

MINUTES
MERIWETHER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
April 13, 2022

This meeting was held in person and also by Zoom due to COVID-19

Commissioners Present: Chairman Beth Neely-Hadley, Vice Chairman Bryan Threadgill, Commissioner Shirley Hines, Commissioner Rosla Plant and Commissioner Alfred "Buster" McCoy
Staff Present: County Administrator Michelle Irizarry, Director of Special Projects Theron Gay, County Clerk Beverly Thomas, Finance Director Bill Gregory, and County Attorney Nathan Lee

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Beth Neely-Hadley called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

II. INVOCATION –Chairman Beth Neely-Hadley

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - All

IV. ADOPT AGENDA

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Bryan Threadgill and seconded by Alfred McCoy to adopt the Agenda with the following changes: Remove under New Business 11. Debbie Nelson – request for Agenda Packages, due to not being able to attend. Add under New Business: 11. Approve Emergency Work on the Courthouse Roof 12. Revised cost for Water & Sewerage Extension. All were in favor.

V. REPORT FROM FINANCE DIRECTOR

Finance Director, Bill Gregory, reported the General Fund had a balance of \$5,481,548.87. Combined on the SPLOST is approximately \$1M and in T-SPLOST there is approximately \$1.2M . Both accounts were strong. Mr. Gregory reviewed the monthly SPLOST and T-SPLOST receipts. The revenue distribution for SPLOST was \$226,786. Of that, there was the percentage of what the County and Cities received. The County portion of SPLOST, averaged over the life of the bond issue, is still about \$20K over the initial estimate. The first three months of 2022 are averaging over \$143K. In the 12 months of 2021 we were at \$124K which was over our estimate. T-SPLOST distribution was \$180K in March and the County received \$117K. During the first three months of 2022 we were averaging \$119K received from T-SPOST. The twelve-month average for 2021 was \$105K and the estimated receipts were \$92K. We are strong in both receipts and are looking for stronger receipts in the summer and fall months. Commissioner Hines asked Mr. Gregory, in looking at the comparison from last year, the General Fund has a major increase from what we had last year at \$3.M. Commissioner Hines asked what specifically made the increase. Mr. Gregory stated tipping fees were up, State LOST distributions were up, most of the Court activities are up with one Court having receipts almost double of what they had been last year. It is a combination of many things. Property tax receipts are about the same as they were last year. Chairman Neely-Hadley stated they were about the same, but we had received them later than we normally do and that would make the balance. Mr. Gregory stated yes. Commissioner Hines stated in doing an overall comparison of what we had in 2021- 2022 this was probably one of a significant increases and that is why she wanted to know what the made up the increase. Mr. Gregory stated there were several factors.

IV. CITIZEN COMMENT

None

VII. MINUTES

Chairman Neely-Hadley asked if there were any changes, corrections, or deletions to the Minutes from the March 22, 2022, 6:00 p.m. Regular Meeting and the March 29, 2022 9:00 a.m. Special Called Meeting. Commissioner Hines stated she had reviewed the Minutes of the March 29, 2022 Special Called Meeting and after reviewing of the tape, she had not made the statement that was listed on page 12,

“Commissioner Hines confirmed that Mr. Gregory had not been receiving a copy of the reports from the current Tax Commissioner”. Commissioner Hines stated that she did not say she “confirmed.” Motion was made by Vice Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Shirley Hines to approve the Minutes of the Special Called Meeting on March 29, 2022 6:00 p.m. with that correction. All were in favor.

*** NOTE: During the Agenda Section, XIII. Report from County Commissioners, Commissioner Hines asked if the Board had voted for the March 22, 2022 Minutes earlier. It was determined the Board had not voted for the March 22, 2022 Minutes when they voted for the March 29, 2022 Minutes. The Minutes for the March 22, 2022 meeting were voted on at the beginning of Report from County Commissioners.

VIII. PUBLIC HEARING

None

IX. APPOINTMENTS

1. Water & Sewerage, District 5 to fill an unexpired term that will end on 12-31-2024

Motion was made by Chairman Neely-Hadley and seconded by Vice Chairman Threadgill to table the appointment to the Water and Sewerage Authority, District 5. All were in favor.

