



Hart County Board of Commissioners
Tuesday March 10, 2026
6:00 p.m.

Emergency Services and Administration Building

1. PRAYER
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. CALL TO ORDER
4. WELCOME
5. APPROVE AGENDA
6. APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)
 - 02/24/2026 Regular Meeting
7. REMARKS BY INVITED GUESTS, COMMITTEES, AUTHORITIES
8. REPORTS BY CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS & DEPARTMENT HEADS
 - Jason Spencer, Public Works Director
9. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT
10. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
11. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS
12. OLD BUSINESS
 - a) Distilled Spirits for Kelly Anne Ross D/B/A as Tilly's Bar and Grill (on site consumption)
 - b) Beer & Wine Applications for Kelly Anne Ross D/B/A as Tilly's Bar and Grill (on site consumption)
 - c) Road Striping discussion
 - d) Gun Range Ordinance
13. NEW BUSINESS
 - a) Hart Hope & Freedom (Leah Tolbert) grant request (Opioid Settlement)
14. PUBLIC COMMENT
15. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Personnel – Litigation – Real Estate
16. ADJOURNMENT



Hart County Board of Commissioners
Tuesday February 24, 2026
6:00 p.m.
Emergency Services and Administration Building

1. PRAYER
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. CALL TO ORDER
4. WELCOME
5. APPROVE AGENDA
6. APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)
02/10/2026 Regular Minutes
7. REMARKS BY INVITED GUESTS, COMMITTEES, AUTHORITIES
8. REPORTS BY CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS & DEPARTMENT HEADS
Jason Spencer, Public Works Director
Chief Magistrate Judge Thomas Jordan – Credit for Experience – **MOVED FROM 13d**
9. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT
10. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
11. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS
12. OLD BUSINESS
 - a) Water and Sewer Authority Board Appointments (3)
 - b) Legacy Link FY 27 Commitment Letter
 - c) Open Records / Open Meeting Training
 - d) Additional Staff / Programs in Recreation Department Discussion
 - e) Location for March 12, 2026, City / County Meeting
13. NEW BUSINESS
 - a) City of Hartwell Annexation of Parcels I69F 008, I69F 007, I69F 006, I69F 005, I69F 005 006, I69F 005 006A, and I69F 005 007
 - b) Consideration of Accepting Deer Creek Farm Road (4 Property Owners) into County System
 - c) Level II Subdivision Approval Drifting Oaks Subdivision (Phase I) (Old 29 Hwy) Doug Mauk, Owner
 - d) Credit for Experience Magistrate Court – **MOVED to 8 changed to** John Benson Chapter, NSDAR Approval to Place Historical Marker at Liberty Tree at Courthouse
 - e) Letter to State Representative Concerning HB 1315 - **ADDED**
14. PUBLIC COMMENT
15. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Litigation – Personnel – Real Estate
16. ADJOURNMENT

Hart County Board of Commissioners
February 24, 2026
6:00 p.m.

Hart County Board of Commissioners met February 24, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at the Hart County Administrative & Emergency Services Center.

Chairman Marshall Sayer presided with Commissioners Michael Bennett, Frankie Teasley, Jeff Brown and Joey Dorsey in attendance.

1. PRAYER

Commissioner Bennett offered prayer.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood in observance of the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Sayer called the meeting to order.

4. WELCOME

Chairman Sayer welcomed all those in attendance via in person, HTC Channel 3 and Board of Commissioners YouTube site.

5. APPROVE AGENDA

Commissioner Teasley moved to amend and approve the agenda to move item 13d) Credit for Experience Magistrate Court to item 8 Reports by Constitutional Officers & Department Heads and add 13d) John Benson Chapter, NSDAR Approval to Place Historical Marker at Courthouse and 13e) Letter to State Representatives Concerning HB 1315. Commissioner Bennett provided a second. The motion carried 5-0.

6. APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)
02/10/2026 Regular Minutes

Commissioner Teasley moved to approve the 02/10/2026 Regular Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Brown provided a second. The motion carried 5-0.

7. REMARKS BY INVITED GUESTS, COMMITTEES, AUTHORITIES
None

8. REPORTS BY CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS & DEPARTMENT HEADS
Jason Spencer, Public Works Director
Chief Magistrate Judge Thomas Jordan – Credit for Experience

Jason Spencer, Public Works Director gave an update on the InfraHub software. He stated the data collection for the road study will begin next week and should be completed by mid-May.

Commissioner Bennett moved to grant 8 years of credit for experience for new hire Taylor Burnett at the Magistrate Court. Commissioner Brown provided a second. The motion carried 5-0.

9. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

County Administrator Terrell Partain announced the County's website is in the process of being updated by Robbie Taylor from the Tax Assessors Office.

10. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Sayer congratulated County Attorney Kim Higginbotham on her selection for the Hart County Chamber of Commerce's 2025 Women in Business award. He also asked the community to support John Moore, a paramedic, and his family through thoughts, prayers, and fundraising as he faces health challenges.

11. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Bennett also expressed congratulations to County Attorney Kim Higginbotham and sympathy for John Moore and family.

Commissioner Teasley expressed his gratitude to County Attorney Kim Higginbotham and thanked the Chamber for their dedicated work for the County. He also announced his intention to seek reelection in the upcoming County Commission race.

Commissioner Brown congratulated County Attorney Kim Higginbotham on her achievement; announced that he will not be seeking reelection in the upcoming County Commission race.

Commissioner Dorsey met with representatives from Vanna Methodist Church and the Fire Department. They discussed the need to install additional water lines in the Royston area and echoed the same sentiments concerning John Moore.

12. OLD BUSINESS

a) Water and Sewer Authority Board Appointments

Commissioner Teasley moved to reappoint the existing board members Patti York, Bennie Harper and Marvin Justice to the Water and Sewer Authority Board (Term expires 3/1/2030). Commissioner Bennett provided a second. The motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Brown abstained.

b) Legacy Link FY27 Commitment Letter

Commissioner Teasley moved to approve and allow Chairman Sayer to sign the Legacy Link FY 27 Commitment Letter. Commissioner Brown provided a second. The motion carried 5-0.

c) Open Records / Open Meetings Training

No Action

d) Additional Staff / Programs in Recreation Department Discussion

Commissioner Brown moved to expand the programs offered by the Recreation Department as recommended by the Recreation Advisory Board. Commissioner Bennett provided a second. The motion carried 5-0.

e) Location for March 12, 2026 City / County Meeting

No Action

13. NEW BUSINESS

- a) City of Hartwell Annexation of Parcels I69F 008, I69F 007, I69F 006, I69F 005, I69F 005 006, I69F 005 006A, and I69F 005 007

Chairman Sayer moved to approve the annexation of commercial parcels I69F 008, I69F 007, I69F 006, I69F 005, I69F 005 006, I69F 005 006A, and I69F 005 007 into the City of Hartwell. Commissioner Bennett provided a second. The motion carried 5-0.

- b) Consideration of Accepting Deer Creek Farm Road (4 Property Owners) into County System

No Action Taken

- c) Level II Subdivision Approval Drifting Oaks Subdivision (Phase I) (Old 29 Hwy) Doug Mauk, Owner

Commissioner Dorsey moved to approve the Level II Subdivision Drifting Oaks Subdivision. Chairman Sayer provided a second. The motion carried 5-0.

- d) Credit for Experience Magistrate Court – **MOVED to 8**

John Benson Chapter, NSDAR Approval to Place Historical Marker at Liberty Tree on Courthouse Grounds – **ADDED**

Commissioner Brown moved to approve the John Benson Chapter, NSDAR request to place a historical marker at the Liberty Tree on the Courthouse grounds. Commissioner Dorsey provided a second. The motion carried 5-0.

- e) Letter to State Representative Concerning HB 1315 - **ADDED**

Commissioner Dorsey moved to authorize Attorney Kim Higginbotham to draft a letter to State Representatives concerning HB 1315. Commissioner Bennett provided a second. The motion carried 5-0.

14. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

15. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Litigation – Personnel – Real Estate

Commissioner Dorsey moved to exit the Regular Meeting and enter Executive Session Litigation – Personnel – Real Estate. Commissioner Brown provided a second. The motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Dorsey moved to exit Executive Session and reconvene the regular meeting. Commissioner Brown provided a second. The motion carried 5-0.

16. Adjournment

Commissioner Dorsey moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Bennett provided a second. The motion carried 5-0.

Marshall Sayer, Chairman

Lisa Evans, County Clerk



Maintenance Department Performance Report – Feb. 2026

Department Mission: To maintain the county’s fleet to the highest standards of safety, reliability, and efficiency, and to support the employees who serve our community every day.

Significant Activities This Month:

- Replaced Arms on Solid Waste #16 (2022 926M Loader)
- Replaced the Clutch in Road #57 (1995 F800 Ford) Transmission must be removed to get to the Clutch.
- Replaced 8 Injectors & Inj. Pump in EMS M-6 (2020 Ford F-350)
- Replaced Cylinder in Road #68 (420 Backhoe)
- Replaced Steering Gear on Solid Waste #6 (1995 IHC Rolloff)
- Replaced Radar in Sheriff #27 (2021 Dodge Charger) Removed Instrument Cluster and console, wired in Radar with Dodge Factory PCM
- Replaced Headlight and Installed Howler Speakers on Sheriff #36 (2023 Ford Explorer) front bumper and Brush Guard had to be removed to install headlight. Mechanics had to fabricate brackets for speakers to be mounted under hood and run wire.
- Mechanics had 7 Service Calls this month.

