

COLIN BAENZIGER  ASSOCIATES

EXECUTIVE RECRUITING

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*Section 8*

*Scott M. Moye*

*Sarasota City Manager  
Candidate Report*

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*Cover Letter and Resume*

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## Section 8

**Scott M. Moye**

2002 Hilliard Avenue  
Waycross Georgia 31503  
912.288.3066  
[Moyescott3@gmail.com](mailto:Moyescott3@gmail.com)

January 31, 2025

City of Sarasota Florida  
c/o Mr. Colin Baenziger, CB&A Executive Recruiter  
1565 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Sarasota, Florida 34236

**RE: Applicant for City Manager**

Dear Mr. Baenziger:

It is with great enthusiasm that I submit this letter formally expressing my interest in the City Manager for the City of Sarasota. I have also included my resume as required. I truly believe my experience and skill set will prove to be an asset to Sarasota. Given my extensive background in governance, executive leadership, strong municipal management, I am confident my credentials align perfectly with the ideal candidate in your search.

Leveraging my education, and hands-on experience of regulatory, organizational and government management practices, I can contribute efficient, accurate and productive project results. Additionally, my unparalleled ability to establish and maintain cross-collaborative cultures among executive organizations and stakeholders has transformed me into a proactive change agent and mentor. I possess a high degree of emotional intelligence, and my executive experiences will bring calm, collected and educated decision making to the table. Moreover, I am a person who demonstrates accountability, integrity, and ethics and deliver problem solving strategies where everyone will benefit.

I am now at a personal and professional point where I am ready to find new challenges and opportunities, relocate, and continue my success. I believe that I can provide valuable, structured leadership for the City of Sarasota, the City Commission, employees, and residents with distinction. I will ensure that the organization lives up to its values and mission statement, participate in achieving the strategic goals set by the Commission and always meet or exceed the crucial expectations established for the City Manager.

I look forward to the opportunity to discuss with you in person how my background and personality would make me the ideal candidate.

I greatly appreciate your consideration of my candidacy and look forward to your reply. If you have any questions or I can be of any service, please do not hesitate to call.

Very truly yours,

*Scott M. Moye*

2002 Hilliard Avenue  
Waycross Georgia 31503  
912.288.3066  
[Moyescott3@gmail.com](mailto:Moyescott3@gmail.com)

# **SCOTT M. MOYE**

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## **SUMMARY QUALIFICATIONS**

### **General**

**Management:** Diversified, analytical and comprehensive managerial skills in both the public and private sectors. Managed multi-million dollar projects with a pre-allocated annual budgets of various sizes (\$1.2M - \$76M), and achieved directed and personal goals. Innovative, results-oriented leader in coordination of organizational efforts, including: goal setting, budgeting, employee motivation, labor relations, and human resources administration. Strong interpersonal relations skills and customer service ethic. Renewing ICMA Credential Manager certification

**Finance:** Proficient in the preparation and administration of organizational budgets and grants. Disciplined in strategic capital project budgeting.

**Communications:** Outstanding interpersonal skills and emotional intelligence. Very strong oral and written communication skills. Effective in fostering cooperative relationships with citizens, staff, elected officials, and the media.

**Planning:** Comprehensive understanding of land use, stormwater management, and community development issues, including building/zoning code enforcement.

**Human Resources:** Experience in recruitment, retention, training, and motivating staff.

## **EDUCATION**

Georgia Southern University      Master of Public Administration (1995)  
Statesboro, Georgia

Georgia College                      Bachelor of Business Administration (1988)  
Milledgeville, Georgia

University of Oklahoma              Economic Development Institute (1997)  
Norman, Oklahoma

Georgia State University              Certified Public Finance Manager (December 2024)  
Atlanta, Georgia

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**County Manager**

August 2016 to October 2024  
Ware County Board of Commissioners  
Waycross, Georgia

Served as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for Ware County, Georgia and charged to enforce and initiate all ordinances, resolutions, and regulations of the Board of Commissioners and the laws of the State of Georgia are faithfully executed and enforced; exercise managerial authority and supervision over the County Manager's staff and 15 all department heads with 348 employees under the jurisdiction of the Board of Commissioners, including delegation of duties to subordinates without relieving burden of responsibility from the County Manager. Supervised the preparation, certification, and maintenance of county records such as: minutes of commission meetings; ordinances; agreements; personnel files; general correspondence; resolutions; contracts; and licenses.

Provided background information, financial status updates, and policy recommendations to the Board of Commissioners to aid in making decisions. Monitored financial status of County, include preparing preliminary budgets and compiling information from department heads relative to budget requests. Oversaw general maintenance of County buildings and assure proper insurance coverage on building and vehicles. Corresponded with the general public on requests for information and complaints. Served as the Public Information Officer for the County.

Departments Supervised: Administration, Assistant County Manager, County Clerk, Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology, Public Works, Engineering, Planning & Codes, Vehicle Maintenance, E911, Emergency Management (EMA), Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Fire & Rescue, Airport, Facilities Maintenance, Public Safety Training Center, Parks & Recreation, Media Services, and Senior Executive Assistant.

**Procure-to-Pay (P2P) Operations Manager**

May 2013 to August 2016  
Mayo Clinic Health Systems  
Waycross, Georgia

Managed all departmental facets of the P2P Supply Chain Division of the Mayo Clinic Health System in Waycross, Georgia. Responsible for local contract administration for identified commodities and projects for entire campus. Formulated analytical reports and Supply Expense updates to department and institutional leaders, customers and colleagues. Participated in selecting suppliers and continuing business relationships on the basis of the value analysis principal. Provided customer service functions to all MCHS departments and customers. Collaborated with Sourcing and Contracting and committees to identify supply expense reduction opportunities.

Achievements: Implemented the first P2P division for MCHS Waycross. Developed and implemented the Travel/P-card system for MCHS Waycross. Assisted Mayo Clinic Florida staff with recognizing and implementing a \$2.5M annual expense savings for MCHS Waycross.

### **City Administrator**

April 2004 to May 2013  
City of Blackshear, Georgia  
Blackshear, Georgia

Managed municipal government with a staff of 42 FTE's in a full-service southern Georgia community. Reported to a seven-member board elected by districts with mayor elected at-large from a community of 3,483 full-time residents. Managed the following departments: Public Works, Streets, Sanitation, Water/Sewer & Fleet Maintenance, Finance, Human Resources, Police, Fire, City Clerk, Information Technology, and Economic Development. Provided guidance and oversight with City's grant administration for community and economic development projects. Prepared and presented the annual City Budget and the Capital Improvement Plan totaling \$4.8 million. Served as the City Clerk and Treasurer.

**Achievements:** Served as the first city administrator for Blackshear. Spearheaded many administrative improvement projects such as Charter revisions, Land Development Code, and Code of Ordinances and city property tax collection agreement with Pierce County, industrial park infrastructure improvement project (water tower/water & sewer installation), information technology conversion for document imaging, council agenda packet structure.

**Departments Supervised:** Administration, City Clerk, Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology, Public Works, Planning & Codes, Vehicle Maintenance, Police, Fire, Facilities Maintenance, & Parks, Water & Sewer Collection & Treatment, and Executive Assistant.

### **Adjunct Instructor**

July 2006 to July 2018  
Coastal Pines Technical College  
Waycross, Georgia

Provide instruction for Interpersonal Relations (Personal and Professional Development - EMPL 1000) in traditional classroom setting, online, and hybrid platform (BlackBoard). Provide advisement to students on human relations, employability, job search, and job advancement. Prepare and submit administrative documentation on students via Banner Web. Responsible for overall classroom instruction including: preparing lesson plans, maintaining department guidelines and standards, evaluating students by assigning grades and work ethic appraisals, and interacting with other faculty.

### **Deputy City Manager / Interim City Manager**

July 2000 to February 2004  
City of Fernandina Beach, Florida  
Fernandina Beach, Florida

Assisted with managing full-service municipal government with a staff of 204 full-time employees in a Florida coastal resort community with a rich, historic heritage. Responsible for development and administration of a \$19.5 million operating budget and a \$76 million total budget, which included a \$25million capital budget and three enterprise funds. City operations include a municipal airport, an 18-hole golf course, and a marina. Reported to a 5-member City



## **Section 8**

Commission, elected at-large from a community population of 11,500 (20,000+ during the tourist season). Managed the following City Departments: Human Resources/Information Technology, Finance, Parks and Recreation, Public Works, Marina, Golf, Airport, Fire, and Police. Oversaw operations in various City facilities which included: three recreation centers, two municipal pools, two fire stations, a police station, a wastewater facility, and a vehicle maintenance garage. City Manager office was responsible for management/maintenance of 8-miles of Atlantic Ocean beachfront.

Achievements: Completed addition to City Marina. Oversaw site-selection/development and financing of a state-of-the art City Police Station. Opened first phase of the City's 225-acre Greenway. Assisted with developing City newsletter to improve communications with City residents. Initiated facility beautification program. Developed City Mission and Core Values Statement. Initiated: City Wellness Program and City Employee Orientation Program. Initiated development of two waterfront parks, and the rehabilitation of another. Assisted CM developing weekly project-tracking and current events reports to keep the City Commission better apprised of important community happenings continued as Interim. Initiated developer workshops to better explain land-use regulations to prospective land developers. Implemented an organization-wide information technology program (voice mail, computer network, Internet presence), which modernized organizational communications and provided better, more timely customer service. To improve service and streamline operations, conducted performance audits of City departments, and restructured departments based on audit findings. Served on committee to negotiated two successful employee bargaining unit contracts for Police and Fire Departments. Worked closely with community groups (downtown merchants, service clubs, etc.) on various civic projects. Initiated anti-crime coalition task force (composed of City Public Safety staff and city residents) to reduce crime and drug trafficking in the community. Served as interim city manager to transition to new city manager during a tumultuous period.

Departments Supervised: Administration, Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology, Public Works, Community Development, Police, Fire, Facilities Maintenance, Parks & Recreation, Marina, Airport, Golf (27 Holes), Water & Sewer Collection & Treatment, and Executive Assistant.

### **Assistant to County Manager**

August 1993 to July 1998  
Ware County Board of Commissioners  
Waycross, Georgia

Provided assistance in county daily administration, financial forecasting/budgeting, local strategic planning, economic and community development, and project/grants management. Directed to manage daily activities and financial management for various County operations. Provided technical assistance to standing and formed committees of County/City, Chamber of Commerce, Waycross-Ware County Development Authority, and Okefenokee Area Development Authority with project management activities -- coordination, budgeting, administration, and consultation. Assisted Public Works Department with project concepts, designs, budgeting, facility development, and implementation in the areas of street and road improvements and paving, bridge replacement, and landfill operations.



## **Section 8**

Achievements: Coordinated and organized projects such as the Iron Bridge Road Landfill closure after 38 years. Successfully managed the capital project development and construction of the Tri-County Regional Landfill and Intermodal Surface Transportation Enhancement Act (ISTEA) projects which included concepts and design, funding applications, and administration to Federal and State agencies.

Assisted Departments Supervised: Administration, Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology, Public Works, Engineering, Planning & Codes, Vehicle Maintenance, E911, Emergency Management, Emergency Medical Services, Fire & Rescue, Airport, Facilities Maintenance, Recreation, and Media Services.

### **Administrative & Financial Director**

August 1988 - August 1993

Southeast Georgia Regional Development Center (SEGaRDC)

Waycross, Georgia

Maintained sound administrative and financial policies and procedures in coordination with the Board of Directors of the Southeast Georgia Regional Development Center and Certified Development Corporation. Managed a regional commission staff of 45 FTE's in southeast Georgia to serve eight (8) counties and twenty-seven (27) cities. Provided technical assistance to local governments in all areas of general administration, personnel administration, financial management, economic development, and grant administration. Managed the Financial Management System of the SEGaRDC with a \$5.8M budget. Provided consultation to local governments in areas of data automation and processing, reviewed and recommended information systems hardware and software proposals for various local government operations. Served as the administrator of the SEGaRDC Retirement Plan; maintain retirement system records; and serve as a member on the Trustee Committee. Ensured SEGaRDC complied with all federal, state, and local contracts.

## **Section 8**

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*Candidate Introduction*

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**SCOTT M. MOYE**

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**EDUCATION**

- Master of Public Administration, Georgia Southern University (1995)
- Bachelor of Business Administration, Georgia College & State University (1988)
- Economic Development Institute, University of Oklahoma (1997)
- Certified Public Finance Manager (Completion Course Date TBA), Georgia State University

**EXPERIENCE**

- County Manager, Ware County Georgia August 2016 – October 2024
- Procure To Pay Operations Manager, Mayo Clinic May 2013 – August 2016
- City Administrator, City of Blackshear Georgia April 2004 – May 2013
- Adjunct Instructor, Coastal Pines Technical College September 2005 – December 2018
- Deputy City Manager / Interim City Manager  
City of Fernandina Beach Florida July 2000 – February 2004
- Assistant to County Manager, Ware County Georgia August 1993 – July 1998
- Administrative & Financial Director  
Southern Georgia Regional Commission August 1988 – August 1993

**BACKGROUND**

I had the opportunity and privilege to serve as the County Manager of Ware County from August 8, 2016 to October 14, 2024. Ware County’s population is approximately 36,000 and the only city in Ware County is the City of Waycross (population of approximately 14,000). Ware County serves as a major retail and commercial hub for eight counties in the southeast Georgia area, regional population of 185,000. The County has a day-time population of 65,000. The County also shares as the home of the Okefenokee Swamp. Ware County is 908 square miles and is the largest geographical county of all counties east of the Mississippi River. There are 452 miles of dirt roads and 265 miles of paved roads in the County. Ware County is located 75 miles northwest of Jacksonville Florida.

Ware County’s economy is mostly agriculture but has a diversified tax base of residential, commercial, and industrial. The County has 3 major State highways and US 1 which dissect the County and City into a pie configuration. Ware County is also home to CSX’s largest major railcar classification system on the east coast, the Rice Yard.

Ware County’s general fund budget is approximately \$28 million with a total budget of approximately \$58 million for FY 2025. The budget has multiple major funding sources such as ad valorem taxes, local option sales tax, special purpose local option sales tax (SPLOST), and

regional transportation special purpose local option sales tax (TSPLOST). The County has the SPLOST for general capital equipment and project items and TSPLOST for transportation improvement projects. Ware County also owns and operates a regional airport, the only enterprise fund. The County is more focused currently on constructing transportation improvements such as road paving and drainage and constructing railroad overpasses in order to alleviate traffic congestion due to the large amount of daily CSX trains.

Ware County government has two divisions, administration and constitutional offices/court system. The County has 248 employees which include employees working for constitutional officers. Fifteen departmental directors report directly to the Ware County Manager.

Ware County is currently experiencing three challenges:

1. Ware County has a few major challenges but the one that is top priority would be the construction of additional railroad overpasses (grade separations). These transportation projects are extremely expensive and time consuming from preliminary design to final construction. The State is currently constructing a four-lane overpass on US 1 North with a projected cost of \$60 million. The County and City are also designing an overpass with an estimated cost of \$25 million on a local street which is blocked most of the day.
2. Another challenge facing Ware County also involves a transportation network need. Ware County is the regional commercial and retail hub for seven counties surrounding Ware County. The heavy vehicular traffic and 125 daily trains navigating through and around the County has created a tremendous need for a perimeter road around the City of Waycross. This project will be impossible without the financial assistance of the State and federal government. The total estimated cost for the 32-mile perimeter road is approximately \$300 to \$350 million.
3. There is also an ongoing challenge with solving major drainage problems throughout the County. Ware County is the headwaters of the Okefenokee Swamp. The water table is very close to the surface and the terrain is basically flat. Many transportation projects are expensive because they typically involve piping drainage systems in order to move water. Funding these projects has been a challenge for many years.
4. Ware County has a challenge like many other communities, and this is affordable and available housing. The State has created some programs to provide tax incentives for providing housing, multi-family and single-family. The City and County have enacted policies to discount and waive certain fees to assist with creating more incentives.

**SCOTT M. MOYE**

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**GENERAL, MANAGEMENT STYLE AND EXPERIENCE**

Serving as the Ware County Manager has provided me with even more opportunities to be directly involved in providing technical expertise on many projects over the last eight years in the County and City of Waycross. The County population is very diverse as the population continues to grow in the County and in the southeast Georgia region. There is now more of an effort to promote and encourage economic and natural resources sustainability with promoting innovative development opportunities. I worked closely with the Waycross Downtown Development Authority and the Waycross-Ware County Development Authority to provide guidance and technical assistance on projects to bolster the economy. This opportunity has allowed me to leverage my education and training, organizational and government management practices to contribute efficient, accurate and productive project results. My executive experiences bring calm, collected and educated decision making to the table and deliver problem solving strategies where everyone will benefit.

During my executive career, I have developed a demonstrated track record of building consensus and coalitions to achieve community goals. I understand the inherent challenges of development and service delivery in coastal/shoreline communities. Moreover, I pride myself in being a person with a high level of emotional intelligence, advanced interpersonal skills, and a collaborative management style.

Overall, I have had good working relationships with my staff over the years. Many staff relationship problems have been resolved with diplomacy, tact, and compassion, but there must be open and clear conversations. I also made sure that staff could always talk to me. I have always made sure that I am approachable. I believe the majority of staff would say that I worked with them as a team member and supporter; I try to seek to understand their perspectives, needs, and concerns. My management philosophy is to build a strong and competent staff, and I convey this foundation periodically. I take the mindset of having trust and faith in staff until proven otherwise with accountability being in the forefront. We all must be accountable to achieve the established goals.

The elected officials I have served and worked with over the last thirty years have been generally polite, cordial, and professional. I have been successful in gaining respect overall with the elected officials by being transparent, forthright, and responsive. I would say most elected officials believe that I would advise them and community stakeholders of the pros and cons of a given course of action based on my professional training and experience. I am politically savvy but never political. I value being a trusted advisor in my communications with the elected body as they deal with the many aspects of public policy.



**SCOTT M. MOYE**

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Moreover, I believe the greatest strength that I bring to Sarasota is being a skilled problem solver with excellent negotiation skills and a track record of innovative and entrepreneurial solutions. In addition, I have strong management and leadership skills, but I will be approachable, even-tempered, and maintain a calm demeanor. My experience of managing the City of Fernandina Beach Florida has provided me with a philosophy of quality-of-life sustainability in planning, economic development and redevelopment; this is primarily due to the impact of coastline development. Protecting Sarasota's unique character and quality of life for future generations will always be a top priority.

On the flipside of my strengths, I would have to mention that I sometimes have a fault with delegating certain responsibilities. Throughout my career, I've had to take personal responsibility of some projects primarily due to the lack of experience and technical expertise of staff. I set high expectations for myself; and I keep a sense of urgency with work responsibilities and feel more comfortable being directly involved in the work itself.

All throughout my career in management, I have searched for methods and measures to monitor processes and progress. Many years ago, I contracted with a private CPA firm to develop management reports I use weekly and monthly to monitor and track budget expenses and trends. Most of these are Excel formulated. These reports consist of spreadsheets with charts and tables. I have since began developing these reports myself. These are especially beneficial with managing enterprise funds to compare fixed and variable costs and revenue projections based on ad hoc scenarios.

In addition, I also track performance measures by incorporating management by objectives. Management by objectives is used to develop individual goals to support the organizational goals. These goals are discussed and documented during annual reviews with crucial input from employees. I also developed team goals for monitoring projects such as ones assigned to the public works department. In some cases, this helps me to determine if some projects should be completed in-house or contracted out.

My biggest achievement thus far would have to be a dynamic transportation project that was constructed to protect the health and safety of a large residential area of Ware County. This area consisting of approximately 1,800 households was barricaded by trains that blocked four crossings. The County received numerous complaints from the citizens over many years about the safety hazard. Two citizens were unable to receive EMS emergency care and died because the crossings were blocked.

One of the many projects I'm most proud of would be a complex transportation project. I led a staff team to partnered with a private engineering firm to explore ideas to formulate possible alternatives for consideration. Out of four alternatives, the consensus from the affected

### **SCOTT M. MOYE**

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community was to extend an existing street positioned in CSX right of way and build a 200-foot bridge to cross a creek. This extension would connect to a street on the south side of the creek, all within CSX right of way.

During this same time, County staff was creating an extensive project budget for the upcoming Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) referendum for this project to be included. There were multiple challenges included in this project, but the two major challenges pertain to obtaining authorization from CSX Transportation for right of way encroachment and obtaining a permit from the Army Corp of Engineers. Both aspects would include additional expenses.

After the design was roughly 50% complete, the plans were submitted to CSX in Jacksonville for review and comments. This review process took approximately six to eight months, and the County was eventually told that CSX preferred not to grant an encroachment. CSX would have charged \$450,000 for a construction agreement to build in their right of way. I recommended to the Commission the idea of building the new street and bridge further east out of CSX right of way. This new location would eliminate the additional cost and the participation of CSX in the project. Moreover, the County also saved money with not having to purchase additional wetland credits because the drainage basin was not as wide. The new design lowered the preliminary engineering estimate from \$6.5 million to roughly \$4 million. This amount included the design, right of way acquisition, utility relocation, legal fees, and construction costs. Staff was able to lower the budgeted cost in the SPLOST fund which enabled more transportation projects to be funded for other areas. The project took approximately three and a half years.

I would have to say my biggest regret involves not being able to obtain consensus among the City and County elected officials to incorporate crucial transportation projects in the Regional Transportation SPLOST referendum. The Ware County engineer and I wanted to begin the conceptual design and preliminary engineering for a phased perimeter road and one additional railroad overpass. A large part of the community had requested these same projects during the public meetings. Due to the high cost of these projects, the only funding source would have been including them in the Regional Transportation SPLOST. The City and County will now have to piecemeal these projects as funding becomes available.

My approach to facilitating open and transparent communication with the media is to be accessible and approachable. I have an open-door policy for anyone who needs to ask questions or obtain information. I believe it is very important to develop a solid rapport with the media because the media can be an asset for conducting municipal business. If I'm not at liberty to discuss the matter, I will politely mention this but promise to provide information when I'm able. The citizens deserve to know what is happening in the community.

**SCOTT M. MOYE**

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During my career, I've had the misfortune terminating employees for various reasons. I do not enjoy ending the employment of people. If there is a performance deficiency, I think it is important to meet with the employee and develop a written corrective action plan to help and support the person to improve. In some other cases, typically employees terminate themselves for policy violations or a lack of fundamental work ethic expectations. It is time-consuming and costly to recruit and train new employees to be fully productive in the workplace.

**CHALLENGES FACING THE CITY OF SARASOTA**

As noted in the recruitment brochure, one of the major aspects of being an effective and successful manager is to consistently focus on the Commission-Manager relationship, with emphasis on open and honest communication. A manager must realize that the relationship balance among the Commission is important to achieve desired goals. I value the importance of building rapport with each member; this provides me with a true understanding of expectations and commonalities with the Commission. Clearly put, the roles for the Commission are to set policy and the manager is charged with implementing policies and directives with a clear understanding of expectations for the city manager.

Like most communities experiencing growth, a challenge that will require devoted attention from the city manager will be the issue of growth management and balancing this with need for infrastructure and equipment planning and funding mechanisms. The Capital Improvement Program/Plan must be a living document for the any city to control and maintain the infrastructure and equipment needs. Periodic reviews of this planning document are vital with viable plans to fund these needs.

