

Minutes
Liberty County Board of Commissioners
March 19, 2026
Mid-Month Meeting

1. The meeting was opened by Chairman Lovette, with Commissioners Stevens, Thrift, Blount, and Gilliard in attendance. Commissioners Walden and Frasier were absent.
2. The Chairman certified compliance with the Georgia Open Meetings Act.
3. Mr. Joseph Mosley offered the invocation prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Lovette requested an amendment to the agenda to add Mr. John Howkins to present the Agreement for Provision of Probation services for the State Court of Liberty County, Georgia.

Commissioner Thrift made a motion to amend the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Stevens, and approved by all Commissioners in attendance.

4. Departmental Reports:

- A. District Attorney: D.A. Billy Joe Nelson presented the District Attorney's annual report to the Board of Commissioners and answered their questions.
- B. State Court: Mr. John Hawkins presented the Agreement for Provision of Probation Services for the State Court of Liberty County. The agreement is made as of April 1, 2026, by and between Southeast Corrections, LLC, a Georgia limited liability company, and Liberty County, Georgia. Mr. Hawkins answered the board's questions.

Commissioner Gilliard made a motion to approve the agreement, seconded by Commissioner Stevens, and approved by all Commissioners in attendance.

- C. Code Enforcement: The Code Enforcement agenda item will be briefed by Mr. Mosley during agenda item 5. A (3).
- D. Finance: Ms. Samantha Richardson briefed the board on the January 2026 financial report. Ms. Richardson and Mr. Mosley answered questions from the board. Chairman Lovette commended the Finance department on a job well done during the audit and for all the work they do for the County.
- E. Engineering:
 1. Mr. Trent Long presented the monthly engineering report and answered the board's questions. Mr. Long stated that Mr. Ferrell Mobley would like to donate 35' of right of way from Williams Road to the County. Williams Road is an existing county-maintained dirt road off of Curtis Road in District 3. T.R. Long Engineering prepared a plat and presented it to the board for approval of the right-of-way transfer.

Commissioner Thrift made a motion to amend the agenda to add the acceptance of 35' of the right of way from Williams Road, seconded by Commissioner Stevens, and approved by all Commissioners in attendance.

Commissioner Thrift made a motion to accept Mr. Mobley's donation of 35' of right of way from Williams Road to the County, seconded by Commissioner Stevens, and approved by all Commissioners in attendance.

2. Mr. Long presented the board with a bid from Sittle Construction for Freedman Grove Road roadway improvements. The work will consist of removing and replacing approximately 180 square yards of asphalt pavement. T.R. Long Engineering, P.C. recommended that the board enter into a contract with Sittle Construction, Inc in the amount of \$322,066 plus a 10% contingency.

Commissioner Blount made a motion to enter into a contract with Sittle Construction, seconded by Commissioner Stevens, and approved by all Commissioners in attendance.

3. Mr. Long briefed the board on the proposals received for the Susie King Taylor Park at Jones Creek landscaping project. The proposals were reviewed and scored by a selected committee. Based on the scoring results, the review committee recommended that the board enter into a contract with C.A. Sittle, Inc., in the amount of \$117,821, plus a 10% contingency.

Commissioner Stevens made a motion to approve going into contract with C.A. Sittle Inc. in the amount of \$117,821 plus 10% contingency, seconded by Commissioner Thrift and approved by all Commissioners in attendance.

5. New Business:

A. Resolutions to Consider:

1. Mr. Joseph Mosley briefed the board on a resolution of intent to consider the abandonment of Drum Point Way in District 1. Mr. Mosley informed the board that the homeowners' association filed an official petition with the County. Still, the law requires us to send letters to the property owners informing them that there will be a public hearing on Thursday, April 16, 2026, at 5 PM to consider the formal abandonment of Drum Point Way. Mr. Mosley answered the board's questions.

Commissioner Stevens made a motion to accept the intent to abandon Drumpoint Way, seconded by Commissioner Gilliard, and approved by all Commissioners in attendance.

2. Commissioner Blount briefed the board regarding his conversations with Jeff Rickson and several others concerning the abandonment of Sunshine Campground Road in District 4. Commissioner Blount was informed that an individual has purchased that entire area and would like the road to become private. Commissioner Blount said he does not have a problem issuing the road to him. There will also be a public hearing concerning the abandonment of Sunshine Campground Road on Thursday, April 16, 2026, at 5 PM.