Planned Activities Next Month

- Replacing the Motor Piston & Adaptor in Road #66 (2023 Massey Ferguson Head)
- Check over all Bushhogs and Tractors before grass cutting season starts

Work Orders

Department	Completed This Month	Completed Last Month	Pending	Parts Expense This Month
Animal Control	1			\$28.61
Code Enforcement				\$
Coroner				\$
EMS	9			\$5,692.58
Ext. Service				\$
Fire	11			\$1,321.02

Gen. Gov't	1			\$124.81
Health Dept.	1			\$21.12
Maint. Shop				\$.40
Paynes Creek	2			\$16.23
Public Works				\$
Rec Dept.	3			\$306.54
Road Dept.	25		2	\$18,539.72
Senior Center	1			\$131.58
Sheriff Dept.	21			\$3,922.60
Solid Waste	6			\$4,311.23
Tax Assessor				\$
Water Dept.				\$
Total	81			\$34,416.44

- **Parts Expense is ONLY parts, it does not include tires, oil, batteries or fuel.**

Equipment Upgrades

-
-
-



Recreation Department Performance Report –February 2026

Department Mission: *The Hart County recreation and Parks Department is dedicated to providing a quality park system with leisure activities for all residents of the County by having a range of safe, clean, and accessible parks and recreation facilities, while assisting in the planning and development of new facilities and programs to meet the needs and continued growth of the County. (Created: 2012)*

Significant Activities Last Month:

- Repaired frozen pipes in parks
- Gum Branch Fishing Tournament
- Applied Ice Melt to county Fire Stations, EMS Stations, Sheriff’s Department, and various county buildings during the ice and snow storms
- Prepared Long Point Park for season opening

Planned Activities This Month:

- New Batting Cage project
- Performed preventative maintenance on equipment for upcoming season
- New safety wall for SRC BB cooking area
- Repaired retaining wall on CSP Minor League Field backstop
- Fertilize BB fields at SRC
- Perform soil test on athletic fields
- Prepare baseball fields for the Little League season

Performance Measures	Unit	Freq	Target	This Period	Last Period	Notes
<u>Facilities:</u> Bathrooms						
SRC BB		Daily				
SRC FB		Daily				
CSP FB		Daily				
CSP BB		Daily				
CSP Pickleball/Tennis		Daily				
Mega Ramp		Daily				
Long Point		Closed				Opens 3/1



Public Works Department Performance Report –February 2026

Department Mission: *To provide excellent service to our residents and businesses by:*

- *responding to the needs and concerns of rapid growth and development*
- *effectively maintaining our street and drainage systems*
- *providing safe and well maintained community facilities and parks for the enjoyment and use of all residents and visitor*
- *participation and support of community wide events*
- *In short, we strive to provide the highest quality of public works services to our community.*

Significant Activities Last Month:

- Pavement Assessment evaluations have begun
- Began implementation of departmental monthly progress reports

Planned Activities This Month:

- Reviewing work order software proposals for use across all departments.
- Working on policy and procedures
- Working with dept heads on equipment surplus list
- Reviewing transfer station contract on hauler improvements and alternatives

Commissioner Requests:

- **Joey Dorsey-**
 - Asses current patching practices & equipment
 - Review signage on Liberty Hill Rd
- **Michael Bennett-** N/A
- **Frankie Teasley-** N/A
- **Marshall Sayer-** N/A
- **Jeff Brown-** N/A



Solid Waste Department Performance Report –February 2026

Department Mission: *To provide excellent service to our residents and businesses by:*

- *responding to the needs and concerns of rapid growth and development*
- *providing safe and well maintained convenient centers for the use of all residents and visitor*
- *In short, we strive to provide the highest quality of Solid Waste services to our community.*

Significant Activities Last Month:

- New Transfer Building Construction
-

Planned Activities This Month:

- New Transfer Building Construction
-

Performance Measures	Unit	Freq	Target	This Period	Last Period
Transfer Station:					
Municipal Solid Waste	Tons	MTD		2,595.02	2,546.01
Construction Demolition	Tons	MTD		2,467.67	2,282.36
County Resident S/W	Tons	MTD		88.23	146.64
County Resident Y/W	Tons	MTD		81.27	60.93
Non-Resident S/W	Tons	MTD		14.54	27.72
Non-Resident Y/W	Tons	MTD		.53	.56
Dead Animals Collected	#	Month		15	17
Convenience Centers:					
Trash collected Convenience Centers	Tons	MTD	+5%	73.64	88.25
Revenue Collected					
Recycling CB	\$	MTD		\$1,616	\$1,468
Trash Bag	\$	MTD		\$16,311	\$17,126
Recycling Met	\$	MTD		\$1,885	\$1,652
Total	\$	MTD		\$160,037.85	\$153,178.10

Policy and Procedure

Regulatory Speed Limit Sign Posting on County Roads

Department	Public Works / Roads Department
Applies To	County-maintained roads and streets
Effective Date	_____
Review Cycle	Every 2 years or as needed

1. Purpose

This policy and procedure establishes the internal county standard for posting regulatory Speed Limit (R2-1) signs on county-maintained roads. It is intended to provide consistent field direction for where signs are installed, what size sign is used, and the minimum mounting and lateral placement criteria to be followed by county staff.