Costs continue to increase annually for providing quality services to the citizens and businesses. I will have to create an atmosphere among all departments to assist with being good stewards of public funds. Local governments are tasked with providing more and better services with less funding-the idea of doing more with less. Strategic budgeting and sound financial management are crucial for capital project planning to accomplish the goals set by the Commission.

Growth management requires staff to be attentive to the community's needs and balance this with the developer and business expansion needs. Many Florida coastal communities are experiencing the growth management/small town atmosphere challenge. The community plays a major role in the growth management practices of Sarasota. The growth cannot be stopped but it can be controlled if certain measures are taken correctly, namely development codes. The growth will be a challenge from the standpoint that some projects will test the limits of the LDC and will create a great deal of pushback from the community as it relates to over-crowding and density. The Strategic Plan is also a crucial component to ensuring the vision and growth factors

**SCOTT M. MOYE**

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supported by policies that have been vetted and tested. The small-town feel is sometimes difficult to achieve if the consensus of the Commission views any and all growth is good for the tax base. Coastal communities strive for a diversified tax base to balance the need for this to happen. Politics always plays a part in this process and the balancing of all of this can and will be challenging.

Affordable housing is a tremendous challenge for most of the country, but it is an extremely difficult goal to obtain for coastal communities. The growth factor plays a major role in this movement due to the popularity of living close to the beach. People are attracted to water and will pay more to experience this for their quality of life. Within the last few years, many initiatives have been implemented to strengthen this effort. Land use policies can be implemented along with waiving certain fees. Encouraging different types of housing through programs for low-cost housing. Land bank agencies can assist with providing low cost properties for this.

State and federal funding instruments like a community development block grant can aid in making great strides.

**FIRST SIX MONTHS PLAN**

In order to have a smooth transition during the first six months, I will assess the organization and meet with individual Commissioners to gather information and insight. I will also make time to meet with other community leaders and stakeholders. I plan to do more listening than talking. I will also read documents such as the Code of Ordinances, Comprehensive Plan/Local Development Code, and Strategic Plan, budget, and current audit report.

For the first six months, I will be focused on meeting with the Commission, staff, citizen groups (civic clubs), and State and County officials to gain insight into the community. This effort will allow me to ask questions and give me a snapshot on current goals and directives. Attending city events and other community events will also be a priority. In addition, I will spend time understanding some current and past initiatives and projects. I will meet frequently with the staff during this time to become more knowledgeable about the departments and find out what's working well and what is not. From a business standpoint, identifying the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats.

I truly believe I work well with the media to demonstrate an open and transparent city government. I always make sure that I provide accurate and up to date information for the community and stakeholders. I like to provide periodic updates to the media on projects and events and sometimes provide informational pieces for publishing in the newspaper and radio.

**SCOTT M. MOYE**

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Utilizing a communication officer is beneficial as a conduit to keep information distributed to the community.

I do not anticipate anyone contacting the Town with negative comments about me.

I think it is prudent to establish a work/life balance to avoid burnout which is very common as a city manager. In my leisure time, I enjoy reading, going to the beach, listening to music, home projects, and exercise.

**ADJECTIVES/PHRASES THAT BEST DESCRIBE MYSELF**

- Visionary, communication, mission driven, strong leadership
- Motivating
- Collaborative
- Persuasive, Enthusiastic & Approachable
- Servant, Openness, Honest

**REASON FOR DEPARTING CURRENT POSITION**

In this profession, municipal managers are aware of when the political climate begins to change as it relates to the Commission members. I worked for Ware County, my home county, for eight years and I felt it was the right time to seek new experiences and challenges in another community, preferably in Florida. I thoroughly enjoy the west coast of Florida and its beaches.

**CURRENT / MOST RECENT SALARY**

My final compensation as of October 14<sup>th</sup> with Ware County was \$140,000.00 with a vehicle and mobile phone provided for County business.

## **Section 8**



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*CB&A Background Checks*

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**Background Check Summary for  
SCOTT MORRIS MOYE**

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**Criminal Records Checks:**

Nationwide Criminal Records Search	No Records Found
County	
Ware County, GA	No Records Found
Pierce County, GA	No Records Found
State	
Georgia	No Records Found

**Civil Records Checks:**

County	
Ware County, GA	No Records Found
Pierce County, GA	No Records Found
Federal	
Georgia	No Records Found

**Motor Vehicle**

Georgia	No Records Found
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**Credit**

Excellent

**Personal Bankruptcy**

No Records Found

**Sex Offender Registry**

Not Listed

**Education**

Confirmed

**Employment**

Confirmed, except for Mayo Clinic  
Health Systems (05/2013 – 08/2016)

**Social Media**

Nothing of Concern Found

**Background Check Summary for  
SCOTT MORRIS MOYE**

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Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. 1681-1681Y, credit and bankruptcy information are very sensitive and should not be used in the consideration of hiring. The information is included for each candidate because we do not want you to be surprised if third parties raise what they consider to be a concern. Also, some states have limited the reporting to seven years, so any records older than that will not be available in those states. In addition, motor vehicle reports are limited to three to seven years, depending on the state.

**Background Check Summary for  
SCOTT MORRIS MOYE  
Personal Disclosure**

**Personal Disclosure Questionnaire**

Name of Applicant: SCOTT M. MOYE

The following questions are designed so that we will be able to make full disclosure to our client concerning your background. Please answer them honestly. Cutting corners or misrepresenting your past will result in you being eliminated from all further searches conducted by this firm. We understand that frivolous charges are sometimes made and that charges do not mean you were guilty. We also understand that you may have been wronged and needed to seek compensation. The bottom line is that we want to be certain that our client is fully informed. If you have any questions, please contact us for clarification.

Please explain any yes answers on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Have you ever been charged or convicted of a felony?  
Yes  No
2. Have you ever been accused of or have been involved in a domestic violence or abuse incident?  
Yes  No
3. Have you ever declared bankruptcy or been an owner in a business that did so?  
Yes  No
4. Have you ever been the subject of a civil rights violation complaint that was investigated or resulted in a lawsuit?  
Yes  No
5. Have you ever been the subject of a sexual harassment complaint that was investigated or resulted in a lawsuit?  
Yes  No
6. Have you ever been charged with driving while intoxicated, driving under the influence, operating a vehicle impaired, or a similar offense?  
Yes  No
7. Have you ever sued a current or former employer?  
Yes  No
8. Please list all your social media accounts (Facebook / X (Twitter) / Instagram / LinkedIn etc.) and your personal web page if you have one.
9. Is there anything else in your background that, if made public, would cause you, our client or our firm embarrassment if it came to light through the press or any other mechanism?  
Yes  No
10. Please provide a list of any lawsuits in which you are or have been a party either as plaintiff or defendant.

N/A

Attested to: Scott M. Moye  
Signature of Applicant

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*CB&A Reference Notes*

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Reference Notes  
Scott Morris Moyer

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**Anna Wall – Former County Clerk, Ware County, GA 912-614-6216**

Ms. Wall has known Mr. Moyer since 2017, when she took the position of County Clerk for Ware County, where Mr. Moyer served as County Manager. She worked under Mr. Moyer's supervision until 2019, when she left the organization for another position. Ms. Wall characterizes Mr. Moyer as an excellent Manager who is dependable, prompt, and fair.

Mr. Moyer is a good supervisor. He is a great leader and goes out of his way to teach his employees. He spends a great deal of time working alongside his staff in the community. He also makes good hiring decisions.

Mr. Moyer keeps his staff and colleagues informed of what is happening in his area of government as needed. However, he is also careful to keep confidential information private. He is cautious about who he shares information with and ensures it is only used for good.

Mr. Moyer is quick to find solutions to problems, both short and long term. In Ware County, the railroads have an extensive network and a great deal of power. This sometimes has a negative impact on automobile transportation in the County. Ambulances often could not deliver patients to the hospital quickly enough when trains blocked intersections. Mr. Moyer worked with the railroads and the community to plan alternate routes to ensure there is always an avenue for escape. On another occasion, after Hurricane Milton made landfall in October 2024, he worked tirelessly within the community to help with relief efforts. He identified those who needed assistance throughout the week-long period in which the community had no electricity. He reported the needs and secured assistance for residents.

Mr. Moyer is active in the community. In addition to his regular responsibilities, he is active on other community boards. Even after resigning, he has continued to serve in these capacities. He has good relationships with members of the public. He is charming and intelligent, and he gets along well with people throughout the community.

Mr. Moyer has great financial skills. He manages the yearly County budget. He meets with each Department Head to ensure that their budgets are ready for the upcoming year. He also manages the Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) and the Community SPLOST funds and decides how to use the money.

Mr. Moyer has a positive attitude. He smiles, even during difficult situations. When he feels stressed, he does not show negative emotions. Instead, he reaches out to lift and help others.

Mr. Moyer resigned from his position in the County. Ms. Wall does not know the details of the situation, but she is of the opinion that Mr. Moyer is one of several people who have recently left the organization because of the negative work environment created by the current Chairman of the Board of Commissioners.



Reference Notes  
Scott Morris Moyer

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Ms. Wall is not aware of any controversy that has resulted from Mr. Moyer's conduct or performance. Nothing in his background or conduct would concern an employer.

**Words or phrases used to describe Scott Moyer:**

- Outgoing,
- Charming,
- Intelligent,
- Funny,
- Down to earth, and
- People person.

**Strengths:** Good teacher, great leader, builds good relationships.

**Weaknesses:** Needs to stand up for himself more, could fight harder for his own good ideas.

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**Steve Barnard – Former Commissioner, Ware County, GA 912-397-0293**

Mr. Barnard has known Mr. Moyer since 1998. They met when Mr. Barnard was serving as Deputy Sheriff and Mr. Moyer was the Assistant to the County Manager in Ware County. They worked together again in 2016, when Mr. Moyer became the Ware County Manager and Mr. Barnard was elected Commissioner. Mr. Barnard is very pleased with Mr. Moyer's job performance. On a scale of 1 to 10, 10 being the best performance possible, he would give Mr. Moyer a 9.

Mr. Moyer is a productive Manager. He powers through projects and makes sure his team is on track. When problems arise, he investigates to find solutions. He completes tasks in a timely manner.

Mr. Moyer gets along well with his employees. He is good at solving personnel issues. On one occasion, he solved a problem involving an employee who was stealing time. When hiring personnel, Mr. Moyer makes good decisions. He makes sure the chosen candidate will meet the needs of the organization.

Mr. Moyer has excellent interpersonal skills. He gets along well with many people. He communicates clearly and keeps the Commissioners informed. When dealing with members of the public, he answers questions clearly and helps them whenever he can. He has good interactions during individual settings, and he also does a good job of conducting group meetings.

Reference Notes  
Scott Morris Moye

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Mr. Moye has a good understanding of County finances. He can answer questions about the budget and sources of funding. If he does not immediately know the answer, he knows where to find the information.

Mr. Moye handles stress well. He does not become upset when he does not get his way. He does not keep negative emotions inside. He finds healthy outlets to relieve stress.

Mr. Moye has not been involved in any controversy to Mr. Barnard's knowledge. Nothing in his background or conduct would concern any reasonable person.

Mr. Barnard would hire Mr. Moye again without hesitation. He is knowledgeable about his local government management and is a great manager.

**Words or phrases used to describe Scott Moye:**

- Polite,
- Good performer,
- Courteous to the public,
- Knowledgeable about his job, and
- Keeps Commission informed.

**Strengths:** Skilled with computers, great interpersonal skills.

**Weaknesses:** None identified.

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**Carlos Nelson – Former Commissioner, Ware County, GA 912-722-3291**

Mr. Nelson has known Mr. Moye since they were in elementary school. As adults, they worked together in 2016, when Mr. Nelson was a Commissioner for Ware County. Mr. Nelson and his fellow Commissioners hired Mr. Moye as County Manager. They continued working together until Mr. Nelson left the County government to work as an Election Supervisor in 2020. Mr. Nelson appreciates Mr. Moye for his hard work and his honesty.

Mr. Moye works very well with elected officials. He does a good job of navigating competing interests and helping them reach compromises. He also does a good job of keeping them informed of what is happening in his area of government.

Mr. Moye is a good boss. He often delegates tasks, and he trusts his employees to do their work. He does not seek attention and allows his staff to receive recognition for their work.

Reference Notes  
Scott Morris Moye

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Mr. Moye makes great hiring decisions. He researches candidates and their backgrounds. He invites Commissioners to participate in interviews and give input. He selects the candidate who will be the best fit for the organization.

Mr. Moye spends time in the community and regularly attends community meetings. He gets along well with members of the public, especially in group settings.

Mr. Moye solves problems. Transportation is one of Ware County's greatest challenges. On one occasion, Mr. Moye worked to plan the construction of a new overpass. He identified federal and state funding, secured support from the Commission and the public, and collaborated with railroad companies.

Mr. Moye could improve on being an agent of change. While he does not resist change and often proposes new ideas, he does not fight for his proposals as much as he should.

Mr. Moye has great financial skills. During his time in Ware County, he helped the organization achieve financial security. While he does not micromanage his employees' budgets, he provides oversight to make sure they are balanced and beneficial to the organization.

Mr. Moye works well under pressure. He does not show signs of stress. His mood is rarely too high or too low. He has an even keeled personality.

Mr. Nelson believes Mr. Moye resigned his position because of the current Board of Commissioners. The current Commission is unprofessional, impulsive, unpredictable, and difficult to work with. They have no direction or vision. They are overly concerned with doing certain projects for their friends, instead of considering the best interests of the residents and the organization.

Mr. Nelson is not aware of Mr. Moye's involvement in any controversy. His background and conduct are appropriate for a person in local government management.

Mr. Moye has done many good things for Ware County. He will make an excellent manager for another organization. Mr. Nelson recommends Mr. Moye for the position.

**Words or phrases used to describe Scott Moye:**

- Professional,
- Detailed,
- Courteous,
- Timely,
- Honest, and
- Hard worker.

Reference Notes  
Scott Morris Moye

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**Strengths:** Trustworthy, works well with Commissioners, navigates competing interests.

**Weaknesses:** Sometimes his willingness to compromise frustrates Commissioners. Could stand his ground more often.

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**Dale Wiley – Former Chairman, Downtown Waycross Development Authority, GA  
912-218-8191**

Mr. Wiley has known Mr. Moye since 2020. They met during Mr. Wiley's time as a member of the Downtown Waycross Development Authority (DWDA). Mr. Moye is also a patron of Mr. Wiley's local business.

Mr. Moye is receptive to change. He supports new businesses and aids them in establishing themselves in the community. Mr. Wiley appreciates Mr. Moye for his assistance when he was getting ready to open his business.

Mr. Moye spends time in the community. He attends many community events. He is friendly and approachable with residents, in both individual and group settings.

Mr. Moye solves problems. On one occasion, residents and business owners became upset about property tax increases. Mr. Moye calmed them down and answered their questions clearly. He stays calm under pressure. He does not become upset easily. He handles stress very well.

Mr. Moye has many other qualities that help him succeed. He has a reputation for being a good financial manager. He keeps colleagues and residents informed of what is happening in his area of government when needed. He also completes tasks in a timely manner.

Mr. Wiley heard about a controversial situation that resulted in Mr. Moye's resignation. However, he could not provide any details about the matter. Mr. Wiley is not aware of anything in Mr. Moye's background or conduct that would concern a citizen or an employer.

Mr. Moye is a great manager with the knowledge and skills to succeed. Mr. Wiley recommends him for the position.

**Words or phrases used to describe Scott Moye:**

- Helpful,
- Knowledgeable,
- Friendly,
- Approachable, and
- Honest.

Reference Notes  
Scott Morris Moye

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**Strengths:** Dedicated to his job, knowledgeable, helpful.

**Weaknesses:** None identified.

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**Jerry Pope - Commissioner, Ware County, GA 912-288-6319**

Mr. Pope has known Mr. Moye since about 1996. At the time, Mr. Pope served as a County Commissioner, and Mr. Moye as Assistant to County Manager for Ware County. Mr. Moye left the position in 1998, but he returned to Ware County as County Manager in 2016. They worked together until 2024, when Mr. Moye resigned. Mr. Pope would rate Mr. Moye as being among the best Managers he has worked with.

Mr. Moye works well with elected officials. He keeps the Commissioners informed of what is happening in his area of government. He also maintains a relationship with neighboring local government officials and State officials. These relationships enable him to anticipate and adapt to changes within the State. He shares the information and ideas he gathers from his contacts with the Commissioners.

Mr. Moye does not fear change. He does not make changes unnecessarily, but he continually looks for better ways to manage the organization. He is open to ideas from his employees, Commissioners, and State officials. He thoroughly researches new ideas to ensure they will benefit the organization before implementing them. Mr. Moye was especially innovative during the process of planning two large road projects. The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) refused to participate. Mr. Moye found a way around their regulations and got them involved. He was influential in persuading GDOT to help fund the projects.

Mr. Moye is a problem solver. In Ware County, the CSX Railroad owns a great deal of property. On several occasions, Mr. Moye has worked with the Railroad management to open right of ways on their property. He secured their permission to do paving and road maintenance on their right of ways.

Mr. Moye has satisfactory personnel management abilities. He does not micromanage his employees, but he follows up with them to ensure they have completed quality work. He spends much of his time in the office and could improve on spending more time working alongside his employees in the community. He has a great deal of experience in hiring personnel. He works with the Human Resources Director during the hiring process. He makes good hiring decisions.

Mr. Moye is active in the community. He attends community activities, goes to church, and participates in the Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Waycross Development Authority. He is very good at dealing with members of the public, both one-on-one and in a group. He explains things in a way they can understand.

Reference Notes  
Scott Morris Moye

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Mr. Moye has excellent financial abilities. He could easily serve as a financial director for a government organization. The Commission depends upon him to share and explain financial information.

Mr. Moye has no difficulty in managing stress. He relieves tension by staying active, as well as taking time to relax. He does not allow stress to prevent him from completing tasks in a timely manner.

Mr. Moye does a good job of managing routine controversies. He has not been involved in any controversy resulting from his conduct. Nothing in his background or conduct would concern a citizen or employer.

Mr. Moye is an excellent County Manager. Mr. Pope would gladly hire him for a local government or to manage his local business. He recommends Mr. Moye for the position.

**Words or phrases used to describe Scott Moye:**

- Smart,
- Qualified,
- Open to suggestions, and
- Open-minded.

**Strengths:** Good relationships with the public, communicates clearly, works well with outside organizations.

**Weaknesses:** Takes on too much work. Could delegate more to his staff.

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**Kathryn Taylor – Vice Chairman, Downtown Waycross Development Authority, GA  
912-282-3930**

Ms. Taylor has known Mr. Moye for many years. As County Manager for Ware County, Mr. Moye regularly interacts with Ms. Taylor in her capacity as Vice Chairman of Downtown Waycross Development Authority (DWDA). Ms. Taylor characterizes Mr. Moye's performance as excellent.

Mr. Moye is a good boss. He motivates his employees and rallies them around the organization's vision. He also makes good hiring decisions.

Mr. Moye is innovative. During his time in Ware County, he helped the DWDA by identifying fundraising opportunities and assisting them in applying for grants. He has also proposed mutually beneficial solutions to problems involving the DWDA and other organizations.



Reference Notes  
Scott Morris Moyer

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Mr. Moyer is a good communicator. He keeps his colleagues informed of what is happening in his area of government. He listens and responds to the Commissioners. He also has positive interactions with members of the public, both one-on-one and in a group.

Mr. Moyer uses his communication skills to solve problems. He has many connections and knows how to use them. On one occasion, Ms. Taylor requested his assistance in contacting the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, who were not responding to her calls. Mr. Moyer facilitated communication between the organizations. He identified and brought together the right people to help the DWDA complete a project.

Mr. Moyer responds well to stress. He stays calm during tense situations. He does not display negative emotions during tumultuous meetings.

Mr. Moyer has many other abilities that qualify him for the position. He spends time in the community and attends community meetings. He has great financial skills. He completes tasks in a timely manner.

Ms. Taylor has no knowledge of any controversy involving Mr. Moyer. Nothing in his background or conduct would concern a citizen or an employer.

Mr. Moyer is an excellent Manager. Ms. Taylor recommends him for the position.

**Words or phrases used to describe Scott Moyer:**

- Level-headed,
- Thoughtful,
- Engaged with residents and officials,
- Forward thinker,
- Strong motivator, and
- Honorable.

**Strengths:** Works well with a variety of people, stays calm and solves problems.

**Weaknesses:** Overly concerned with being a peacemaker. Could be more firm and say “no” at times.

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**Leonard Burse - Commissioner, Ware County, GA 912-281-7196**

Mr. Burse has known Mr. Moyer since 2012. They were casually acquainted prior to working together. Mr. Burse became a Commissioner for Ware County in 2018, during Mr. Moyer’s time as County Manager.

**Reference Notes  
Scott Morris Moye**

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Mr. Moye is a hard worker. He manages many projects and issues simultaneously. He works extra hours, even on weekends. He strives to ensure that everything in the organization has been done correctly.

Mr. Moye takes a balanced approach to leadership. He spends a great deal of time doing office work, which limits his engagement with employees. However, he also conducts meetings with Department Heads and seeks input from his staff. He involves them and informs them as much as possible.

Mr. Moye makes good decisions when hiring personnel. This task can be challenging because sometimes Commissioners get involved in the hiring process when they should not. Mr. Moye does his best to make fair and impartial decisions.

Mr. Moye is innovative and an agent of change. He is willing to accept change when it comes, especially when it will benefit the organization. He does research and proposes innovative ideas to the Commission, including grants they could apply for and solutions to problems. He pushes to update or replace antiquated processes.

Mr. Moye is a problem solver. In past years, the City of Waycross, the County seat, and its only incorporated municipality, managed its own recreation. At some point, the County took over the management of recreational services within the City. Residents of the inner city had difficulty traveling to the County's recreational facility because of its location across a major highway. Mr. Moye led the effort to restore control of recreation to the City. He compiled information on why it would benefit both the City and the County and presented it to the Commission.

Mr. Moye has a good relationship with elected officials. He is responsive and helpful to County Commissioners. He provides them with detailed information about multiple projects throughout the County. He also does a good job of keeping officials in the City of Waycross informed about County issues and projects. He encourages City officials to reach out to him in turn.

Mr. Moye spends time in the community. He engages with members of the public. Most residents know him and feel comfortable approaching them. He speaks to them on their level of understanding in a respectful manner. Mr. Moye attends community meetings, including meetings he is not required to attend. He attends many meetings involving transportation issues in the City of Waycross. He informs the Commissioners about the concerns expressed in these meetings, and he explains to the public what the County can and cannot do to help solve the problem.

Mr. Moye has great financial abilities. He oversees the budget with skill and helps the organization consistently produce a balanced budget. He is proactive in ensuring the organization has sufficient funding to complete projects.

Mr. Burse is not aware of Mr. Moye's involvement in any controversy. His background and conduct are appropriate for a person in his position.

Reference Notes  
Scott Morris Moye

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Mr. Moye has done a great job for Ware County. Mr. Burse recommends him for the position of City or County Manager.

**Words or phrases used to describe Scott Moye:**

- Dedicated to the job,
- Forward thinking,
- Conscious of needs in the community,
- Punctual,
- Good relationship with Commissioners, and
- Helpful.

**Strengths:** Good multitasker, keeps Commissioners informed.

**Weaknesses:** Could delegate more.

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**Elmer Thrift – Chairman, Board of Commissioners, Ware County, GA 912-548-7253**

Mr. Thrift has known Mr. Moye since 2019. Mr. Moye was serving as County Manager when Mr. Thrift was elected a Commissioner for Ware County.

