

CCREA General Meeting Minutes – September 17, 2025

Sam Heaton and Ty Mitchell were unable to attend, and Carolyn Ferrell, 2nd Vice President, served as meeting facilitator.

Lynda Paradise passed out a short survey to find out “what ails us” in order to present more customized information regarding alternative medicine at our November meeting.

Bill Volckmann, Cobb County CFO, updated regarding the Pension Plan and fielded other questions.

Good news – pension is improving and is funded at 63.9%, but is not healthy yet. Virgil Moon and Sam Heaton are both on the Pension Board. We were in the top of the nation for returns which will help us make up the funding ratio.

Can we expect a pension increase? No, but a meeting with the BOC is scheduled regarding increasing the stipend as it has fallen behind. If approved, it would take effect in 2027 during the next budget cycle.

\$70M contributed yearly to the pension fund by the County. We are trending to be fully funded in under 20 years, but a COLA might be available at 80%. We need to continue to advocate, but the BOC can also get inundated with requests. Sam has been using the history of the plan to show how long it has been since we received a stipend increase, and is doing a great job of presenting this to the County Manager.

John Reida mentioned the older retirees would need an increase the most. It was mentioned other municipalities were going back to a more “traditional” pension to keep employees, and Bill indicated we are still having difficulties filling technical positions, Public Safety, DOT, Water, Property Management and Finance.

Our pension fund is the major debt outstanding for the County, which is in its 28th year of triple AAA rating.

Recent Judges’ Retirement changes will not impact our Pension plan at all.

Mableton continues to pay County property taxes. They opted to use Cobb Police, which has created an issue going forward as to whether they can pay for it. There is some discussion as to whether the County may create a separate Police Fund for itself.

911 Services charge is insufficient to pay for it and the General Fund has to chip in. The delegation will have to address it.

Revenue is coming in well for business licenses, but only 3% growth in real estate, so things have slowed down.

Jimmie Hatch won the Cracker Barrel gift card. ---submitted by Julie Arnold, CCREA Secretary