2. Policy Statement

Hart County shall place regulatory speed limit signs at officially established speed zones in a manner that is consistent with applicable traffic control standards and sound field practice. Standard speed limit signs are to be installed at the point of speed limit change, with additional reminder signs placed beyond major intersections and at reasonable intervals as warranted by road type and speed.

3. Responsibilities

- Public Works Director: authorizes implementation and approves unusual field conditions or exceptions.
- Road Superintendent or designee: verifies location, sign size, and mounting details before installation.
- Field crews: install signs in accordance with this procedure and document completed work.
- Administrative staff or GIS support: maintain posting logs, inventories, and any related mapping or work records.

HART COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Internal Use Only

4. Standard Design and Placement Criteria

The following criteria shall be used by county staff unless a site-specific engineering determination requires otherwise:

Item	County Standard	Notes
Speed limit sign type	R2-1 Speed Limit sign	Use only for officially established posted speed limits.
Primary installation point	At the point where the speed limit begins or changes	Do not use the standard speed limit sign as an advance warning sign.
Reminder signs	Install beyond major intersections and at reasonable intervals	Recommended reminders: about every 1 mile at 40 mph and below; every 2 miles at 45–50 mph; every 10 miles at 55 mph and above.
Minimum sign size	24 x 30 on single-lane conventional roads; 30 x 36 on multi-lane conventional roads; 36 x 48 on expressways; 48 x 60 on freeways	Use larger size where visibility, speed, or roadway conditions warrant.
Minimum mounting height — rural roadside	5 feet from bottom of sign to elevation of near edge of pavement	Typical for rural roads with no curb and limited pedestrian activity.
Minimum mounting height — developed areas	7 feet from bottom of sign to top of curb, or if no curb, to elevation of near edge of traveled way	Use where parking, pedestrian, or bicyclist activity is likely or sign view may be obstructed.
Recommended lateral offset	12 feet from edge of traveled way	If shoulder is wider than 6 feet, lateral offset should be 6 feet from edge of shoulder.
Minimum reduced lateral offset	Not less than 6 feet on ramps/connectors; at least 2 feet may be used on conventional or low-volume rural roads where terrain or vegetation limits placement	Any reduced offset should be justified by field conditions and still maintain safety and crashworthy support requirements.

5. Procedure

1. Confirm that the posted speed limit has been lawfully established and that the location is within county maintenance responsibility.
2. Identify the start of the speed zone and any major intersections where entering traffic will need a reminder sign.
3. Select the appropriate sign size for the roadway classification and lane condition. On typical two-lane county roads, the default minimum size is 24 x 30.

HART COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Internal Use Only

4. Stake or mark the proposed sign location so the sign face applies clearly to the roadway segment being regulated and is visible to approaching traffic.
5. Verify mounting height and lateral offset before installation. On typical rural county roads, install the sign with a minimum 5-foot mounting height and approximately 12-foot lateral offset from the traveled way, or 6 feet from the edge of shoulder where the shoulder exceeds 6 feet in width.
6. Check for sight obstruction, utility conflicts, drainage issues, driveway conflicts, vegetation, guardrail, and clear-zone concerns. Use crashworthy supports where required.
7. Install the sign plumb, properly oriented to traffic, and outside the usable width of sidewalks or pedestrian facilities.
8. Document the installation in the county sign log, including road name, approximate station or address reference, sign size, post type, date installed, and crew.

6. Field Rules of Thumb

- Post the sign at every official speed limit change.
- Place reminder signs beyond major intersections where side-road traffic enters the zone.
- For most rural county roads, use 24 x 30 signs unless a larger size is warranted.
- Maintain at least 5 feet of mounting height in rural roadside conditions and 7 feet in developed or pedestrian-affected areas.
- Target a 12-foot lateral offset from the traveled way where practical; when a shoulder wider than 6 feet exists, target 6 feet from the shoulder edge.

7. Documentation and Review

The Roads Department shall maintain installation records for posted speed limit signs and review this procedure periodically, or sooner if standards change, roadway conditions materially change, or enforcement and operational issues indicate that revisions are needed.

Internal Note: This document is intended as an operational field guide. It does not replace any legal requirement for establishing speed limits or any site-specific engineering study that may be required.