Commissioner Blount made a motion to consider giving Sunshine Campground Road to the property owner, seconded by Commissioner Stevens, and approved by all Commissioners in attendance.

3. Mr. Mosley briefed the board on a resolution to convert the code enforcement position from part-time to full-time. Building and Licensing will use existing funds, so there will not be an increase in their budget. The full-time position will start on July 1, 2026. Mr. Mosley stated that Mr. Mullis wanted to report to the board that he wants to focus on cleaning up major gateways in our community. Chairman Lovette asked the citizens of Liberty County to help us with the appearance of our major gateways and to move abandoned vehicles and other debris from their front yards. Our code enforcement agency will have someone focusing on keeping Liberty beautiful. The intent is not to penalize anyone; we will work with you, as long as you work with us. Let us all make a community effort to improve Liberty County's appearance. Chairman Lovette also stated that he will ask other municipalities to adopt the same program or the same emphasis in their respective communities so we can make it a County-wide effort. The Commissioners are willing to work with citizens and will listen on a case-by-case basis.

Commissioner Stevens made a motion to approve the conversion of the code enforcement position starting July 1, 2026, seconded by Commissioner Thrift and approved by all Commissioners in attendance.

B. Summer Foods:

1. Mr. Mosley updated the board on the Summer Foods program and requested the appointment of Ms. Nichelle James as Summer Foods Coordinator. Ms. James has gone through training from Brightway Food to facilitate the program. The board has funded improvements to the Liberty County Community Complex and certified it as a kitchen; therefore, Ms. James will be able to provide hot meals for the Summer Foods program as well as any future needs, including FEMA

disasters. We will provide hot lunches to football teams from Liberty and Bradwell High Schools during their summer practices. Mr. Mosley answered questions from the board.

Commissioner Gilliard made a motion to approve Ms. Nichelle James as Summer Foods coordinator, seconded by Commissioner Blount, and approved by all Commissioners in attendance.

C. Building and Licensing:

1. Mr. Mosley briefed the board on an alcohol application from Mr. J. Patel for a one-day special event. The event is the Rotary Club's annual fundraiser; the application meets all required criteria. Mr. Mosley answered the board's questions.

Commissioner Stevens made a motion to approve the one-day special event alcohol application, seconded by Commissioner Thrift, and approved by all Commissioners in attendance.

D. EMS Furniture Proposal:

1. Mr. Mosley stated that, working with Mr. Brown, we sent out proposal requests to furnish the new EMS building and received a single proposal from a vendor. The proposal from VIP to furnish the new EMS building for \$79,496.34 came in under our anticipated furniture estimate. The EMS building is scheduled to be ready by May 2026.

Commissioner Gilliard made a motion to accept VIP's bid to furnish the new EMS building, seconded by Commissioner Stevens, and approved by all Commissioners in attendance.

Mr. Mosley reminded the board that we will be holding our County Family Fun Day on Saturday March 21, 2026, at the Stafford building on the LIT campus.

6. Executive Session:

Commissioner Gilliard made a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters and consult the County Attorney, seconded by Commissioner Stevens and approved by all Commissioners in attendance.

Commissioner Stevens made a motion to exit executive session, seconded by Commissioner Thrift, and approved by all Commissioners in attendance.

Mr. Kelly Davis spoke to the board regarding operations at our Animal Control facility. Operations had been suspended pending an internal review and inquiries by the Department of Agriculture. Those inquiries and reviews have been completed, and we have agreed to enter into a consent order with the Department of Agriculture that resolves all regulatory concerns and allows operations at the Animal Control facility to resume. The consent order has been presented to the board, and Mr. Davis asked the board to vote to authorize the Chairman to execute the order and return it to the Department of Agriculture.

Commissioner Gilliard made a motion to authorize Chairman to execute the consent order as presented by Council, seconded by Commissioner Thrift and approved by all Commissioners in attendance.

10. Adjourn:

Commissioner Stevens made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Gilliard, and approved by all Commissioners in attendance.

LIBERTY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

SIGNED:

Donald L. Lovette, Chairman

Gary Gilliard, Vice-Chairman

Marion Stevens, Sr., Commissioner

Justin Frasier, Commissioner

Connie Thrift, Commissioner

C. Timmy Blount, Commissioner

Eddie J. Walden, Commissioner

Attest:

Joseph M. Mosley, County Administrator