Ph: (205) 324-3104
Fax: (205) 324-2679

MOBILE OFFICE

2025 West I-65 Service Road North
Mobile, AL 36618
Ph: (251) 631-3766
Fax: (251) 631-3768

SHELBYVILLE OFFICE

3196 Highway 231 North
Shelbyville, TN 37160
Ph: (615) 696-7066
Fax: (615) 413-5323

STONECREST OFFICE

2601 South Stone Mountain Lithonia Road
Stonecrest, Georgia 30058
Ph: (706) 685-6900
Fax: (706) 609-3491

STATESBORO GA OFFICE

207 Hal Averitt Blvd.
Statesboro, Georgia 30458
(912) 549-0005



QUOTE

Solid Waste Applied Technologies Inc
PO Box 2255
Vidalia, GA 30475
912-293-0099

QUOTE # Char0526

DATE Mar 26, 2026

CONTRACT CUSTOMER ID # 41512

CONTRACT # 040621-HMC

To: Ronnie Pollock
Charlton County (GA)
68 Kingsland Drive Suite B
Folkston, GA 31537-2872

Phone: 912-496-4321
rpollock@charltoncountyga.gov

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This quote does not include any federal, state, or local taxes.

* In stock equipment are subject to prior sale. *

This Quote is valid for 30 Days.

TOTAL \$140,600.00



Item Narrative

Event #: **Department:** EMA **Date:** July 2, 2026

From: Tiffany Yearwood, EMA Director

Subject: Motion to Adopt the Resolution for Open Roads Policy

Procurement Summary:

Cost: \$

Type of Procurement:

Contract Term (if applicable):

S/DBE:

Matrix (if applicable):

Funding Verification:**Total Funding Amount: \$****Funding Source:**

Budget Year	Fund	Department	Account
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Fiscal Impact Statement:	There is no direct fiscal impact associated with adoption of this resolution. Participation in the Georgia Open Roads Policy enhances opportunities for interagency coordination, training, and grant-funded resources that support traffic incident management and roadway safety initiatives.
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Narrative:

The Georgia Open Roads Policy is a statewide initiative endorsed by the Georgia Department of Transportation, the Georgia Department of Public Safety, and the Governor of Georgia to improve roadway safety, reduce traffic congestion, and minimize secondary crashes through the rapid and safe clearance of traffic incidents. The policy emphasizes that while public safety remains the highest priority, roadways should be reopened as quickly as conditions safely allow.

By adopting this resolution, the Board of Commissioners will demonstrate its commitment to nationally recognized traffic incident management practices, strengthen coordination among emergency responders, law enforcement, public works, and transportation partners, and support efforts that enhance safety for both responders and the traveling public. Participation also aligns the County with the Georgia Traffic Incident Management Enhancement (TIME) Task Force and may improve opportunities to leverage training, partnerships, and grant-funded equipment that support incident response and roadway clearance operations.

Recommended Action:

Approve the attached resolution endorsing the Georgia Open Roads Policy, affirming the County's commitment to safe and efficient traffic incident management and quick clearance practices, and authorize the Chairwoman to execute the endorsement resolution on behalf of the County.

Georgia Open Roads Policy

QUICK CLEARANCE COMMITMENT TO SAFETY AND MOBILITY



WHO'S INVOLVED?

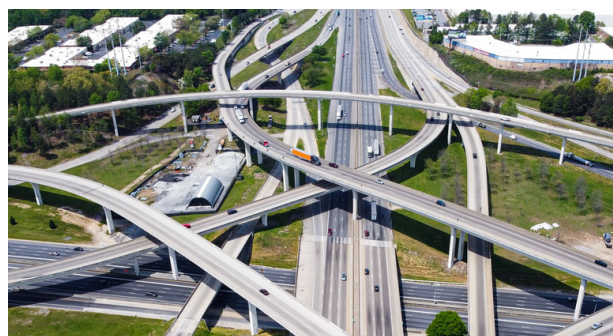
Public safety and other agencies, cities, counties, and businesses endorsing the Open Roads Policy receive recognition as TIME Task Force members.

HOW TO COMMIT

Agencies making the commitment to the Open Roads Policy will sign the Endorsement Resolution (found at www.timetaskforce.com) and return it to info@timetaskforce.com.

OVERVIEW

The Georgia **Open Roads Policy** (ORP) states that whenever a roadway or travel lane is partially blocked or closed by a traffic incident, the Georgia State Patrol, Department of Transportation, local law enforcement and other public safety agencies and responders will re-open the roadway as soon as possible.



BENEFITS

The Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) passed a resolution supporting the Georgia Open Roads Policy to boost efforts to reduce the metro area's traffic congestion while increasing driver safety. The ORP significantly reduces non-recurring delays and secondary crashes.



To fill out the ORP Endorsement Resolution Form, visit www.timetaskforce.com/time-initiatives/open-roads-policy/



For more information, contact us at info@timetaskforce.com and visit timetaskforce.com to become a TIME Task Force member.



