



ROUND TABLE MEETING MINUTES

Carroll County Board of Commissioners

February 10 & February 11, 2026

Callaway Gardens

500 Southern Pine Drive, Pine Mountain, GA

Bayberry 3 & 4

Michelle Morgan, Chairman	P	Stacey Blackmon, County Attorney	P
Montrell McClendon, D-1	P	Avery Jackson, County Attorney	P
Clint Chance, D-2	P	Sandra Huey, County Clerk	P
Tommy Lee, D-3	P	Alecia Searcy, Finance Director	P
Steve Fuller, D-4	P	Ashley Hulse, Communications Director	P
Ben Hicks, D-5	P	Bill Twomey, ACCG	P
Danny Bailey, D-6	P	Alicia Vaughn, ACCG	P

Present = P A = Absent

February 10, 2026

WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER – Day 1

Chairman Michelle Morgan welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. She introduced Bill Twomey and Alicia Vaughn with ACCG.

SOLID WASTE SERVICES

Public Works Director Danny Yates presented information about current waste hauling contracts, including contracts for hauling services from convenience centers to the transfer station and from the transfer station to a landfill. Solid Waste Director Ben Skipper discussed the operations of the convenience centers and the transfer station and future challenges faced with attempting to maintain current service levels. Mr. Yates and Mr. Skipper discussed actions, approved by the Board of Commissioners and taken by staff over the past year, that have mitigated the increased costs from the County's current waste hauling vendors while maintaining current service levels.

The Commission engaged in a deliberative discussion regarding potential cost mitigation strategies and proposals related to the escalating costs of maintaining current services. Consensus was reached to pursue the following cost savings strategies:

- At the March 2026 meeting, the BOC will consider taking the following action: after the new transfer station is completed and opened (which is expected to occur before July 2026), the site of the current transfer station will be the only location where furniture will be accepted by the County for disposal. Due to the costs involved in hauling furniture from the convenience centers to the transfer station, furniture will no longer be accepted at the Carroll County convenience centers. This will result in estimated savings of a \$1.2 million per year.
- At the March 2026 meeting, the BOC will consider plan to implement user fees and passes for the County convenience centers, in order to offset increasing costs and reduce

the burden of funding solid waste through property taxes. Research for fees and services of other cities and adjoining counties were discussed. Consensus was to consider a fee that is lower than fees of cities and surrounding counties. The fee of \$50 per year and 50% discount for seniors (65 - same age as for homestead exemption) was discussed. County staff will explore method for issuing passes – decal or hang tag, kiosk, phone with QR code, etc. Information will be shared to make public aware that the County fees are lower. Enforcement challenges were discussed, and hopefully honor system will prevail. Action item would include moving convenience centers to the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund, which will still need to be subsidized by General Fund for the time being.

- At the March 2026 meeting, the BOC will consider an increase of the fee to \$70 per ton at the transfer station (same as trash) due to the labor involved in processing and hauling brush and lack of market to sell processed brush.
- County to consider bids for professional services from vendors for hauling trash from the convenience centers to the transfer station, in an effort to obtain a more competitive price per haul and decrease the current and future hauling expenses. This proactive action is needed because last year the vendor increased rate from \$1.5 million to \$3.2 million.

Former Fire Station in Villa Rica - Commissioner Chance presented estimates for the following actions:

- \$75,000 –cost to clean up and restore building and install fence and gate. Consensus was to proceed with cleaning up the building to consider at future meeting.
- \$500,000 for underground tanks for possible fueling station and for storage. Includes \$30,000 for due diligence for possible fueling station. More info was requested by Commissioners to see if fuel savings are worth it and if other users (i.e., City of Villa Rica and Temple) would participate. ACCG said that many counties charge a small surcharge.

Roads – Commissioner Chance said that the painting of lines has been helpful and hopes this work will continue. Chairman noted the County took advantage of Safe Streets grants, and the Finance Director noted that Mr. Yates does a good job of doing the work with LMIG funds, when they are available.

