

Warren County Board of Commissioners
Regular Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, July 8, 2025
4:00 p.m.

The Warren County Board of Commissioners met for their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, July 8, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. This meeting was held in the Warren County Community Service Building located at 48 Warren Street.

Call Meeting to Order

Chairman Graham called the meeting to order.

Prayer

Commissioner Allen L. Troy led the prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

County Clerk, Porsha Johnson did roll call. The following were present.

- ✓ John R. Graham, Chairman
- ✓ Allen L. Troy, Commissioner District 2

Staff Attending:

Danyelle Rus, Tourism & Technology Coordinator
Porsha Johnson, County Clerk

Guest Attending:

Kay Debeaugrine
Tammy Carden
Danyelle Rus
Adam Heagy – Ogeechee Riverkeeper
Dudley McGarity

Minutes Approval for June 2025:

Commissioner Allen L. Troy made a motion to approve June 2025 minutes and dispense with the reading of them. Chairman Graham seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Finance Report for June 2025:

County Clerk, Porsha Johnson read the Finance Report for June 2025.

A copy of this report will be placed in the Attachments to the 2025 Minutes.

Greater Clarks Hill Library Annual Service Agreement

The Greater Clarks Hill Regional Library has sent their service agreement for the upcoming fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2025. This agreement will be valid for six months, ending December 31, 2025. Warren County will receive a total of \$30,409.86, payable in six monthly installments of \$5,068.31. The funds will support a portion of the local library manager's salary,

retirement, and FICA expenses. Additionally, Warren County will receive an \$8,500 state-funded Materials Grant for the period from July 1 through December 31 of fiscal year 2026.

Chairman Graham advised the Board that Columbia County has notified the State of Georgia of its interest in establishing a stand-alone regional library. As a result, Burke, Lincoln, and Warren counties must determine the appropriate course of action. Warren County is currently unable to become a stand-alone library, as the State of Georgia requires an investment of one million dollars, which the county cannot afford. It has been approximately ten years since Warren County joined the Greater Clarks Hill System. We anticipate reaching a decision within the next few months.

Chairman Graham made a motion to approve the 6-months Greater Clarks Hill Regional Library Service Agreement. Commissioner Allen L. Troy seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

A copy of this agreement will be placed in the Attachments to the 2025 Minutes.

Solid Waste Fees

Chairman Graham noted that last month, discussions regarding Solid Waste Fees took place, resulting in a fee increase. However, upon further review, it was determined that most counties base their charges on volume, whereas our current structure is fee-per-pound. Continuing at the current increased rate would effectively double the cost per ton from approximately \$100 to \$200 and our neighboring counties' rates are significantly lower. Chairman Graham asked the Board to consider reverting from the current \$0.10 per pound to the previous rate of \$0.05 per pound.

Commissioner Allen L. Troy made a motion to resend \$0.10 per lb., solid waste fees and remain at \$0.05 per lb., but the tire rates will remain at the new rate. Chairman Graham seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

A copy of this notice will be placed in the Attachments to the 2025 Minutes.

Ricketson Road

Chairman Graham indicated that Ricketson Road requires milling and patching, with the goal of resurfacing the roadway next year. Due to the high volume of truck traffic, maintenance is especially important. Phillips Clearing and Grading has submitted a proposal requesting \$42,000.00 for milling and patching approximately 1,360 square yards of Ricketson Road. The quoted amount also covers restriping the areas patched.

Chairman Graham made a motion to approve Ricketson Road milling and patching and funds from T-SPLOST would pay for the work. Commissioner Allen L. Troy seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

A copy of this quote will be placed in the Attachments to the 2025 Minutes.

TIA Supplemental Agreement #2

Chairman Graham informed the Board that a Pre-construction meeting will be held on Thursday, July 10, 2025. He stated that the TIA proceeds are divided into two portions. 1) 75% is used to fund all projects on the region's final investment list, and 2) 25% is divided among all local

governments within the region to be used to fund individually selected transportation needs. He explained that there have been some changes in the estimated cost for milling and patching several roads. The roads are Mitchell, Mayfield, Five-points Jewell, Mt. Beulah Church, Cadley, Norwood-Camak, Little Brier Creek Church, Andrews Chapel, Garthright and Rocky Branch Church roads. Money will be added to cover the amount that it was increased by.

Commissioner Allen L. Troy made a motion to approve the TIA Supplemental Agreement #2. Chairman Graham seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

A copy of this agreement will be placed in the Attachments to the 2025 minutes.

Document Shredding

Chairman Graham informed the Board that the Old Jail/Old EMS Building has been used to store our old records for many years. We need to organize and clear out these records. While we will retain certain documents, records that are 10 years old and older are recommended for destruction. We have obtained a quote from Augusta Data Storage Options, and it would cost about \$3,000.00, for onsite record destruction services. Currently, we are in the process of scanning and preserving several documents that are required to be maintained in our digital records system.

