

AGENDA
CALLED MEETING
August 22, 2025
8:00 A.M.

1. Call to Order
2. Invocation and *Pledge of Allegiance*
3. Approval of the Agenda
4. To reset the proposed public hearing schedule as required for a millage rate increase.
5. Executive Session – Personnel
6. Adjournment

Board of Commissioners of Candler County
Called Meeting
August 22, 2025
8:00 a.m.

The Board of Commissioners of Candler County met for a called meeting on Friday, August 22, 2025, at 8:00 a.m., in the Commissioners' boardroom at 1075 East Hiawatha Street, Suite A, Metter, Georgia. Chairman Brad Jones presided with Vice-Chairman Blake Hendrix and Commissioners David Morales, Jonathan Williamson and Tre' Ross were in attendance. Also attending were County Administrator Bryan Aasheim (remotely), and County Clerk Kellie Lank. County Attorney Kendall Gross did not attend this meeting. The Metter Advertiser was notified of the meeting, but did not have a representative in attendance.

There were no citizens attending this meeting.

1. Call to Order

Chairman Jones called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Vice-Chairman Hendrix delivered the invocations and Chairman Jones led the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

3. Approval of Agenda

Vice-Chairman Hendrix made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Morales provided a second. The motion carried 3-0.

At 8:04 a.m., Commissioner Jonathan Williamson (District 2) entered the meeting

4. To reset the proposed public hearing schedule as required for a millage rate increase.

Administrator Aasheim reported that the advertisements for the proposed public hearings on the millage rate increase had not been published correctly in the newspaper. The paper acknowledged the error. After consulting with ACCG, he noted that posting on the county website would technically keep the county compliant with the original schedule, but proceeding without re-advertising could create challenges and delay tax billing.

He further noted that the City of Metter experienced the same issue and had to restart its process, while the school board had not yet advertised. To ensure correctness and avoid disputes, Administrator Aasheim recommended re-advertising and restarting the schedule.

The following revised schedule was proposed:

- Wednesday, September 3, 2025, at 8:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, September 3, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, September 11, 2025, at 8:00 a.m.

A called meeting was also proposed immediately following the September 11 morning hearing to consider adoption of the millage rate. Administrator Aasheim explained that while the date of the third hearing was flexible, state law requires at least seven days of public notice, and publication deadlines limited the options. Chairman Jones confirmed that the 7:00 p.m. hearing on September 3 would satisfy the statutory requirement for one evening hearing. He stated he had no objections to the proposed schedule.

Motion to Reset Public Hearing Schedule

Chairman Jones made a motion to reset the public hearing schedule for the millage rate increase as follows:

- Wednesday, September 3, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. (1st Public Hearing)
- Wednesday, September 3, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. (2nd Public Hearing)
- Thursday, September 11, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. (3rd Public Hearing)
- Thursday, September 11, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. (Called Meeting)

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Morales. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0 (Chairman Jones, Vice-Chairman Hendrix, Commissioner Williamson, Commissioner Morales).

5. Executive Session –Personnel

Chairman Jones moved to exit into Executive Session to discuss personnel at 8:06 a.m. Commissioner Williamson provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

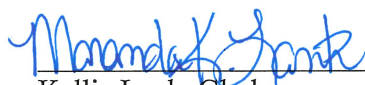
Commissioner Ross entered the Executive Session at 8:10 a.m.

Chairman Jones moved to exit Executive Session and reconvene the regular meeting at 8:44 a.m. Commissioner Ross provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

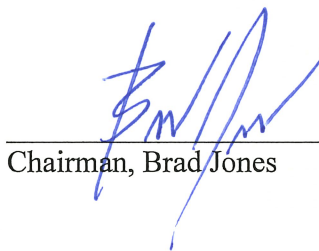
Chairman Jones moved to authorize the signing of the *Closed Meeting Affidavit* certifying that executive session was for personnel. Commissioner Morales provided the second to the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Action taken after Executive Session**6. Adjournment**

At 8:45 a.m. Vice-Chairman Hendrix moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Williamson provided the second to the motion. The motion carried 5-0.



Kellie Lank, Clerk
Attest



Chairman, Brad Jones

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CANDLER COUNTY

Brad Jones
Chairman

Bryan Aasheim
County Administrator

Blake Hendrix
Vice-Chairman

David Morales
Commissioner

Jonathan Williamson
Commissioner

Tre' Ross
Commissioner

CLOSED MEETING AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF CANDLER

AFFIDAVIT OF CHAIRMAN OR PRESIDING OFFICER

Brad Jones, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of Candler County, being duly sworn, states under oath that the following is true and accurate to the best of his knowledge and belief:

1.
The Board of Commissioners of Candler County met in a duly advertised meeting on August 22, 2025.

2.
During such meeting, the Board voted to go into closed session.

3.
The executive session was called to order at 8:06 p.m.

4.
The subject matter of the closed portion of the meeting was devoted to the following matter(s) within the exceptions provided in the open meetings law:

_____ Consultation with the county attorney or other legal counsel to discuss pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the county or any officer or employee or in which the county or any officer or employee may be directly involved as provided in O.C.G.A. 50-14-2(1);

_____ Discussion of tax matters made confidential by state law as provided by O.C.G.A. 50-14-2(2);

_____ Discussion of the future acquisition of real estate as provided by O.C.G.A. 50-14-3(4);

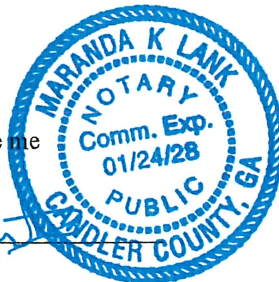
☒ Discussion or deliberation on the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a county officer or employee as provided in O.C.G.A. 50-14-3(6);

_____ Other

This 22nd day of August 2025.