Mr. Moye leads his employees well. He also makes good hiring decisions. He does a good job of interviewing candidates and checking their backgrounds.

Mr. Moye is innovative. He finds better ways of managing processes within the organization. He strives to increase performance. He completes tasks in a timely manner.

Mr. Moye spends time in the community. He regularly attends community meetings. He has good relationships with members of the public and has many friends throughout the County.

The Board of Commissioners voted to replace Mr. Moye as County Manager. Some of the Commissioners had issues with Mr. Moye, which Mr. Thrift declined to discuss. The decision was political in nature and not a result of Mr. Moye's performance.

Mr. Thrift is not aware of any controversy involving Mr. Moye. Nothing in Mr. Moye's background would concern a citizen or an employer.

Mr. Moye is a good manager. He is well-qualified for the position.

Reference Notes  
Scott Morris Moye

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**Words or phrases used to describe Scott Moye:**

- Smart,
- Energetic,
- Kind,
- Pleasant, and
- Qualified.

**Strengths:** Intelligent, good financial skills.

**Weaknesses:** Could do better at keeping Commissioners informed.

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**Prepared by:** Claire Argyle  
Colin Baenziger & Associates

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*CB&A Internet Research*

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**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Waycross Journal-Herald (GA)  
October 23, 2024

**Moye resigns as Ware County Manager**

Author/Byline: Danny Bartlett

"I really don't want to make a comment. I want to close this career chapter and move on to the next." This is the only comment of former Ware County Manager **Scott Moye** after his resignation Monday, October 14 to the Ware County Commission. The resignation was given by **Moye** behind closed doors during a 2 V2-hour executive session. The 3-2 acceptance came after commissioners returned from the executive session and was handled as the last item during the October monthly meeting. Commissioner Timothy Lucas made the motion to accept the resignation reading from a prepared statement, "I have in my hand a motion to accept **Scott Moye**, the presiding County Manager at this time, his resignation effective today, October 14, 2024, to pay accumulated PTO (paid time off) and to provide insurance and salary until December 31, 2024." Commissioner Sammy Hendricks seconded the motion.

Commissioner Leonard Burse, clearly distraught, spoke up during the discussion period following Hendricks' second for the motion. "I don't think this will be a right move to accept the county manager's resignation in view of what it's predicated upon," said Burse. "I don't even want to vote to accept his resignation. **Scott Moye** has done a good job as county manager, and I think he would continue to do it. "I think a lot of times we get involved down into the mud of different things and just inundate him with a lot of things where he can't effectively do his job. This is something we need to think about long and hard. I just don't think this is the right decision to remove the county manager. "We have too many things that's going on in this county.

We have road projects going on, we have overpasses, we have key positions where people have already left. I just think this will be detrimental to the county if we make this move at this time." Voting to accept the resignation were Chairman Elmer Thrift, Lucas and Hendricks.

Commissioners Jerry Pope and Burse voted not to accept the resignation. After the vote. Thrift called for commissioner comments. Pope moved to adjourn, and got up to leave as Lucas seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned. Since Monday's meeting, commissioners have been asked why they voted the way they did and the responses varied. Thrift said he had "no comment" on the matter. Lucas said the manager submitted his resignation and rhetorically asked, "How can you make someone stay who wants to resign?" Hendricks said he thought it was the best thing to do stating, "All I did was accept a resignation." Pope said, "On advice of the county attorney (Jennifer Herzog), I have been directed not to say anything about the resignation of the county manager at this time." **Moye**, who had been working without a contract since August 2023, left Monday's session early, gathered his belongings, and left the building, clearly under duress. The Board of Commissioners had considered renewing **Moye's** contract since August 2023, but had not done so culminating in the action taken Monday night.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Waycross Journal-Herald (GA)  
October 2, 2024

**Ware schools closed rest of week; city reschedules budget meeting**

The fallout of the remnants of Hurricane Helene's trip through the area has cancelled school and scheduled city business in Ware County and Waycross, officials said Monday. Schools will be closed in Ware County the entire week, spokesperson Paige Coker said in a news release Monday afternoon. The release said the system would reassess the situation Friday, October 4 to determine if operations can resume Monday, October 7. The Waycross City Commission announced Sunday afternoon on social media and with a notice posted on the front door of City Hall commission meetings scheduled Monday and Tuesday were postponed until Monday-Tuesday, October 6-7. City Hall was scheduled to reopen today (Wednesday, October 2) if power had been restored in the downtown area. Ware County, along with the Pierce and Brantley school systems, announced last Wednesday they would be closed Thursday and Friday because of the storm. Both Pierce and Brantley are closed until further notice, their officials said Monday. The commission meetings were of particular importance as the city makes a third attempt at passing a budget for Fiscal Year 2024-25. City Manager Ulysses Rayford was scheduled to present the proposed \$42, 668 million financial sheet at Tuesday's regular business meeting. Monday was the commission's planning and information session.

After introduction next week, a public hearing on the budget has been scheduled at 3 p.m. Tuesday, October 15 ahead of the commission's meeting that evening. A vote on the ledger could take place at that time. The commission's first action on passing the budget died in June for lack of a second on a motion to pass. The second attempt in early August failed on a 2-1 vote with Commissioner Sheinita Bennett in favor and Commissioners Katrena Felder and Diane Hopkins opposed. The commission's composition, however, has changed since the earlier votes. District 5 Commissioner Alvin Nelson was returned to his seat last month by order of the Georgia Supreme Court. Nelson's appeal of the Ware County Superior Court ruling in the lawsuit brought by Henry Strickland challenging the results of the November 2023 election in which Nelson defeated Strickland is pending before the high court.

Also Monday, the Ware County Commission announced it had contracted with CrowderGulf Disaster Recovery & Debris Management to begin collection and disposal of storm debris. The action comes after the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) had issued a federal disaster declaration for Ware County to assist with Hurricane Helene recovery efforts.

County Manager **Scott Moye** said collection of debris should begin within the next week. The pickup involves only vegetative debris. It should be placed within the public right of way of the county road (edge of road) in an open area away from trees, fire hydrants, power lines, phone pedestals, natural gas lines, and other utility structures. No collection will occur on private property or state-owned rights of way.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Waycross Journal-Herald (GA)  
September 18, 2024

**DOT says county will not lose TSPLOST funds to pave roads**

Author/Byline: Danny Bartlett

Ware County Manager **Scott Moye** presented some unexpected news during the County Manager report at the end of the Monday, September 9, 2024, County Commission meeting. **Moye** contacted the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) about two projects on the Regional TSPLOST (Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax) list to be paved.

The commission, during its last meeting, in a 3-2 vote (Chairman Elmer Thrift, Commissioners Timothy Lucas and Sammy Hendricks voted aye; Leonard Burse and Jerry Pope voted nay), approved using LMIG (Local Maintenance & Improvement Grant) funds from the next two years to go ahead and pave Thigpen Road and Gibbs Lane.

**Moye** reiterated he was under the impression projects could not be swapped once they were put on the Regional TSPLOST list and that if projects were completed by the time they came up for implementation, the funds allocated for those projects would be forfeited. In **Moye's** conversation, he found out the swapping information was correct, but the forfeiture of the funds was not. "We can be reimbursed," said **Moye** to the commissioners. "We have to document everything as if they were paying for it and it has to meet GDOT standards."

**Moye** has already turned in the application and the GDOT will send an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) for the commission to approve. "We document our costs for the file and when those projects come up in the system, then we turn in our documentation and they (GDOT) will reimburse the county," he said. This news was met with a huge collective sigh of relief as estimates were about \$2.5 million for the two projects. Now these two projects can be completed in a timelier manner and the costs will be recovered.



**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Waycross Journal-Herald (GA)  
June 19, 2024

**County rescinds job offer to Niño - EMA director/fire chief must reapply for Pierce position**

BLACKSHEAR - Santo Niño's job status is now in limbo. Pierce County's former Emergency Management Agency (EMA) director/fire chief had submitted his resignation to take a job as director of the James E. Blackburn Sr. Public Safety Training Center in Waycross. Niño's last day on the job in Blackshear was Thursday, June 13 and his first day on the job in Waycross was to have been Monday, June 17. The Waycross Journal-Herald learned Ware County rescinded the job offer at some point Thursday.

According to Ware County officials, they said they were not going to make a hire at this time. Attempts to reach Ware County Manager **Scott Moye** for further comment Monday were unsuccessful. Niño was placed on administrative leave with pay with Pierce County, but it is unclear whether he will be retained as EMA director/fire chief for Pierce County. "It's just been a crazy few days," Niño said. "I don't know what I'm going to do." Efforts to reach Pierce County officials for comment were unsuccessful. Niño said he was told he would have to re-apply for the position and go back through the hiring process. Niño has served as Pierce County's EMA director and fire chief the past five years. Prior to coming to Pierce County, he was with the Waycross Fire Department for 10 years attaining the rank of lieutenant. He was also the training coordinator for Ware County fire departments.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Waycross Journal-Herald (GA)  
June 15, 2024

**Niño to head up Safety Training Center - Former Pierce Co. fire chief, EMA Director replaces Jesse Jordan**

Author/Byline: Rick Nolte

The James E. Blackburn Sr. Public Safety Training Center in Ware County is getting a new director, and he's a familiar face to the area's first responders. Santo Niño, formerly Pierce County's Emergency Management Agency director/fire chief, begins work Monday, June 17 at the facility off Scapa Road. Niño, a former member of the Waycross Fire Department, has been in his Pierce County post the past five years. He replaces Jesse Jordan, who Niño retired last month after serving as director since the center opened in 2022. Waycross Fire Department Chief David Eddins said Niño was a perfect fit for the job. "It will be really good for us," Waycross Fire Department Chief David Eddins said. " (Niño) stays on top of training that's for sure. He's involved in everything, never misses a lick." Although happy in his Pierce County post, Niño said overseeing the training center's operation was something he felt he couldn't pass up. "I wasn't looking to go anywhere else, but this opportunity is a good one for me," he said. "Still, it is very hard to leave my Pierce County family and that's what we are - a family... "Looking back, this has been a good experience for me. Pierce County's people have been great to me."

Ware County Manager **Scott Moye** said the county was fortunate to be able to secure Niño to replace Jordan. Niño said he is extremely proud of the work the Pierce County fire and rescue volunteers and the EMA department has done over the past five years. The department had just 17 volunteers when Niño started and now has 68, all with certification as firefighters. Call volume increased from 440 calls in 2019 to 597 last year and is on pace to match or exceed that rate this year. Pierce County Commission Chairman Neal Bennett commended Niño's work in improving the county's fire departments. "We are very appreciative of Chief Niño's hard work and dedication to our Fire Department," Bennett said. The \$1.2 million training center is a state-of-the-art facility which is becoming a regional training site for fire and police departments as well as sheriff's offices all across southeast Georgia.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Waycross Journal-Herald (GA)  
October 12, 2022

**Moye offers SPLOST info to Exchange Club**

Author/Byline: Danny Bartlett

**Scott Moye**, County Manager for the Ware County Commission, was a guest speaker at the Waycross Exchange Club's weekly meeting Thursday. **Moye** spoke about the Special Local Option Sales Tax referendum that is included on the ballot for the General Election Tuesday, November 8. He also gave an update on the three big transportation plans for the county.

**Moye** said the SPLOST failed in 2020 and 2021 voting when sales tax had risen to 9 percent. Since then, the sales tax has been at 8%. He explained a TSPLOST tax of 1% will be retiring at the end of March, 2023 and if the SPLOST passes this time, it will not go into effect until April 1, 2023, leaving the sales tax at its current level of 8%.

The last two times the SPLOST was on the ballot the tax would have been 9 percent if passed. It failed both times. "Approximately 45% of the of the SPLOST proceeds are collected from visitors from outside the county," said **Moye**.

The informed those gathered the maximum amount that can be raised through the SPLOST is \$55 million. The SPLOST proceeds are divided between the county (60%) and the city (40%). One project dependent on SPLOST proceeds is a vehicular overpass across the railroad tracks near the intersection of Garlington Avenue and Albany Avenue. The U.S. 1 overpass project is completing preliminary design now and a constructability review should be completed this week.

The big news for citizens in the Jamestown community was a project slated to connect Winn Clay Drive with Tanner Lane, including a bridge over Kettle Creek. A Notice of Proceed has been issued and the site should be staked this week. **Moye** encouraged those in attendance to spread the word on the good things the county is planning to use the SPLOST funds for and encouraged them to get out the vote.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Waycross Journal-Herald (GA)  
July 16, 2022

**Ware Commission handles variety of items at meetings**

Author/Byline: Danny Bartlett

The Ware County Commission held a work session and its regular monthly meeting on Monday, July 11, 2022. During the work session, the commission considered several items of business, including a Swamp Road Paving Improvements bid, closure and relocation of the Roscoe Mixon Public Road, a Public Defender contract, an office space lease agreement with Action Pact, Inc., an airport entrance signage proposal, and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Downtown Waycross Development Authority. Swamp Road Paving Chairman Elmer Thrift recused himself from discussion and voting on this proposal as Thrift Brothers was involved in the bidding process. After some discussion on whether this item could be brought up again, since in a previous meeting it was voted down, Ware County Attorney Jennifer Herzog said there was never a vote that ended the item, so it was placed on the agenda for the regular meeting. At the regular meeting, the bid from Allen Owens was accepted with a stipulation that the county engineer supervise and inspect the project, as needed. Roscoe Mixon Road Commissioners considered the relocation after hearing from Ware County Manager **Scott Moye** about what steps need to be taken to make this happen. Pastor David Bechiom explained why they were asking about this. Tommy Rouse has agreed to deed the necessary amount of land to the county to make it happen. Commissioners gave **Moye** the authority to proceed with the preliminary work and he will come back later with a full report and the paperwork necessary to make it happen. Public Defender **Moye** explained this is a continual project that is renewed every six months and is mandated by the State. The cost of the contract had an increase from

\$14, 440.18 to \$14, 914.67, an increase of \$474.49. The item was placed on the regular meeting agenda. During the regular meeting, the contract was accepted. Action Pact, Inc. **Moye** explained this is an annual agreement where the County leases office space at the Juvenile Court for Action Pact to use. Action Pact uses the space when court is in session as advocates for juveniles. Commissioner Leonard Burse recused himself as he is on the board of Action Pact. The item was placed on the regular meeting agenda. During the regular meeting, the agreement was accepted with Burse abstaining. Airport signage **Moye** explained the Waycross Ware County Development Authority is replacing some signs at the Industrial Park, and they wanted to know if the Commission would be interested in them developing a sign to match for the airport entrance. **Moye** said there is still some CARES money available to pay for the sign. The sign would cost \$24, 195. The item was placed on the regular meeting agenda. During the regular meeting, the proposal was accepted MOU with DWDA **Moye** explained this is an agreement to allow their director to be on the County's group insurance plan. There would be no cost to the County. The item was placed on the regular meeting agenda. During the regular meeting, the MOU was accepted. Commissioners clarified an item on the joint project list with Waycross for the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) the two have agreed to place on the ballot for the General Election in November. The county's portion of an overpass project is for vehicles on Albany

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**

**Scott Moye**

*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Avenue while the city's is for pedestrians on Corridor Z at Garlington Avenue. The county portion will be a two-lane road. The county and city are seeking \$55 million over a six-year period. If approved, the one-cent sales tax referendum would take effect on April 1, 2023, after the TSPLOST expires on March 31. This would keep the county's current total retail sales tax at eight cents. The last two times the SPLOST was placed before the voters it failed. Those taxes, however, would have placed the level at nine cents.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Waycross Journal-Herald (GA)  
July 13, 2022

**County unanimous in joining city on SPLOST**

Author/Byline: Danny Bartlett

Ware County commissioners approved an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Waycross for the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax during a called meeting Thursday. Commissioners agreed during the July 7 session for the passage of the resolution to join the City of Waycross for the SPLOST to be placed on the November 2022 ballot. The one-cent SPLOST would begin April 2023 after the TSPLOST (Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax) currently in place expires.

Commissioner Leonard Burse asked if there was a cap on the amount that could be collected. County Manager **Scott Moye** replied the length of the agreement would be six years and there is a \$55 million cap. **Moye** also said the total of the projects to be listed is less than the cap amount.

County Attorney Jennifer Herzog concurred explaining the cap is intentionally overestimated to be sure projects can be completed. Commissioner Timothy Lucas asked if the resolution would be voted on in November and asked for clarification of when it would begin. **Moye** replied "yes" to both inquiries and explained there would be no change to the current tax rate of 8 percent.

Burse sought clarification of two joint projects, Albany Avenue and Garlington Steet vehicle overpass. **Moye** replied preliminary work has already begun on those projects. Chairman Elmer Thrift asked for clarification that in both, the city and county, have agreed to finish both projects. **Moye** said "yes."

Commissioner Steve Pope sought clarification on the amount of funds to be spent on roads, overpass, bridges, road equipment, and drainage at a cost of \$30 million. **Moye** replied that, "yes, the bulk of the money is going to roads and streets." Commissioner Steve Barnard questioned the resolution not stipulating 60 percent of the funds raised will go to the county and 40 percent to the city.

**Moye** clarified that the 60-40 split is in the agreement itself and not in the resolution.

Lucas asked for clarification why the bridge project over Ossie Davis Parkway is not part of the resolution with Burse asking for clarification why the proposed Jamestown bridge also is not part of this resolution.

The county manager went on to explain that if a "dire emergency" arose, funds can be used to address that situation. After questions and concerns were addressed, Burse moved and Pope seconded that the resolution be approved. After the roll call vote was called, the motion passed unanimously. After the vote, Burse commented the commissioners and citizens get behind this

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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action to ensure the residents of both the city and county would benefit.

Thrift read the resolution and said it needed to put it on the ballot in November. Lucas said there are residents who mistakenly think if the SPLOST passes in November the tax would take effect immediately. He wanted to make sure everyone understands the tax will not go into effect until April after the TSPLOST expires. **Moye** was asked to explain the protocol again.

There was some discussion about what the county can and cannot do as far as promoting the tax. "Basically, the commission cannot ask residents to vote in favor, and county tax money cannot be spent to encourage a "yes" vote, but education on the benefits of the tax and what projects are proposed is allowable," explained **Moye**.

Lucas asked Tax Commissioner Roger Collins if he had any thoughts on the tax. He made the point many people from surrounding counties come to Waycross and Ware County to work and shop and help pay for the roads and infrastructure with this tax.

There was more discussion concerning how people outside the county help pay for the infrastructure through this tax.

After discussion was finished, Burse moved and Lucas seconded the resolution be approved as written. After the roll call, the resolution was approved unanimously. Thrift asked Collins to speak on the property taxes roll back. Collins explained preliminary notices have been sent. "We're in the appeal stage at this time," said Collins. "There will be changes before a final roll back or not will be offered."

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Scott Moyer**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Waycross Journal-Herald (GA)  
July 9, 2022 |

**Caution advised for traveling Jamestown Road - County officials awaiting word from CSX for road repairs**

Author/Byline: Myra Williams

Traffic is again moving along Jamestown Road, albeit the travel is rough with an uneven surface. The road was damaged by the early Thursday morning, June 30 train derailment of 19 rail cars. Ware County Manager **Scott Moyer** said the road was milled last Saturday, July 2, and that more milling may have to take place before repairs can be done and the surface replaced.

"It's really rough, but drivers can go through," **Moyer** said Thursday, July 7. "They just need to go really slow and use caution when riding on that portion of the road that was damaged." **Moyer** said county officials are waiting to hear back from CSX about repairs to the roadway. "We hope to have it done within the next couple of weeks," he said. "We need to get the road finished and ready for the surface."

**Moyer** added that more surface milling may have to be done to make sure the surface is smooth. The milling material is being stockpiled for use by the county on dirt roads and other places where fill is needed. The damage was caused by the cars that derailed about 3 a.m. Thursday, cutting into the roadway and creating a large area of destruction. Repairs are needed to an area from the intersection with U.S. 1 up a hill to a place just south of Blalock Road.

CSX worked feverishly to clear the accident and replace damaged rails on their main north/south line. Trains were back running the route early Friday morning, July 1. "We don't have any estimate of cost to make the repairs," **Moyer** said. "I also don't have the square footage from the damaged area." A locomotive and 18 rail cars, including box and tanker cars, went off the track that runs parallel to Jamestown Road.

The road was closed for several days following the incident, but was reopened Monday, July 4. "We'll work hard to get the destroyed area repaired," said **Moyer**, "but we urge all those using the Jamestown Road area to be extremely careful and drive very slowly. "We want to make sure everyone is safe in that area." No cause for the derailment has been released.



**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Waycross Journal-Herald (GA)  
July 2, 2022

**Ware Commission condemns parcels for access roadway**

Author/Byline: Myra Williams

Ware County commissioners moved one step closer to the construction of the Jamestown Subdivision Access Road Monday by approving a resolution for condemnation of two properties standing in the way. The resolution, offered during a public hearing, calls for the condemnation of the proposed property, one of which consists of .45 acres and the other .99 acres.

"These two tracts of property are needed to construct an access road to connect Tanner Lane and Winn Clay Drive," said County Manager **Scott Moye**.

Time was offered for anyone opposed to the action by the board, but no one voiced any opposition to the move. At the end of the public hearing, commissioners entered into a called meeting to take action on the matter. The resolution was unanimously approved by board members in attendance. Commissioner Jerry Pope was not present for the meeting. Chairman Elmer Thrift, Commissioner Timmy Lucas, Commissioner Steve Barnard and Commissioner Leonard Burse Jr. all voted in the affirmative.

**Moye** said the county will start advertising next week for 30 days and then roughly 30-40 days for awarding the bid and performance bid issuing. "We'll probably send the 'Notice to Proceed' to the contractor around mid-September and it will take 270 days to build the access road," **Moye** said. "Hopefully the contractor won't have any supply chain problems."

Commissioner Barnard suggested naming the bridge that's going across Kettle Creek in the area after former county commissioner Burton Carter, who worked hard to get the roadway prepared.

**Moye** pointed out Carter and Commissioner Barnard worked in tandem to get it done and that Carter also pushed hard for the State Street Overpass.

Burse noted the creation of the road is a "safety issue" to help give folks in the community a way to get out and in when trains are blocking the existing roadways. "This is an emergency road," said Burse.

Attorney Jennifer Herzog explained the resolution gives the commission an outline to condemn property and gives the board the authority to hire anyone needed to get the job done. Letters will go out to the property owners shortly.

"We had two properties that we were unable to resolve," Herzog noted. "Once it is filed with the court, Ware County takes ownership of the property and the project can move forward." It was pointed out the county already had appraisers go out and look at the property. The owners were offered the appraised price, but rejected it. "I hate that it's come to this, but it is for the good of

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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all," said Burse.

**Moye** also reminded the board a feasibility study was done in 2017 and four options were offered. One option was to build an overpass, one to build a road to connect with ABC Avenue, one to build a road farther north with an overpass and one to build a road at the end of Blaylock Avenue.

CSX Transportation was going to charge the county \$350, 000 to build alongside the tracks. CSX then decided not to allow the road to be built near the tracks. "This was our last option, our last resort, our only choice," said Burse. "Condemnation was the only way to get that road built." Following the vote, commissioners discussed the current negotiations with the city concerning disbursement of the one-cent Local Option Sales Tax.

