

**HABERSHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONER  
PLANNING RETREAT MINUTES  
9:00 A.M, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2026  
PIEDMONT UNIVERSITY STUDENT COMMONS  
375 GEORGIA ST, DEMOREST, GA 30535**

The Habersham County Board of Commissioners attended a planning retreat on Tuesday, February 24, 2026 starting at 8:30.m. at the Piedmont University Student Commons Meeting Room located at 375 Georgia St, Demorest, GA 30535. Presentations were held at 9:00 a.m. after breakfast. Present was Chairman Bruce Harknes, Commissioner Kelly Woodall, Commissioner Dustin Mealar, Commissioner Ty Akins, County Manager Tim Sims, County Clerk Brandalin Carnes, members of the media, the public and staff.

The topics of discussion were as follows:

| <u>TOPIC</u>                                     | <u>PRESENTER</u>                                                                 |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <b>Financial Update</b>                       |                                                                                  |
| a. Financial Update                              | Kiani Holden, Interim Finance Director                                           |
| b. SPLOST: Financial                             | Kiani Holden, Interim Finance Director                                           |
| c. Budget Process & Goals                        | Kiani Holden, Interim Finance Director                                           |
| 2. <b>SPLOST &amp; Capital Projects</b>          |                                                                                  |
| a. Radio System                                  | Kiani Holden, Interim Finance Director                                           |
| b. Fire/EMA/E911 Headquarters                    | Kiani Holden, Interim Finance Director                                           |
| c. Animal Control Facility                       | Kiani Holden, Interim Finance Director                                           |
| d. Other                                         | Kiani Holden, Interim Finance Director                                           |
| 3. <b>ABM GESPC</b>                              | Greg Icard, ABM, BES Account Executive                                           |
| 4. <b>FLOST/Pending Property Tax Legislation</b> | Phil Sutton, Sutton Consulting, President & Owner<br>Tim Sims, County Manager    |
| 5. <b>Fire Consolidation:</b>                    | Jeff Adams, Emergency Services Director<br>Thad Dixon, SEFCO, Founder & Co-Owner |
| 6. <b>Zoning and Unified Development Code:</b>   | Mike Beecham, Planning Director                                                  |
| 7. <b>Miscellaneous</b>                          |                                                                                  |
| a. Impact Fees                                   | Tim Sims, County Manager                                                         |
| b. HB 1114 & HB 1116                             | Tim Sims, County Manager                                                         |
| c. Customer Service Campaign                     | Tim Sims, County Manager                                                         |
| d. Web Site Updates                              | Brandalin Carnes, County Clerk                                                   |
| e. Historic Bell                                 | Tim Sims, County Manager                                                         |
| 8. <b>Wrap Up</b>                                |                                                                                  |

A quorum of the Commission was present throughout the retreat, and it was thus publicly noticed in advance as an open meeting, however no votes or official actions were taken at this retreat as it was meant to be informative in nature only.

The retreat ended at 3:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Bruce Harkness, Chairman

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Brandalin Carnes, County Clerk