

MINUTES
MERIWETHER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
February 12, 2020

Commissioners Present: Chairman Bryan Threadgill, Vice Chairman Alfred "Buster" McCoy, Commissioner Shirley Hines, Commissioner Mary Bray, and Commissioner Beth Neely-Hadley,
Staff Present: County Administrator Theron Gay, County Clerk Beverly Thomas, Finance Director Bill Gregory and County Attorney Michael Hill

- I. CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Threadgill at 9:00 a.m.
INVOCATION – Commissioner Mary Bray
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. ADOPT AGENDA

Motion was made by Vice Chairman McCoy and seconded by Shirley Hines to adopt the Agenda with the following additions under New Business: 8. Appoint Lisa Thompson to the Joint Industrial Development Authority with Meriwether County and Hogansville. 9. Discuss Resolution declaring Meriwether County as a Second Amendment Sanctuary. All were in favor.

III. MINUTES

Motion was made by Beth Neely-Hadley and seconded by Mary Bray to approve the Minutes of the January 28, 2020 Work Session at 4:30 pm. All were in favor.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Alfred McCoy and seconded by Beth Neely-Hadley to approve the Minutes of the January 28, 2020 Regular Meeting at 6:00 pm with a name change from William Briggs to Willis Briggs under Public Comment, 1st paragraph. All were in favor.

IV. MUNICIPAL COMMENTS

Commissioner Neely-Hadley reported, former Warm Springs Mayor Robert Prater's wife passed away. The funeral arrangements were announced later in the meeting.

V. CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICER'S COMMENTS

None

VI. DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Alfons Pynenburg, Fire Chief – reported there were 390 calls in January. The MVC's were 18 and there were 3 structure fires. Collections in January were \$71,057. Last year's annual collection was \$875,792.

Bill Cawthorne, Public Works Consultant – reported Public Works is working through the rain. The Airport is ready for the safety inspection. Mr. Cawthorne reported on the two Fire Stations under construction.

Work from the Inmate Labor Program was announced.

Mr. Cawthorne has been working on the Job Descriptions for Public Works. Currently there have not been any roads that have washed out due to the current rain.

Cathy Johnson, Building, Zoning and Community Development Director, stated January had a \$2.5M increase from last year. Ms. Johnson attended the Builders Meeting sponsored by Safe Built. The process for permits has been discussed and the software is in place and staff members have been trained.

Ms. Johnson and Jacklyn Lewis attended the recent Building and Zoning Conference.

Ashley Harmon, UGA 4-H Representative – reported they have been very busy, and 25 students have signed up for camp so far. The Vidalia Onion sale is in progress.

The Chamber of Commerce will start a Meriwether County Youth Leadership program in the fall.

Local students placed #2 in the Youth Public Speaking contest.

VII. PUBLIC HEARING

None

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Motion was made by Mary Bray and seconded by Beth Neely-Hadley to appoint Mary Bray to the Recreation Advisory Board, at Large. Voting in favor were Mary Bray, Beth Neely-Hadley and Shirley Hines. Chairman Bryan Threadgill and Vice Chairman Alfred McCoy were opposed.
2. Motion was made by Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Beth Neely-Hadley to appoint Dan Chapman to the Planning Commission, District 4. All were in favor.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