HART COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Policy Memorandum

PLACEMENT OF REGULATORY SPEED LIMIT SIGNS ON COUNTY ROADS

Administrative Guidance for County-Maintained Roadways

To County Manager, Public Works Director, Roads Department Supervisors, and Applicable County Staff

From Hart County Public Works

Date [Insert Date]

Subject Placement of Regulatory Speed Limit Signs on County Roads

Purpose

This memorandum establishes a practical county standard for placement of regulatory Speed Limit (R2-1) signs on Hart County roads. The intent is to promote consistent signing practices, improve driver awareness, and support compliance with applicable traffic control standards.

Policy

Hart County shall place regulatory speed limit signs in a manner consistent with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and accepted spacing guidance for reminder signing on rural and collector roadways.

Standard for Placement

A regulatory Speed Limit (R2-1) sign shall be installed at the point where the speed limit begins or changes. The standard Speed Limit sign should not be used as an advance warning sign before an intersection. When advance notice of a reduced speed zone is needed, the County should use the appropriate Reduced Speed Limit Ahead sign.

There is no single fixed setback distance in the MUTCD requiring a speed limit sign to be placed a certain number of feet from every intersection. Where practical, additional reminder speed limit signs should be installed beyond major intersections so that traffic entering from side roads receives notice of the applicable speed limit.

Recommended Reminder Sign Spacing

In addition to posting at speed zone changes and beyond major intersections, the following field guidance may be used for reminder signs on county-maintained roads:

Roadway Context	Posted Speed	Recommended Reminder Interval
Rural roads	40 mph and lower	Approximately every 1 mile
Rural roads	45 to 50 mph	Approximately every 2 miles
Rural roads	55 mph and higher	Approximately every 10 miles
Developed or urban-type sections	35 mph and lower	Up to approximately 1/4 mile
Developed or urban-type sections	40 to 45 mph	Up to approximately 1/2 mile
Developed or urban-type sections	50 mph and higher	Up to approximately 1 mile

HART COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Policy Memorandum

Additional Locations for Consideration

Additional speed limit signs may be installed when warranted at the following locations:

- Beyond major intersections.
- At county or jurisdictional entry points.
- Along extended roadway segments where reminder signing is needed.
- In areas with frequent driver confusion, roadside development, or recurring enforcement concerns.

Placement Considerations

All signs should be installed so they are clearly visible to approaching traffic, properly oriented toward the roadway they regulate, not obstructed by vegetation, utilities, or other roadside features, and positioned so drivers can reasonably associate the sign with the correct roadway segment.

Administrative and Enforcement Considerations

Regulatory speed limit signs shall only be posted for speed limits that have been officially established through the County's lawful authority and any required supporting action, study, permit, or approval applicable under state law or local enforcement practice. County staff should coordinate with the appropriate administrative and law enforcement personnel before installing, revising, or removing posted speed limit signs.

Implementation

The Public Works Department shall use this memorandum as the standard field reference for placement of speed limit signs on county-maintained roads unless a site-specific engineering determination supports an alternative placement.

Approved for Administrative Use

Signature _____

Date _____



MEMORANDUM

Terrell Partain,
County Administrator
March 6, 2026

RE: Item 12 A Distilled Spirits for Kelly Anne Ross D/B/A as Tilly's Bar and Grill
(on site consumption)

Attached are the applications for the Distilled Spirits permit for Tilly's, as well as the onsite consumption license for beer and wine. This is a new license for an established restaurant with new manager / LLC person. All is in order with the applications

Hart County
Distilled Spirits License Application

RECEIVED

JAN 28, 2026

Hart County Bd of Comm

B.R.

Application for License Year: 2026

Applicant's Name: Kelly Anne Ross

Resident Address: _____

Home Telephone: 6 _____

Work Telephone: 706 356 0727

Email address: Kelly _____ .com

Social Security Number _____ 3

Drivers License Number: _____

Business Name: Tilly's Tiki Bar & Grill

Business Address: 1476 Harbor Light Marina Road
Lavonia, GA 30553

Business Telephone: 706 356 0727

Type of Business: Full Service Restaurant

Is this application for renewal of a current Distilled Spirits License? No

Are you a citizen of the United States of America? yes

(Attach copy of driver's license or other proof of residency)

Are you 21 years of age or older? yes

The license is requested for: () Sole Proprietorship Partnership or Corporation

If sole proprietorship, are you the owner? Yes

If not, are you actively engaged in the management of the business?
yes

If partnership or corporation, are you an officer who is actively engaged in the management of the business and an owner of at least 25% of the partnership or corporation?

yes
(Attach a copy of letter of partnership or articles of incorporation)



MEMORANDUM

Terrell Partain,
County Administrator
March 6, 2026

RE: Item 12 B Beer & Wine Applications for Kelly Anne Ross D/B/A as Tilly's Bar and Grill (on site consumption)

Attached are the applications for the Distilled Spirits permit for Tilly's, as well as the onsite consumption license for beer and wine. This is a new license for an established restaurant with new manager / LLC person. All is in order with the applications

Hart County
Beer & Wine License
Application

RECEIVED

JAN 28, 2026

Hart County Bd of Comm

B.R.