The current split is 58 percent for the county and 42 percent for the city. After a 60-day period, mediations can be started. The LOST generates about \$8 million a year. The determined split has to be re-negotiated every 10 years. These monies are used to rollback property taxes or provide a credit against property taxes, said **Moye**.

"If it was not for the LOST, our millage would be a lot greater," said **Moye**. Burse pointed out the county has a lot more responsibility than the city. Barnard suggested leaving the split at 58-42 and send that to the city for approval. Church items deadline Friday Deadline for items for the Religion Page is 4 p.m. on the Friday before publication on Wednesday. Items may be emailed to church@wjhnews.com or delivered between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays to The Journal-Herald office at 311 Carswell Avenue. Announcements appear as space allows until out of date.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Waycross Journal-Herald (GA)  
May 14, 2022

**County continues insurance program**

Author/Byline: Myra Williams

In the year 2020, Ware County Commissioners elected to implement a "self-insured" system of health care for its employees in an effort to save money for the county and the workers. It was a good decision. "It was a really good year," John Leggett of Anthem Insurance told board members Monday during a work session held at the Ware County Administration Building. "And we expect no increase in claims this year. Employee premiums are staying the same."

In a regular meeting that followed the work session, commissioners voted to continue the self-insured process with Anthem and to move the dental and vision insurance to Anthem. A total of 230 employees from a possible 290 participate in the service. The anticipated amount from the County is \$3.9 million, an increase of \$65, 412 over current year or 1.4 percent increase.

"We have experienced a savings of approximately \$1 million by the end of June if numbers stay consistent," said County Manager **Scott Moye**. "We were fully funded, but we started the self-funded last year. Hopefully we can stay at this point."

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Waycross Journal-Herald (GA)  
April 9, 2022

**Volunteers key in fire services**

Author/Byline: Myra Williams

Becoming a volunteer firefighter is one of the most rewarding and selfless decisions anyone can make, those who work with the responders say. Volunteer firefighters prevent and put out fires, and administer first aid within their communities. Today, volunteers make up about 50 percent of all active firefighters,

making it a great first step on the ladder to becoming a paid firefighter who makes his living serving others, officials say. Volunteer firefighters play a vital role in making a difference in the lives of their fellow man. In Brantley, Ware and Pierce counties, volunteer firefighters are the lifeblood of the fire service, many of them working fulltime jobs by day, then working for their community in the evenings and on weekends responding to emergencies that include fires, traffic accidents and medical emergencies. Ware County, which has 10 fully equipped fire stations - nine of them volunteer - has a large contingent of volunteer firefighters. "We always have a good turnout," said Ware Fire Chief Dee Meadows. "Of course, things have changed. The younger generation doesn't volunteer as much as the previous generations did. But we still have a good group that reports when they are needed." In addition to the fully staffed Fire Station I in the Waycross-Ware

Count Industrial Park, Ware County has nine other stations including Pebble Hill, Millwood, Southeast, Boggy Bay, Emerson Park, Waresboro, Pine Valley, Bickley, Manor. "Our numbers are maintained about the same and we've gained about 15 since I've been here," said Meadows. Bucky Goble, chief of the Blackshear Fire Service, said Pierce County is fully staffed with volunteers, that he keeps 20 to 22 on the roster at all times. "It depends on the time of day," said Goble. "We run automatic day and night, anything within five miles of the city limits. That's how we combat fires and emergencies." Volunteers in Pierce County go through the same training as a regular firefighter, they just do it in the county where they serve. "Some have state training which is basically the same, we just teach them here," said Goble.

"We have taken some over to Ware County to experience their burn building, but we have our own burn building in Pierce County." Ware County Manager **Scott Moye** said he greatly appreciates those who give of their time and dedicate their service to the community. "They are true public servants who dedicate their time and talents to the communities where they live. And these communities rely on the volunteers. It is a great calling," said **Moye**. "It works great, as far as the service is concerned. We have very active volunteer fire departments. Since COVID appears to be drifting away, "I'm hopeful we can get in more training for them. We were really homebound for a while but it appears to be changing. We also want to get more younger people involved." The duties of a volunteer firefighter span beyond putting out fires and rescuing animals from trees. In reality, volunteer firefighters perform a multitude of important tasks to keep others safe, maintain their equipment, and ensure the department can continue serving their

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches****Scott Moye***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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community. Volunteer firefighters respond to fire outbreaks in the same way as paid firefighters, although their involvement is usually secondary or in support of career firefighters. Some of their responsibilities include setting up ladders, connecting hoses to hydrants, spraying fires directly, and using methods to prevent fire spread. Volunteer firefighters often administer first aid or CPR to individuals hurt in fire, accidents, or other types of emergencies. Some volunteers receive training on basic life-support methods, while others rely on paid firefighters to administer these services. When an individual or group of people go missing or are in imminent danger, volunteers may participate in search and rescue efforts. These may take place in bodies of water, remote spaces, mountainous areas, or even urban settings. Volunteers usually work in teams to cover larger areas of ground in shorter amounts of time.

After the outbreak of a fire or in the aftermath of a large traffic wreck, volunteer firefighters step in to help reroute traffic, avoid pile-ups, and ensure that pedestrians, emergency staff, and drivers all follow safety procedures. They may direct traffic, set up barriers, or liaise with other firefighters or police departments to accomplish these goals. When not responding to an emergency, volunteer firefighters sometimes work at the department to repair equipment, uniforms, or vehicles. Given the high levels of wear and tear that comes with this type of work, it's not unusual for frequently used tools to require maintenance. Before diving into an intensive training program with the local fire academy, it's important you're sure about becoming a volunteer firefighter. While some individuals may find battling fires, aiding in search and rescue efforts, and providing emergency medical services fulfilling and even exciting - volunteer firefighting can be taxing and isn't for everyone.

They must be willing to give up the occasional full night of rest or work unsocial hours to help others. They must find it important to give back to the community in meaningful ways that pay it forward. When working in life-or death situations, those who serve alongside become more than colleagues -they become family, said Meadows. In addition to working as a volunteer firefighter that bonds you together with others, firefighters will also likely go through personal and professional changes that they share with their fellow volunteers.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Waycross Journal-Herald (GA)  
April 2, 2022

**County OKs space to aid circuit court with backlog**

Author/Byline: Myra Williams

Ware County commissioners approved a resolution earlier this week to allow the Waycross Judicial Circuit to use space in the Ware County Administration Building for civil hearings to help the system catch up from the COVID-19 pandemic that shut down the courts for several months. The action came during a called meeting of the commission Monday afternoon, March 28. Chief Superior Court Judge Dewayne Gillis presented the board with information on how the space could serve the system and help judges get caught up from being way behind for such a long period of time. "We've been struggling with state requirements and we're trying to catch up the backlog of cases," said Gillis. "We're trying to schedule hearings, but space is an issue for holding them. I've talked with **Scott (Moye, county manager)** about a room we could use but we need a resolution. "Coffee and Ware counties are overwhelming us with a backlog of cases. We hope to eliminate some of the backlog, but it may go on for two years."

Chairman Elmer Thrift requirements would be needed in the building. He was told the sheriff handles security for the courts, but he also would like for the grand jury to be able to use the room. The District Attorney's office would have to ramp up and find employees to help with the dispensing of the cases, Gillis said. "Our mandate is to get caught up," said Gillis. Judge Jeffery Kight told the board there would be no major costs, but the main issue would be sound and that officials are getting a workup on that proposal. **Moye, Ware County Manager**, said the rooms set for being used as court rooms are Rooms 111, 112, 113 and 114 near the rear door of the building in the downstairs portion.

"There would be some minor conversions for them to use them and a cost of about \$10, 000 to make changes, especially to the sound system," **Moye** said. "There would be minor changes such as adding a witness stand." Law library funds from the court system would be used to pay for the changes. The funds are collected from cases handled through the courts each year.

**Moye** said the court system would be using the building for a three-year period. In other business, the commission appointed Patrick Simmons as a member of the Ware County Department of Family and Children Services board. During a work session held prior to the business meeting, commissioners talked briefly about making plans for a new Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax referendum to be put on the ballot in November. The county and city will begin meetings to iron out the plans for proposed projects. The last SPLOST ended in April 2020 after the voters in Ware County turned down the referendum for a one-cent sales tax as a continued funding source. Thrift stressed the need to get the SPLOST back on the ballot and get it approved to help with capital projects for Ware County.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Waycross Journal-Herald (GA)  
March 30, 2022

**Carter explains tax situation with state - County followed bid process; consent order covers 3 years**

Author/Byline: Myra Williams

Ware County's acceptance of a consent order from the Georgia Department of Revenue and the need to have all property in the county revalued has some folks scratching their heads wondering how the situation is going to impact their tax bills for the next season. According to Billy Carter of the Ware County Tax Assessor's Office, there was no choice in the matter for the county. It was either accept the consent order and address the requirements or lose a lot of state money that's needed to help with county projects. "Every year we're audited and every three years we're reviewed by the Department of Revenue," Carter said. "If the numbers are not in compliance, they write a warning that needs to be corrected. If you fail again, you are revisited.

"For the 2020 review period, the tax digest was still out of compliance. There is no way around a Department of Revenue consent order when it is issued. If you don't get it corrected, you pay the fine and lose state money from utilities (Georgia Power, CSX). It basically comes down to needing a company to overhaul all our computer programs." The fine is \$105, 000 for a three-year period and the loss of state monies, according to Carter. The county, following the consent order, let out for bids receiving two, according to Carter.

One company, Technical Appraiser of Georgia of Macon, responded they could not bid because they did not have time to do the job. Another company, Mc-Cormick Solutions of Dawsonville was also involved in the bidding process. The bid from McCormick Solutions was much higher than the one submitted by Georgia Mass Appraisal Solutions (GMAS), said Carter. "I have all of that information in my office," he stated of the bids.

Commissioners made the choice to hire GMAS for the job at a price of \$750, 000 to get the county's property revalued in a timely manner and help get the county out from under the consent order. The price includes new equipment, new programming to enter data, and training. "The people with GMAS have worked with the Department of Revenue and the owners are retired from there," added Carter. "They designed the program software 150 of the 159 counties in the state are using. They also teach the classes that certify us to do this work." County manager **Scott Moye** said the company comes highly recommended. Coffee, Charlton and Tift counties are all using them.

"I understand there has been a problem for years" said **Moye**. "It goes way back. There have been bandaids put on it for years to try and stay in compliance. You can't patch a system forever."

Carter said the county's computer programs are all outdated. The last complete re-evaluation was done in 1988. Since then, the valuations all have been done inhouse and the county continued

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches****Scott Moye***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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with that practice until it got them in a bind. "Our equipment is outdated," Carter explained. "We go out to work in the field, write everything by hand on cards, and then we return to the office and put that information into the system. That process takes three or four days. "With new equipment, we'll have iPads to take photos and punch in the information before we leave a property. We'll have somebody (GMAS personnel) in the office watching everything we do with the new equipment and flagging things that may not be right." Carter explained home sales in the area are the reason for the higher property values. "Our housing sales are what's driving the market," he said. "People are paying list price and it's running up the market. What we do is set fair market value on property." According to Carter, there are a total of 21, 000 pieces of property (commercial, industrial, residential and agricultural) that have to be revalued.

"We have three people certified to do the work - to do all 21, 000 pieces of property," said Carter. "There's no benefit to anyone except the citizens of the county. Our contract is only for review and audit overhaul." After the revaluations, 30 days will be allowed for appeals. "We will handle 95 percent of the appeals in house," said Carter. "Taxpayers need to know that at the end of the day, property values are up. All we do is set fair market value. "We are the property appraisal department. The millage rates are set by the county commission, the school board and the city commission."



**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Waycross Journal-Herald (GA)  
October 13, 2021

**Ware Commission starts condemning parcels for roads**

Author/Byline: Myra Thrift

Ware County commissioners moved a step closer to the paving of five streets on the south side of the county with the approval of condemnation procedures for 10 parcels of property during the regular monthly meeting Monday, October 11. Osburn Road, RC Davis Road, Morris Road, Pine Lane and Pleasant Acres Road will be improved with paving, drainage and other necessary actions in the near future.

“There are 10 properties that need to be condemned,” said County Manager **Scott Moye**, “to move this project forward.”

Two letters of notifications have been sent to the property owners who have not signed onto the improvements. “We need to get the commission to declare this condemnation procedures. The county would immediately become owners of the property and the property would be appraised as to its value,” said **Moye**. “Because the courts are so backed up, it depends as to whether the owners want to request a jury trial.”

The road building would go on as planned, **Moye** said. “The commission has decided to move forward with the paving and only 10 property owners have not given permission,” said **Moye**.

Property owners who have not signed include BC Waycross Associates LLC, Waycross Choice, LLC, Waycross Property Acquisition Co. LLC, Sarah J. Bunch, Jeanette H. Osburn, G&S Auto Sales of Baxley Inc., Mark R. Osburn, David and Andrea Osburn, David E. Osburn and Mark R. Osburn. “They have all been notified by letter, but with no response,” **Moye** said. “This project needs to get done and the commission is ready to move forward.”

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Waycross Journal-Herald (GA)  
September 29, 2021

**Communication, cooperation by host of agencies key pilot rescue**

Author/Byline: Rick Nolte

Communication and cooperation among a group of first responders along with utility and government workers last week led to flawless execution in the rescue of a pilot who crashed his small plane alongside McKinley Road near the Ware County Airport. The biplane was dangling from a power line by its tail wheel when members of the Ware County Fire Department and Sheriff's Department arrived around 10:20 a.m., Thursday, September 23. The single-engine plane had broken off the top portion of the pole holding the power line, and was held aloft nose pointing down by only the rest of the pole and its line connected to another pole some 150 yards away.

Authorities identified the pilot as Rob Weyder, 78, of Palm Coast, Florida. Weyder was on his way to South Carolina as part of a group of private planes for a “fly in,” according to flight information of the Federal Aviation Administration. Weyder was suspended in the plane's cockpit suffering from cuts on his arms and head, but able to communicate with authorities before he was extricated from the aircraft about 12:35 p.m. by a two-man team operating from a Georgia Power bucket truck. Before the rescuers harnessed Weyder and lowered him to the ground to a team of Emergency Medical Technicians waiting with a litter, the power had to be cut off to the line holding the plane as well as to other lines nearby. In order to stabilize the aircraft for the rescue, it was hooked to the bucket of an excavator brought in from the Ware County Public Works Department.

Once on the ground, Weyder was taken to Memorial Satilla Health by Ware County EMS for treatment. In a comment to the Waycross Journal-Herald's Facebook site on the story of the episode, a woman from New Jersey named Kelly Ann who identified herself as the pilot's daughter, said her father was doing well later Thursday afternoon in the hospital. Attempts to contact the woman by text and Facebook messaging for an update on her father's condition were unsuccessful Monday afternoon, September 27.

Ware County Emergency Management Agency Director Jonathan Daniell said a call about the plane crash came to the county's 911 center about 10:15. Ware County's first responders were joined by personnel from other area fire and rescue departments as well as law enforcement along with employees and officials from Georgia Power and Georgia Power Transmission, on whose line the plane was suspended. “It took everyone involved working together and communicating in a very dangerous situation for that gentleman to come out in fairly good shape,” said Ware County Manager **Scott Moye**, who was on the scene shortly after the arrival of the first responders. “You can't say enough about the cooperation it took from so many different agencies to have this outcome. It's amazing what everyone did to keep that plane from falling and get (Weyder) out.” The crash cut off power all around Waycross. The line the plane was suspended from is among a host of others running into and away from three power

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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substations located near McKinley Road and the airport. First reports said the plane had hit one of the substations. “It would’ve been devastating if he’d gone into a substation,” Daniell said. Flight information showed Weyder was coming from Ormond Beach, Florida, and planned to stop at the airport in Waycross.

Stephen Winge, who was working near the crash site, said he saw two planes that looked like they were trying to land at the facility, which is approximately two miles from the site of the crash. “A Piper Cub took the lead and the other one (biplane) broke off and when he started climbing, the power cut off,” Winge recalled. “(Pilot) got it going and when he started climbing again, it cut out again. He came over in a glide, but I knew he wasn’t going to make it (airport).”

Winge estimated the pilot was at an altitude of about 1,000 feet when the problems started. He surmised Weyder was attempting to land on the road or in the adjacent field between the rows of power lines when he realized he couldn’t make the airport.

Shawn Harrington who was working in a garage a few streets over from the crash site said he heard the plane’s engines struggling before it went down. “The engine went in and out a couple of times,” Harrington said. “Just a little bit after that, I saw a flash. I thought it was a transformer blowing, but it was (plane) hitting the power line.” The plane’s impact snapped the wooden power pole about eight feet from the top. The pole is among a line about 35 yards into the field from the edge of McKinley Road, a two-lane, paved surface.

Daniell said the FAA was called and that the investigation into the cause of the crash would be handled by the National Transportation Safety Board, the FAA said. A couple of hours after Weyder was rescued, the plane, which the FAA said was built from a kit, was transported by flatbed truck to a hanger at the airport to await inspection by aviation authorities. The site of the crash was on land owned privately and leased for farming and the apparatus needed for electricity transmission, Daniel said. Power was restored to most of the affected area within 30 to 45 minutes of the crash, he said.

Daniell said it had been “10 or 12 years, maybe longer” since there had been a plane crash at the airport. He said in that instance the landing gear wouldn’t engage and the pilot skidded the plane to a stop on its belly at the facility. The unusual circumstances related to Thursday’s crash and the pilot’s rescue was national news later in the afternoon and evening. “My sister (Ellen) lives up in New Jersey and she said it made the New York City news programs,” said Ware County Fire Department Chief Dee Meadows, who directed the rescue operation and communicated with the pilot throughout the ordeal. “This isn’t something you think about dealing with when we go to work.”

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Waycross Journal-Herald (GA)  
August 4, 2021

**Third hearing set today for new millage rate**

No one from the public attended the first two public hearings on the Ware County Commission’s plans for a millage rate change in the coming fiscal year. The county held two meetings, one at 10 a.m. and the other at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, July 28, but no one was there to voice opinions in support or against the change. The millage rate change will increase property taxes in the county’s jurisdiction by 1.11 percent over the rollback rate, Ware County Manager **Scott Moye** explained.

The tentative increase will result in a millage rate of 15.240 mills, an increase of 0.167 mills. “Without this tentative tax increase the millage rate will be no more than 15.073 mills,” said **Moye**. “The increase for a home of fair market value of \$100,000 is about \$6.34 and the proposed tax increase for non-homestead property with a fair market value of \$100,000 is approximately \$6.68.”

A third public hearing is set for 4:30 p.m. today (Wednesday, August 4). All interested citizens are invited to attend this meeting, said **Moye**. “There was no one in either of our first two meetings,” **Moye** said.

Hearings on the millage rate for the City of Waycross will be at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. today in City Hall. The required third hearing is scheduled for 4 p.m., Tuesday, August 17.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Brantley Beacon, The (GA)  
May 5, 2021

**Citizens not answering Help Wanted signs**

Author/Byline: Myra Thrift

There was a time when businesses and companies had prospective workers standing in line asking to work for a day's wage to help care for their families. Things have drastically changed over the past year with the nation dealing with the coronavirus pandemic. Many believe a result of the government stimulus programs and the additional funding for unemployment have hampered businesses filling positions that were lost during the months of limited services or total shutdowns. "Help Wanted" signs have been posted all over Ware County, Pierce County, Brantley County and surrounding counties with employers offering targeted incentives to reel in loyal, hard-working, productive employees in a time when government stimulus and additional unemployment wages can dissuade workers from taking on a daily job.

Over the last few months, nearly every employer, especially in the fast food industry, has posted signs of additional incentives to encourage workers to commit to a steady job. At places like McDonald's, the company is offering "daily pay" for working. Burger King has a sign at its window that they are looking for faithful employees. Some businesses have posted signs offering signing bonuses and instant employment for those who will show up for an interview. Places like Lowe's and Kroger, Cracker Barrel and Arby's are practically begging for folks to work. Trucking companies are seeking CDL drivers and offering extra incentives to take on those long, over-the-road hauls.

Ware County Manager **Scott Moye** said the county has been experiencing a lack of prospective workers for some time. "That's been going on quite a while," said **Moye**. "During this period while people are receiving all the stimulus checks and entitlements, there's no incentive, no work ethic." **Moye** said he heard that Caterpillar Company was offering a \$1,000 signing bonus for jobs at their businesses. "A lot of places have cut back, such as Applebees, which has closed off part of the restaurant at certain hours because they can't get enough people to work," said **Moye**.

A sign posted at Duncan Donuts says the business is closing at 7 p.m., every evening when they used to be open into the night. Pizza Hut has posted a sign to hire managers, servers and drivers. And it's like that at nearly every business in town.

Nick Smith, of Scruggs Concrete, said basically the company is working hard to retain its current workers. "These folks have to pay for education to get where they are and if we treat them well they will be less inclined to quit because of the stimulus," said Smith. "Our folks are making twice what the minimum wage is. We have so much business we can't keep up. We need to hire more and can't get people to answer the phone." Smith said in years past, Scruggs has never had to advertise for workers. "We're doing all we can to get them to ring (call)," he said. "About a fourth of the people we do attract are qualified to do these jobs. Our job availability is in trucking and driving, local delivery. "We have good pay, insurance, 401k and paid vacation. All of our

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches****Scott Moyer***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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trucks are new. We have excellent driving jobs and they can be close to home.” Smith said in the past, every month a handful of people would visit the company to apply for jobs. But since the stimulus payments have been made, that number has fallen. “We can’t keep finishers and masons and can’t keep workers,” said Smith. “It seems some folks would rather sit at home and get \$12 an hour and not have to go to work. Managers are now having to do the actual work, all the labor. “They started at the bottom and worked their way up to their current positions and now they’re having to come back down to do labor.”

Scruggs is located at 215 W. Blackshear Avenue and has multiple locations throughout Georgia. “With Waycross being as busy a place as it is now, we’re having to turn down a fair amount of work,” Smith said. “But we’re intent on keeping the workers we have now. My granddaddy owns his business and he’s 93 and still working six days a week.”

A sign at Michael’s Deli is offering a \$600 incentive to compete with the federal government, Smith said. “In no world should that be happening,” Smith stated. “Times are really good. We’re covered up in business. But we need workers to satisfy the job openings. “We have good workers and we’re proud of them. We recently hired two very good workers through an ad in your paper (Waycross Journal-Herald) and we’re going to do what we have to to keep them.”

With high school and college graduations just around the corner, the employment picture is looking better than it has in years, a spokesman for the Georgia Labor Department said.

Arby’s has a sign noting it is “Hiring and Inspiring.”

Now who doesn’t want to be inspired?

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Waycross Journal-Herald (GA)  
January 6, 2021

**Ware officials ready for challenges of 2021**

Author/Byline: Myra Thrift

Ware County’s new Commission Chairman Elmer Thrift is eager for the new year to begin so he can start to bring his ideas to the people of Waycross and Ware County, hoping for lots of communication with the citizens and close cooperation with Waycross City Commission members and other officials. Thrift was given the oath of office Monday, December 28 by retiring Ware County State Court Judge Doug Gibson.

Ware County Manager **Scott Moye** plans to hit any issues and problems head-on, as the county moves forward without the additional funding from the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax. The veteran administrator said he’s determined to help Ware have a productive and successful year despite the challenges.

