



## Dade County Commission Addresses Infrastructure, Public Safety, and Community Updates at April Meeting

*Posted on April 2, 2026 by Carey Fauscett-Anderson*

TRENTON, Ga. (April 2, 2026) — The Dade County Board of Commissioners met Thursday evening for its regular monthly meeting, following a detailed workshop session that included proclamations, infrastructure discussions and departmental updates.

The workshop began at 6 p.m. and included recognition of several national observances, including Child Abuse Prevention Month, National Donate Life Month, Sexual Assault Awareness Month, National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week and Lineman Appreciation Day. Commissioners also recognized Fire Chief Rodney Ross for 50 years of service to the New Salem Fire Department.

During workshop discussions, commissioners reviewed several infrastructure and capital planning items. Among these was the Squirrel Town Creek bridge replacement project, where funding options were discussed to support completion of the project while maintaining long-term fiscal balance.

An update was also provided on construction of the county's new elections building. Officials noted that work is progressing steadily, with continued advancement expected as conditions allow.



Public safety operations were a key topic of discussion, including a proposal to combine the New Home and Davis fire departments under a unified operational structure. The consolidation is intended to improve efficiency and streamline operations while maintaining service to both communities. Commissioners expressed support for the effort and discussed the ongoing challenges of recruiting volunteer firefighters.

Additional workshop items included updates to the county's public participation policy to clarify procedures for presentations during meetings, as well as routine regulatory requirements such as groundwater and methane monitoring at the county landfill.

Following the workshop, the board recessed briefly before reconvening for the regular meeting.

The regular meeting opened with invocation, pledge of allegiance and confirmation of proper public notice. The board then entered the citizen participation portion of the agenda; no residents spoke.



Commissioners next shared district updates, highlighting ongoing infrastructure projects, community events, economic development activity and public services across the county.

Commissioner Bill Pullen reported on several infrastructure and community updates within his district, including the closure of the Slygo Road bridge, continued progress at Lake Hills and completion of the Squirrel Town Creek project. He

also noted new economic activity in the area with the near completion of a Dollar General store and highlighted upcoming community engagement efforts through Coffee Talk meetings.

Commissioner Phillip Hartline shared updates related to growth and recreation, including continued residential development with new home construction, ongoing activity at the sports complex and preparations for upcoming Antique Alley May 14-17. He also highlighted progress on the community forest project and associated regional interest.



Commissioner Bob Woods provided updates on public health and community services, including an upcoming oral rabies vaccine distribution effort, activity at the Trenton-Dade Animal Center and continued services offered through the senior center and transit program.

Commissioner Melissa Bradford emphasized environmental and community initiatives, including recycling program reminders, an upcoming tire amnesty event and ongoing efforts to address illegal dumping through grant opportunities.

Chairman Don Townsend concluded the reports with an executive update, noting increases in insurance costs impacting the county, the need to hire two Class 4 or Class 5 drivers for Public Works and continued participation in regional planning and emergency preparedness initiatives. He also highlighted recent community engagement efforts and recognized local achievements.



During appearances, local partners provided updates on services and ongoing initiatives. Dade County Public Library Manager Lydia Soucy shared recent usage metrics and highlighted continued community engagement through programming and educational resources. Additional updates were provided by representatives of UGA Extension and the Alliance for Dade, reflecting ongoing efforts in youth development and economic growth.

The board reviewed and unanimously approved monthly financial statements and investment reports, reflecting continued fiscal oversight and stable fund management.

The consent agenda was approved unanimously. With no legal matters requiring action and no executive session held, the meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

As part of ongoing community engagement efforts, Dade County has concluded its “Coffee with the Commission” SPLOST discussion series, which was held throughout February and March at the Historic Courthouse. The county will now transition to evening community meetings in April, providing residents with additional opportunities to learn about SPLOST and engage directly with commissioners and staff.



Upcoming meetings will be held at 6:30 p.m. EST at the following locations: April 7 at Davis Storm Shelter; April 9 at South Dade Fire Hall; April 13 at New Home Fire Hall; April 27 at West Brow Fire Hall; and April 28 at New Salem Fire Hall. These meetings are open to the public and offer an opportunity for residents to ask questions and participate in discussions regarding SPLOST. Additional meeting dates for, Wildwood and Trenton will be announced at a later time.

The SPLOST series will conclude in May with online question-and-answer sessions, continuing the county’s commitment to accessibility, transparency and public engagement.