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Revision of the Solid Waste Ordinance RE: Franchise Fee Section 26-118 (7) and approval of the Solid Waste Application (tabled 1-25-2022)

Administrator Irizarry stated this is something that she had not been able to get to and asked if the Board would like to have a Work Session rather than an update of the current Ordinance. There was discussion regarding setting a date and time for the Work Session. Commissioner Hines requested to have more time to review the Ordinance and any other information prior to having the Work Session. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Rosla Plant to set a Work Session for May 24, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. to discuss the Solid Waste Ordinance. All were in favor.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval of Roadside Spraying Contract

Administrator Irizarry reported three sealed bids were opened on March 24, 2022 for the Roadside Spraying Contract. There were as follows:

DeAngelo Contracting - \$133 per mile, round #1 paved roads and \$133 per mile, round 1 dirt roads.

NaturChem - \$95 per mile, round #1 paved roads and \$185 per mile, round 1 dirt roads

ChemPro Services - \$84.75 per mile, pave roads round #1 and \$129.75 per mile, dirt roads round #1.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Rosla Plant to approve the contract for Roadside Spraying with ChemPro in the amount of \$37,562.25. All were in favor.

2. Request approval for the Purchase of the two Motor graders with leases expiring this month

Administrator Irizarry stated this was for two motor graders that were coming off lease at the end of the month with Caterpillar. Staff proposes to purchase the two motor graders through SPLOST, T-SPLOST, or ARP funding. The cost to purchase the two motor graders will be \$148,785 each. The motor graders have been maintained by Public Works during the five years they have been leased. The value of the motor graders are estimated to be in excess of \$175K each. This will give us two motor graders in good condition, one existing in good condition and one for surplus. Commissioner Hines stated the advantage of the lease was the maintenance and repairs would be their responsibility. Commissioner Hines asked what the advantage was to purchase rather than to lease in respect to the upkeep since it seems there are challenges for everyone now to get parts. Bill Cawthorne stated he didn't think it made a difference on the parts availability and thought it was more about the financing. Finance Director Gregory stated if we

have to lease the two machines, to get within the parameters of our budget we would have to look at a 5-year lease which would be a lot of interest. Mr. Gregory stated we could lease these two again, but it would be the same situation. Chairman Neely-Hadley stated when we went with this program she thought we would lease so that we would have new equipment every few years. Bill Cawthorne stated that is the advantage of a lease, you can purchase or turn them back in. Vice Chairman Threadgill stated we would lease for a number of years then turn them in and lease new ones for a number of years. Mr. Cawthorne spoke of a program called a guarantee buy back. They will give you a fixed rate 3-5 years out and you can then decide whether to purchase the equipment or turn it back in. The motor graders were on a 5-year monthly lease at \$2,200 each. Chairman Neely-Hadley stated we are going to lease one motor grader and we are trying to purchase the other two that had been leased a few years back. If we wanted to trade those motor graders in it would take 12-15 months to get a replacement. A new motor grader would cost over \$300K and would have to be ordered with a 12-15 month wait time. Chairman Neely Hadley confirmed we currently have the two that are leased that will expire at the end of this month, another one that is in good condition and one that needs to be surplus. Administrator Irizarry stated that was correct and the next item on the Agenda will be to lease an additional motor grader. Chairman Neely Hadley confirmed that would then give us 4 good ones. Bill Cawthorne stated they had found one that is currently available for purchase or lease, and it is the only one available unless we order one that is 12-15 months out. Vice Chairman Threadgill stated we paid \$132K to lease each motor grader each over a 5-year period and if we add \$148K we would be spending \$280K for each. Vice Chairman Threadgill felt it may be better to lease them rather than purchase. Commissioner Hines stated the purpose of leasing was to have a current updated fleet. Commissioner Hines did not see the advantage of purchasing the two motor graders at this time. Vice Chairman Threadgill asked how much it would cost to lease the two we have for the time frame until we could purchase new ones or get new leases in place. Mr. Cawthorne and Mr. Gregory stated we will have to check with them. The Board agreed to have Mr. Cawthorne look to see if the existing lease could be extended. Vice Chairman Threadgill asked if we could lease them for less since we would be leasing used motor graders. Commission Hines asked how many hours we had put on the motor graders. Mr. Cawthorne did not know how many hours were on the two that were leased but the one that is out of service had 4K hours and the one that is in better condition has less than 4K hours. Those are 2007 models. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Commissioner Hines to allow Administration to check into continuing the lease of the two existing motor graders and bringing it back to the Board at the end of the month. All were in favor.

