

August 3, 2026

At a scheduled meeting of the Walker County Commission held in their offices in the Walker County Courthouse Annex, Jasper, Alabama, at 9:30 a.m. on the 3rd day of August 2026, Chairman Miller gave the welcome and called the meeting to order.

After Chairman Miller gave the invitation for comment from citizens and other elected officials, Barbara Higgins called the roll, and Commissioners present were John Dunagan, Jeff Burrough, Jim Borden and Steven Aderholt.

Commissioner Aderholt gave the invocation and County Engineer Glenn Peek led the pledge of allegiance.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATION:

Chairman Miller read a thank you note from Ms. Deidre Tatum. The Chairman called our attention to a bird house on the conference table that was made at the facility and was presented to the Commission.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Dunagan to Approve the Agenda; and to Approve the New Vendor List for July 2026.

With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District One; Aye; District Two: Aye; District Three: Aye; District Four: Aye.

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

REPORTS FROM STAFF:

County Engineer Glenn Peek stated, "Currently, we are waiting on contractors for paving jobs and striping. They're not able to give me an updated schedule of when they will be moving in. And that's all I have at this time."

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

(1) Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of FY2026 Proposed Revenue Department Expenditure Budget Amendment to Reflect Mail Fee Revenue and Off-Set Expenditures.

After explanation by Revenue Commissioner Jerry Davis, Motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to Approve FY2026 Proposed Revenue Department Expenditure Budget Amendment to Reflect Mail Fee Revenue and Off-Set Expenditures.

With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District One: Aye; District Two: Aye; District Three: Aye; District Four: Aye.

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

(2) Motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Request to Re-Appoint Mr. Bobby Vining to Copeland Ferry Pumpkin Center Water Authority Board of Directors for a Six-Year Term.

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to Approve the Request to Re-Appoint Mr. Bobby Vining to Copeland Ferry Pumpkin Center Water Authority Board of Directors for a Six-Year Term.

With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District One: Aye; District Two: Aye; District Three: Aye; District Four: Aye.

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

(3) Motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Requested Changes to Business License Tables.

After explanation by Judge of Probate A. Lee Tucker and a brief discussion, Motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Borden to Approve the Requested Changes to Business License Tables.

With no further discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District One: Aye; District Two: Aye; District Three: Aye; District Four: Aye.

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

(4) Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of FY2027 Budget.

After explanation by Chairman Miller, Motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Borden to Approve FY2027 Budget.

With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District One: Aye; District Two: Aye; District Three: Aye; District Four: Aye.

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

(5) Motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of FY2027 County Transportation Plan for Rebuild Alabama Funds.

After explanation by County Engineer Glenn Peek and a brief discussion, Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to Approve the FY2027 County Transportation Plan for Rebuild Alabama Funds.

With no further discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District One: Aye; District Two: Aye; District Three: Aye; District Four: Aye.

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

None.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Dunagan stated, "I need to add number 6 to the Agenda."

Motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to add to the agenda number 6, Discussion and Approval of Walker County Firefighter Association Agreement (for use of a trailer) and to

allow the Chairman to sign the paperwork.

With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District One: Aye, District Two: Aye; District Three: Aye; District Four: Aye; Chairman Miller: Aye.

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

(6) Motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Walker County Firefighter Association Agreement (for use of a trailer) and to allow the Chairman to sign the paperwork.

After Chairman inquired of the County Attorney Charles R. Stephens, Jr., who stated that everything appeared to be in order covering all the liability issues and keeps the County protected, and explanation by Chairman Miller, Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Dunagan to Approve the Walker County Firefighter Association Agreement (for use of a trailer) and to allow the Chairman to sign the paperwork.

With no further discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows District One: Aye; District Two: Aye; District Three: Aye; District Four: Aye.

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Commissioner Dunagan continued: "Thank everybody for coming. I appreciate all our employees. Again, we work for you, the citizens of Walker County, we're trying to do everything we can with what we've got."

Commissioner Burrough stated: "I want to thank everybody for attending today. I got a couple of road issues, Glenn, I want to ask you about. I know Wiregrass has said this -- And I keep in contact with them, too -- But on Old 78 Highway they come back -- "

County Engineer Glenn Peek stated: "No. They have not. That's what I was asking them."

Commissioner Burrough continued, "It's past due, striping."

County Engineer Gleen Peek responded, "Striping, yes, sir."

Commissioner Burrough continued: "So, we need to pressure them, I guess."