Since being involved in construction for years, Thrift said one of his top issues concerns roads, those that exist in Ware County and those that would benefit the county if they were built. Thrift is hopeful that 2021 will bring positive changes in every aspect of life, including freedom from the COVID-19 coronavirus, and the attitudes and outlooks of people who reside in every district of the county. “We have a lot of road maintenance that we need to do,” said Thrift. “We need that overpass and we’ll go hard for that. We also need a perimeter road on the south side and I already have a plan and a drawing.”

Thrift said one of the most important issues in his vision is great communication and cooperation with city officials. “I believe they’re with me 100 percent on my ideas. I’m looking forward to cooperating with the city,” said Thrift. “In my first year, I want us to figure out what we want to do and be united in all of our efforts. ‘United we stand, divided we fall.’”

Thrift said some officials want a new industrial park that would be more beneficial to the city and county. “We’re sitting right on top of one at the old Rice Yard area,” said Thrift. “There are thousands of acres of land with no roads out there and it would be a great place for a perimeter road that we could build and bring right back to Waycross. There are acres of land out there that are 20 feet higher in elevation than even downtown.”

These ideas are sure to cost money, but Thrift believes if folks can see the benefit, and see it in the right setting, they would be in support of the plans. “I want to get my ideas out there and that’s not all,” said Thrift. “God blessed me beyond my wildest imaginations and I’ve got to put something back. We’re looking at some good things to come into Waycross and Ware County. “We have rail service from all over the world and we don’t unload anything here. We have some of the best areas out there for placement of facilities.”

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**

**Scott Moyer**

*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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**Moyer** knows he and the commission have their work cut out for them and that they'll be facing new challenges in the new year. "This coming year will definitely bring a new mindset with budgeting and cost control with no SPLOST to supplement the operating budget," he said. "All capital outlay projects including some transportation infrastructure projects will now have to fit within the General Fund."

From a managerial standpoint, balancing the budget and budget control will be a tremendous task, **Moyer** said, but he admits that challenges can be good for new insight if strict planning and priorities are in place from the beginning. "All services will now be scrutinized because our revenues are mostly set and we have to operate with a balanced budget," said **Moyer**.

"No one knows how and for how long COVID-19 will change how the county government operates. The virus could become part of the equation with what we do and how we do it from this point on. The new year has started with many more cases so we'll need to become more proactive with safety measures as a local government to protect citizens and employees."

From a personal standpoint, **Moyer** said he believes the county has the commission and county staff to deal with these "opportunities that are before us now. Ware County will always strive to provide the very best services with the staff and resources we have available."



**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Waycross Journal-Herald (GA)  
October 7, 2020

**Letter to the editor**  
Author: **Scott Moye**

The 2021 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax referendum that will be on the November 3 ballot increases the sales tax one cent, to be shared between Ware County and the City of Waycross at a roughly 60%-40% split, respectively. The total amount of SPLOST funds is estimated to be \$47 million over six years. This sales tax will offset property taxes to fund many capital outlay projects that would have to be paid from the General Fund. The SPLOST budget accounts have general descriptions but must be spent for project items in the category, such as purchasing a fire truck or ambulance under the Public Safety Equipment account category.

These account categories have general descriptions because it's usually difficult to determine exactly what capital items will be needed over a six-year period. Included in the 2021 SPLOST are Level II projects which are shared city/county projects funded from the proceeds before the 60/40 split between both governments. These are projects which benefit all residents of Ware County. One of the Level II projects is a replacement to the Public Safety Radio Communications System. The ability of emergency personnel to effectively communicate is paramount to the safety and security of the City and County.

In recent years, public safety agencies have witnessed first-hand the inadequacies of the current radio communication capabilities of all city and county public safety agencies. The scope of the project is to upgrade Waycross and Ware County public safety agencies to one integrated seamless communication network that is a standard-based shared system that provides radio coverage throughout Ware County including remote areas. The turn-key system consists of five towers, 8-site ring microwave network, repeaters, microwave radios, power supply, and buildings & generators.

The other Level II project is enhancements and improvements to the Jim E. Blackburn Public Safety Training Center, a training facility for all public safety personnel for Waycross and Ware County. This new facility was recently constructed with funds from the 2014 SPLOST and will serve not only local public safety personnel, but will host training for other regional city and county personnel. Firefighting, rope rescue, search and rescue, high-rise firefighting, tactical operations for law enforcement, rifle and pistol qualifications are some examples. The facility encompasses an administrative office, four story training tower for law enforcement and fire departments, a two story burn building for fire suppression training, and a 20-lane firearm shooting range.

There are two proposed allocations to the Waycross-Ware County Development Authority (WWDA) and the Downtown Waycross Development Authority (DWDA) for projects to facilitate and enhance economic opportunities. The amount of these allocations will also be removed first from the proceeds before the percentage split between Ware County and Waycross.

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**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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The WWDA will use SPLOST dollars to assist existing industries with expansions when applicable. Other plans are to prepare current sites owned by the authority for development. This preparation of sites will include cleaning and grubbing, extension of needed utilities, paving roads, and mitigating wetland obstacles. The WWDA also plans to inventory additional sites for a possible third industrial park.

The DWDA has proposed a master plan created to improve signage, lighting, safety, and appearance to the downtown area. Other plans are to implement Phase II of the Downtown Christmas Wonderland with decorations, lights, and attractions, in addition to converting the train depot into an interactive train museum showcasing memorabilia, photographs, tours, and exhibits highlighting Waycross' railroad history for tourism and education.

Ware County has six account categories in the 2021 SPLOST consisting of the following:

1. Building, Equipment, & Improvements (\$5,249,310 (21% of county total): Funds needed to repair and/or replace equipment for county-owned buildings during the 6 years of SPLOST.
2. Roads, Bridges, Equipment & Drainage Improvements (\$12,940,690 53%): This is Ware County's largest infrastructure need and the most expensive. Funds to resurface roads, pave dirt roads, replace/repair county bridges, and replace/repair drainage infrastructure such as pipes and ditches. Currently, the cost to resurface a street is approximately \$150,000 per mile, and \$800,000 to pave a dirt street, without concrete curb and gutter.

The Ware County Single-County TSPLOST will end March 2023; therefore, no local funds will be available for transportation improvements. Ware County and Waycross have many more repairs and improvements to be done beyond what was budgeted in the TSPLOST fund. Projects were budgeted at \$22 million forecast to allow for the receipt of the maximum total possible but current projections based on actual revenues received to date amounts to \$15-\$17 million is the actual amount of proceeds for the county's project list.

3. Public Safety Facilities & Equipment (\$3,200,000, 13%): Funds used in this account category are for existing public safety facility repairs and improvements along with providing necessary equipment for all Ware County public safety departments.

4. Parks, Recreation Facilities & Equipment (\$1,500,000, 6%): This account has funds to assist with the construction of a Miracle League field at the Trembling Earth Recreation Complex (TERC) to be used by those with disabilities. Other projects are designated to repair and replace equipment at the TERC facility used for baseball, softball, football, and basketball, along with renovations and improvements to sites such as Bailey Street Park and Memorial Park.

5. Information Technology Software & Equipment (\$600,000, 2%): Funds in this account are to maintain and upgrade various hardware and software as needed.

6. Courthouse courtroom Improvements (\$1,200,000, 5%): The existing courtroom space in the

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**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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courthouse has been outgrown over the last 60 years due to the increasing number of court cases. As a comparison, there were 215 cases filed in the courthouse in 1959. In 2019, there were 2,871 cases filed. Court cases are expected to increase considerably over the next few years. In 1959, court was held just twice a year, now, court is held nearly every day of the week. Courtrooms are shared between four Superior Court judges and one State Court judge. This project is to provide sufficient courtroom space.

Currently there are 156 counties out of a total of 159 in Georgia benefitting from a SPLOST. The unpopularity of property taxes and the simplicity and perceived fairness of sales taxes have made the county 1% Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax a popular method for funding needed capital projects in Georgia.

The Ware County Commission recently approved a roll-back millage rate of 15.240 and has rolled back the rate for the last few years. The 2014 SPLOST ended on June 30, 2020 with total proceeds around \$41 million.

Funding from the SPLOST was a substantial resource that allowed the Ware County Commission to keep rolling back the millage rate.

**Scott Moye** Ware County Manager

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**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Waycross Journal-Herald (GA)  
August 12, 2020

**Ware Commission drops millage rate, '20-21 funds static**

Author/Byline: Myra Thrift

Ware County commissioners officially adopted the annual millage rate Monday at a rate lower than last year during the regular monthly meeting held at the Administration Building. Tax Commissioner Roger Collins explained that although property owners may have had their assessments increased, they will not pay more taxes if they are properly homesteaded. The county's millage rate for the coming year was set at 15.240, down slightly from last year's rate of 15.647. Collins told the board that over the last year, a lot of new businesses have come online, new buildings have been constructed and houses are being sold steadily. "We will have the same amount of tax as last year, but the millage rate will come down," Collins said. The change is a result of an increased digest amount for Ware County properties.

Chairman Jimmy Brown pointed out the millage rate is the lowest in years, his administration working the rate down from 16.540. "It's that one penny SPLOST that allows us to do this," said Brown.

He explained that Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax offsets the costs of projects without having to increase the millage rate. One penny SPLOST generates about \$8 million a year, according to County Manager **Scott Moye**.

Brown offered a motion in response to several Jamestown residents who spoke at the 3 p.m. work session, asking the county to find another route for the proposed ABC Avenue project to provide citizens an escape route when CSX trains are blocking railroad grade crossings.

Ware County Engineer Brandon Wallace told the board a couple of months ago, CSX told Ware County folks they would rather they not build the roadway on the railroad's right-of-way. "There will be a lot more impact on private property owners," said Wallace.

During the work session, commissioners heard a lot of comments from people in the ABC Avenue area who are against the new plans for building an access road alongside the railroad to give residents an emergency outlet when trains are stopped on the tracks. One man noted the county has been talking about this situation for years and wondered when somebody is going to do something about it. He did not want the road to be built on his private property.

Jennifer Rainwater, who resides on a portion of the proposed property, told the board she has been to "umpteen meetings" and asked "who's going to fix it." Rainwater brought with her some wooden stakes that had been placed on her Tanner Lane property by the county without her permission. "I'm not from here. I'm not buddies with anyone. This is a vicious cycle. We don't want the road coming on our property," she said. When told the railroad has to be considered, she said "somebody needs to have the 'stuff' to stand up to them."

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**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Others in the audience spoke adamantly about getting an alternative and doing it in a timely manner. Brown had several points to his motion, which passed unanimously. First, effective Monday, the community should choose one spokesman to address the commission. Second, include everyone east of the railroad. Third, create a committee organized from members of the Jamestown community. Fourth, plan a meeting at Jamestown Baptist Church and provide the Ware County Commission with a report by November 9, 2020. Fifth, decide on a way of escape. And sixth, all residents in the area need to sign a resolution of support or non-support.

“We’ve been spinning our wheels,” said Brown, who appeared frustrated by comments made during the work session. “Many hours have been spent planning the project. Engineers have spent a lot of money and nothing has been done. We’ve spent \$292,000 and still nothing is done. I make this as a motion. We've had many, many meetings and the engineers still don't know how to solve this problem. “We’ve been accused of taking sides and we want you to be satisfied. You bring us your plan.”

Commissioner Steve Barnard said the commission took a consensus in the past and about 75 percent of the residents agreed that ABC Avenue was the way to go. “I recommend we go ahead and put it on ABC Avenue,” said Barnard.

Added Commissioner Leonard Burse Jr., “No one knows better than the people affected. But, we’re elected to represent the people. It’s CSX that renigged.”

Brown also asked the community to choose a person to monitor the train traffic in their area, and to keep notes with dates and times of when trains block the crossings.

In other action, a contract to keep **Scott Moye** in his position as county manager for another year was approved by a vote of 5-0. Commissioners agreed **Moye** has done a good job and deserves to be kept in his current position at his current pay level. His existing contract expired last week and the attorney told the board that an official contract with a possible wage increase will be ready for their approval at their next meeting.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Waycross Journal-Herald (GA)  
July 1, 2020

**Uncertainty clouds Ware’s \$41 million budget**  
Author/Byline: Rick Nolte

With an eye on uncertainty, the Ware County Commission approved a budget totaling just more than \$41 million for fiscal year 2020-21. The action came on a unanimous vote of the five commissioners during a special called meeting Monday, June 28, at the Ware County Administration Building. The meeting followed a public hearing on the budget. Chairman Jimmy Brown and Commissioner Steve Barnard were in commission chambers while Commissioners Jerry Pope, Burton Carter and Leonard Burse were virtual participants.

The budget, which begins Wednesday, July 1 (today), represents a decrease of about \$1.64 million from fiscal year 2020. “This is a budget that’s more conservative from the standpoint of revenue,” County Manager **Scott Moye** said. “We don’t know where we’ll be in the next three to five months.” Added Brown: “We’re at the ‘if’ stage on everything.”

The county is facing the uncertainty of the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on tax proceeds along with the end of funds from the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax from the 2014 issue after July. An extension of the penny tax was defeated in November 2019, but will be back on the ballot in this year’s General Election on Nov. 3. “Not having the SPLOST has drastically changed the way we’ve budgeted the services that we have,” **Moye** said. “It’s the first time Ware County has faced something like this in more than 30 years.”

Finance Director Beverly Harrell said the county will receive its last payments for the 2014 SPLOST this month and next. After that, a return of the funds it provides — \$47 million split roughly 60-40 between the county and City of Waycross — will be up to the voters again in five months. “We’re in for a rough ride,” Burse said. Brown followed Burse, saying, “We’re in for a rougher ride if we don’t get that penny back.” If the referendum passes, its funds would return in April, 2021.

Actual total of the budget is \$41,006,709. Of that figure, \$25,103,356 is in the general fund. The bulk of the fund’s revenues come from a little more than \$19.4 million in taxes and \$4.07 million in charges for services.

Highest expenses on the ledger are slightly more than \$13.2 million for public safety items, topped by roughly \$5.66 million for the jail and \$3.61 million for the Sheriff’s Department.

Emergency medical services receives \$1.953 million and the fire department \$1.344 million. Of the other major expenditures, the general government total \$3.83 million, judicial \$3.016 million and public works \$2.203 million.

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**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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The budget includes a two percent cost of living raise for all county employees, but no funds for any other pay increases. Harrell said that raise is more than wiped out by the cost of the county's health insurance rising by six percent. Included in the budget's passage was a hiring freeze beginning today (Tuesday, June 30).

Harrell said revenues through April of this year were off 5.5 percent over the same period last year. She said the state is predicting a decrease of 11 percent because of the impact of the pandemic. "If the revenue starts falling off too much, we're going to have to make cuts," she said. "We just don't know what the COVID is going to do to revenues."

Not included in the budget is money for repairs to CSX railway crossings that likely are ahead in the coming year.

In other business, the commission also approved the purchase of a bulldozer the county had been leasing the past five years. Total package for the purchase was approximately \$93,000, including a two-year power train warranty. The equipment has about 3,000 hours on it, **Moye** said. Purchase of a new model would be around \$200,000, he said.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Waycross Journal Herald (GA)  
February 1, 2019

**Hatcher Road Just One Topic Addressed By Moye**

Author: Jack Williams III

The long-awaited Hatcher Point Road improvement project is now under construction as workmen install concrete pads for new Georgia Power Co. utility poles along the well-traveled right-of-way, Ware County Manager **Scott Moye** announced Thursday. The new power poles are scheduled to be in place by the second week of April, and will begin transmitting electric power by late spring, he said.

During an address before the Waycross Exchange Club, **Moye** said the Hatcher Point Road project became his “number one priority” after becoming Ware County manager. The project has been on the drawing board since 2004, he reminded. **Moye** said it will take about 16 months to complete the road-widening project.

In order to save time and begin construction sooner, **Moye** said he has approached the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and requested that they transfer the U.S. 1 North rail overpass project to Ware County’s control. The rail overpass is expected to cost between \$40 million and \$50 million upon completion, he said.

He said preliminary engineering work for this badly needed over-pass has not yet started. He said Wolverton Engineering of Atlanta is currently working on the project’s scope, including right-of-way acquisition. “It’s going to take a while, possibly a couple of years,” before the necessary right-of-way can be acquired, he said. “My phone rings all the time” because of the train blockage problem on U.S. 1 North, **Moye** conceded. We want to take this project on ourselves with the DOT’s okay.”

Meanwhile, **Moye** said the Ware County Tax Commissioner’s office is now moving into the 45,000 square foot Ware County Administration Building. The \$8 million structure is located behind the courthouse and was financed by the 2008 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST), he said.

Both the Planning and Codes Department and Ware Tax Assessor’s Office are to be moved into the new building by November, he said. The new county office building features a meeting room capable of holding up to 75 people, **Moye** said. After November, the Ware County Courthouse will be solely confined to court-related offices, including courtrooms, judges’ offices, the Clerk of Court, etc., **Moye** said.

**Moye** listed several ongoing paving and drainage projects Ware County is currently addressing, including:

- Cypress Street paving project off U.S. 1 North near Lewis & Raulerson Oil Co.



### Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Scott Moye

*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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- Wahoma drainage project has been delayed because of 20 inches of standing water caused by recent rains.
- Wahoma Area Drainage Study scheduled to get underway within the next 60 days. “Water just sits” in much of the projected study area, **Moye** said.
- A perimeter fence is to be erected around the runway at the Waycross-Ware County Airport to improve security. A drainage improvement project is planned to correct drainage problems at the airfield, which was built in the 1940s by the U.S. Army Air Corps.
- ABC Avenue Extension Project. The first part of the two-part project is now under construction. The North leg of the roadway is located on CSX’s right-of-way. Its plan is expected within the next 30 days.
- New parking lot design for the Ware County Courthouse is in the works, including speed limit signs. Plan will permit 20 percent more parking spaces.
- Public Safety Training Center is 25 percent complete. It’s located at the old Tri-County Landfill and will include a burn building and shooting range.
- New flag pole is planned for erection at the front of Ware County Administration Building. The original design didn’t provide for a flag pole.
- Making plans now for continuation of the SPLOST. “It’s our bread and butter. We would be in dire shape without it,” **Moye** said.
- Considering a proposal to relocate Ware Juvenile Court to the former First National Bank Building, which is being vacated by the Ware Tax Assessor’s Office. The Ware Board of Registrars will remain at the bank building.
- The Vining Building, located behind the Ware County Courthouse, is to be razed later this year.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Waycross Journal Herald (GA)  
August 18, 2018

**Southeast Ware County Firehouse Is Dedicated**

Author: Myra Thrift

A special dedication service was held Friday morning signifying the long-awaited second fully staffed Ware County Fire Station. Formerly known as Southeast District III, the Ware County Fire Station III was dedicated to the service of folks in Ware County and especially those living on the east side of Waycross in the Tomberlin Road, Central Avenue and Knight Avenue areas. It's been 40 years since the station on Vickers Street off Knight Avenue was started as a tiny standalone building adequate to hold two trucks, a small rest room and a tiny sitting area.

With a lot of hard work from the firefighters from Station I and dedicated volunteers, the station has been upgraded into a first-class facility that will allow for two fulltime firefighters to remain on-site 24 hours a day. Two bunk rooms have been added as sleeping quarters, along with a kitchen, a shower, a living area and a patio.

Ware County Fire Chief Dee Meadows choked back emotion as he told how the station came to be. "This is a result of a lot of people putting their stamp on this station," said Meadows. "The men and women of our department did 99 percent of the work." The new flag pole at the front of the station was donated by Woodmen of the World. It now holds a huge American flag that was raised at the beginning of Friday's ceremony.

"This is a complete team unit," Meadows said. "The community needed it and the commission carried it forth. I do not believe in fate. I believe in God and I believe this was a project of God."

Meadows thanked several people by name including his pastor, Johnny Summerall, the county manager, **Scott Moye**, each of the commissioners, all of the firefighters and everyone who helped to make the day a reality. "This is a very great day indeed," said Meadows, noting that the county began its use as a full-time station on July 1. Since that day, much time has been cut off several responses to wrecks and fires.

Several days ago, an accident occurred on Knight Avenue and the firefighter response was 1:45 minutes while the truck from Station I took 18 minutes to arrive. "Response time is absolutely crucial," said Meadows. "The quicker we get to a person the better off they are." Meadows added that he hopes the county can build another fire station before he retires.

"This is a dream come true," said Ware County Commission Chairman Jimmy Brown, a former fire chief who recalled the first creation of the Rural Fire Defense Fund by Sen. Herman Talmadge. Georgia received federal money and with that, Ware began its project of providing fire service to county citizens. "We had a plan," said Brown, who was hired as Ware's fire chief in 1974. "Saving lives and property. That's what it's all about. You cannot put a dollar value on a life."

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Pastor Summerall quoted from Isaiah 43:2, “When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.” Summerall then asked God’s blessings on the station and the men and women who serve through there.

After the program, those attending were invited to visit the inside of the station and see the final project. Jim Goodman, who was one of the founding members of the Southeast District III Station, was on hand for the dedication. Brown said when it was first started, the fire truck was kept parked in Goodman’s yard.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Waycross Journal Herald (GA)  
August 18, 2018

**Cady Leaves County For DWDA Position**

Author: Myra Thrift

Edward Cady, the human resources director for Ware County, has submitted his resignation effective Friday, Aug. 31, to accept the director's position at the Downtown Waycross Development Authority. "I am excited for Ed and this great opportunity to lead the economic development and revitalization of downtown Waycross," said Ware County manager **Scott Moye**.

"The local Downtown Development and revitalization of Waycross and Ware County are extremely important to me and I am thankful to have the opportunity to serve in this capacity," said Cady. "The board of commissioners and the county manager of Ware County have always encouraged and allowed me to exercise the skillsets in the position of HR director to meet the industry needs and standards of professionalism that our employees, elected officials, and citizenry have come to expect," said Cady.

He added that the current Ware County leadership has equipped him to become a better employee, leader and servant to the community by investing the necessary business tools in his position capacity for him to achieve success. "This has enabled me to step up to the next stage of leadership by taking their investments placed in me to the next level of serving as the executive director of the DWDA in our downtown Waycross business community," said Cady.

The board of commissioners in conjunction with the county manager that makes up the executive leadership team of Ware County is one of the greatest contributors in the success of my career, Cady said. "They have invested training during my tenure through the facets of health, commerce, technology and economic developmental tools. I was accepted and planted in good soil by its employees (Ware County), the Ware County leadership team watered me and He through its employees, leadership, local governing authorities and community gave the increase. Jana Dyke and the WWDA team is also a huge success by cultivating economic diversity concepts to me."

Cady said that **Scott Moye**, Jimmy Brown, Carlos Nelson, Danny Turner, Jerry Pope and Steve Barnard have a heart to see the employees and people of the county succeed. "**Scott Moye** believed in me, and for that I am forever grateful to him and his leadership characteristics that were sown into me. When we succeed, our community succeeds. Of all my career opportunities, stepping aside from my HR position is one of the hardest because of the employees I serve and its leadership team. I am not being plucked and moved, I am being grafted into a greater task of community cooperation that brings governing authorities from all areas of Ware County together for a common cause: growth!"

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches****Scott Moye***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Cady added that the Ware County community understands the challenges of economic growth and that it should be the compassion of every individual to form a bond that keeps a community together even when transparent boundaries may exist. “Has Ware County enabled me to advance towards this next career life step? Yes! Ware County has given me the exposure to constructive leadership, leadership of positive action, but most of all the type of leadership we all should be striving for — maintaining integrity and investing in the neighborhoods and communities of Waycross and Ware County.”