3. Request approval for the Lease of an additional Motor grader

Chairman Neely-Hadley stated it was her opinion to go forward with this request. Mr. Cawthorne stated the current one is in need of transmission repairs that will cost over \$40K. The request is to replace that one with a new one under a lease. Mr. Cawthorne stated we currently have this equipment at Public Works, and we are using it as a demo. It is a 2021 model with less than 500 hours and comes with a full warranty. The monthly lease for this is \$4K monthly for 36 months. Mr. Gregory stated if the Board was contemplating these two we probably need to extend the timeframe for the lease from 36 months to 5-years. Mr. Cawthorne stated this also involves the trade of the motor grader that is out of service. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Shirley Hines to approve the lease for an additional motor grader for a 5-year term (Serial #ON9400424) and surplus the older motor grader that is out of service (Serial #CCA4027). All were in favor.

4. Request approval for the purchase of single axle dump truck

Bill Cawthorne stated there is currently an inoperable dump truck with transmission and engine problems. They would like to purchase an additional single axle dump truck to pull a pothole patcher and the asphalt hot box for asphalt maintenance. It is for a single axle dump truck in the amount of \$53,240. There was discussion of funding. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Alfred McCoy to move forward with the purchase of a single axle dump truck using SPLOST funds. All were in favor. Commissioner Hines asked if we had software that kept up with the equipment we have and the time

frame that we would need to pull it out of service. Mr. Cawthorne stated Sue Gordy at Public Works keeps an inventory list. Mr. Cawthorne did not know if there was a software program to look at miles and hours on the motors. Mr. Cawthorne stated there is a log sheet that they used to write down the hours and to keep up with service intervals. Mr. Cawthorne had also provided a priority list to Board members.

5. Authorization to sign documentation for a Cyber Security Grant

Administrator Irizarry stated this was for an MOU with GEMA for the Emergency Management Grant Portal for a Cyber Security Grant. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Rosla Plant to approve and allow the Chairman to sign the MOU with GEMA for Cyber Security. All were in favor.

6. Recommendation from Information Technology for Microsoft Office and Migration

Administrator Irizarry stated this is for IT to implement Microsoft Office for government as well as the migration of all County emails to this new software. This is to get us off Rack Space and improve security. Skip Richmond, IT Director, stated we would move to Microsoft Office 365 on a Government Cloud which is built securely for government entities. Chairman Neely-Hadley stated as a result of our Cyber Attack it came to light that we needed to make this change from Rack Space. The difference in cost is Rack Space being \$350 per month and Microsoft will be \$2K per month and will include Microsoft office apps for the web and desktop versions of Office apps. It is more expensive but will provide the security needed. This is for 104 full licenses which includes the full email and office suites and 115 is for email users only which can be adjusted as people come and go. This is also under the Georgia Enterprise Agreement with Microsoft. Commissioner McCoy asked Mr. Richmond if he thought this would make the system much more secure and Mr. Richmond stated it was a step in the right direction and agreed it was worth the money. Mr. Richmond stated he didn't like to spend the money, but we had no choice. Mr. Gregory stated with this being Cyber Security, if this is structured correctly, it would qualify for ARP funding. Commissioner Hines ask the total. Mr. Richmond stated the total was \$30,192.48 per year and that is for the 115 and 104 user count from a month ago. The company is Transcend. This price did not include the migration. The migration is a onetime amount.