County Engineer Glenn Peek further responded, "I have some. And I intend to more. We also have Central Alabama Paving in District Four has not, as far as I know; they may have come back and we didn't know it on Empire Road to finish the striping on that one too. So, we're at the mercy of the contractors most of the time on these projects. That's the problem with it."

Commissioner Aderholt stated: "Yeah, I would like to address that in just a minute."

Commissioner Burrough continued: "Also, too, I would like to make a note, Glenn, that we had to put the 2027 Transportation Plan in District Two -- that'll be Ripley Road this year, it's about a 5-mile road, I'll have to put extra money with it, I'm sure, to get it completely done -- It's a big main artery in District Two, and that's what we put on the 2027 plan, Rebuild Alabama money.

Also, Mr. Terry, the Mayor of Nauvoo, has made me aware that they received, Water Authority for the town or city, funding to upgrade or do maintenance to their water tank. It will affect Slick Lizard Road and there may be some temporary closures on it, off and on, for the next couple of months, so we are going to address that with contractors and just make that -- make the public aware that we may have to close it down periodically for the next couple of months."

Commissioner Borden stated: "I want to thank everyone for being here. All I've got is what we are talking about now. Just so people on Tubbs Hill, Brown's Bridge Community, down in there, the delay in getting the road resurfaced is going to be the delay in the contractors getting to the projects. So, the road will be, unless something detrimental happens between now and the end of the year, the

road should be fixed by sometime late summer or early fall, hopefully. I think we've run into October/November in the past trying to -- Once they get their work schedules -- this being Wiregrass and our subcontractors that we use, they stated that the road is going to be resurfaced. That's all I have. Well -- I apologize. Withdraw. Also, what we were talking about our grants, the grant that our engineer alluded to; we applied for two years on this Brown's Bridge Road. This is a lot of the problems you run into. We have an idea what we can anticipate, moneywise, to do these projects, but then they hold you over a barrel, in a sense. You're waiting for them to open their grants through the State of Alabama, and being denied last year, earlier this year at least one time, I think two, correct, Glenn?"

County Engineer Glenn Peek responded: "Yes, sir."

Commissioner Borden continued: "On the Rebuild Grant deal?"

County Engineer Glenn Peek responded: "Yes, sir."

Commissioner Borden continued: "So, that puts my planning, it's hard to really come up with when you can do this. So now that I've been denied the second time, the money that I can use has put us into the point where we are again at the mercy of the contractors instead of having this sorted out earlier in this year, possibly being able to move on repairing the road now. The continued delays of you not being able to receive any extra monies through the state; it just puts us further and further behind on our projects. What we will do, and it shorts us some \$400 -- \$425,000 that you try to plan on using your monies to do other projects, so that you will have a large scope of projects to make it better for the citizens. But I just want to say that we apply. The Engineer applies. But Montgomery does not seem to think that Walker County needs anything. I have -- I read on Facebook, I'll throw this in there; there are other counties surrounding us that have got monies for road repairs, and some of them are substantial amounts of money. I've been here five years, going on six now, I guess. I have yet to receive, other than a Flood Plane Grant, a couple of years ago, and that grant was because, well, they've got extra money and it met the criteria. But as far as getting meaningful money through grants for the roads in District Three, it's not

happening. Not because I haven't asked; we just don't get cooperation out of Montgomery and that, that's where we stand today. I'm done."

Commissioner Aderholt stated: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank everybody for being here today. Obviously, I echo what Mr. Borden says; it's a tough business sometimes, trying to get these roads paved, not through any fault of our own. Certainly, if we had all the money and all the contractors and all the time, we would pave every road tomorrow. But we have been stuck in this situation for years and I've been here long enough to now know that -- I've seen what's happened in the years with contractors in Alabama, regionally, at least regionally. I won't name names, but we had contractors many years ago that were our go-to contractors that got most of the bids for road work. Well, Alabama Gas Tax passed and Rebuild Alabama monies come in and those contractors seem to be pulled away from these smaller jobs like we have in the county to much larger state jobs. Well now we're kind of getting back to that same situation. We've had new contractors come on the scene and now the same thing is happening again where the Rebuild Alabama monies that would pave smaller roads, smaller projects, these contractors bid on these projects and then they seem to be pulled away and distracted, for lack of better terms, to much larger projects through the State of Alabama. That leaves us continuing to need to get road projects done with very few or limited contractors, and as our engineer says, you know, we are kind of at the mercy of our contractors. I wish it wasn't that way. So, my suggestion would be to at least have a conversation about expanding the scope of what contractors could possibly be available to us in the future other than just those that are just right here locally, or even regionally.

