

MINUTES
MERIWETHER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING

April 28, 2020

Commissioners Present: Chairman Bryan Threadgill, Vice Chairman Alfred McCoy, Commissioner Shirley Hines, Commissioner Mary Bray, and Commissioner Beth Neely-Hadley
Staff Present: County Administrator Theron Gay, Finance Director Bill Gregory, Deputy Clerk Allyson Stephens, and County Attorney's Nathan Lee and Michael Hill
Staff Absent: County Clerk Beverly Thomas

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Threadgill called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
INVOCATION – Commissioner Neely-Hadley
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- II. **ADOPT AGENDA**
A motion was made by Commissioner Neely-Hadley and seconded by Commissioner Bray to adopt the agenda. All were in favor.

- III. **MINUTES**
A motion was made by Vice Chairman McCoy and seconded by Commissioner Bray to adopt the approve the minutes from the April 8, 2020 meeting. All were in favor.

- IV. **MUNICIPAL COMMENTS**
Mayor Glover was present during the meeting and had no comments.

- V. **CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS COMMENTS**
None

- VI. **DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS**
None

- VII. **PUBLIC HEARING**
None

- VIII. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
None

- IX. **NEW BUSINESS**
 1. Annual Medical Insurance Review. Administrator Gay stated the Annual Medical Insurance Review was completed and needs approval. He explained this was discussed at the last meeting. Administrator Gay stated that representatives Tammi Starkey and James Clark were present at the meeting and had worked very hard to help the county with the estimates for the insurance renewal. Administrator Gay explained the increase of \$258,828.00. He stated medical claim costs were more than expected. He stated Tammi and James had worked hard to get the costs reduced by \$55,000.00. Administrator Gay explained the board needed to vote on the increase and renewal. A motion was made by Commissioner Neely-Hadley to approve the Annual Medical Insurance Renewal. This was seconded by Commissioner Hines. All were in favor.
 2. Appointment to the Recreation Advisory Board, District 1. to fill unexpired term ending December 31, 2020 (2-year term). Commissioner Hines made a motion to appoint Darryl

Ogletree to fill the unexpired term. Commissioner Neely-Hadley seconded the motion. All were in favor.

3. Appointment to the Recreation Advisory Board, District 4, to fill unexpired term ending December 41, 2020 (2-year term). Chairman Threadgill made a motion to appoint Vic Dowis to the Recreation Advisory Board. Vice Chairman McCoy seconded the motion. All were in favor.

4. Appointment to the West Central GA Broadband Joint Development Authority, At-Large Member (4-year term). Chairman Threadgill made a motion to appoint Vice Chairman Alfred McCoy to the West Central GA Broadband Joint Development Authority. This was seconded by Commissioner Neely-Hadley. All were in favor.

X. REPORT FROM FINANCE DIRECTOR

Finance Director Bill Gregory stated the General Fund was in good shape at 4.6 million dollars. He stated there was \$233,000 in the E911 account that can be moved over. Director Gregory stated the finances were in good shape and as of March tax collections were at 94.33%. He anticipates this to reach the 95% mark in the next couple months. Director Gregory provided the Board with the Quarterly Budget Analysis. He stated 78% of revenue had been collected. Commissioner Neely-Hadley asked if the Hotel/Motel Fund was high because a check had not been cut. Director Gregory stated he would get a check cut for the Hotel/Motel tax.

XI. REPORT FROM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

County Administrator Gay stated the county had received the March 2020 methane report for the Durand landfill and it was good. He stated the Design Build/Repair bid was out and there was good response. Administrator Gay stated the 2020 LMIG Resurfacing Bid proposals would go out this week and several cities will be included. Administrator Gay advised he reached out to GDOT regarding the bridge repair of Coleman Creek. Administrator Gay stated the project had not been let by GDOT at this time and he asked them to consider an on-site detour route. Administrator Gay thanked the Sheriff's Office as they were able to stop mud boggers from continuing to damage the roads. He also stated he was notified by the D.A.'s office that the county would be receiving around \$6,400 in restitution on a previous incident of damage to a county road. Administrator Gay stated bids were open for the Airport on Monday and only one was received from Lead Edge Design. Administrator Gay stated that another bid was received on today after the bid closing date and it would be filed in the file as a no response. Administrator Gay advised the Airport would be receiving \$20,000 in CARE ACT funding. He also advised that the slab was being poured today for the fuel tank at the airport. Administrator Gay advised a progress report had been sent to the Vindicator.