Mr. Richmond stated he had three different quotes on Migration. The first quote was from Liberty for \$10K, the second quote was from SHI for \$31,250 and the final quote and recommendation from Mr. Richmond was approximately \$9K from Transcend. The process will take about one month, and this is a one-time fee to migrate the information from Rack Space into Office 365. Commissioner Hines asked Mr. Richmond when he buys the 365 would it be the basic software. Mr. Richmond confirmed that was correct. Commissioner Hines asked if any of the information during transfer could be lost and how secure the information would be when it is sent. Mr. Richmond stated it is their software and that is why he is depending on them. Motion was made by Alfred McCoy and seconded by Rosla Plant to approve the recommendation of Mr. Richmond for the Microsoft Office 365 through SHI in the amount of \$30,192.48 and Migration from Transcend in the amount of \$9,150 and to use ARP funds. All were in favor.

7. Recommendation from IT for Information Systems Security

Administrator Irizarry stated we went through a Cyber-Attack, and this is to help with Cyber Security. Mr. Richmond stated he received three quotes ranging from \$35K per year to \$210K per year. They include software and we will upgrade antivirus and event tracking and multifactor authentication, and email security on top of the Office 365. A back up will occur as often as every 15 minutes. Chairman Neely-Hadley stated in dealing with the Cyber-Attack, one of the issues they told us was the need to sign in with a dual factor. Mr. Richmond stated all three of these items hit most of our points recommended from Stroz. Two of the quotes give us a part-time security officer that can be called when needed. They monitor most of this daily and will contact us if they find issues. The other one includes full management, where we don't touch it and they basically take over. That is shown in the pricing variation. Mr. Richmond recommended Think Guard in the amount of \$35K annually following conversations and

recommendations from several County IT Directors and others. Mr. Richmond felt this would be the best to meet our needs. Vice Chairman Threadgill asked what we would do about funding when the ARP money goes away. Finance Director Gregory stated in a couple of years, we have two significant bond payments that are coming off the books and that will free up money to pick up where ARP ends. Vice Chairman Threadgill stated it will have to be voted on again when the funding source changes. Commissioner Hines stated the America Rescue Money (ARP) has to be used by 2026 and allocated by 2024. Commissioner Hines asked if the County had to go back and renegotiate the price every year and wanted to know the potential of it being higher in another year. Mr. Gregory stated we will sit down and negotiate a deal to make an upfront payment through ARP for 2-3 years, then when those items come off the General Fund we will be able to pick up the payments with that money. Commissioner Hines asked if he wanted to use the ARP money for the initial upfront payment. Mr. Gregory stated that was correct. Mr. Gregory would negotiate the price over a certain period of time. Commissioner McCoy motioned to approve the contract with Think Guard in the amount of \$35K. There was discussion of what funds to use. Commissioner McCoy amended the motion to move forward with the recommendation from IT to contract with Think Guard in the amount of \$35K and use SPLOST funding, Vice Chairman Threadgill seconded the motion. All were in favor.

8. Request to surplus various items

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Alfred McCoy to approve the request to surplus the following items and to report back to the Board of Commissioners the amount that was received from the sale. All were in favor.

<u>Monitors</u>	<u>Scanners</u>
HP L1940T CNC7030CVJ	Brother U56583L 1K820623
Dell CN0J18067161845QAPEZ	Brother U56583L 1K837366
Acer oo701357042	Facsimile O7518776
Acer oo701361142	Brother U56583K2K278033
Dell CN0MC040641805BL535S	
SyncMaster 940BX HA19HVELA28395J	PC's
HP W2072a CNC314P7X0	Dell 00045-556-676-382
Dell CN0J18067161845QAN58	Dell 36109844029
Samsung HA19HVELA28371W	Hp mx14141qjf
ViewSonic PSX052507337	Dell 00186-180-841-514
SyncMaster 170N NB17H9NW708008 F	Dell 00019-050-697-039
Dell CN0KC147466336255T8L	Dell 85Q0Y51
Dell CN0KC147466336255RNL	HP COMPAQ 2UA74000SH
Dell CN0F779N7426107R1KVH	HP 2UA6381JJQ
Dell CN0KC147466336162H4L	HP 2UA6391JSX
Nec 66D24024YA	Dell DRJCH910
ViewSonic 42E051900070	Dell CN-OR2034-42940-420-051N
Acer 9990271014	Dell
AOC C3PN36B378484	Dell 00045-659-726-767
Dell CN0KC147466336255TFL	Dell 3K22JG1
ViewSonic T6X142120383	MSI 31406822
ViewSonic T6X142120391	HP Vector US84713412
Hp UNKNOWN	Thinkcenter 8187E3U KLYFP75
dell CN-0174r7-72872-36p-ay9m	Hp GTP2K71
acer etl5209163808011d463f1	Ultra 106421959
	Hp 2UA6381JMG
<u>Printers</u>	Dell H95DH91
HP VNBKLB4027	Dell CNO04B1
Dell CN-0W55X9-72211-192-0370	Hp 2UA72119ZM