Cady said he does not see this move as stepping away from Ware County but as an opportunity in stepping alongside Waycross and Ware County’s strategic partnership and the Downtown Waycross Development Authority’s new season of economic dominance in the region. “With the WWDA and Jana Dyke, we all can achieve this as one team,” said Cady. “The board of directors of DWDA have voted and selected me to lead the visionary dreams of downtown growth and revitalization. We, along with the team of community leadership, will make our downtown a place for all Georgia to recognize as the standard of what a downtown should be.” Cady said he believes that Waycross and Ware County are stepping up and the resources for successful revitalization are being staged.

“It’s time to engage the lever of motion,” said Cady. “Let us put our hand on the wheel of vision and begin to set the plow and not look back. Our harvest is in site! Let’s plow Waycross and Ware County, for our future is beginning to bud again!” Cady graduated Ware County High School and has studied at Okefenokee Technical College and taken specialized human resources management courses at the University of Georgia. He currently resides in Waycross and pastors at Emerson Park Baptist Church. He previously served as the chaplain for the Pierce County Sheriff’s Department.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Waycross Journal Herald (GA)  
August 15, 2018

**Error In Sum Of Overpaid County Taxes Is Corrected**

A reporting error occurred in a news article regarding a family that has overpaid its Ware County property taxes for the past 20 years on page 1 of Tuesday's Journal-Herald.

The amount of tax reimbursement the Ware County Commission is paying to the Walker family for overpayment of three years of taxes will be only \$841, rather than the \$5,035 as was mentioned in the news article in Tuesday's edition of the paper. The larger sum was actually the total of overpayment during the full 20 years.

In the commission meeting at the courthouse on Monday, Chairman Jimmy Brown asked County Manager **Scott Moye** how much money was involved and he answered \$5,035. The \$841 amount was not mentioned.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Waycross Journal Herald (GA)  
March 31, 2018

**Ware County Presented Check By ACCG Official**

Ware County received from Ben Pittarelli (left), Health Program and Insurance Marketing director (ACCG), the remaining funds from the 2017-18 Wellness Grant that was awarded to the Health and Wellness Program for Ware County employees.

Anna Lane, Ware County clerk, was on hand to receive the award on behalf of County Manager **Scott Moye**, Chairman Jimmy Brown, Commissioner Carlos Nelson, Commissioner Steve Barnard, Commissioner Danny Turner, Commissioner Jerry Pope, Human Resources director Edward Cady, and HR assistant (wellness coordinator) Theresa Bailey.

Ware County Commissioners each year designate and allow for application these types of grant programs by the administration team for the employees of Ware County in the management of their health related programs.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Waycross Journal Herald (GA)  
March 27, 2018

**Ware, Waycross Urging AG To Remove T-SPLOST From Ballot**

Author: Myra Thrift

By joint authority, the Waycross and Ware County commissions have resolved to ask Georgia’s attorney general Christopher M. Carr to remove the regional Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax question from the May 22 ballot in Waycross and Ware County. Citizens here have already voted to approve a “single county” one-cent T-SPLOST for Waycross-Ware.

At a called joint meeting Monday at the Ware County Courthouse, both governments, led by Ware Chairman Jimmy Brown and Waycross Mayor John Knox, approved and signed the resolution. Copies are to be sent directly to the attorney general and to Corey Hull, of the regional Georgia Department of Transportation committee.

Attorney Tony Rowell pointed out that the state decided that the Regional T-SPLOST vote would take place on May 22 in all of the 18-county area including the four major counties, Ware, Tift, Lowndes and Coffee. Wide-ranging speculation includes one viewpoint that — should the measure pass region-wide — the state could require an additional penny in retail tax be paid in Ware County.

That would be in addition to the single county T-SPLOST approved in Ware last November and due to be enacted April 1. “If the region does not pass this, there will be no issue,” said Rowell. Commissioner Steve Barnard pointed out that Ware County would be pushing for a “no” vote among its citizens.

With all members of the county commission and four members of the Waycross City Commission seated around the table, County Manager **Scott Moye** called for the motion. A motion was made for a joint resolution requesting the AG remove Ware County from the May 22 TSPLOST vote. It was unanimously approved and then each of the commissioners in attendance signed the document to be forwarded to the state officials.

“I’m afraid the AG may wait until after the regional vote to make his decision,” said Mayor John Knox. “He needs to rule on it now.” It was also pointed out that HB 134 says Ware County cannot be overridden. “I don’t know how they have gone this far without chapter and verse,” said Knox.

County Commissioner Steve Barnard noted that the sooner the document gets to the AG, the better off Ware will be. “We are putting the regional commission on notice that we are sending this document to the attorney general and asking for immediate action,” said Ware Commissioner Carlos Nelson. The document was to be sent immediately by registered mail to the attorney general and to the DOT representative.



**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**

**Scott Moye**

*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Attending for the city were Mayor Knox and commissioners Jon Tindall, Norman Davis and John Threat, city manager Raphael Maddox, attorney Rick Currie and city clerk Julie Dinkins. County manager **Moye**, county attorney Tony Rowell and each of the commissioners say they believe the May 22 vote will have no consequence in Ware County, since Ware already has approved its own T-SPLOST. However, **Moye** pointed out that the attorney general will be the one making the decision.

A reporter asked: “Will Ware County file a lawsuit in the matter if the decision doesn't go the way Ware hopes?” “That remains to be seen,” said **Moye**. “We are hoping right now that the AG removes the TSPLOST vote off the Ware County ballot.”

Ware County and Waycross will collect about \$45 million over a five-year period of the T-SPLOST in the single-county plan, while, if forced to join in with the 17 other counties in the region, Waycross-Ware would collect only around \$10 million over a 10-year span. All of the monies collected will be used for transportation purposes, roadway improvements and a railroad overpass.

Also in the meeting, Ware County commissioners voted to accept a bid of \$18,000 from Southeast Mower for the purchase of two Husqvarna lawn mowers to be used by the Ware County Public Works Department.

Ware County entered into an executive session at the end of the meeting to discuss personnel issues.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Scott Moyer**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Waycross Journal Herald (GA)  
February 3, 2018

**Hatcher Point Mall Road Widening Back On Track**

Ware County has received good news from its legislative delegation in Atlanta — the much anticipated and long awaited widening of the Hatcher Point Road has been moved up to the 2019 fiscal year budget, rather than the 2025 year previously announced.

Work to widen Hatcher Point Road — which runs from the Brunswick Highway to U.S. 1 and divides the Walmart and The Mall at Waycross shopping centers — will be moved up from its previously scheduled date of 2025 to 2019, according to an announcement from Senator Tyler Harper, Representatives Jason Shaw and John Corbett and Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) division planning director Jay Roberts.

“We are absolutely thrilled that the project has been put back into the FY 19 budget. That means July of this year,” said county manager **Scott Moyer**. “We have a couple of items on easement that we have to resolve but other than that, we are ready for it to get moving.”

**Moyer** said completion of the widening project will take about 18 months to two years from start to finish. He anticipates the project to be let in late summer of this year. The Georgia Department of Transportation will commit more than \$4 million to the project. Work will begin in 2019.

“This is the good news we have been waiting for,” said **Moyer**. “We believe that this project will have a huge impact on traffic there with the number of businesses located on the street.” **Moyer** said there may be times during the construction that congestion on the narrow thoroughfare will worsen but that he does not anticipate any business in the area being severely affected. “We are not going to shut down the road, but it may become necessary to close portions from time to time,” said **Moyer**. “We will make whatever changes are necessary on a day-to-day basis.” **Moyer** said county commissioners are committed to assuring that no business is negatively impacted during the construction phase.

“I am grateful to GDOT, especially Director Jay Roberts, in working with us to expedite this project,” said Shaw. “The Hatcher Point Road project is paramount to encouraging economic development along one of our busiest business corridors.”

Said Harper: “This project will also create an added measure of safety for our residents and those traveling U.S. 1 to other destinations.” “I want to thank my colleagues and Director Roberts for coming together to better serve our citizens by improving safety and traffic flow in this busy area,” said Corbett.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Waycross Journal Herald (GA)  
August 29, 2017

**Turnout For Ware Co. Employees Health Fair Was ‘Overwhelming’**

The Ware County employees fall Wellness Health Fair Thursday at the beautiful Trembling Earth Recreation Complex gymnasium drew a response that was “overwhelming,” said **Scott Moye**, county manager.

Many health industry vendors throughout the community came and set up booths offering such freebies as blood pressure screenings, medical massage, healthy eating tips and preventative care tips. The UGA Extension Office provided nutritional information on healthy foods, not-so-healthy foods and foods that appear healthy but have high levels of sugar content, said **Moye**.

Blue Cross-Blue Shield of Georgia contracted Hooper Holmes to provide biometric screenings for employees who are participants in the Ware County Medical Benefit program. Those screenings included blood pressure, lab workup, glucose monitoring, and health educational information materials, said **Moye**.

“As the Ware County board of commissioners and county government elected officials are always looking to provide preventative health care options for its employees, Rite Aid administered flu shots for all those who wish to receive this year’s vaccine while attending the health fair,” said **Moye**. “Those costs are covered under the wellness preventative medical plan with BCBSGA with no employee costs.”

To recognize the importance of Breast Cancer Awareness with county employees, St. Joseph Candler Hospital was onsite with its mobile mammogram unit. A spokesperson from the mobile mammogram unit said that this year’s participation with Ware County employees was one of the largest with the unit. “They told us, ‘We look forward to being a participating vendor again next year’,” said **Moye**.

The participation of employees and vendors surpassed last year’s attendance, **Moye** said, while vendors even provided door prizes to employees who participated in the event.

Ware County focuses on its wellness program and for the last several years has been awarded a Wellness Grant through the ACCG Health & Safety Program, said **Moye**. “With that in mind, any employee who participated in the fair was registered for a grand prize drawing of \$500,” said **Moye**. “The employees are the success of this program, and we appreciate the many vendors who contribute to the health and welfare of our Ware County employees.”

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Waycross and Ware County Georgia  
August 29, 2017

**Moye Gets Long Contract**

Author: Myra Thrift

The Ware County Commission approved a three-year contract for Ware County manager **Scott Moye**, who has been on the job for a year now, Monday during a called meeting at the Ware County Courthouse. Prior to the meeting, commissioners held a semi-monthly work session to discuss a variety of business topics.

All five board members, Chairman Jimmy Brown and commissioners Carlos Nelson, Jerry Pope, Danny Turner and Steve Barnard, were eager to approve **Moye's** contract as each one voiced approval of the job he has done since being hired a year ago. "I say put it on the agenda (for the called meeting) and let's take action," said Pope. His suggestion was met with unanimous approval. The item was then added to the called meeting agenda and was first to be addressed at the 3 p.m. meeting. Not only did the commission approve, but one member of the audience spoke, noting that **Moye** has been "easy to work with and is doing an excellent job of taking care of the county's business."

**Moye** began working with the county a year ago after Paul Smith resigned as manager.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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[CB&A Note: Only the information relevant to **Scott Moye** is listed below.]

Waycross Journal Herald (GA)  
July 25, 2017

**T-SPLOST Brings County And City Together**  
**Ware Employees To Receive A 2 Percent Raise In Near Future**  
Author: Myra Thrift

City-county cooperation is at an all-time high between Ware County and the City of Waycross as the two governments make plans for a one-cent sales tax referendum that could raise \$50 million to be used specifically for transportation issues. Ware County commissioners Monday approved a resolution that calls for an intergovernmental agreement with the city of for the use and distribution of proceeds to be generated by the 2018 Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax referendum. A county-wide vote on the issue is to take place on Tuesday, Nov. 7. Members of both commissions have pledged to use T-SPLOST monies to address the need for an overpass over the railroad tracks on State Streets.

The Ware Commission also Monday approved a 2 percent cost of living raise for county employees to take effect on the next pay period.

The two governments agreed to call for the T-SPLOST rather than join the 18-county region in calling for a regional T-SPLOST. Commissioners noted that with approval of the single-county tax, Ware County and Waycross will split about \$40 to \$45 million (rather than receive an approximated \$11 million if they join a regional vote). The next step in the process will be a called meeting on Aug. 17 to officially schedule the referendum, in accordance with state regulations. During a called meeting Monday, the commission unanimously approved the intergovernmental agreement with all five commissioners voting “aye. “The Waycross City Commission last week voted to sanction the referendum.

Ware County manager **Scott Moye** said a joint city-county TSPLOST committee met Friday and completed work on a list of proposed projects to be advertised to the public in the coming weeks. The county also agreed to submit three projects to the Georgia Department of Transportation for the annual LMIG (Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant) funds: the resurfacing of Central Avenue, the paving of Cypress, Myrtle and Gilchrist streets and the replacement of a culvert on Monroe Street. The three projects will receive a little more than \$1 million from the DOT with a county match of \$275,181, according to **Moye**.

The commission’s approval of a 2 percent raise for county workers is something that has been wanted for a long while, the chairman of the board said. “I am tickled to death and excited that we can do this for our employees,” said Chairman Jimmy Brown. “It’s been a long time coming. We have the best employees anywhere.”

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**

**Scott Moye**

*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Commissioner Steve Barnard noted that the work on Pebble Hill Road and Manor-Millwood Road is not complete, that the surface has to “cure” for 30 days before workers can return and complete the job. Some temporary white lines were drawn on the road that were not straight and had residents there concerned and asking questions, Barnard said. He said the lines will be straightened. “Let them know it is not complete. This is only temporary,” Barnard said.

**Moye** announced that the next city-county joint meeting will be held Wednesday at noon at Waycross City Auditorium.

Between a 2 p.m. work session, where commissioners discussed the issues that were approved at the called meeting, and the actual called meeting at 3:30, commissioners were given a look at the county’s brand spanking new ambulance as EMSdirect or Dr. Bill Parham drove the vehicle to the courthouse and opened its doors for a peek inside. Equipment including radios and medical items have yet to be added to the vehicle. The ambulance was purchased with funds from the 2008 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Waycross Journal Herald (GA)  
March 28, 2017

**Ware Approves Tax Collection Pact Granting Collins A Raise**

Author: Myra Thrift

Ware County commissioners Monday revisited the issue of tax collections for the City of Waycross and by a narrow margin, approved the three-way contract the city had already sanctioned. During a called meeting Monday afternoon, county commissioners voted 3-2 to approve the contract among the city, the county and Ware County Tax Commissioner Roger Collins, but also took a bite out of the money the tax commissioner would have received for the contract. The county voted to take a 10 percent cut for administrative fees.

The city had previously agreed to pay the tax commissioner an additional \$10,000 a year for the collection of city taxes, added to the already \$20,000 Waycross has been paying. During a work session prior to the called meeting, commissioners discussed the issue that has been a hot button for some time. The issue was listed on the agenda for an earlier meeting in March but died after none of the board members offered a motion for action.

Commissioner Jerry Pope told the county manager Monday he wanted it on the agenda for a vote. Pope cast one of the yes votes, the others provided by Commissioner Carlos Nelson and Chairman Jimmy Brown. Commissioners Steve Barnard and Danny Turner voted against the contract.

During the work session, commissioners also heard a report from Ware County EMS director Dr. Bill Parham, Planning and Codes director James Shubert and Ware County Fire Chief Donnie Griffis who had been instructed to look at safe and secure ways of housing the county's ambulances. Commissioners learned at an early March meeting that the new ambulances are being parked underneath metal shelters at the city fire stations, moved from where they had previously been housed inside more secure and sound structures.

None of the men had good news for commissioners. It appears that the Southeast District Fire Station would not be adequate in size or strength and would need a ton of work to be brought up to par, Emerson Park's fire station would require a new building and no other buildings in the county have the proper size or structure. One additional ambulance can be housed at Fire Station I in the Industrial Park, but commissioners want to find a more central location to save time when responding to emergencies. Parham said about 75 percent of the EMS calls are within the city limits.

Shubert said the SE District station is showing signs of settling with cracks appearing in the concrete and the cement blocks. He encouraged commissioners to get with the city and make a plan. "I don't recall the former county manager ever telling us any of this," said Chairman Jimmy Brown.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**

**Scott Moyer**

*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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County manager **Scott Moyer** said the agreement with the city was for the county to pay \$10,200 a year for the housing of the ambulances. In 2015 and 2016, two metal shelters were set up to house the cars, one at the Havana Fire Station and one at the Riverside Fire Station. Since the ambulances have been parked under the shelters, one has been hit by lightning, damaging its electrical system. “Do we want to ask (the city) for modifications?” **Moyer** asked.

Commissioner instructed **Moyer** to meet with the city manager and see where the county needs to go with the agreement. Brown added that \$180,000 ambulances are not meant to be kept out in the weather. Commissioners Turner and Pope agreed they do not want to see the ambulances moved farther out but that the county needs to look at the future. “If someone is having a heart attack, they need to be there fast,” said Brown.

The commission also approved a bid of \$25,508.10 for six scoreboards and all related accessories for the Ware County Recreation Department to replace existing boards at the Tremblin’ Earth Recreation Complex. The boards will be paid for through funds received from the Coca-Cola Company’s annual beverage bid. They will be purchased from Nevco. Commissioners also voted to approve renewal of a contract with Crowder Gulf and Ceres Environmental (as secondary) for providing debris removal in the event of a disaster. Ware County Emergency Management Agency director Jonathan Daniell explained that this is one of the provisions for receiving federal disaster funds. No money is involved or exchanged in the contract.



**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Waycross Journal Herald (GA)  
February 11, 2017

**Waycross Kiwanians Updated On Ware County Administration Building Project**

Ware County Manager **Scott Moye** (left), guest speaker at the Waycross Kiwanis Club’s Friday meeting, provided an update on the ongoing construction of the new Ware County Administration Building.

Noting that its original design mirrored the marble construction of the adjacent courthouse, he said that its planners decided to save over \$1 million by opting for a brick facade. “Instead, this money will go toward parking and other needs,” he added, noting that several sample walls will soon be provided for commissioners to examine.

Detailing the \$7.9 million project’s design, **Moye** said that the first floor of the two-story, 43,000-square-foot building will house the offices of the tax commissioner, board of assessors and planning & codes, with the second floor housing the IT department, a county commission meeting room, the HR department and offices for the civil coordinator and facilities maintenance.

Also located on the second level will be the commission office, to include finance, payroll, safety coordinator and county manager/clerk. Continuing, he noted that Phase I of the project (a 300+ capacity parking lot and the new building’s foundation pad) has been completed, whereas Phase II will be the parking lot fronting the new administration building. Phase III, he said would include an expansion of the existing courthouse and renovations.

The estimated completion date for the overall project will be in February or March of 2019, he said. Following the program, **Moye** answered questions and was thanked by Sonny Yarbrough, February program chairman. The Waycross Kiwanis Club meets every Friday at noon at the Quality Inn & Suites.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Scott Moyer**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Waycross Journal Herald (GA)  
January 26, 2017

**Waycross, Ware Commissions Join Forces**

Author: Myra Thrift

Waycross and Ware County both posted good years in 2016 and elected officials on both the city and county commissions are hoping for an even better year in 2017. Waycross Mayor John Knox said at an inter-governmental meeting at Waycross and Ware County commissions Wednesday at City Hall that he looks forward to another good year and that there “are a lot of good, positive things on the forefront. I am more excited to see how the city and county are going to work together.”

Commissioners from both boards addressed the need for an overpass to help alleviate the problem of drivers having to wait on trains stopped at crossings from downtown to Jamestown. They also discussed at length the Hatcher Point Road project, which has been hampered by first one thing and then another for the last 10 to 12 years.

County Manager **Scott Moyer** explained that the county had to redo some engineering recently but that the traffic count and environmental approvals are approved. He announced that if the county takes over the project to oversee, a lot of money can be saved and possibly some time.

City Commissioner Diane Hopkins noted that she called former county manager Paul Smith a year ago and was told that all of the rights-of-way had been procured and it was ready to go. “I am so disappointed. October a year ago I was told the project was ready to go,” said Hopkins. It was decided that the city’s engineer, Jessica Deal, will get on board and assist with getting the project moving once the county is ready to go out for bids.

Commissioners were reminded that the city and county designated their LMIG funds (Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant) in the hundreds of thousands and have absolutely nothing to show for it as far as the road being widened and paved.

The group agreed for the county attorney to write a letter to Georgia Department of Transportation noting that the county is ready to take over the project and to make sure the funding is in place. **Moyer** said it may be within reach over the next fiscal year if all i’s are dotted and all t’s are crossed.

One point of contention with the two boards was an agreement the city has to pay Ware County Tax Commissioner Roger Collins about \$30,000 to collect city taxes. Actually, the money would be sent to the county, and then the county would be in charge of getting the money to Collins.

Raphel Maddox, city manager, reminded the group that some years ago, the two boards entered into a “gentlemen’s agreement” that the city would house the emergency medical system in

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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exchange for the \$10,200 for collection of city taxes. The agreement was oral and nothing was ever put in writing. Ware Commissioner Jerry Pope remembers the agreement as he was on the county board back then. That has been going on for years with both governments keeping their word, he said.

Knox announced that the city has completed a \$30,000 contract with Collins and it was approved by a vote of 3-2, but there are minor adjustments that have to be made.

Ware Commissioner Danny Turner, obviously not in agreement with Collins being paid \$30,000 by the city, read from a political ad that Collins published saying the job “... is not about the money. It is about serving the people.’ Why does he need another \$30,000?” City commissioner Norman Davis said he is satisfied with the contract and sees no problem with paying Collins the money, as long as the city’s taxes are collected.

“He is holding you hostage,” Turner told him.

“We have made our decision,” Knox said.

“He threatened to stop collecting our taxes,” said Maddox.

“It concerns me that you give a man \$30,000 to collect your taxes,” said Turner.

Maddox explained the contract specifically says the money is paid to the county as a conduit and the county makes payment to Collins. “It’s a simple deal. We need someone to collect our taxes,” said Knox. “And it would cost us a lot more to hire somebody else to do it.”

Turner told the group he will support it but wondered: “when will it stop? I know you need your taxes collected, but it disappoints me.” Davis added, “It’s the lesser of two evils.” “Don’t let him keep strong-arming you,” said Turner.

Knox assured the group, if the city has to pay more in the future, they will look for someone else. Davis then said he is thankful to Commissioner Turner for “slowing this train down.”

The idea of forming a land bank was also discussed briefly. A committee is to be formed to look at the issue and make a report back to the joint commissions at the next joint meeting, which is set for April 26. Prior to the official meeting, commissioners broke bread together and enjoyed a light lunch at City Hall.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Waycross Journal Herald (GA)  
January 10, 2017

**Ware Workers Get 1 Percent Raise**

Author: Myra Thrift

Ware County’s loyal, hard-working, dependable and responsible employees have worked long hours and long days that dragged into months and years without a pay increase, in the heat of the summer, the freezing cold of the winter, the middle of the morning and the dead of night. Ware County commissioners Monday announced the first salary increase of the year with another to follow in July and a promise of a comparison study that will bring Ware’s employees into the 21st century with competitive take-home pay as a reward for their commitment and dedication to the people of Ware County.