Application for License Year: 2026

Applicant's Name: Kelly Anne Ross

Resident Address

Home Telephone

Social Security

Drivers License

Business Name: Tilly's Tiki Bar & Grill

TT Hartwell LLC

Business Address: 1476 Harbor Light Marina Road

Business Telephone: 7063560727

Lavonia, GA
30553

Type of Business: Full Service Restaurant

Is this application for renewal of a current beer and wine license? No

Class License: A () B () C () D

Are you a citizen of the United States of America? yes
(Attach copy of driver's license or other proof of residency)

Are you 21 years of age or older? yes

The license is requested for: () Sole Proprietorship (X) Partnership or Corporation

If sole proprietorship, are you the owner? No

If not, are you actively engaged in the management of the business?
yes

If partnership or corporation, are you an officer who is actively engaged in the management of the business and an owner of at least 25% of the partnership or corporation? yes
(Attach a copy of letter of partnership or articles of incorporation)



MEMORANDUM

Terrell Partain,
County Administrator
March 6, 2026

RE: Item 12 C Road Striping discussion

Commissioner Dorsey requested this to be added.



MEMORANDUM

Terrell Partain,
County Administrator
March 6, 2026

RE: Item 13 A Hart Hope & Freedom (Leah Tolbert) grant request (Opioid Settlement)

Attached is a grant request from Hart Hope & Freedom for possible use of the Opioid settlement dollars the County has received.

I have also attached the list of allowable uses of the money published by ACCG.

For some history Avita here locally applied for and was granted a \$15K grant from these funds. They have since returned the money, citing the use (program) that they had intended would not be sustainable once the grant money was exhausted among other factors.

With a state agency having to comply with this, the sustainability of proposed programs funded through these dollars should be considered when making a decision.

March 4, 2026

Hart County Board of Commissioners
800 Chandler Street
Hartwell, GA 30643

Dear Chairman and Members of the Board,

On behalf of Hart Hope and FREEdom, Inc., an RCO (Recovery Community Organization) that has been in business since April 2025, I respectfully submit this proposal requesting \$121,800 in opioid settlement funding to establish and expand a Recovery Transportation & Access Support Program serving residents of Hart County.

Transportation remains one of the most significant barriers to sustained recovery in our rural community. Individuals receiving Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT), counseling, Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) services, detox care, and court-mandated treatment frequently miss critical appointments due to lack of reliable transportation. Hart County's rural geography, absence of public transit infrastructure, and limited in-county treatment providers significantly compound this challenge.

This proposal seeks funding for:

- Two full-time Recovery Transportation & Support Coordinators
- One dedicated recovery transport vehicle
- Modest facility improvements to establish a transportation coordination hub

By removing transportation barriers, this program will increase treatment adherence, reduce relapse and overdose risk, decrease emergency service utilization, and improve long-term recovery outcomes for some of our county's most vulnerable residents.

Opioid settlement funds present a critical opportunity to invest in practical, life-saving infrastructure that directly supports access to treatment and recovery services. This proposal aligns fully with approved opioid abatement strategies and addresses a clearly identified rural service gap within Hart County.

We appreciate your consideration and stand ready to provide any additional information needed. Thank you for your leadership and commitment to addressing the opioid crisis in our community.

Respectfully,

Leah Tolbert, Director
Hart Hope and FREEdom, Inc.
706-376-4752
harthopeandfreedom@gmail.com

Budget Narrative & Grant Application

CARES Recovery Support and Community Stabilization Program

Opioid Settlement Trust Fund Request Serving Hart County

I. Program Overview

The CARES Recovery Support and Community Stabilization Program is designed to address critical service gaps in prevention, treatment access, emergency placement, and recovery support within Hart County.

As a rural community with:

- Limited public transportation system
- Limited inpatient or detox facilities
- Limited Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) providers
- Minimal centralized recovery infrastructure

Residents face substantial barriers to accessing life-saving treatment and recovery services.

This funding request seeks opioid settlement trust funds to support:

- Recovery personnel
- Transportation and treatment access
- Outreach and prevention efforts
- Emergency stabilization support
- Basic needs assistance for high-risk individuals

These coordinated services aim to reduce overdose deaths, improve treatment retention, and build sustainable recovery infrastructure in a rural setting.

II. Budget Categories and Justification

1. Personnel – CARES Recovery Staff (1-Year Funding)

Two (2) Full-Time CARES (Certified Addiction Recovery Empowerment Specialist)

Funds are requested to support two full-time recovery professionals for one year.

Responsibilities include:

- Recovery coaching and peer support
- Treatment navigation and scheduling coordination
- Crisis intervention and overdose response follow-up
- Court, probation, and accountability coordination
- Community outreach and engagement
- Prevention education participation

In a rural county such as Hart County, dedicated recovery staff are essential to bridge the gap between individuals in crisis and limited available services. These roles directly increase treatment access and reduce relapse and overdose risk.

