

**MINUTES
PUBLIC HEARING
WARE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY JANUARY 8, 2024
4:30 p.m.**

The Ware County Board of Commissioners held a Public Hearing, Monday, January 8, at 4:30 p.m. in the Ware County Commission Chambers, 305 Oak Street, Suite 201 Waycross, Georgia 31501 with Chairman Elmer Thrift presiding.

CALL TO ORDER	Chairman Elmer Thrift
COMMISSIONERS PRESENT	Commissioner Steve Barnard, Commissioner Leonard Burse, Commissioner Timmy Lucas (via telephone), Commissioner Jerry Pope
COMMISSIONERS ABSENT	None
STAFF PRESENT	County Manager Scott Moye; Assistant County Attorney Jennifer Dorminey Herzog
PRESS	Danny Bartlett - WJH
INVOCATION	The invocation was waived from Work Session
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE	The Pledge of Allegiance was waived from Work Session

Call to Order:

Chairman Thrift called to order the public hearing for the application to close a portion of Ed Davis Road. Applicant is Reba Wright.

Road Closure/Abandonment Request – a portion of Ed Davis Road

County Manager Moye told the Commission that Mrs. Reba Wright, the land owner adjoining both sides of a portion of Ed Davis Road, is requesting to close and abandon 1.39 miles, more or less, extending in a northern direction from Old 122 Highway to Perch Creek Trail. Ed Davis Road is located between Perch Creek Trail and Old Highway 122 East in Waycross/Millwood in Land Lots 181 and 188 of the 8th Land District.

The Chairman asked Mrs. Wright to explain her request to the Commission. She said she is joint owner of 220 acres of land (approximately 110 acres on each side of the road) that has been in her family since 1936. There have been problems because the land is cultivated. People use it as a place to hang out. They hunt the land without permission and will throw out their dogs and beer cans. The road is not maintained, and appears as a one path road. The Sheriff's Office has been called and found people picking palmetto berries without permission. She said if this portion of the road was to be closed, Hasty Road would be an alternate route. It is a County maintained road and will be only a three-quarter mile difference in travel distance.

SUPPORT:

Mrs. Jeffries: She lives on Perch Creek Road, but her property backs up to Ed Davis Road. She wants the road closed partly due to illegal hunting and shooting. She said it is a two path road that has much overgrowth during the summer months. It is the shortest route to her house, but she doesn't use it due to the condition of the road. She asked that the road be properly maintained if it isn't closed. People get bogged down on the road, and it needs new pipes.

Jeff Regan, 122 Ed Davis Rd: He owns property on both sides of Ed Davis Road that connects to Mrs. Wright's property. He wants the road closed. He said is currently building a home on this property and bought several lots in 2007 and 2018. He built a private road that ends on Perch Creek Trail. Hunters are constantly running dogs through his property. Trespassers ride their four wheelers and other ATVs all over his road and property.

OPPOSITION:

Kirk Williams, St Augustine Fl

He owns almost 28 acres at the end of Ed Davis Road at Perch Creek Trail and Hasty Road. He plans to subdivide the property into four lots. Three of those lots would be on Ed Davis Road. If it is closed, those lots would become inaccessible.

No Name

Another person from the neighborhood spoke without giving a name. His property doesn't border Ed Davis Road, but he does use the road.

Frank Bartanowitz

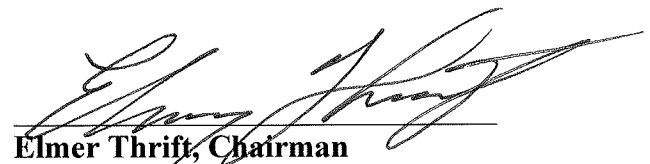
He uses the Ed Davis Road to get to his home, and said it is very drivable.

Added to Regular Meeting Agenda

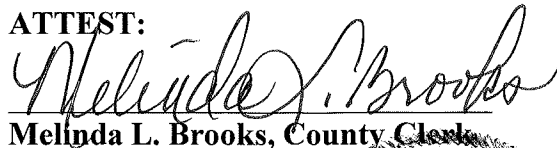
CLOSURE

Commissioner Pope made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Barnard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The hearing closed at 4:57 p. m.

Date proposed to be approved: March 11, 2024


Elmer Thrift, Chairman

ATTEST:


Melinda L. Brooks, County Clerk

3-13-2024
Date