During the first regular meeting of the new year, commissioners voted to give the eligible full time employees a 1 percent COLA raise effective (retroactive to Jan. 1). Another 1 percent is on the way for July with a long range plan of bringing the employees’ salaries up to what they deserve, said county manager **Scott Moye**. This will be the first official raise for the employees in several months but **Moye** noted it will definitely not be the last. “We plan to conduct a market study of the surrounding area, bring that back and create a program to redo the pay foundation of the county,” said **Moye**. He noted that at the county commission’s scheduled Feb. 27 retreat, he has hopes of putting all of this into action for the near future.

When the issue was put before the board for a vote, commissioners enthusiastically approved the motion by a unanimous 5-0 vote, with their thanks to the employees for their work and devotion. “This is my first meeting of a new term and I am anxious to go into another term,” said Commissioner Jerry Pope. “I believe we will be in good shape. I appreciate this opportunity to serve the people of Ware County.”

Commissioners Carlos Nelson, Danny Turner and Chairman Jimmy Brown all extended a special welcome to Pope and new commissioner Steve Barnard, both of who were elected by the people of Ware County to serve in their respective positions. “I thank the people of District 4 for allowing me to represent them,” said Barnard. “I appreciate the employees and want to do all I can for them.” Chairman Brown stressed that the county has the best employees possible in every department and that he is grateful for their service to the county and thankful to to the people of Ware County who allowed him to begin a third term in his seat.

In other business, commissioners gave approval for:

- the rehiring of **Scott Moye** as county manager, Tony Rowell as county attorney and Cassie Morris as county clerk.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Waycross Journal Herald (GA)  
August 17, 2016

**Moye Joins Ware's Team**

Ware County has a new county manager. He's **Scott Moye**, who was accepted by a unanimous vote of county commissioners on Aug. 8 at a called meeting at the courthouse. As our page one news story of Aug. 9 pointed out, this is not **Mr. Moye's** "first rodeo" in Ware County. He previously served as an assistant to former County Managers Mike Stewart and Joe Pritchard years ago, during which time he worked as a project manager and handled such things as government grants. He was most recently a city administrator for the City of Blackshear. Judging from his commentary, **Moye** appears to be genuinely pleased with this turn-of-events, declaring on Aug 8, "I am just ecstatic about being here. I am looking forward to doing what I can to serve the citizens of Ware County."

Before his Blackshear assignment, he worked as a deputy city manager at Fernandina Beach, Fla. **Moye's** familiarity with Waycross-Ware and the greater Waycross area will enable him to "hit the ground running" at his new job as Ware County's manager. What's more, it needs to be mentioned that he's a Waycross native who grew up here, owns a home here, and is a member of Central Baptist Church in Waycross. Indeed, there will be no need to get acclimated to the "largest town, in the largest county, in the largest state east of the Mississippi River." County Manager **Moye** and his lovely wife, Amy, have two daughters, Mallory, 21, a student at South Georgia State College in Waycross; and Mollie, 18, a senior at Ware County High School. **Moye's** arrival as county manager comes at an opportune time, as both the City of Waycross and Ware County prepare to get serious about industrial development vis-a-vis the Waycross-Ware County Development Authority.

Randy Cardoza, who formerly served as commissioner of the Georgia Department of Industry, Trade & Tourism, was in Waycross last week talking to community leaders about what qualifications they think are needed for the leader of the "new development authority" envisioned by Waycross-Ware's leadership. Cardoza, who now works as a paid consultant, "traveled the country and the globe for the past 10 years seeking industry for Georgia," reported Bill Shipp of "Bill Shipp's Georgia" in April 2000. Cardoza knows what it takes to put together an organized and effective industrial development effort. Toward this end, the City of Waycross will hold its first-ever Waycross-Ware County Community and Economic Development Summit at the City Auditorium on Sept. 1 from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. Attendance will be by invitation only. According to Mayor John Knox, the summit's model was "designed to bring all local parties together for the purpose of identifying priorities and development strategies that will build a strong local economy."

We're glad that **Mr. Moye** will be on board for Waycross-Ware's hoped-for industrial development renaissance. Hopefully, he will be able to recommend some good ideas when our community's political, business and financial leadership gathers at the city auditorium on Sept. 1. Welcome aboard, sir!

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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[https://www.theblacksheartimes.com/community/midway-waiting-game-continues-boe-members-worry-water-sewer-line-expansion-may-not-be-ready/article\\_059c09aa-ef91-5a6e-bb2f-1b8416840733.html](https://www.theblacksheartimes.com/community/midway-waiting-game-continues-boe-members-worry-water-sewer-line-expansion-may-not-be-ready/article_059c09aa-ef91-5a6e-bb2f-1b8416840733.html)

Jul 15, 2009

**Midway waiting game continues: BOE members worry water-sewer line expansion may not be ready when school opens**

By Jason Deal - Staff Writer

Will water and sewer service be available when the new Midway School opens in August 2010? That worry was again at the forefront at last Thursday's school board work session. Board members Pat Park and Jimmy Lynn expressed concern water and sewer may not be available when the school opens. Assistant superintendent Cleve Tyre confirmed that rights-of-way for paving and water and sewer lines have not been secured. Additionally, EMC Engineering of Statesboro has expressed financial concerns about the project. Tyre expressed frustration in dealing with the county and city on the issue, but said he hoped right-of-way to extend the lines would soon be secured.

School board Chairman Mark Dixon expressed his exasperation with the whole lot. "I wonder when we'll have to start renting port-a-potties for the kids out there," he said. The school board, city and county completed two months of negotiations in May for extending the utilities to the school. In the two months since, the preliminary engineering work has been completed and the land needed for rights-of-way have been identified.

Blackshear city administrator **Scott Moye** says EMC has expressed concern about not getting paid for its work. **Moye** says there should be plenty of financing to pay EMC, using money the school board paid the county and funds from a city loan used to extend water/sewer service. "We think it will all come together," **Moye** says. "It is just the timing that makes things tight."

A meeting between Tyre, city officials and EMC is expected to take place later this week. The city is currently in the process of extending sewer service to the industrial park. That line will eventually be used to also serve Midway.

Another hold up is the county completing acquisition of rights-of-way. County attorney Franklin Rozier Jr. says he's almost completed those negotiations and only lacks closing on the parcels. "I'm working on it," he said. Rozier has been doing the work exclusively and shuttling back and between the property owners and the commission to finalize the details. "I really can't say how long it will take," Rozier said. "I would say it should be done in the next two months." Once that's done, the go-ahead will be given to EMC to finish engineering. The city will then proceed with bidding the water/sewer project.

County Chairman Jim Dennison said he thought everything was proceeding as planned. "I am unaware there's a problem," Dennison said. The chairman says he knew the right-of-way acquisition had not been completed, but didn't know the engineering work was at a standstill.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**

**Scott Moye**

*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Tyre said EMC and the board’s architect, SP Designs of Macon, has said they can finish the job in time for the school opening. “The delay makes it worrisome, but it can be done,” Tyre said.

In the agreement reached back in May, the county, school board and City of Blackshear gave approval to sharing costs related to the new school. The school board will pay the county \$9,750 for clean-up at the site of the new Midway Elementary School. The county, in turn, will use that money to pay EMC for engineering fees for paving and water/sewer rights-of-way to the new school. The county will pay to secure additional rights-of-way for 80 foot easements on Youmans Road and will also grant the City of Blackshear permission to run water/sewer lines into the unincorporated areas of the county. The city will pay a small portion of the costs for right-of-way to run water-sewer lines in exchange for providing the service to the new school.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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[https://www.theblacksheartimes.com/community/blackshear-council-says-commissioners-didn-t-deliver-on-financial-promise/article\\_10dedca8-cd5f-5d03-a651-b3cec821b435.html](https://www.theblacksheartimes.com/community/blackshear-council-says-commissioners-didn-t-deliver-on-financial-promise/article_10dedca8-cd5f-5d03-a651-b3cec821b435.html)  
Oct 22, 2008

**Blackshear council says commissioners didn't deliver on financial promise**

By Wayne Hardy - Managing Editor

Blackshear council members weren't happy with the county's financial offer for extending water and sewer lines to the industrial park. Mayor Tom Davis reads over figures showing less than half of what the city requested in SPLOST funds for water and sewer improvements. Blackshear officials say county commissioners offered only an empty gesture last week after making what the city believed was a financial commitment eight months ago to extend water and sewer lines to the industrial park.

Commissioners told city officials they would provide \$1 million in SPLOST funds and help apply for a \$500,000 state grant toward meeting the cost of running utilities to the park. The proposal, which means the county is offering nothing from its budget to help pay for the project, has city officials crying foul. Extending utility lines to the industrial park has been an item of contention for several years, but has become more acute with the Board of Education's need to receive water and sewer service at the site of the new Midway Elementary School. Plans have called for the BOE to cover cost of carrying the utility lines from the Industrial Park to the school site, a distance of approximately a mile. That's if the utilities ever reach the industrial park, of course. The service has been talked about for years with no action taken yet.

Blackshear Mayor Tom Davis was incensed as he discussed the county's action with the city council last week, only minutes after the county's meeting. "Basically, they voted to give us back our own money and to apply for a grant that wouldn't cost them anything," said Davis. "Essentially, the county did not donate us one nickel to help with the project."

Commissioners had pledged in March to pay part of the industrial park project, though they did not commit then to a specific figure or percentage. Davis had originally asked the county to pay 72 percent of the expense, based on its share of land in the 642-acre park. County Chairman Jim Dennison has acknowledged the city's dissatisfaction and says the county will revisit the proposal at a special meeting Tuesday night (after press time). The city was also to hold a called meeting afterward.

Council members spoke mostly in disbelief this past week about what the county put on the table. The city had planned to use a portion of the sales tax revenues to repair aging sewer lines and upgrading the city's south wastewater treatment plant. With no county participation in extending utilities to the industrial park, no funds will be left for that work. "If we go with (the county's proposal), the City of Blackshear will have no water and sewer (sales tax dollars) for the next five years," Davis said. Davis repeated his concern the city would have to raise water and sewer rates yet again if the city is left to bear all the cost of extending the industrial park



**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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utility services. “We have to consider the financial restrictions on our citizens and the future of what we have to do with the other things.”

City Administrator **Scott Moye** proposed the city serve as its own general contractor for the water lines in an attempt to save money, using a subcontractor only to install a well. “I know it’ll be a lot cheaper than to contract it all out,” he said.

The council grudgingly voted to accept the county’s offer and will explore doing at least a portion of the work with city manpower. Public Works Superintendent Donnie Harris was to gather cost estimates and other needs to be presented at the Tuesday meeting.

EMC Engineering of Savannah estimated the original total project cost at \$2.7 million. City officials hope to reach that figure through a combination of the SPLOST funds from the county, the state grant plus another federal grant and some funds remaining from the project that put a water tank in the park a few years ago. **Moye** says the EMC projection may be on the high end anyhow after the firm noted material prices have dropped in recent weeks.

Blackshear officials have also considered running a sewer line to a Waycross treatment station near the Satilla River, but council members say they are wary of rates that might be charged. The City of Blackshear has also agreed in principle to possibly take out a loan to cover extending lines to the school, with the school system covering the payments. Blackshear would pay to upgrade the lines to a bigger size, allowing more potential customers to hook into the system. Davis says the water and sewer project will happen, regardless, with construction possibly beginning by March

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Scott Moyer**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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[https://www.theblacksheartimes.com/community/technicality-may-keep-city-from-onegeorgia-for-industrial-park/article\\_08d72ee2-7a46-5d10-bb87-2bb515f74461.html](https://www.theblacksheartimes.com/community/technicality-may-keep-city-from-onegeorgia-for-industrial-park/article_08d72ee2-7a46-5d10-bb87-2bb515f74461.html)

Dec 22, 2007

**‘Technicality’ may keep city from OneGeorgia \$\$\$ for industrial park**

By Wayne Hardy - Managing Editor

Blackshear’s plans to expand water lines throughout the county industrial park has hit another snag. The city’s application for a OneGeorgia grant has been denied on what some city officials believe is an inaccurate detail.

City Administrator **Scott Moyer** explains the OneGeorgia Authority turned down the funding request because they believe the city's current plan is another phase of a previous OneGeorgia-funded project that brought water lines from Blackshear to the industrial park in 2005.

“They don’t pay for continuation of projects,” **Moyer** says.

The grant could have helped cover well over half the estimated \$440,000 project cost, **Moyer** adds.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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[https://www.theblacksheartimes.com/blackshear-water-test-results-negative-for-bacteria/article\\_9bc8cd5a-0c8c-511c-8f6d-eaf5384b2fee.html](https://www.theblacksheartimes.com/blackshear-water-test-results-negative-for-bacteria/article_9bc8cd5a-0c8c-511c-8f6d-eaf5384b2fee.html)  
Aug 1, 2007

**Blackshear water test results negative for bacteria**

By Staff Report

City administrator **Scott Moye** announced Wednesday afternoon public works officials report bacteria test results for Blackshear's water have come back negative. The test was conducted due to the discovery of no chlorine Tuesday (July 31) in local water supplies. Chlorine is a federally required chemical added to water to prevent the growth of bacteria and micro-organisms.

Environmental specialist, Gary Reynolds, with the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) told *The Times* a sanitary survey of Blackshear's water system would be conducted Thursday. The survey will involve a complete check of the city's water system and testing documentation. While Reynolds says this incident didn't cause him to plan a visit to Blackshear, it did play a role in its timing. "The visit was scheduled for sometime this quarter," Reynolds says. "But if I had not gotten the call about this (chlorine) I probably would have delayed it."

City officials flushed the water system and replaced the missing chlorine Tuesday. The chlorine issue first arose after several customers complained their water smelled. ESG performed the initial chlorine water test and provided the city with a chlorine tank to use for the time being. The city had no chlorine on hand and none could be delivered before Thursday.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Waycross Journal Herald (GA)  
July 19, 2007

**Blackshear Council Members Explain Absences**

Author: Myra Thrift

BLACKSHEAR - Bob Johnson, Charles Broady and Mary Lott Walker - elected members of the Blackshear City Council - say they are doing what the people who voted for them want - standing up for the citizens' rights. The three have been absent from some recent meetings of the city council and all three walked out of the last regular meeting, calling for a poll of the council in an effort to stop a vote on a proposal to turn the city's wastewater treatment plant, water department and public works department over to one company. They say the city can ill afford the proposed plan but all three say they fear there is a deeper motive than just taking over the city's work load. They say there is trouble coming down the turnpike if the city's water rights are not kept in tact for the citizens of Blackshear.

Johnson said he believes the three are being unfairly targeted because they have held their ground and no vote has been taken on the proposal from ESG (Environmental Services Group) of Duluth. Johnson said his water was recently turned off while he was on vacation in Florida, something he sees as pure retaliation from the city. Broady said at times he is on the road with his truck and is unable to get to the meetings, adding that he loses money in his attempts to make the called meetings. But at the heart of the issue, the three say, is a move to turn the operation of the city's three major departments over to one company, a move the three see as a detriment to the city's future needs. "We put out for bids on wastewater treatment only," Johnson said. "We had one bid from John Tindall, who is already handling the department. And we had a bid from ESG, but they want the operation of the wastewater treatment plant, the city's water plant and the public works department. That is not what we want." All three fear if the operations of the departments are turned over to ESG, the residents' water bills will increase and citizens will have problems meeting those obligations. They also have concerns for the city's long-time employees, many of whom have spoken with the council members about their concerns for their jobs and their retirement benefits. "This would be opening Pandora's Box for us," Johnson said. "We can still manage."

Walker said one of her biggest concerns is the fact that ESG is a company out of Duluth and Tindall is a local man with local ties, a man who has been doing an excellent job for the city, she said. "We had a tremendous odor problem, but since Mr. Tindall has been on the job, the odor has subsided," Walker said. "It used to smell every day and now it hardly ever smells." Broady added that over the last years, the city has outsourced everything - tax collections, tax billing, garbage pickup, accounting service. He said now the mayor and some council members want to turn over three more departments. "The only thing we will have left is the police department and fire department," Broady said. "Not one person has come to me in favor of this proposal (from ESG)," Johnson said, adding he has been contacted by many people who ask him "not to give the city away." Johnson said he has grave fears that the city of Blackshear will lose its water rights to north Georgia if controls are not kept locally. North Georgia, he said, wants the abundant supply

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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of water that south Georgia has. "Before long, the water will be going to north Georgia," Johnson said. Johnson explained his reason for asking Mayor Tom Davis to recuse himself from voting at the recent regular meeting in the event of a tie vote. Johnson said the mayor has used "intimidation" on the employees, some of which have signed complaints against the mayor for an incident that took place on Jan. 18 and another on Feb. 9. William Sauls and Glynn Gillis both signed an affidavit saying that on Jan. 18, the mayor walked into the office of Marty Clifton, former public works director, and knocked Saul's hat off. Then on Feb. 9, the two signed another complaint saying the mayor shook his finger in the face of Sauls and told him that he does "the firing and hiring" for the city of Blackshear.

Walker said a former mayor of Blackshear prevailed upon her to maintain her stand and "not give the city of Blackshear away. He told me that it is my job to look after the citizens and the city employees. He said if we turn over the public works, water department and wastewater treatment to ESG, there would be no need for a council or mayor or an office downtown. And also a former council member came to me and told me the same thing. The city workers are upset over their retirement and insurance. They are really concerned. It is our responsibility to keep our employees happy and to look after the best interest of our citizens. That's what we are elected for." Johnson recalled the situation when former police chief James Mock was having problems with the city. He said a lot of the current hostilities stem from the city's treatment of Mock.

Broadly voiced concerns over the city manager, saying they hired **Scott Moye** for his financial and budgetary expertise and "the first thing he did was hire Terry Spivey. It's scary for us to keep **Scott** on. When we are paying someone that kind of money, he should be able to handle the job and not outsource."

Johnson added that he wants the citizens of Blackshear to be made aware of what is going on behind the scenes. "This all happened so fast, and not one person has said for us to go with ESG," Johnson said. He pointed out that Tindall's bid was \$144,000, compared to ESG's bid of \$700,000. He added that Tindall has a laboratory and can do his own lab work, while ESG has to outsource its lab work to a lab in Savannah at an extra cost of \$10,000. Tindall, Johnson said, also manages operations in Darien and Pearson. He also pointed to the outsourcing of the city's garbage pickup, which he said has cost the citizens more than money, it has left them without a lot of services. "Service is what we're going to miss (with ESG)," Johnson said.

Broadly said he is not fighting with the manager or the council, but that he is trying to do the right thing by the people of Blackshear. He said he was told by a member of a rural Georgia organization to "be very careful. North Georgia needs our water. They would have the authority to make deals with north Georgia." A vote will likely come on the matter when the Blackshear City Council convenes its regular meeting in August.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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[https://www.theblacksheartimes.com/community/city-grants-powers-of-mayor-to-scott-moye/article\\_5f8997e9-de91-54c0-b678-7ff08d581fe2.html](https://www.theblacksheartimes.com/community/city-grants-powers-of-mayor-to-scott-moye/article_5f8997e9-de91-54c0-b678-7ff08d581fe2.html)  
May 30, 2007

**City grants powers of Mayor to Scott Moye**  
By DeAnn Komanecky - Managing Editor

Blackshear City Administrator **Scott Moye** will now have more control of city operations. Blackshear took the first concrete step towards a city manager form of government last week, when the city council approved the delegation of some mayoral duties to City Administrator **Scott Moye**.

The move, recommended by Mayor Tom Davis, came after discussions in April with council members at a government program retreat in Athens. Davis says he's excited about the change.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Waycross Journal Herald (GA)  
March 8, 2007

**Blackshear PD Issues Could Be Resolved At Today's 5 p.m. Meeting**

James Mock, chief of the Blackshear Police Department, has been on administrative leave with pay for the past fortnight after all but one of his 12 staff members filed a formal grievance complaining about Mock's abusive managerial style.

While City Hall will not go on record about the situation, other than to confirm Mock has been suspended, the 11 employees, speaking under the condition of anonymity, told reporters that Mock routinely uses tactics of humiliation and intimidation in running the police department.

**Scott Moye**, city administrator, said Wednesday that the city had hoped to resolve the situation with a meeting early this week. But that plan was scuttled when Dan Bennett, the city attorney, came down with the flu.

**Moye** said Wednesday that the city was not likely to address the issue until Tuesday's regularly scheduled Blackshear City Council meeting because it was estimated that Bennett would be out until then. But this morning **Moye** said that the agenda of a called meeting of the council scheduled for today had been amended to include "consideration of (an) executive session for discussion of a personnel and legal matter."

An agenda for today's 5 p.m. meeting, which originally was called just to discuss wastewater treatment plant operations, also lists that "... the persons who may attend will be Mayor Tom Davis, Mayor pro-tem Charles Foreman, council members David Broady, Mary Lott Walker, Bob Johnson, Barbara Smith, Terry Tarr and City Attorney Dan Bennett."

Efforts to get city officials to go on record with comments about the allegations against Mock during the past two weeks have been futile. City council members and city employees said they were reserving comment under orders of the mayor.

Adam Ferrell, an attorney represented the disgruntled police department employees, has also declined to comment.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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News Leader (Fernandina Beach, FL)  
May 1, 2002

**VIEWPOINT/JOHN KING WEEMS/AMELIA ISLAND**  
**Sea oats planting worthwhile**

During the city commission debate on March 26, my son John asked the candidates if they were satisfied with the present condition of our beaches. In response to his question, some of the candidates suggested a partnership with the citizens of the island for their help to protect the beaches. Judging from the large volunteer turn out on April 20 at the sea oats planting on North Beach, it is obvious that the citizens were listening.

"It's great to help out," said Orv Lind, a retired Lutheran minister from Massachusetts who lives in Ocean Reach. "Especially when the project helps the ecology of our island," said Lind. Approximately 90 to 100 people braved 90-degree heat to plant 25,000 plugs of sea oats obtained from a federally funded grant of \$25,000. The money was funneled through the state and matched in kind by support services from the city. "It's important to save the dunes. The dunes protect our beaches and also help save the endangered sea turtles," according to Maia McGuire, marine agent for the University of Florida's sea grant extension program. McGuire was instrumental in obtaining the grant money for the sea oats.

Mary Duffy, president of The Amelia Island Sea Turtle Watch, explained that saving the dunes creates more habitat for sea turtles. The dunes also serve to buffer the turtles from artificial lighting along the shore. The sea turtle nesting and hatching season locally is May 1 through October 31. Amelia Island Sea Turtle Watch, a nonprofit organization, monitors Amelia Island's turtle nests (mostly loggerheads), and tapes them off, posting warning signs for unsuspecting beachcombers. Both sea turtles and their nests are protected by environmental laws, and Fernandina Beach has night time beach lighting laws in effect to help protect the turtle hatchlings, which become confused by artificial light. Last season, the group marked 100 nests on the island. They are currently seeking "early risers" to help comb the beach around sunrise, for signs of nests and turtle tracks. Anyone interested in volunteering in this ecological effort, can call Mary Duffy at 261-2697.

The April 20 sea oats volunteers included members of groups and individuals alike. The large turnout of Kathy Russell's Fernandina Beach High School volunteer brigade was a real morale booster to the more "seasoned" planters. Other groups represented the Master Gardeners, The Amelia Island Sea Turtle Watch, the University of North Florida, Ocean Avenue neighbors, and other citizens from the city and county as well.

Even some out of state beach goers got in on the action. Leadership was provided by Ms. McGuire and Rebecca Jordi, the Nassau County horticulture agent. **Scott Moye**, deputy city manager for the city of Fernandina Beach, coordinated the volunteer headcount, supported with lots of bottled water, and coordinated a follow-up sea oats watering program with the fire department.