Commissioner Allen L. Troy made a motion to approve using Augusta Data Storage for shredding the appropriate documents. Chairman Graham seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

EMS Billing

Chairman Graham stated that Warren County has been engaged in a contractual arrangement with McDuffie County for EMS billing services for several years. While this arrangement has been effective thus far, McDuffie County receives a 5% commission on collections. After consultation with a representative from Lowcountry Billing Services, Inc., it was determined that they can meet our needs by charging a fee of 4.5% of collections. Lowcountry Billing Services maintains a department dedicated to tracking unpaid bills and pursuing collections. This option has the potential to generate additional revenue for Warren County. It is understood that it is not possible to collect 100% of EMS billings; last year, outstanding bills totaled approximately \$120,000. Chairman Graham also noted that Medicaid and Medicare reimburse at fixed rates, regardless of the billed amount. County Attorney Scott Kelly has agreed to review any related documents prior to any formal agreement being signed.

Commissioner Allen L. Troy made a motion to approve changing and using Lowcountry Billing Services, Inc for EMS Billing starting September 1, 2025, pending Attorney Kelly's approval. Chairman Graham seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

A copy of this agreement will be placed in the Attachments to the 2025 Minutes.

Grand Jury Presentments

Chairman Graham announced that the July 2025 term of the Warren County Grand Jury convened on Monday, July 7, 2025. The Jury expresses its gratitude to Judge Hardin, District

Attorney Doupe and his entire staff, Clerk of Court Mrs. Cheeley-Lazenby, all participating law enforcement agencies, and the citizens of Warren County, GA. All financial reports were reviewed and deemed satisfactory. The recommendations presented were to increase the Grand and Traverse Jurors pay to \$50.00 per day and the Bailiffs \$65.00.

No Action Taken

A copy of this report will be placed in the Attachments to the 2025 Minutes.

Public Safety Building Parking Lot Project

Chairman Graham noted that the PSB Parking Lot Project was discussed last month. Following a change in the project scope, the RFP was issued a second time. The bid was awarded to Allstar Concrete on June 10, 2025. On June 17, 2025, Allstar Concrete received a letter requesting their bond and insurance documentation, which, once received, would allow us to proceed with the pre-construction notice. The contract stipulated that Allstar Concrete Inc had 10 days to respond. As of today, July 8, 2025, we have not yet received a response.

Approximately two hours ago, Chairman Graham was informed that the individual responsible for the surety bond had passed away, and Allstar Concrete Inc has requested additional time. Chairman Graham indicated that it is now mandatory upon the Warren County Board of Commissioners to decide whether to grant further extension or to proceed with the next responsible bidder.

Commissioner Allen L. Troy made a motion to give Allstar concrete, Inc., until Wednesday, July 16, 2025, to provide a signed contract and bond documents. If information is not received on time the Board will move forward by awarding the bid to the next responsible bidder. Chairman Graham seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Citizens Comments

Chairman Graham thanked all the citizens for attending the meeting and asked if anyone had any questions or concerns. Chairman Graham opened the floor.

Tammy Carden - I visited the Commissioner's Office and spoke with Porsha Johnson regarding information related to a proclamation for Bushnell, specifically concerning the individual who commissioned the first submarine.

Chairman Graham - Yes, Porsha mentioned that you stopped by the office. I will follow up with Jeffrey Fowler and Danyelle Rus at the Chamber to coordinate and obtain the necessary information.

Danyelle Rus, Tourism & Technology Coordinator - I will be participating in a Zoom meeting shortly and plan to address this during the session.

Adam Heagy – Has the solar company been in contact with the County?

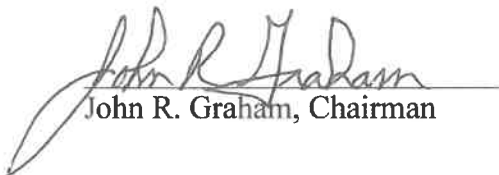
Chairman Graham – Yes, July 7th, and they inquired whether attorneys on both sides have established contact. The attorneys have had discussions about our land use procedures. Additionally, Ogeechee River Keepers and several community members have expressed concerns about having solar projects in the area.

Adam Heagy – Are any of the companies willing to share their information?

Chairman Graham – The company in question is RSW or RWS. This has been an ongoing process, lasting approximately eight months, during which we have only communicated with them three times. They have not yet initiated contact with the Development Authority but have expressed interest in pursuing rural agricultural development. Please note that there are several obstacles that must be addressed before this project can be considered further. Additionally, no formal written request has been submitted to Warren County at this time.

Credit Card bill was reviewed.

Meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.


John R. Graham, Chairman


Porsha Johnson, County Clerk