Again, we've got projects with money in-hand ready to be done; some of them are small projects, but at the end of the day, we can have money, we can have the desire to let the contracts and the contracts be bid, but we can't have contracts without contractors. You know. We're peddling our wheels here. I don't want to do that. I don't want to delay things just for the lack of contractors, so it

seems to me the obvious choice would be to expand our search for potential contractors.

So, with that said, I've got several projects in District Four that are waiting on, not the money, we have the money ready to go, it's just for the contractors to get back in town to do what they've got to do. I've got projects waiting to get finished up – on Campbellsville Road, I've got line striping that is waiting to be done; I've got reflectors waiting to be put down. Those are all things that have been tentatively contracted out and approved. We are just waiting on the situation where we can have the contractors get back off their larger jobs and get back to these smaller projects. I don't want to call it smaller. It's substantial money. It's substantial money and these are citizens driving these roads, including myself, so I mean, I want to see these things done as soon as possible."

County Engineer Glenn Peek: "If I could, also, our contractors have been limited because of larger companies buying out the smaller companies and that's happened with paving and with striping. We might have three or four options, but then it goes back to two options. It rotates. We will have smaller companies come up. Also, we have one asphalt plant that is local, and that's where most everybody, all these other contractors, buy their asphalt from that larger company, so if they are paying their price, and that's why the larger company tends to be able to bid lower than the smaller contractors do."

Commissioner Aderholt continued: "Yeah. And I'll add to that; the Alabama Gas Tax, the Rebuild Alabama monies is not a total solution to road paving. I know people got really frustrated when the Alabama Legislature passed that 10-cent gas tax years ago. The lions-share of that goes to the State of Alabama and not to the counties, but it has helped. We have been able to do some things that we would not have done, so I'm thankful for what we are getting from those. But, the missing link in all of it just seems to be getting contractors that are able to do the work. "

Chairman Miller stated: "Well, I, too, would like to thank everybody for coming to the meeting and being involved in your county business. A couple of things our August -- next August meeting has been cancelled. We voted on that, I think a meeting or two meetings ago, and we will be at the ACCA, a lot of stuff going on there, and then we will come back September the 7th at 9:30 will be our next regularly scheduled meeting. And, like they're talking about, about these roads, you know, as an old contractor in a different business not road related, but a lot of times I would have customers who would want to come spend money but I could only do so much work and that is kind of what happens here and as the smaller contractors are out, they've sold out or went out of business for some reason, retired; it just makes it tough to find these folks. So, I definitely understand that.

Our airport -- Ms. Janet is here. Tell us a little bit about the airport paving and where we are at as far as the airport goes at this time."

Janet Adams replied, "Well, we've got the airport paved, so far. Our next step would be the striping. We've got striping down but it's only temporary and the next step would be that."

Chairman Miller continued: "Okay. All right. But the runway is back open and they've been using the runway, so our airport is back up and going. And we appreciate Ms. Janet for all of her hard work here that she has been doing on the airport. And I know these contractors, and this has been a major project so, along with road paving and this kind of thing, we see this. And, of course, I would like to remind everyone, the monies that were available for the airport is from the FAA and ALDOT for airports only, could not be used for road paving money. So, I want to reiterate that because that's always something people say something about.

And, our county is seemingly doing pretty well. We're short-funded. We always need more funds. We certainly would like to, as a lot of these commissioners said, pave every road in this county. That is our goal. But without the \$180-million or so that we need, it's hard to do it on a \$15-million -- \$16-million budget, it just won't happen, okay? So, just keep that in mind.

With that said, I would entertain a motion to adjourn.”

ADJOURN:

Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt that this meeting be adjourned to reconvene at the next regularly scheduled meeting or at the call of the Chairman.

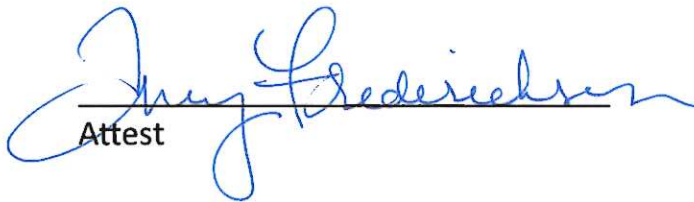
With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District One: Aye; District Two: Aye; District Three: Aye; District Four: Aye.

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Read and Approved:



Chairman



Attest