1. Michelle Sabol, representative from Corporate Health Partners (CHP), updated the Board and provided highlights and program statistics. Ms. Sabol stated CHP would be starting a tobacco cessation program and weight loss program very soon.
2. Administrator Gay explained Ordinance 2020-01 and how this was the first codification in many years. This will include Zoning and Subdivisions Ordinances and we will need to eliminate the old and adopt the new. The Subdivision and Zoning changes have not been completed and we must notice this Codification 15-45 days before adopting the codes. Administrator Gay will work on the separate fee schedule and we will have the subdivision and zoning ready along with the codification for a hearing on March 24, 2020. Commissioner Hines asked for an outline of the ones we are changing. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Alfred McCoy and seconded by Shirley Hines to set a Public Hearing for March 24, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. All were in favor.
3. Bill Cawthorne, Public Works Consultant, stated the Board approved the purchase of one Boom Mower and two Right of Way Tractors for Public Works. The Boom Mower and only one ROW Tractor was purchased in 2019. The Public Works Department has a 2015 TS-6110 New Holland ROW Tractor that had mechanical issues during the summer of 2018 and was at the tractor dealership for repairs all summer. This tractor was used during the 2019 mowing season but is now showing signs of the same previous condition. Staff recommends that this unit be parked, declared surplus and auctioned off, and purchase a new unit for the 2020 mowing season to replace the 2015 Tractor. The Public Works Department also needs a smaller 60 HP tractor that can cut in tight areas between power poles and places the large tractors and batwing mowers cannot reach. The one (1) 100 HP Tractor and the one (1) 60 HP Tractors can be purchased through the Georgia State Bid Contract through Atlantic and Southern Equipment. The purchase price for the 100 HP Tractor is \$51,029.65 and the 60 HP tractor is \$30,439. The total for both units is \$81,468.65. Staff recommends the purchase or lease of these pieces of equipment totaling \$81,468.65 and declaring the TS-6110 New Holland Tractor SN: NT00315M surplus to be auctioned and sold to the highest bidder. Motion was made by Vice Chairman McCoy and seconded by Mary Bray to purchase the equipment requested with SPLOST funds. All were in favor
4. Motion was made by Beth Neely-Hadley and seconded by Vice Chairman McCoy to surplus the TS-6110 New Holland Tractor, SN: NT00315M and allow it to be auctioned to the highest bidder. All were in favor.
5. Motion was made by Vice Chairman McCoy and seconded by Shirley Hines to set a Work Session for February 25, 2020 at 4:30 to discuss TSPLOST. This will be the only item on the WS Agenda and will be a discussion between the Board Members and Staff. All were in favor.
6. Administrator Gay attended the Recreation Meeting and there were 2/3 of members present. They are interested in some changes. Motion was made by Vice Chairman McCoy and seconded by Mary Bray to table the recommendations until the next meeting. All were in favor.
7. Shirley Louder discussed repairs needed on Hill Haven Road. Ms. Louder stated she lives on Hill Haven Road and is a voter and taxpayer. Ms. Louder has asked Public Works staff many times about repairs to the culvert and was told the county did not have the money or the experience to make the

repairs. Many vehicles travel this road including safety vehicles and school transportation. Ms. Louder referenced a post on FB regarding a road that collapsed and was compared to Hill Haven Road. Ms. Louder stated the SPLOST had passed and she didn't know what the County was waiting on. There was discussion of citizens moving the barriers that were placed on the road to prevent accidents. Ms. Louder asked why the County used funds for gravel at the airport rather than for roads.

Administrator Gay stated the County has not yet repaired Hill Haven Road but the road is not closed. We are looking at using TSPLOST funds when they come in. This is an approximate \$400K-\$500K project. It requires a large pipe and is deep. We should begin receiving TSPLOST funds one month after the TSPLOST begins in April.

Commissioner Hines stated the roads seem to be a big discussion for Meriwether County and this culvert failure occurred in June 2019. Many citizens have been patient and we must find a way to communicate with the citizens. Commissioner Bray stated this road has been brought up several times in Commission Meetings and wanted a date of when it will go out to bid. Commissioner McCoy stated Strickland Town Road has the same problem. We have tried to fix it with our own resources until we can contract out for a big box culvert. Commissioner Neely-Hadley stated the gravel at the Airport was purchased with FFA funds that are specific for that project and cannot be used for anything else in accordance with the FFA guidelines.