Sworn to and subscribed before me
This 22nd day of August 2025.

Maranda K. Lank
Notary Public



Brad Jones
Brad Jones, Chairman
Board of Commissioners of Candler County

1075 EAST HIAWATHA STREET, SUITE A, METTER, GEORGIA 30439
(912) 685-2835 FAX (912) 685-4823

NOTICE

The Candler County Board of Commissioners does hereby announce that the millage rate will be set at a meeting to be held at the 1075 E Hiawatha St, Metter, GA 30439 on September 11, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. and pursuant to the requirements of O.C.G.A. § 48-5-32 does hereby publish the following presentation of the current year's tax digest and levy, along with the history of the tax digest and levy for the past five years.

CURRENT 2025 PROPERTY TAX DIGEST AND 5 YEAR HISTORY OF LEVY

COUNTY WIDE		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
C o u n t y w i d e A r e a	Real & Personal	331,702,190	331,608,105	353,441,860	391,940,185	409,136,284	418,934,872
	Motor Vehicles	2,526,650	4,144,380	3,711,450	4,118,770	3,711,450	3,826,580
	Mobile Homes	2,398,834	2,660,661	3,248,761	4,040,665	3,248,761	5,049,898
	Timber - 100%	3,522,559	3,856,588	4,667,745	4,531,102	4,667,745	4,023,380
	Heavy Duty Equipment	364,900	146,400	122,245	24,800	122,245	10,900
	Gross Digest	340,515,133	342,416,134	365,192,061	404,655,522	420,886,485	431,845,630
	Less Exemptions	64,697,758	60,113,022	59,371,000	59,523,861	58,061,997	59,807,797
	NET DIGEST VALUE	275,817,375	282,303,112	305,821,061	345,131,661	362,824,488	372,037,833
	Gross Maintenance & Operation Millage	14.7886	14.7171	14.9972	14.9181	14.9978	16.2260
	Less Rollback (Local Option Sales Tax)	2.4096	2.4231	2.7032	2.6241	2.7038	2.9320
TAX	NET M&O MILLAGE RATE	12.3790	12.2940	12.2940	12.2940	12.2940	13.2940
	TOTAL M&O TAXES LEVIED	\$3,414,343	\$3,470,634	\$3,759,764	\$4,243,049	\$4,460,568	\$4,945,877
	Net Tax \$ Increase	\$40,267	\$56,291	\$289,130	\$483,285	\$217,519	\$485,309
Net Tax % Increase		-1.17%	1.65%	8.33%	12.85%	5.13%	10.88%

NOTICE OF PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The Candler County Board of Commissioners has tentatively adopted a 2025 millage rate which will require an increase in property tax by 8.23 percent.

All concerned citizens are invited to the public hearing on the tax increase to be held at the Candler County Board of Commissioners office located at 1075 E Hiawatha St, Metter, GA 30439, on Wednesday, September 3rd at 8:00 a.m.

Times and places of additional public hearings on this tax increase are at the Board of Commissioners office located at 1075 E Hiawatha St, Metter, GA 30439, on Wednesday, September 3, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. and Thursday, September 11 at 8:00 a.m.

This tentative increase will result in a millage rate of 13.294 mills, an increase of 1.011 mills. Without this tentative increase, the millage rate will be no more than 12.283 mills. The proposed tax increase for a home with a fair market value of \$175,000 is approximately \$70.77 and the proposed tax increase for non-homestead property with a fair market value of \$100,000 is approximately \$40.44.

PRESS RELEASE ANNOUNCING A PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The Candler County Board of Commissioners today announces its intentions to increase the 2025 property taxes it will levy this year by 8.23 percent over the rollback millage rate.

Each year, the board of tax assessors is required to review the assessed value for property tax purposes of taxable property in the county. When the trend of prices on properties that have recently sold in the county indicate there has been an increase in the fair market value of any specific property, the board of tax assessors is required by law to re-determine the value of such property and adjust the assessment. This is called a reassessment.

When the total digest of taxable property is prepared, Georgia law requires a rollback millage rate be computed that will produce the same total revenue on the current year's digest that last year's millage rate would have produced had no reassessment occurred.

The budget tentatively adopted by the Candler County Board of Commissioners requires a millage rate higher than the rollback millage rate; therefore, before the Candler County Board of Commissioners may finalize the tentative budget and set a final millage rate, Georgia law requires three public hearings to be held to allow the public an opportunity to express their opinions on the increase.

All concerned citizens are invited to the public hearings on this tax increase to be held at the Candler County Board of Commissioners office, located at 1075 E Hiawatha St, Metter, Georgia 30439, on:

Wednesday, September 3, 2025 at 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 11, 2025 at 8:00 a.m.