

**GARLAND COUNTY, ARKANSAS**  
**SPECIAL ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, PUBLIC WORKS & BUILDING**  
**COMMITTEE**  
**FEBRUARY 23, 2026**  
**MINUTES**

**ESPWB Committee Members Present:** Chairman Young, Vice-Chair Hunter, Justice Bailes, Hooten, Peters, and Edds.

**ESPWB Committee Members Absent:** None

**Also Present:** Citizens, Officials, Staff, and Media

---

### **1. Call to Order**

Chairman Young called the meeting to order. Justice Braughton delivered the invocation, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

### **2. Senior Citizens Center – Project Update**

Chairman Young opened discussion regarding the progress of the Senior Citizens Center construction and requested an update from County Judge Mahoney.

Judge Mahoney reported that the concrete slab has been completed and that building framework is currently underway. He stated that discussions are ongoing with the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) and the City of Hot Springs regarding road access to the facility. He also noted that a geographical study has been completed by Crafton Tull. The Judge indicated he will continue pursuing grant opportunities and private donations to support the project.

Chairman Young inquired about the accounting process for donations. Judge Mahoney stated that a designated fund will be established through the Treasurer's Office to properly account for contributions. Chairman Young requested notification once the fund is established and able to accept donations. Judge Mahoney agreed.

Barry Breeding and David French of French Architects distributed photographs of the construction progress and provided an overview of the project status.

Mike Harrison of Harrison Construction, serving as project manager, reported that significant progress has been made and indicated that roof installation is anticipated in the near future.

---

### **4. Agency and Community Partner Updates**

Representatives from the Area Agency on Aging — Barbara Flowers, Logan Gaither-Fisk, and Tanya Sawrie — addressed the committee regarding current meal services being provided both onsite and through delivery. They expressed enthusiasm about the progress of the new facility and the opportunities it will provide.

Kathy Packard, representing the Oaklawn Foundation, discussed senior programs currently offered and described how the new facility will enhance program delivery and community engagement.

County Librarian Adam Webb stated that the Garland County Library would be pleased to collaborate in offering programming at the new center. Ms. Packard acknowledged and commended the library's existing partnership and contributions to senior services.

LeDante Walker, a member of the City of Hot Springs Planning Commission, was introduced. The committee discussed potential collaboration with city transportation services to assist seniors with access to and from the new facility. Additional discussion followed regarding current and future program offerings.

Chairman Young spoke about how the Garland County Extension Office – Master Gardeners could be utilized.

Judge Mahoney asked Kari Barber Bars to speak, and she said that she is excited to see the progress and she would love to see the music added, but mostly she would like to see programs on technology for the seniors.

---

## **5. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

---

**Respectfully submitted,**



Susan Ashmore, CPA  
Garland County Comptroller