2. Transportation and Access to Treatment

Transportation is one of the most significant barriers to sustained recovery in Hart County.

Funds will support:

- Vehicle operational expenses (fuel, maintenance, insurance allocation)
- Emergency transportation to detox and inpatient treatment facilities
- Transportation to MAT appointments, counseling sessions, recovery meetings, and court-mandated visits
- Bicycles for individuals in recovery lacking reliable transportation

Because many residents must travel outside the county for MAT and behavioral health services, reliable transportation is critical to treatment adherence and overdose prevention.

3. Outreach, Advertising, and Public Awareness

To strengthen prevention and reduce stigma, funds will support:

- Recovery outreach vehicle signage
- Branded outreach table covers
- Printed brochures and educational materials

- Prevention-focused promotional materials

Visible outreach increases awareness of available services, enhances credibility, and encourages individuals and families to seek help earlier.

4. Prevention and Treatment Support

Funds will assist in expanding prevention and treatment engagement through:

- Prevention education initiatives
- Community awareness events
- Immediate assistance for individuals entering treatment
- Supportive services that encourage care engagement

Early intervention is critical in reducing long-term opioid misuse rates and preventing overdose fatalities.

5. Emergency Placement and Stabilization Support

Funds will provide short-term stabilization assistance for individuals experiencing crisis situations, including:

- Emergency placement support (temporary lodging when necessary)
- Meals for individuals awaiting treatment placement

Immediate stabilization reduces overdose risk, decreases strain on emergency services, and increases successful treatment entry rates.

III. Community Impact

Funding this initiative will:

- Increase access to MAT and counseling
- Improve treatment retention rates
- Reduce overdose incidents
- Decrease emergency response strain
- Strengthen prevention education

- Stabilize vulnerable individuals
- Build long-term rural recovery infrastructure

This program directly addresses structural barriers unique to rural communities and strengthens the county's coordinated opioid response.

IV. Alignment with Opioid Settlement Intent

The CARES Recovery Support and Community Stabilization Program aligns with the intent of the Georgia Opioid Crisis Abatement Trust by supporting:

- Treatment access
 - Harm reduction
 - Prevention education
 - Recovery support services
 - Overdose prevention
 - Community stabilization
-

V. Conclusion

Hart County continues to experience the impact of opioid misuse within the constraints of limited rural resources. Strategic investment of opioid settlement funds into transportation, outreach, prevention, emergency stabilization, and CARES personnel will create a coordinated and effective recovery response system.

This request represents a practical, community-centered use of settlement funds designed to save lives, restore families, and strengthen the long-term health and safety of Hart County.

Detailed Line-Item Budget

Total Funding Request: \$121,800

I. Personnel – \$80,800

A. Salaries – \$64,000

- 2 Full-Time CARES (Certified Addiction Recovery Empowerment Specialist) Recovery Support Specialists @ \$32,000 each
Total: \$64,000

B. Payroll Taxes – \$16,800

Includes:

- FICA (7.65%)
- Workers Compensation
- Unemployment Insurance

Total Personnel Cost: \$80,800

II. Transportation & Access to Treatment – \$27,350

A. Vehicle Purchase – \$20,000

- One reliable used transport SUV/van for recovery transportation

B. Vehicle Operating Costs – \$6,750

- Fuel: \$3,000
- Insurance: \$2,750
- Maintenance/repairs: \$2,000

C. Client Transportation Assistance – \$600

- Bicycles (8 @ \$25): \$200
- Helmets/locks/safety gear: \$150
- Emergency bus passes/gas vouchers: \$250

Total Transportation: \$27,350

III. Outreach & Public Awareness – \$3,650

- Vehicle signage and wrap: \$2,500
- Outreach table materials & branded covers: \$750
- Printed brochures & educational materials: \$250
- Prevention promotional materials: \$150

Total Outreach: \$3,650

IV. Prevention & Treatment Support – \$3,000

- Prevention education supplies & curriculum materials: \$250
- Community awareness events (venue, materials): \$750
- Immediate treatment entry assistance (ID fees, intake support, documentation costs): \$2,000

Total Prevention & Treatment Support: \$3,000

V. Emergency Placement & Stabilization – \$3,000

- Temporary emergency lodging assistance: \$2,000
- Emergency meals and stabilization support: \$1,000

These funds allow rapid response when individuals are awaiting detox placement or immediate treatment admission.