**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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The massive planting of sea oats on North Beach adds new emphasis to the prohibitions against climbing over the dunes to get on and off the beach. It is clear that as the dune protection program goes forward, the city will need to deal with the need to add more dune crossing points north of Main Beach.

The volunteers are conducting a poll regarding the building of new dune crossings and a dune learning gazebo on North Beach. Cast your votes and make comments on the World Wide Web at [www.AmeliaIslandLiving.com](http://www.AmeliaIslandLiving.com).

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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News Leader (Fernandina Beach, FL)  
April 19, 2002

**City staff drafts business plan to regain marina's fiscal solvency**

Author: Robin Campbell

The fiscal year 2000-01 financial audit of the city of Fernandina Beach, dated Feb. 6 by James Moore & Company, told city commissioners and Fernandina Harbor Marina staff what they already knew. They knew that the marina overspent its budget (by \$155,056). They knew the operating income has been steadily declining since 1999, as it is for other enterprise funds. And they knew the marina's debt service, stemming largely from the marina redevelopment project, was and will continue to keep it from having a balanced budget.

But the city now has a business plan that formally asks for the city commission's guidance as to where it wants the marina to go from here. The marina plan, produced largely by Deputy City Manager **Scott Moye** and Marina Director Coleman Langshaw, has been in development since December 2001, at the request of the city commission following a sequence of revealing and controversial reports from former Controller Harold Perry.

Unlike traditional business plans, however, the marina's does not show a direct path to fiscal health. Rather than one plan of attack, the marina plan provides the city commission variables that could have an affect on the city-run marina's operational success. It offers advice but in the end leaves it up to the commission to decide what is and is not in the best interest for the city and the many residents who frequent its marina.

Released earlier this month and delineated to the commission at the April 2 meeting, the marina business plan asks the question that Langshaw has been asking since November 2001: "What is the marina department?"

The marina is currently labeled in the budget as an enterprise fund, which means it is to be a self-supporting entity with no financial aid from city coffers, including ad valorem tax dollars. And to continue acting as an enterprise fund, the plan states, the marina "must be able to maximize its market potential, regardless of political or sentimental influences."

All commission meeting discussions regarding the marina's future have included debate on raising dockage fees. Langshaw has said each time that if the marina is to be an enterprise fund, it must raise its fees to succeed. Revenue is down, and the simplest and most effective way to equalize the operating income and the operating expenditures, coupled with the debt service, is to find a way to increase fees, City Controller Donna Mallery and City Manager Bob Mearns said. "Available transient space must be highly available. Or if this is not the case, then permanent dockage fees must be high enough to offset the loss of revenue from transient dockage and fuel sales," the plan says. "In all likelihood, only the commercial vessels would be allowed to tie up permanently, and dockage would be expensive."

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**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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City Manager Bob Mearns, who was hired by the city commission in February, said he concurs with the assessment in the marina business plan. He said the marina must generate more revenue to offset what Mallery called unavoidable high expenditures, such as rising fuel costs. "The business plan asks for direction," Mearns said. "It tells the commission, 'If you want us to be a viable source of revenue, we've got to raise fees.'"

In addition to raising fees, Mearns said the large number of delinquent payments for dock slips must be aggressively collected. "We must make every attempt to get the money owed to the city," he said.

But one concern from Commissioner Ron Sapp and others has been that by raising the fees to that level, the community aspect of the historic marina will be compromised and many residents could feel slighted by the city's ambition to make money.

As an enterprise fund, the plan recommends that:

- The commission develop and approve an unwavering mission statement, committed to a nonpolitical, enterprise fund concept.
- The city negotiate with adjacent property owners for expansion to the north.
- If successful with securing riparian rights to land north of facility, the city should proceed with redevelopment phases 2A and 3, guaranteed by some of the city's portion of Nassau County one-cent sales tax surcharge. To offset the costs of the marina's loss of income, the city commission should approved the use of this tax.
- The city auction all surplus docks, not used in phases 2A and 3.
- The city raise all dockage fees to market value for the specific location transient to permanent ratio based on market demand.
- The city continue to lobby Nassau County to join the Florida Inland Navigation District.
- The city seek financial partnership with the Nassau County Ocean Highway and Port Authority.
- The city apply for all relevant grants.
- The city investigate possible upland development with private and public partnerships.
- The city review the business plan quarterly the first year, semiannually the second year and annually in subsequent years.

In addition to the recommendations for the "true" enterprise fund scenario, the marina business plan suggests that the city negotiate a buyout of Brett's Waterway Cafe, which sits in the center of the marina and draws a great deal of business from transient boats and residents alike. According to the plan, a lease was developed in 1997 between the city and Centre Street Restaurant Group Ltd., or CSRG, for the continued operation of Brett's. In July 2000, the plan said, CSRG approached the city with a proposal to be bought out of the lease. The commission, after much discussion over the next year, decided to defer the proposal until it received information regarding the needed repairs to the under-structure of the restaurant's building, which were estimated by Passero Associates -- an engineering firm that works closely with the city on many projects -- to cost \$265,000 to \$365,000. The plan said the city could purchase the lease at its appraised value, secure a bank loan and repay the debt from the lease payments from

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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the tenant. Although the Marina Advisory Board does not endorse this idea, the plan said the purchase could prove to be a source of considerable income to the marina enterprise fund.

Another concept that has been suggested in commission meetings, first identified by Sapp, has been a "hybrid operation." In this scenario, the marina would carry the characteristics of an enterprise fund and receive money from the general fund to help offset costs. The plan still suggests, however, that the marina still exist to "make as much money as possible," in which the rules of business for a true enterprise fund apply. But if no money is to be made, as a hybrid marina, then operations -- the fee schedule -- need only to make enough money to break even. The city's general fund would then, according to the plan, pay for current and future debt service.

The recommendations for the city regarding this path are such that it:

- Run operations as an enterprise fund, with any profits carrying forward in a "depreciation account" for routine maintenance and upkeep.
- Charge market rates for transient dockage and two-thirds market rates for permanent vessels.
- Maintain equal transient-to-permanent ratios.
- Subsidize all capital improvements from sales tax or general fund resources.
- Incorporate all items of the enterprise fund concept, except the mission statement and raising all dockage fees to market value.

This model was received well by the commission the last time **Moye** brought it to the commission's attention.

Another option, presented to the commission in the business plan, is for the marina to be incorporated into one of its already existing departments, logically the Parks and Recreation Department. Once absorbed by parks and recreation, as recommended in the plan, the city would then proceed with all development subsidized by the city's general fund. It would make 75 percent of the facility for permanent vessels at two-thirds market rate and 25 percent available for transients, also at market rate.

Although it has its benefits, including providing revenue in the form of property and sales taxes, the concept of selling or leasing the marina to an outside entity is an unpopular one. Regardless, the plan accounts for the possibility and provides recommendations as a viable scenario. It does, however, identify the political difficulties that have already been seen and could be seen again as a sold or leased operation. Again, the plan calls for an absolutely clear and unwavering mission, in which political and sentimental influences are not present. If the city were to decide to sell the marina, the plan recommends that it do so -- keeping the marina as is -- at a discounted price to pay off existing debt service, or invest general fund money to improve the marina and then sell it at market value. If leasing becomes the choice, the city would be best served, the plan says, leasing it as is for 40 years at appraised value with a negotiated percentage of gross revenue or leasing it with improvements at appraised value with similar negotiations.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**

**Scott Moye**

*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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While marina's the fate will be left up to the commission to decide, Mearns said that on face value, the marina business plan is a well-written document, which reflects exactly what the city commission requested and is "very reflective of what the situation is and what needs to happen." "It's conclusions are right on," Mearns said.

The marina, however, is just one aspect of the budget. And to help the commission realize the city's full potential in budget writing and adhering to its limitations, commissioners were scheduled at last night's commission meeting to hear a proposal from First Southwest Company, an investment bank, to provide financial advisory services to the city. At press time, the substance of the presentation was uncertain, but all the commissioners received a copy of the proposal at the April 2 meeting.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**  
**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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The Florida Times-Union  
January 30, 2002

**Authority's problems run deep Fernandina Beach: City helping with corrections**

Author: Derek L. Kinner

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development officials have told Fernandina Beach leaders that a recently released report critical of the city's Public Housing Authority are "just the tip of the iceberg." Meanwhile, Nassau Neighbors has learned the authority still had not adopted a 2002 budget by Friday, even though the fiscal year began Jan. 1. And there were no financial records available from 2001.

Acting City Manager **Scott Moye** said he has met with HUD officials and told them the city is ready to do whatever is necessary to correct the numerous problems cited in the report, issued in mid-January. "They told me it's a bad problem, but it's a problem that can be fixed," **Moye** said. "There are other things they have to look at."

The report, written after a one-week review in November, found numerous problems, including a lack of control over spending, failure to follow correct procedures for deciding which families should get the next available housing, failure by the authority board to adequately oversee operations, failure by the executive director to document expenditures and failure to do criminal background checks on prospective tenants. The report also said authority Executive Director Jack Stalnaker must repay more than \$33,000 he received by cashing in unused annual and sick leave.

The Housing Authority oversees 125 units in Fernandina Beach and across Nassau County. It assumed county residences when the county's authority shut down. Eligible low-income tenants generally pay about 30 percent of their incomes for rent. About half the units owned are in Fernandina Beach. Most are duplexes, though there are some four- and five-bedroom houses. The other units are privately owned homes in Nassau County that pre-qualified clients can rent. Once the authority inspects the place the tenant wants to rent and approves it, the tenant pays 30 percent of his or her income; the federal government pays the rest.

Stalnaker said last week that many problems cited in the HUD report have been corrected. In a statement released late last week, HUD officials said they were working with the authority to correct the problems. "Our foremost concern is for the residents of the public housing program," the officials said. "The office is currently working very closely with the agency, providing daily technical assistance to them, in an effort to ensure that the agency's operation comes into full compliance with HUD regulations."

While the Fernandina Beach City Commission appoints members of the Housing Authority board of commissioners, the authority board appoints the executive director and is directly responsible for authority operations. Stalnaker served on the board until fellow board members appointed him executive director in 1989.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches****Scott Moye***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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**Moye** said he has offered to work with the authority to make sure the agency gets back into compliance. "I met with HUD officials in Jacksonville and let them know the city of Fernandina Beach will do whatever is necessary to rectify this problem," **Moye** said. HUD officials said they are counting on the housing authority board to make sure corrections are made. "We will look to it to fulfill its obligations to ensure the integrity of the operation," the officials said.

But they also want an increased supervisory role by city commissioners. "Since the mayor is the appointing authority of the board, we will work with the mayor to increase the city's oversight of the board's responsibility," the statement said. HUD officials said they could take several actions if problems continue. "Upon determining that a substantial default exists, HUD may initiate any interventions deemed necessary to maintain decent, safe and sanitary dwellings for residents, including but not limited to providing technical assistance, assuming possession and operational responsibility for all or part of the PHA, selecting an administrative receiver to manage and operate all or part of the PHA, and petitioning the court for the appointment of a judicial receiver," the statement said.

**Moye** said correcting the problems is one of his top priorities. "It is a very unfortunate situation," **Moye** said. "My job as city manager is to assist them and tell them what they need to know."

Housing Authority board Chairwoman Isabell Sturges said the board had an indication things weren't going so well with the authority but didn't know how bad it was. The board now hopes to correct the situation, she said. "I was not really aware that we weren't following the procedures," Sturges said. "We are trying to address them as quickly as we can and get them back a report."

HUD said one of the problems is a lack of diversity on the board. All members are retired, and there is only one African-American serving on the five-person board. "We are all up in age," Sturges said. "I'm an 80-year-old lady. I'm trying to serve my time the best I know how. We are doing everything we can to try and correct the problem."

Sturges said her term ends in February, and she's not sure she wants to be reappointed. "As I said, I'm up in age and I'm not going to be able to continue at some point," she said.

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**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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The Florida Times-Union  
November 21, 2001

**Residents want a farmers market Fernandina: City staff wary of proposal**

Author: Dickie Anderson

Despite a city staff recommendation against it, Fernandina Beach city commissioners still are keeping an open mind about participating in a proposed farmers market in Central Park. A group of citizens determined to bring a market to the city stated their case before city commissioners at their Nov. 6 meeting. Central Park on Atlantic Avenue is under the jurisdiction of the city Parks and Recreation department, so the city must be involved if that location is used.

Before the meeting, interim City Manager **Scott Moye** recommended against city participation in the proposed farmers market. **Moye** said in a letter that although he thought the idea an excellent one, a market should be operated by a private group.

**Moye** said he was concerned that about several issues, including the legal implications of volunteers working on behalf of the city, parking availability, compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and if there would be a loss of recreational area.

The market would operate Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.. Under the residents' proposal, it would be staffed by volunteers, with the help of the city. All revenue generated would go to the city to offset any expenses and to enhance Central Park.

City Commissioner Bob Rogers placed the item on the agenda and asked Eileen Moore, who represented the citizens group proposing the market, to explain the project. Before the meeting, Moore said she hoped her group and the city could work together. "We aren't trying to fight city hall," Moore said. "We just want to work together."

Moore told commissioners the market would be a place for people to meet on Saturday mornings for a cup of coffee, to pick out fresh vegetables, check out new plants and let children play on the swings. The market also would attract visitors to the island businesses and shops, she said. Moore said the market would not be a flea market like the one on Pecan Park Road in Jacksonville.

When Mayor Kim Page asked if the market might affect other uses of the park, Moore presented a plan that showed that the proposed area is not being used for recreational activities. Moore said she and her committee have visited other farmers markets in places like Winter Park, St. Augustine, Atlantic Beach and Brunswick, Ga., and talked with operators of others. Twenty of the 30 they talked with had partial or complete city involvement. "Our market will not succeed without the city," she said.

When asked if a private group could step up and handle the market, Moore said the committee had determined that liability insurance for the market could be covered by the city at no



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**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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additional cost, but if a private group ran it, the insurance would be so expensive that the market could not operate.

Tommy Purvis, director of the Parks and Recreation Department, said he supports Moore's plan and told commissioners he saw no reason his department couldn't handle the challenges the market might present.

Commissioner Patricia Thompson expressed enthusiasm for the idea and encouraged the commission to continue to look at the proposal.

Commissioners agreed to discuss the proposal again after the committee reviews a contract that would spell out the city's involvement.

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**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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The Florida Times-Union  
November 3, 2001

**Manatees cause stir in harbor Fernandina: Marina improvements planned**

Author: Allison Schaefers

While people enjoy the manatees that frolic in Amelia Island's waters, the 1,000-plus-pound mammals are causing an conundrum at the Fernandina Harbor Marina. A debate is brewing between environmentalists and advocates of improvements at the facility. The environmentalists say improvements could endanger manatees. Expansion supporters say improvements are needed to attract tourism and make the facility more solvent. They also disagree that manatees would be harmed.

It's not uncommon for the marina to attract manatees traveling along the Amelia River. They often come into the docks looking for fresh water leaking from hoses, or spartina grasses growing along the banks. Marine researcher and manatee expert Mark Silva, who founded the Amelia Island Manatee Education program, said that providing a way for larger and more high-speed boat traffic to come in and out of the Fernandina Harbor Marina could endanger the manatees that live and eat there.

But for years, the sight of the exposed silt at the Fernandina Harbor Marina at low tide has dogged Fernandina Beach officials, residents and boaters. The marina's improvement plan is designed to restore the natural flow of the tides and currents and eventually wash away the silt. The marina is searching for a way to complete the second phase of a three-part redevelopment project to redesign some of the docks and repair others. The breakwater dock, the longest one on the outside of the marina, has been lengthened, and several new docks have been added to the north portion of the marina. Marina plans call for removing the inside slips and replacing them with a dock parallel to the breakwater. Installing a fixed bulkhead has also been discussed, but Marina Director Coleman Langshaw said financial problems have put that part of the project on hold.

The marina received permits to do the project in 1999, but Silva said the permit was issued before a federal lawsuit tightened manatee regulations. More restrictions are needed to protect the slow-moving creatures from injuries and death in collisions with boats, he said. Silva said that expanding the marina to make it wide enough to accommodate large yachts could endanger manatees. He plans to present his concerns to Fernandina Beach city commissioners. "It's like running a truck stop on the backs of the manatees," he said of the marina's redevelopment plan. "We need to give the manatees a break. They've survived 50 million years."

The marina's expansion plan is supposed to decrease the number of boats in mudslips, but it actually will increase traffic from large yachts, Silva said. And if a bulkhead is installed, it could drive manatees out of the marina, he added.

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**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Kevin Little, dockmaster at Fernandina Harbor Marina, said the city marina's plan has been approved by all the required environmental agencies. He said that, if anything, the plan will reduce the number of boats and give the manatees more room to move around. "I don't see that if the marina is redesigned it will be any more obtrusive to the manatees than it is now," he said. Silva disagrees, saying that the only reason the plan got permitted in the first place was because the state was misled. "They said the plan would reduce the number of slips from 148 to 72, but, actually, the plan has the capacity to double or triple the traffic by accommodating larger yachts," Silva said.

Little said that he doesn't know of any documented problems with manatees at the city marina, but there are plenty of better places for the mammals to go. "They aren't forced to come to the marina, and it's not necessarily the best place for them," he said. "They would do better in the natural creeks and bays where the water is deeper and there is less traffic." Little said making the marina more attractive to manatees is not necessarily the most environmentally friendly action the city could take. "Manatees will survive better if we don't do stupid things and encourage them to come to places where they aren't safe," he said.

Fernandina Beach's interim city manager, **Scott Moye**, said the city is waiting for Silva to present officials with his concerns. "We've got time to address any concerns," **Moye** said. "The marina is not in financial shape to expand right now."

**Moye** said marina officials are trying to find ways to finance improvements since the drop in tourism following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington. A bout of cold weather also took its toll on business at the facility. "They need to be more solvent [before spending money on improvements]," **Moye** said.

Silva said the city needs to attract tourism by bolstering the environment. The marina doesn't bring direct revenues to the city, he said. "People will come to see our leatherback turtles, our right whales and the manatees," he said. "That's the kind of tourism that we want. This animal is a national treasure and we need to take care of it."

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**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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The Florida Times Union  
October 6, 2001

**Officials Look for New City Manager**

Author: Derek L. Kinner

Another week, another city manager. Well, not exactly, but sometimes it seems like it. Fernandina Beach City Manager Andy Barton's resignation became effective Sept. 28, and **Scott Moye**, the deputy city manager, took over the position on an interim basis beginning Monday.

Meanwhile, city officials still are trying to decide how to look for a new permanent manager. A plan to appoint a panel of residents to help in the search has, at least temporarily, fallen apart after questions about possible public meetings law violations cropped up.

Barton, who served as city manager since March 2000, received an annual salary of \$70,000.

Commissioners have gotten information packets from two people interested in becoming city manager.

Charles A. "Tony" Hammond, a Fernandina Beach native who is town manager of North Topsail Beach, N.C., and Terry Leary, who most recently was town manager of Lake Park, have expressed interest.

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**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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The Florida Times-Union  
April 25, 2001

**Outbursts lead to controller's dismissal Fernandina Beach: Dickerson fired despite a good evaluation**

Author: Derek L. Kinner

A few days before she was fired earlier this month, former Fernandina Beach city controller Cindy L. Dickerson was given an evaluation that said her work performance "exceeds requirements." But in the end, it was the way she dealt with other city officials that led to the dismissal, according to city documents. Dickerson did not return several telephone calls to her home.

City Manager Andy Barton said he could not comment on Dickerson's firing, but in city public records, Barton said he gave Dickerson, who was making a little over \$50,000 annually, the March 30 evaluation and said he was recommending her for a 2 1/2 percent raise. He said he told Dickerson that he had been impressed that she was trying hard to get along with other city employees in the past few months, despite problems in the past.

But then Dickerson "exploded in anger," according to notes Barton filed after the evaluation. Dickerson told Barton she deserved a 5 percent raise, even though the highest raise employees could receive without City Commission approval was 4 percent, and that she should have been appointed to the deputy city manager's position when it was filled in 2000. She said that because she was not appointed, it cost her \$10,000 in salary, according to documents.

Barton said in the documents that he was stunned by her reaction and agreed to reconsider whether any adjustments should be made to the evaluation. Other city employees said in written statements that they were standing outside Barton's office and could hear Dickerson as she talked in a loud voice, saying she did not respect Barton and that she should have gotten a larger raise. Barton did make an adjustment to the evaluation. During a follow-up meeting on April 5, he fired Dickerson. He documented the meeting in notes that were filed as public documents. "I indicated to Cindy that she had a long history of interpersonal conflicts within this organization," Barton said. "I then said that she had been counseled about this on a number of occasions. . . . I indicated that in 27 years of working in the public sector that I had never been treated as discourteously, disrespectfully, and unprofessionally."

Barton said that even during her own evaluation meeting, she was complaining about another employee. "In addition, the fact that she appeared at her own performance evaluation with a document demanding that I take action against another city employee who does not report to me, was symbolic of the interpersonal conflicts that have marked her employment with the City," Barton said.

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**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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Barton said he then told Dickerson it was in the best interests of the city that they part company. He gave her 90 minutes to gather her belongings and vacate City Hall and told her he would look into a severance package.

Documents pertaining to Dickerson's firing indicate a contentious relationship between her and other employees in the past. In July, Dickerson filed a sex discrimination complaint against the city, saying she was bypassed for the position of deputy city manager because of her gender. **Scott Moye** was hired.

In September, according to notes filed by Barton, Dickerson came to his office and said she wanted to inform him confidentially that she thought one of his male employees had sexually harassed one of her female Finance Department employees. Dickerson told Barton that the woman described an incident to her in which the man said something that the woman thought was inappropriate.

Barton said he asked the male employee about the accusation and that he was "stunned" and said it never happened. Barton said the woman who Dickerson said was harassed also came to him and said the incident never happened. "I have met with the alleged victim, and, based on her comments, have concluded that no incident of sexual harassment has occurred," Barton wrote.

Nassau Neighbors is not identifying the employees because of the finding of no wrongdoing. Dickerson brought a memo to her employee evaluation complaining that City Clerk Mary Mercer told one of her employees that Dickerson was "difficult to work with." Dickerson said in the memo that she thought the statement was inappropriate and might have been made in retaliation for her sex discrimination complaint.

The employee signed a statement about the incident, according to a memo Barton sent to city commissioners. Mercer denied that she had made the statement, Barton said in the memo. The employee who said Mercer made the statement later said she was on medication for an injury and did not realize what she was signing. "She stated that she regretted signing the document because she wasn't sure what it meant," **Moye** wrote in notes filed April 5 after speaking with Barton and the employee. There were several other memos from Dickerson in which she questioned procedures by other departments.

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**Scott Moye**  
*(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

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The Florida Times-Union  
July 29, 2000

**Column: Talk of the town**

[CB&A Note: Only the information relevant to **Scott Moye** is listed below.]

Before becoming Fernandina Beach's city manager, Andy Barton served as deputy city manager. CQ. Now, Barton has hired his own deputy. **Scott Moye** is scheduled to begin work Monday.

**Moye** comes to town from Waycross, Ga., where he most recently worked as comptroller for The Jones Co., which runs Walker-Jones Chevrolet, Buick, Olds, Honda & Toyota Inc.

Barton said he will schedule a reception once **Moye** starts work.

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Research Compiled by:      Shannon Farr  
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