Ricoh X084P500126	Dell 3MSMH01
Dell CN-0Jd171-72385-63M-0T18	Dell 3k22JG1
HP APR7X03547	Lenovo MJ01XC33
HP E302-80033	
<u>Laptops</u>	<u>Switches</u>
TOSHIBA 1F022007S	sonic wall
Dell	sonic wall
TOSHIBA	
Lenovo YD033TFW	<u>Exercise Equipment</u>
TOSHIBA 8D268137Q	precor treadmill AXGTK10090017
Dell 33079340809	precor elliptical#23 not s/n tag located
Hp CND0360SDZ	techmnogym elliptical D4573108000633
COMPAQ CND74614N8	precore elliptical AXFGJ05050025
Dell 00045-650-230-624	techmnogym RECUMBENT BIKE
Dell 00172-833-077-935	d4683108000405
Dell FK5TJW1	
Dell J2NXWW1	
Hp 2CE928GDLF	
Dell 8XDCGV1	

9. Wellness Allotment from UHC

Administrator Irizarry stated the Board previously approved using Wellness fund received from United Healthcare to purchase gym equipment. The County has some funds remaining from the Wellness Grant and would like to use the remaining funds to purchase gift cards for employee wellness incentives. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Alfred McCoy to allow Human Resources to purchase gift cards with the remaining wellness fund balance of \$2,881.90 for Wellness Incentives. All were in favor.

10. Consideration by the Board of Commissioners to observe the Juneteenth National Independence Day holiday

The Governor just signed a bipartisan legislation, making Juneteenth a paid holiday for State employees to be observed on June 20, 2022. Administrator Irizarry read "Juneteenth commemorates the freeing of formerly enslaved individuals and their descendants. Although Juneteenth is specific to the emancipation of African descendants its message promotes continued freedom and economic prosperity of individuals from all races, colors, creeds, and cultures." Staff recommended approval. Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Shirley Hines to approve the observance of Juneteenth National Independence Day. All were in favor.

11. Approve Emergency work on the Courthouse Roof

Administrator Irizarry explained issues that we are having with the Courthouse roof and advised the Board that we have Principle Construction working on the design for the roof since it is not a regular roof. We want to make sure that it is repaired correctly. We have had a lot of rain and having them come in and provide temporary help with the leaking has been beneficial. Chairman Neely-Hadley stated this is an emergency situation and the work had been done. Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Vice Chairman Threadgill to approve the Principle Construction invoice, in the amount of \$4,900, for emergency work at the Courthouse on a leaking roof. SPLOST funds will be used. All were in favor. Commissioner Hines wanted the County to look into a Utility Grant through USDA. Administrator Irizarry stated she had a 1:00 conference call with them on Friday.

