AGENDA PUBLIC HEARING 4:30 P.M. June 2, 2025

- 1. Call to Order
- 2. Fiscal Year 2026 Budget
- 3. Adjourn

Board of Commissioners of Candler County Public Hearing June 2, 2025 4: 30 P.M.

The Board of Commissioners of Candler County held a public hearing on Monday, June 2, 2025, at 4:30 p.m., in the Commissioners' boardroom at 1075 East Hiawatha Street, Suite A, Metter, Georgia. The public hearing was held for the purpose of receiving public comment concerning the FY2026 budget proposed County Maintenance and Operations and Special Revenue budgets for the 2026 fiscal year. Those attending the meeting were Candler County Commission Chairman, Brad Jones; Candler County Commissioners David Morales, Jonathan Williamson and Tre' Ross; Candler County Administrator, Bryan Aasheim; Candler County Attorney, Kendall Gross; Candler County Clerk, Kellie Lank.

Guest attending the called meeting included Candler County Sheriff, John Miles; EMA Director and Sheriff's Captain, Justin Wells; Sheriff's Deputies, Miguel Aviles and Stanley Slater; EMS Director, Xavier Winkler, IDA Director Hannah Mullins and IDA Chairman Dustin Durden. Citizens Curtis and Fronnie Barlow, Anne H. Childs and Jerri Goodman representing the Metter Advertiser.

Call to Order

Chairman Jones called the public hearing to order at 4:31 p.m.

Discussion of the 2026 Fiscal Year Budget (Exhibit A)

Chairman Jones invited all attendees to speak and offer comments on the proposed FY2026 budget. However, only two individuals, Ann H. Childs and Dustin Durden, chose to address the Board. Both asked questions pertaining to the budget, while no other attendees offered remarks or inquiries.

During the budget discussion, the County Administrator provided a detailed overview of how departmental and constitutional officer budget requests are compiled and evaluated, mainly for the newly elected board members. Particular attention was given to the Extension Office, where the bulk of salary costs had already been agreed upon, and only a modest increase was requested by Suzannah Lanier, Candler County Extension Coordinator/4-H Youth Development Agent. Much of the discussion centered around the future of the AmeriCorps position, as funding changes at the federal level may prevent rehiring. Mrs. Lanier suggested exploring a work-based learning student as an alternative, while commissioners debated the cost and value of such positions, including student wages and productivity. Ultimately, they agreed to retain the \$3,000 in the budget for now and reassess next year.

A comprehensive review of general fund revenues followed, with updated figures based on year-to-date collections. Administrator Aasheim highlighted modest growth in several areas, such as the timber tax and penalties and interest, while acknowledging uncertainty in others like state court fines and property not on digest. LOST revenues were conservatively projected, and potential revenue from the future FLOST referendum was excluded due to its uncertainty. Overall, Administrator Aasheim presented a General Fund budget of \$11,692,601, reflecting an

18.73% increase, largely due to jail-related costs, but balanced against adjusted revenue estimates to maintain a small surplus.

The Special Service District (Fund 270) was reviewed as well, showing balanced revenues and expenditures totaling approximately \$1,540,600. Key budget items included garbage collection, zoning salaries, and a proposed dedicated code enforcement position. Concerns were raised about animal control services and their cost-effectiveness, with the County Administrator noting possible future restructuring.

Finally, discussions acknowledged upcoming challenges related to IT and building maintenance, along with personnel compensation. Although no broad COLA was included, market-based adjustments were considered. The demolition of the old jail was deferred, with FEMA and general fund support anticipated in the next fiscal year.

With no further comments, Chairman Jones ended the hearing at 4:55 p.m.

Kellie Lank, Clerk

Chairman Brad Jones

Candler County FY2026 County Budget Summary

			PROPOSED BUDGET - A	LL	FUNDS		
1300 Secutive	Fund #	Division #				FY25 EXPENDITURES	Over/(Under)
1300 Secutive		1100	Legislative			\$ 95,420	
1400 Service		1300	Executive				
1510		1400	Elections				
1535		1510	Administration				
1345		1514	Board of Equalization			\$ 6,550	
1545		1535	Information Technology			100	
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