Georgia Department of Transportation

Local Open Roads Policy

GEORGIA OPEN ROADS POLICY: QUICK CLEARANCE FOR SAFETY AND MOBILITY ENDORSEMENT RESOLUTION

AGENCY NAME

WHEREAS, the *Georgia Open Roads Policy*, signed in 2011 by the Georgia Department of Public Safety (DPS), the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), and the Governor of Georgia is the policy that suggests a new benchmark and standard for traffic incident response on Georgia roadways; and

WHEREAS, the *Georgia Open Roads Policy* states, in pertinent part, that public safety remains the highest priority during a traffic incident and that public safety agencies and traffic incident responders shall re-open the roadway as soon as possible on an urgent basis; and

WHEREAS, GDOT and the Traffic Incident Management Enhancement (TIME) Task Force recently developed the *2011 Georgia Traffic Incident Management Guidelines* as the recommended state-of- practice for traffic incident response, management, and clearance for Georgia roadways, and that these Guidelines complement the *Georgia Open Roads Policy*.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that _____ agrees that clearing the travel portion of a roadway is a high priority and that roadways will not be closed or restricted any longer than is absolutely necessary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that _____ will promote and advocate, where appropriate, the Quick Clearance principles and practices recommended by the *2011 Georgia Traffic Incident Management Guidelines*, before, during, and after a traffic incident; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that _____ is committed to participating in continuous collaboration with other state and local agencies concerning intra- and inter-disciplinary matters relevant to traffic incident management and quick clearance, including but not limited to training, research, evaluation, and education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that _____ hereby endorses
and now becomes an Official Party to the *Georgia Open Roads Policy*.

COMPANY NAME: _____

Address: _____

Signature

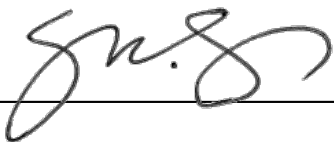
Printed Name: _____

Title: _____

Email: _____

Date: _____

TIME TASK FORCE

 _____

 _____

GDOT Grant-Funded Equipment (Past Recipients)

2022 Recipients

General Safety & Traffic Control Equipment

- Breakaway safety vests
- Traffic control vests
- Fold-and-roll traffic systems
- Flashlights
- Folding barriers

Vehicle & Apparatus Lighting

- LED compartment lighting systems

Aerial & Drone Equipment

- DJI drones (Grant withdrawn August 21, 2024)

Rescue & Forcible Entry Tools

- Alcolite extension ladders
- Safety footwear (safety shoes)
- Flathead axes
- Flamefighter sledgehammers
- Gooseneck crowbars

Traffic Control & Scene Safety Equipment

- Trailblazer panel bases
- Reflective materials
- Emergency response kits

Responder Safety Equipment

- HALTZGLOVES
- Traffic cones
- Streamlight Stinger flashlights
- Sequential rechargeable flares

2023 Recipients

Advanced Detection & Drone Technology

- Teledyne FLIR SIRAS Combo (thermal imaging drone system)

Traffic Control & Safety Equipment

- Safety vests
- Road flares
- Traffic cones

Emergency Warning Devices

- Magnetic LED flare kits
- Safety vests

Traffic Control Systems

- 28” 7.0 lb traffic cones with carrying cases
- 28” collapsible traffic cone kits

2025 Recipients

1. Drone & Aerial Response Package

- Parrot ANAFI UKR Drone Kit (SKU PF728450)
- Parrot ANAFI UKR Battery (FO070347)
- Hoodman Drone Launch Pad (3 ft., HDLP3)
- Parrot ANAFI UKR Online Training

2. Traffic Control & Scene Safety Package

- 28” collapsible traffic cones (set of 5)
- 28” rigid traffic cones
- 48” traffic control sign – “Emergency Scene Ahead”
- 36” traffic control sign – “Road Closed”
- Guardian Angel Light (White/Red – Micro Series™)

3. Incident Visibility & Warning Systems

- Message board models with L-brackets

- LED road flares
- Traffic cones with reflective collars
- PowerFlare cone-top adapters

4. Advanced Traffic Control & Flagger Equipment

- 36” “Road Closed” traffic control signs
- Orange sign overlays
- 28” rigid traffic cones
- 28” collapsible traffic cones (set of 5)
- Vertical panels with rubber bases
- LED road flare kits
- Flagger poles
- Stop/Slow safety paddles
- Stop/Slow paddle covers

5. Smart Messaging & Digital Alert Systems

- instALERT 24 Message Display Base Unit
- Mobile app & user interface license
- Hitch mount (1.25” & 2”)
- Portable folding post (standard)
- Mounting kit for iA24
- Carrying case (softcase with storage)
- PowerCase PC36 (36Ah power supply)
- Vehicle charging unit for PC36
- Messaging Suite subscription (12 months)

Summary Insight

Across 2022–2025, GDOT grant funding has primarily supported:

- Responder safety & visibility
- Traffic incident management equipment

- Advanced technology (drones & thermal imaging)
- Scene control & public warning systems
- Digital messaging and smart alert infrastructure