8. *Motion was made by Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Shirley Hines to appoint Lisa Thompson to the Joint Industrial Development Board of Meriwether County and the City of Hogansville. All were in favor.*

9. *Administrator Gay stated the County had been asked by several citizens to declare Meriwether County a Second Amendment Sanctuary County. Attorney Hill provided some of the pros and cons. Administrator Gay provided the Board with a Resolution and offered to make any changes they thought necessary. Commissioner Neely-Hadley wanted to proceed and made a motion to approve the Resolution Declaring Meriwether County as a Second Amendment Sanctuary. Vice Chairman McCoy seconded the motion. All were in favor.*

X. REPORT FROM FINANCE DIRECTOR

Finance Director, Bill Gregory, reported the General Fund was in good shape. There is only \$900K to collect in property tax. Last year we were at \$4.674M and we are close to the same this year. To date we have not received the \$800K LMIG funds. We are at 86% of property collection. The delinquent notices will go out next week and there will be a tax sale in April or May. Mr. Gregory reviewed the Budget Analysis and most of the Departments are at 75%.

XI. REPORT FROM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Administrator Gay worked to set up a meeting with GDOT to discuss TSPLOST. They have a new Transportation Planning Director who is waiting to come on board.

The methane monitoring at Durand Landfill for January 2020 was good.

A GDOT detour meeting will be on February 27th in Talbotton. The Board can attend if they desire.

There is an Airport inspection scheduled for Friday.

The Airport Fuel Farm is moving forward. The Airport Authority will host business after hours on May 14, 2020.

Administrator Gay attended the following meetings: Recreation Advisory Board, IDA, Water & Sewerage, and the Airport Authority. During the Airport meeting there was discussion of plans for the old house on the property.

The County is looking at contracting bids for Roadside vegetation.

State leases will be on the next Agenda.

The County received a Thank you note from Wargo's Pumpkin Patch for closing the road during their event in October.

XII. REPORT FROM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Shirley Hines: No comments at this time.

Commissioner Mary Bray: had questions on the event in Manchester on the 18th regarding training on the voting machines. Commissioner Bray asked if the BOE was responsible for public education on how to use the machines. They are setting up training sessions.

Chairman Bryan Threadgill: reported the fundraiser for the Animal Shelter raised \$1,500 for the shelter. There is a building in Luthersville that can be used by the Coroner. A cooler can be added. Mayor Cuttie stated the EMS Bldg. has one side vacant since the new Fire Station opened and they have voted to approve selling the property as residential. The City of Luthersville does not have a use for the building. Administrator Gay will look at the requirements.

Vice Chairman McCoy: asked the public to remember Laurie Harrison, a longtime employee, who was moved to Hospice. Also, Richard Hartage lost his son in a tragic motorcycle accident. Commissioner McCoy liked the road report. The Airport will have an open house and the fuel farm will soon be up and going. We will have to advertise the old house which would need to be disassembled and moved. The Lake fees so far are \$1,800.

Commissioner Beth Neely-Hadley: provided the arrangements for the funeral of Ms. Gloria Prater. It will be held at Harmony Church of the Nazarene on Monday, February 17, 2020 at 6:30 pm. Visitation will begin one hour prior to the funeral.

XIII. REPORT FROM COUNTY ATTORNEY

An Executive Session was needed for Personnel and Litigation.

XIV. PUBLIC COMMENT

XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Vice Chairman McCoy and seconded by Beth Neely-Hadley to go into Executive Session at 10:30 am to discuss Litigation and Personnel. All were in favor.

Motion was made by Beth Neely-Hadley and seconded by Vice Chairman McCoy to go out of Executive Session at 11:28 am. All were in favor.

Motion was made by Mary Bray and seconded by Chairman Bryan Threadgill to go back into the Regular Meeting at 11:30 am. All were in favor.

No action was taken.

XVI. FUTURE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Threadgill read the Future Meetings and Announcements.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Vice Chairman McCoy and seconded by Mary Bray to adjourn at 11:31 a.m. All were in favor.

Approved by: *Majority vote of the Board of Commissioners*
Attest: *Beverly Thomas, County Clerk*
Date: *February 25, 2020*