

**Upson County Board of Commissioners  
July 28, 2015 Meeting Minutes**

Call to Order

Chairman Blackston calls the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. All Commissioners are in attendance. County Attorney Heath English was also in attendance. The Invocation was led by Commissioner Wilder and Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Blackston.

Minutes

A motion is made by Comm. Spraggins, with a second from Comm. Wilder, to adopt the July 14, 2015 regular meeting minutes. The motion carries.

Commissioner Wilder – Yes Commissioner Ellington – Yes  
Chairman Blackston – Yes Commissioner Hudson – Yes  
Commissioner Spraggins – Yes

Public Comments

Ed Webber, 650 By Pass Road, stated that he had received a citation from Code Enforcer Susan Morris for not have trash service. He stated that he did not need the service because he recycled everything. He stated that his neighbor was also cited for using a trash service from Lamar County. Comm. Ellington stated that he would check into this and get back with Mr. Webber with more information. Chairman Blackston stated that he appreciates Mr. Webber for recycling and the board is working on the ordinance and maybe they can add a clause for recycling.

New Business

- a. Chairman Blackston presented the budget amounts for the 2015-2016 mid-year budget. All of the budgets remain the same except one.

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
GRIFFIN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT BUDGET	\$ 176,673.00	\$ 176,673.00
McIntosh Trail CSB Counseling Center	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 75,000.00
Upson County Health Department	\$ 200,873.00	\$ 200,873.00
Pine Mountain Library System	\$ 176,602.00	\$ 176,138.00
Dept of Family Children Services	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
Public Defender	\$ 365,402.00	\$ 365,402.00
DA Griffin Judicial Circuit	\$ 200,143.00	\$ 200,143.00

The only one that is a joint project is Pine Mountain Library System. Chairman Blackston read the following.



**McIntosh Trail**  
Mental Health ♦ Developmental Disabilities ♦ Addictive Diseases  
Community Care for Individual Needs

Serving Counties: Butts, Fayette, Henry, Lamar, Pike, Spalding, Upson  
Upson Counseling Center  
P O Box 486  
713 Andrews Drive  
Thomaston, GA 30286  
Phone 770-358-5252  
Fax 706-646-6039

June 11, 2015

MEMORANDUM

TO: Upson County Board of Commissioners  
FROM: Rosemarie Hardeman, Center Director  
RE: FY 2016 Budget

The total operating budget for FY 2016 is \$806,607.00

The Upson County Counseling Center provides services to approximately 700 to 800 Upson County residents and their families. An array of treatment services are available to Upson County individuals experiencing problems associated with chronic mental illness and substance abuse.

One of the most significant effects on our budget for FY2016 will be a cut in our Grant-In-Aid funds from the state for Community Service Boards and this center and will be replaced with a Fee For Service payment system. We continue to experience a decrease in revenue due to the unemployment in Upson County, but have continued to provide the same level of care.

**The Upson County Counseling Center continues our excellent collaborative relationship with the Upson County Sheriff's Department. At present the Counseling Center is continuing to go to the jail for diagnostic assessments, and continues to provide crisis intervention and psychiatric medical services to the Upson County Jail at NO COST TO THE COUNTY.**

We also provide specialized programs that include anger management, three Mind-Over-Mood anxiety and depression groups, substance abuse ASAM Level I group.

This year we have had to add more M.D. time through telemedicine as well as another clinician because of the States' closings of some hospitals throughout Georgia. The State of Georgia feels that individuals with mental illness need to be served and treated in their own communities.



In FY2016, we will be also be providing services in the Upson County School Systems.

In addition, our services include Diagnostic/Psychiatric Medical Assessments, Individual and Family Counseling, Crisis Intervention, Community Support Services, Nursing Assessments, Inpatient Services at Pinewoods in Griffin, GA, referral assistance to other inpatient facilities and access to many other programs provided by McIntosh Trail CSB throughout the seven counties.

We provide the above services with a very small staff of qualified individuals. All of McIntosh Trail CSB services are certified by CARF.

I would like to take this opportunity to again thank the Board of Commissioners for all you do for us year after year. The Upson County Counseling Center *will not*, at this time, request an increase. We are requesting the county continue its current level of funding at \$75,000. We remain appreciative and feel blessed for the support from the board and the continued commitment you have in assuring quality behavioral healthcare for this community. If additional information or clarification is needed, please do not hesitate to let me know.

A motion is made by Comm. Ellington, with a second from Comm. Spraggins, to accept the budgets as presented. The motion carries.

Commissioner Ellington – Yes Chairman Blackston – Yes  
Commissioner Hudson – Yes Commissioner Spraggins – Yes  
Commissioner Wilder – Yes

A motion was made by Comm. Spraggins with a Second from Comm. Wilder giving Chairman Blackston permission to sign the contract for Public Defender (Indigent Defense Services for Upson County) to go along with the budget. The motion carries.

Chairman Blackston – Yes Commissioner Hudson – Yes  
Commissioner Spraggins – Yes Commissioner Wilder – Yes  
Commissioner Ellington – Yes

County Manager, Commissioners and County Attorney Comments

**County Manager Jim Wheeless** was not in attendance.

**Commissioner Spraggins** had no comments

**Commissioner Hudson** had no comments.

**Commissioner Wilder** had no comments.

**Commissioner Ellington** had no comments

**County Attorney Heath English** had no comments.

**Chairman Blackston** asked the Board if they had thought about a date for a reoccurring work session. The Board agreed to the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of every month at 9:00 am.

Adjournment

Comm. Spraggins made a motion to adjourn at 6:20 pm, with a second by Comm. Ellington to adjourn the meeting. The motion carries.

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Chairman Rusty Blackston

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Commissioner Steve Hudson

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Commissioner Frank Spraggins

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Commissioner Lorenzo Wilder

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Ralph Ellington

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NOT IN ATTENDANCE  
Jim Wheeless, County Manager