

**Minutes of Called Meeting
Elbert County Board of Commissioners
June 11, 2026**

- 1) Vice-Chairman David Hunt called the meeting to order. Commissioner Casey Freeman, Commissioner Chris Alexander, Commissioner Mike Scoggins, Commissioner Freddie Jones, County Administrator Allen Hulme, CFO Macie Witcher, County Attorney Bill Daughtry, County Clerk Tamara Butler. Chairman Lee Vaughn was absent.
- 2) After the pledge to the United States flag the invocation was given by Mr. Daughtry.
- 3) **Adoption of the Agenda.** Commissioner Freeman made a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.
- 4) **Public Comments on Agenda Items.** There were no public comments.
- 5) **Executive Session to discuss litigation.** Commissioner Alexander made a motion to enter Executive Session; seconded by Commissioner Jones. The motion passed 5-0.

Upon returning, Commissioner Freeman made a motion to enter General Session; seconded by Commissioner Alexander. The motion passed 5-0.

Vice Chairman Hunt stated no action was taken.

- 6) **Adjournment.** Commissioner Alexander made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Commissioner Scoggins. The motion passed 5-0.

**Minutes of Public Hearing
Elbert County Board of Commissioners
Thursday, June 11, 2026 5:30 PM**

- 1) Discussion of the proposed FY2027 Budget. Mr. Hulme gave a presentation of the FY2027 budget detailing some of the challenges we are facing in the upcoming year. Overall, the General Fund budget is \$18,210,000 with over half of that for Public Safety. There has not been much growth in the county. There is only about a \$250,000 increase in the tax digest. Health insurance cost increased by \$176,200. Public Safety increase in the budget was \$946,300 which includes School Resource Officers. He stated that when working on the budget that salaries, health insurance and day to day expenses would increase. Overall General Fund budget increase including School Resource Officers is

\$1,254,010; which is a 7.4 % increase. The overall budget increase is \$3,839,200. He explained the reason for such an increase in public safety is high call volumes, increase in emergency cost, growing service demands; unfortunately, we are facing longer response times due to increased work load. Also, we are looking at over the next year or two having to add another crew per shift due to the volume of calls we have. Mr. Chuck Almond, EMS Director also spoke about recruitment and retention challenges. Mr. Hulme stated he is also proposing in this budget to add a 401A for employees with the county matching up to 1 percent.