12. Revised cost for Water & Sewerage Extension

Administrator Irizarry provided an updated cost proposal from Crawford. Originally this was estimated to be around \$755,920 and that was for a lot of grading that needed to be done and regular sewer. The scope was changed to reflect package plants. We anticipated it to be \$300K which included \$100K in funding from the Commissioners, Water & Sewerage Authority, and the IDA. It has come in at \$376,559.50 which is now \$76,559.50 more than anticipated. We did receive a cost savings by going with the package plants. The IDA and Water & Sewerage Authority have committed to pay 1/3 (\$25,519.83 each) of the remaining amount. Commissioner Plant made a recommendation for the Board to entertain paying the \$76,559.50 from ARP funds. The reason for this is the amount will greatly deplete available funds from Water and Sewerage as well as IDA. Commissioner Plant stated we can do Water & Sewerage out of ARP funding. Vice Chairman Threadgill asked Mr. Gregory what we would do in this situation if there was not ARP funding. Mr. Gregory stated that was a good question. Vice Chairman Threadgill stated he would rather have everyone pay a third rather than using ARP funds because there are things we will need to do where those funds could be utilized. Chairman Neely-Hadley asked how much had been spent from the ARP funds. Mr. Gregory stated we spent a small amount on security wiring, and we have committed funds for the internet upgrade through Charter. Vice Chairman Threadgill asked Mr. Gregory to provide the Board with a running list and total amount of ARP funds that have been spent and committed toward so the Board would know when funding matters arise. Commissioner Hines agreed. There is a guideline of how you can spend the money such as COVID, water, infrastructure, economic impact in the community and health. We need to see how we are going to address the economic impact and health issues in the County. Commissioner Hines stated Coweta County has their ARP funds listed on their website along with how they have spent their money. They offer opportunities for non-profit organizations to apply for some of the funds. Commissioner Hines felt it would be more appropriate for each to pay 1/3. Commissioner Hines asked Administrator Irizarry to look and see if there were additional State ARP funds that would be available. Motion was made by Commissioner Hines and seconded by Vice Chairman Threadgill to pay 1/3 the cost (\$25,519,83) using SPLOST funds. All were in favor. Mr. Gregory confirmed the initial \$100,000 would be paid from ARPA. Chairman Neely-Hadley stated that was correct.

XII. REPORT FROM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Administrator Irizarry reported the Cotton Pickin Fair would be held on May 7-8, 2022. They have a new branding and have shortened the name to the Cotton Fair and the fair ground area will be called Long Leaf in honor of long leaf pines that were once abundant in the area. Keep Meriwether Beautiful clean-up day is April 23rd from 8:00 am – 4:00 p.m. Information is on the website or people can contact our office if they have questions. The Workers Compensation Payroll Audit took place on March 28th and the results were favorable. The Board had approved an ACCG Intern for Probate Court. Judge Rasnick has extended an offer to an Emory Law School student. Ms. Jane Fryer and Ms. Carolyn McKinley were in the April, 2022 edition of the Georgia Trend Magazine. There was an article in the Magazine about great things going on in Meriwether County.

XIII. REPORT FROM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Hines – Brought to the Board's attention the Minutes from March 22, 2022 had not been approved earlier. The Clerk had assumed they were voted on together. Commissioner Hines stated she was not at the meeting on March 22, 2022. Motion was made by Commissioner McCoy to approve the Minutes of the March 22, 2022, 6:00 p.m. Regular Meeting, Vice Chairman Threadgill seconded the motion. Voting in favor were Commissioner McCoy, Vice Chairman Threadgill, Commissioner Plant and Chairman Neely-Hadley. Commissioner Hines abstained. The motion passed. Commissioner Hines hosted a Town Hall Meeting on Monday in Lone Oak and had a great turn out. Commissioner Hines would like to have a discussion or Work Session on Roads and needed and update

on the paving of Beulah Evans Road. Commissioner Hines wants a discussion on the Fire Department Financial status and bring it to the Board as a whole.

Commissioner Plant – stated it was great to be recognized by Georgia Trend. KB Industry is moving along. They are a global supplier of brake pads and will bring 180 jobs. They have a \$38M investment in the new infrastructure. Commissioner Plant welcomed the new food product company, House Autry, to Meriwether County. They purchased the old SMS Building at the Industrial Park. They will eventually bring their operation from Griffin here and will hire 60-80 jobs. Commissioner Plant had the honor to attend the 77th Commemorative Ceremony of FDR’s passing. State Representative Buckner and the Appropriations Chair announced that the State has dedicated \$2.2M for the pool rehabilitation. The most moving part of the ceremony was the prayers by Dr. Patterson, before and after. Commissioner Plant hoped they have a video from Dr. Al Rapper as he related those days through the eyes of a child. There are many new displays at the Little White House, and it is a treasure that is under-utilized.