Villa Rica Veterans Park – Commissioner Chance discussed the new park and will explore the opportunity to help to bring back to the Commissioners for consideration.

Millage Rate Planning – Carroll County has a locked-in floating homestead exemption, which results in savings to homeowners on county taxes, even if it's a partial roll-back. Carroll County had the 19th lowest millage rate out of 159 counties in 2024. ACCG mentioned that there has been approximately 22% inflation over last 5 years, which is a strain on the County's budget, so kudos to the Commissioners on keeping the millage rate low. Commissioners are able to give input about full and partial rollback during the budget process.

Break for lunch – 12:08 – 1:30

Community Development

Annexations – Chairman Morgan has asked Avery Jackson to draft a letter for all Commissioners to sign to send to our local legislative delegation explaining how the current annexation process leaves counties and citizens in the unincorporated areas without a voice and allows a hook and catch method like the recent proposed Temple data center to annex agricultural land into cities. ACCG suggested that it might help if other counties join in the effort.

Ordinances for Technology Uses

Discussed ordinances for battery plants, data centers, renewable power, and commercial solar farms with reasonable restrictions on such projects and designated areas (such as industrial) where the uses might be allowed and require conditional use permit. ACCG will send sample ordinances and mentioned that the comp plan could specify soil types for commercial solar farms. Community Development staff and Avery Jackson, along with Commissioner Bailey, will work on drafts for consideration.

Agritourism discussed. No action needed.

Future Land Use Map – The Commissioners reviewed the FLU map, and asked Community Development staff to review future residential areas that should instead remain agricultural around the following areas: Bowdon, Carrollton, south Carroll County, along Tallapoosa River, Hwy 61 and Shady Grove running north from Carrollton. Reminder that Villa Rica TAD Agreement addresses some annexation issues.

CAD Update

Jack Dougherty with Mission Critical Partners called in to give update on CAD RFP that was recently approved by the BOC. He discussed pros and cons of adding Law Enforcement Records Management System (LERMS) and Jail Management System (JMS) to the RFP, as recommended by the User Board. There is a wide range of pricing depending on whether the County selects cloud-based or on premises systems. The fees presented would be for all users, so the County's portion for LERMS would be less since only for the Sheriff's Office. Consensus to consider at March meeting to issue RFP for all 3 products (CAD, LERMS, JMS) and retain CMP services for up to \$134k, and giving the Chairman authority to negotiate the fees.

The Service Delivery agreement states that if expenses for 911 exceed the funds generated from the surcharge (\$1.50 fee), the excess will be shared pro rata based on call volume. Each District Commissioner will talk to their cities re sharing cost of with CAD and JMS, and if they want to buy their own LERMS. Finance Director was asked to help with a term sheet to be provided to the cities for those discussions.

Increase in Dwellings 2003 – 2005 – data was shared and discussed impact that this growth has on the County's budget for service delivery for fire, etc.

ADJOURNMENT – Day 1

There being no further discussion Chairman Morgan adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

February 11, 2026

WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER - Day 2

Chairman, Michelle Morgan, reconvened the meeting at 8:30 a.m.

Employee Retirement Plan Review

Lori Blackmon, HR Director, introduced Kale Hodges and Valeria Greene with ACCG Retirement Services, which provides retirement services to 135 out of 159 counties. They described services that could be provided if the County elects to change providers from Nationwide to ACCG, including employee monthly meetings and education at no extra cost, retirement target date funds, board that will handle the fiduciary responsibilities, and lower administrative fees (savings of \$100k+ per year) to participants. ACCG will send a one page summary of stability and reasons for change would be helpful.

Pay Parity for Judges

Discussed pay parity for Juvenile Court Judge, Probate Court Judge and Magistrate Judge. There was consensus to include in the supplements any raises given to all employees in the upcoming budget. The Commissioners were mindful that that State might increase base salaries for probate and magistrate judges.

Audit Presentation – Julie George and Will Merritt, Rushton – a clean report was issued.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Chairman Morgan adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:


Sandra Huey, County Clerk


Michelle Morgan, Chairman

