

**Houston County Commissioners Meeting
January 6, 2026
Perry, Georgia**

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 6, 2026, at the Houston County Courthouse in Perry, Georgia. Chairman Perdue presided, and Commissioners Byrd, Gottwals, Robinson, and Talton were present. County Attorney Tom Hall, Director of Administration Robbie Dunbar, and Director of Operations Brian Jones were also present.

Commissioner Talton gave the invocation.

Commissioner Gottwals led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Mr. Gottwals, and carried unanimously by all to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2025, meeting.

Mr. Gottwals presented a request for approval of the Guaranteed Maximum Price proposal submitted by Parrish Construction.

Motion by Mr. Gottwals, second by Mr. Byrd, and carried unanimously by all to approve the GMP for \$1,679,073.00, submitted by Parrish Construction Group, Inc., of Perry, Georgia. This project will be funded by reserve funds and was included in the FY25 Budget.

Chairman Perdue thanked Public Works staff and the Commissioners who participated in the process to secure the GMP.

Ms. Robinson presented a request for approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Sheriff's Department.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Talton, and carried unanimously by all to approve Chairman Perdue signing a MOU between the Houston County Board of Commissioners and the Houston County Sheriff's Department for fingerprinting applicants and obtaining background checks for alcohol licenses, solicitors, peddlers, and taxicab licenses.

The MOU, with a term of January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2027, states the roles and responsibilities of each party.

This agreement may be amended only by a written agreement signed by each agency head.

Chairman Perdue explained that the County works with the Houston County Sheriff's Department to conduct background checks for certain businesses and that the State requires the County to renew the Memorandum of Understanding Agreements every two years and that it was time to renew the MOU to satisfy that State requirement.

Ms. Robinson presented a request to declare items surplus.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Byrd, and carried unanimously by all to approve declaring 17 monitors, 27 desktop computers, and 5 walk-behind mowers surplus to be sold on GovDeals.

Mr. Byrd presented a request for approval of a bid for a truck to be used in the Roads and Bridges area of Public Works.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Gottwals, and carried unanimously by all to approve the bid from Phil Brannen Ford of Perry, Georgia, for one new F-550 Cab & Chassis to replace a 2020 F-550 with a blown engine. This purchase of \$72,077 will be paid from 2018 SPLOST funds.

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Chairman Perdue stated that the truck being replaced was the old sign truck, and that with the type of work it does, installing signs, it tends to idle a lot. He further stated that gasoline engines do not like to idle for long periods, which necessitated replacing the old truck with a diesel model.

Mr. Byrd presented a request for approval to fill the upcoming Director of Management Information Systems vacancy.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Gottwals, and carried unanimously by all to approve appointing Will Davis as the Head of the MIS Department, a position that will become vacant upon Gail O'Quinn's retirement, with an effective date of January 5, 2026. Personnel has reviewed his qualifications and confirms that he qualifies for placement at Grade 33, Step B.

Mr. Byrd congratulated Mr. Davis on his exemplary service in the County and thanked him for his work benefiting the citizens of Houston County.

Chairman Perdue commented that the choice of Mr. Davis to fill this role was an easy one and that he looks forward to his impact on the MIS Department. He also thanked Gail O'Quinn for her work with the County. He stated that it will be important for Will and Gail to work together before her retirement in March. Chairman Perdue also welcomed Mr. Davis's wife, Courtney, who was also in attendance.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Ms. Robinson, and carried unanimously by all to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$5,288,150.15.

Chairman Perdue opened the floor for Public Comments.

Mr. Daniel Newman spoke about his concerns with the Houston County Sheriff's Office.

Mr. Scotty McKenzie spoke regarding the process related to his request for Cane Mill Road to be paved.

Mr. Robert Sharples thanked the Board for their efficiency and for rolling back taxes and encouraged them to seek grants to help the County offset costs.

Fire/HEMA Chief Chris Stoner thanked the Board and Chairman Perdue for their support of the new HEMA warehouse. He thanked Chairman Perdue for his comments at the groundbreaking ceremony held the previous day. He thanked the Board for their fiscal responsibility that allowed for the funding of the warehouse and the support of Parrish Construction in building it at a low construction cost. He stated that the construction of this HEMA warehouse will benefit not only the Fire Department, but also the Sheriff's Office, which will take over the existing HEMA warehouse for its own storage needs. He concluded by stating that the City of Perry will be teaming up with the County on emergency alert notifications. He said this will allow Perry to send emergency notifications using the same method and manner as the County, at no additional cost to the city.

With no further comments Chairman Perdue opened the floor for Commissioner Comments.

Mr. Byrd extended holiday greetings, saying he hoped everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. He expressed his appreciation to public safety and Public Works officials who were working during the holidays and remained on call. He congratulated Chief Chris Stoner on receiving the Robins Regional *Robins Leads Community Service Award* and concluded by congratulating the Perry High School Band for its participation in the Sugar Bowl Parade and for being selected as one of eight high school bands to participate in the parade.

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Mr. Talton expressed his excitement for the coming year in Houston County. He thanked the citizens for their comments and congratulated Chief Stoner on the groundbreaking of the new HEMA warehouse. He also congratulated Mr. Will Davis on being selected as the next Director of Management Information Systems.

Ms. Robinson commented that she felt 2026 would be a great year for Houston County. She thanked everyone for coming and participating and congratulated Chief Stoner and Mr. Will Davis. She concluded by wishing everyone a happy New Year.

Mr. Gottwals commented that hiring Mr. Will Davis to fill the MIS Director position was an easy decision and congratulated him on the appointment. He then wished everyone a Happy New Year and concluded by quoting a Warner Robins native, Jonathan Davis, *“To commit to new habits is to put yourself in a position to fail. But that doesn’t mean it’s foolish to commit to new habits. As our old friend G.K. Chesterton said, anything worth doing is worth doing badly.”*

Chairman Perdue wished everyone a Happy New Year and remarked that “goals are trials we choose.” He spoke about the HEMA warehouse groundbreaking event that took place the previous day and noted that the warehouse will promote efficiency for Houston County, Middle Georgia, and the State. He thanked Public Works personnel for their work on the site and their cooperation with the building contractor, Parrish Construction. He discussed new beginnings in the new year and stated that his goal is for the County to continue delivering efficiency with a high level of service to County residents. He concluded his comments by sharing that his wife had left a note on his vehicle with the Bible verse Ecclesiastes 9:17, “The words of the wise heard in quiet are better than the shouting of a ruler among fools,” and expressed his appreciation for the sometimes quiet, but always wise and deliberate manner in which the Commission does its work.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Talton, and carried unanimously by all to approve adjourning the meeting. Meeting adjourned.

Robbie Dunbar
Director of Administration

Chairman

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

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