Chairman Neely-Hadley- stated the \$2.2M that has been designated for the pools is huge. The complete restoration project for the pools will cost about \$10M. They are seeking private funds and there has been a lot donated. It will be a big boost to tourism. Mr. DeBron Walker, owner of the Eleanor Roosevelt School in Warm Springs, has worked tirelessly to bring it back to life. They have planned a big community clean-up day that will be held one week before the County clean-up. They have some important visitors coming in on Monday. Chairman Neely-Hadley wished everyone a very Happy Easter.

Vice Chairman Threadgill- stated Manchester is having a Moms of Toddlers Fashion Show on Saturday, April 23, 2022 at West Main Street, Manchester from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Prizes and Gifts will be given away. Vice Chairman Threadgill is a sponsor and will provide food for the event.

Commissioner McCoy – attended the Southern Rivers Broadband meeting a week ago with Ms. Jane Fryer, IDA Director. By August of next year, they hope to have their area covered with Broadband. Citizens in the area can call Southern Rivers and ask to be included in Broadband. Commissioner McCoy attended the Airport Authority Meeting. There was conversation about breaking ground on the new T-hangers and Box-hangers. Business after hours will be held at the Roosevelt Memorial Airport on May 12, 2022 between 5:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. This is the 90th Anniversary of the Roosevelt Memorial Airport. Commissioner McCoy attended the Old School Wrestling in Woodbury at the gym and the event is growing. Updates were provided on Lake Meriwether regarding the Septic Tank and the increase in camp sites. There were 400 people @ \$3.00 who came out to fish last month.

Commissioner Hines thanked Commissioner McCoy for sharing information on Southern Rivers and Broadband. Governor Kemp awarded 49 organizations and in our region, Diverse Power was one of those. We have three utility companies who serve Meriwether County. Commissioner McCoy stated he was speaking with Skip Richmond, IT Director, about setting up a meeting with Diverse to discuss what we can do to have Broadband at the Airport. Commissioner Hines stated it would be good to get this information out for those who have Diverse Power. Vice Chairman Threadgill stated Kinetic has already done a presentation with Manchester. They stated during the meeting that whatever the State/Federal Government put forward they would match the funds.

XIV. REPORT FROM COUNTY ATTORNEY

None

XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Administrator Irizarry stated an Executive Session was needed for Litigation and Personnel. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Rosla Plant to go into Executive Session at 10:12 a.m. to discuss Litigation and Personnel. All were in favor.

Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Vice Chairman Threadgill to go out of Executive Session at 11:21 a.m. All were in favor.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Alfred McCoy to go back into Regular Session at 11:25 a.m. All were in favor.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Shirley Hines to amend the Personnel Ordinance under Section 42. All were in favor.

Chairman Neely-Hadley stated the Governor had issued funds or grants to cover payments to public safety officials that served during the COVID period. We have received those funds and it is the desire of the Board of Commissioners to extend payments to all of the employees who were employed with Meriwether County as of January 1, 2022. ARP funds will be used to pay \$1,000 to full time employees and \$500 to part time employees. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Shirley Hines to approve the payments as discussed using funding from ARP. Discussion followed. Commissioner Hines asked if we need to state they had to be here 90-days. Chairman Neely-Hadley stated we included they had to be employed as of January 1, 2022. All were in favor.

XVI. FUTURE MEETINGS & NOTICES

Chairman Neely-Hadley announced Future Meetings and Notices prior to Executive Session.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Alfred McCoy to adjourn at 11:26 a.m. All were in favor.

Approved by: Majority vote of the Board of Commissioners

Attest: Allyson L. Stephens, Deputy Clerk

Date: April 26, 2022