Total Emergency Stabilization: \$3,000

VII. Administrative & Facility Support – \$4,000

- Minor office improvements for coordination hub: \$3,000
- Scheduling software, communication tools, office supplies: \$1,000

Total Administrative Support: \$4,000

TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET: \$121,800

Cost Summary by Category

Category	Amount
Personnel	\$80,800
Transportation	\$27,350
Outreach	\$3,650
Prevention Support	\$3,000
Emergency Stabilization	\$3,000
Administrative	\$4,000
TOTAL	\$121,800

Millions of dollars are now being distributed to local governments from legal settlements with opioid manufacturers, distributors, and pharmacies who all stand accused of fueling the opioid crisis. With this distribution of cash, local governments are asking "What can we do with these funds?" "How can we use opioid settlement funds to make a difference in our communities?" This article endeavors to provide a summary of the allowable expenditure of funds; however, many other expenditures are likely available. This article does not cover all permitted expenditures. It is advised to consult with your county attorney to ensure the appropriate use of funds.

The Agreement provides core abatement strategies for uses of the settlement funds. Those categories are: (1) Naloxone; (2) Medication-Assisted Treatment and Other Opioid-Related Treatment; (3) Treatment of Pregnant & Postpartum Women; (4) Expanding Treatment for Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome; (5) Treatment for Incarcerated Population; (6) Prevention Programs; (7) Expand harm reduction programs; (8) Enrich prevention strategies; and (9) Support data collection and research. The Agreement also outlines numerous uses of opioid settlement funds, including expanded telehealth to increase access to treatment for opioid use disorder, partnership with external entities to provide treatment services, and many more.

NALOXONE

Many counties are utilizing opioid settlement funds for the drug Naloxone. Naloxone is carried by most first responders and is a drug that endeavors to reverse opioid overdose. The Agreement recommends expanded training for first responders, schools, community support groups, and families and increased distribution to individuals who are uninsured or whose insurance does not cover the needed service.

MEDICATION-ASSISTED TREATMENT

Medication-assisted treatment is also a proper utilization of opioid settlement funds. Suggested uses include distribution of the medication to those without insurance coverage and providing education to school-based and youth-focused programs that discourage or prevent misuse. Additionally, local governments are advised to provide medication-assisted treatment education and awareness training to first responders. Fund use may include providing treatment and recovery support services (e.g., therapy). Counties may work with treatment providers and groups to provide medication-assisted treatment. This includes faith-based treatment programs.

TREATMENT OF PREGNANT AND POSTPARTUM WOMEN

An additional core strategy is the treatment of pregnant and postpartum persons. This funding may include screening, intervention, and referral to treatment services for uninsured pregnant women. Counties may wish to partner with a community provider who may recommend medically assisted treatment for the individual and mental health care. It is also noted that

services may extend to wrap-around services, housing transportation, executive functioning skills, and other treatment modalities.

TREATMENT OF NEONATAL ABSTINENCE SYNDROME

Counties may expand treatment for Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome. This is also an allowable spending item and a core strategy outlined in the Agreement. Suggested usage of funds includes expanded evidence-based and recovery support for babies born with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome. Funds may also be used for expanded services for better continued care and expanded long-term treatment and services for medical monitoring of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome babies and their families.

WARM HAND-OFFS AND COORDINATED CARE

Much like the core strategy of treating mothers who are pregnant or postpartum, this strategy provides a means to treat these at-risk individuals. Another abatement strategy is funding the expansion of services to help individuals navigate from use to their recovery. "Warm hand-offs" and coordinated care use person-centered services such as peer navigators to help them successfully start receiving treatment and support services, including beginning medications for the treatment of opioid use disorder; transitioning to a residential recovery facility; receiving support for co-occurring substance use and mental health conditions; and getting recovery support services like job fairs, temporary or long term housing, transportation, job placement (e.g., job fairs, resume writing), and childcare. A warm hand-off has been proven to increase the likelihood of recovery.

TREATMENT OF INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS

It is commonly said that nearly two-thirds of prisoners have a substance abuse disorder. Many, if not most, have a co-diagnosis of a mental health care issue. Many of these offenders go back to drugs and alcohol upon release. Recidivism is almost guaranteed if an individual leaves jail and returns to opioids or other drugs. Counties and other local governmental entities may wish to review medical protocols for jails. Some jails offer methadone or buprenorphine (both assist the body detox safely and comfortably). Behavioral therapies may also be helpful in addition to treatment with medication.

PREVENTION PROGRAMS

The Agreement spells out many ways to use funds earmarked to prevent people from developing an opioid use disorder. Suggested usage of funds includes media campaigns, school-based prevention programs, family training, and physician education regarding misusing prescription drugs.

EXPAND HARM REDUCTION PROGRAMS

Perhaps the most common harm reduction programs are syringe exchange programs. The Agreement recommends funding comprehensive syringe services programs. Harm reduction programs also include access to safer drug use supplies (e.g., fentanyl test strips), and other medical support services.

SUPPORT DATA COLLECTION AND RESEARCH

Lastly, the Agreement recommends that local governments fund ongoing data collection and research to ensure that the abatement strategies are effective.