XII. REPORT FROM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Shirley Hines: stated she had spoken with *Lynn* Westmoreland and he would like to meet with the Board to discuss TSPLOST projects. Commissioner Hines stated Lone Oak will have a food distribution April 29, 2020 starting at 10:00 a.m. She thanked the citizens that had worked hard making the food distribution possible. Commissioner Hines stated she received a report regarding the condition of Oakland Rd. from Miss Gillyard. Commissioner Hines stated public works had been out and repaired two of three bad spots on the road. She stated one spot towards Highway 362 needed to be repaired as the gravel was over in the ditch and some holes on the road were very deep.

Commissioner Mary Bray: wanted to encourage everyone to reach out to their communities to get the Census numbers up. She stated she shares a table of the response rate that can be found on the Census website. Commissioner Bray expressed how important responding to the Census is for the county.

Vice Chairman McCoy: stated the chief topic he wanted to discuss was Lake Meriwether. He stated that Lake Meriwether will open the gates on Friday, May 1, 2020. He explained this would be a partial open for fishing, walking, or picnics. Vice Chairman McCoy explained the bathrooms would remain closed at this time due to prevent the spread of any contamination. Commissioner McCoy stated there were left over funds remaining in the trail grant and they are working to establish the tent camping sites. He stated these sites would be 50ft apart from each other and there will be 15 sites. Vice Chairman McCoy stated materials are being purchased with remaining trail grant funds. He explained the gates would be open 7 days a week. Vice Chairman McCoy stated the Lake Meriwether Advisory Board had been asked to help do work on the boat ramp at the Flint River. He stated the group was looking to install picnic tables and make upgrades to the boat ramp. Vice Chairman McCoy stated Scott Harris from Fernbank Museum had been in the Cove and made another interesting discovery in Manchester. He stated he would like to set up a time for the Board to speak with Mr. Harris about his findings.

Commissioner Beth Neely-Hadley: thanked all the volunteers that have assisted with providing meals to the students of Meriwether County schools. She stated around 850 students have been served 10 meals each. Commissioner Neely-Hadley stated she appreciated all the help from the other Board members, staff, volunteers, and the School Board. Commissioner Neely-Hadley stated the school-meal program will end on May 18, 2020.

Chairman Bryan Threadgill: wanted to thank two young ladies in the north part of the County for serving around 50 residents with non-perishable food items. He stated he is looking forward to re-opening and meeting all together again and would discuss this around mid-May.

XIII. REPORT FROM COUNTY ATTORNEY

County Attorney Nathan Lee stated there was a need for an Executive Session to discuss real estate, personnel, and litigation.

XIV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Carolyn McKinley from the Meriwether County Chamber of Commerce stated she received a call from Hannah Flynn with the Lion's Club offering the county 1000 boxes of pre-packaged, USDA approved food. She stated this would be available on May 16, 2020. Mrs. McKinley stated this would be done once per month and the Lion's Club and Kiwanis Clubs are working together on locations.

Mrs. McKinley also advised that she felt confident the Chamber would receive another Tourism Development Grant. She states the amount is usually \$10,000 and she would need the county to match funding. She explained they were looking into ADA access for the boat ramp at the Flint River and signage. She stated she had spoken with Paul Jarrell of Three Rivers Regional Commission and they were looking to pull a group together to discuss a water trail for the county's part of the Flint River.

Tina Christie of Cindy Lane in Luthersville, suggested with the opening of Lake Meriwether, proper signage be displayed to continue to encourage social distancing.

XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Commissioner Neely-Hadley to go into executive session at 6:43 p.m to discuss real estate, personnel, and litigation. All were in favor.

A motion was made to go out of Executive Session at 7:11 p.m. by Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Commissioner Bray. All were in favor.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hines and seconded by Commissioner Bray to go back into Regular Session at 7:12 p.m. All were in favor.

Commissioner Bray made a motion to allow the Chair to sign a deed for the IDA to purchase land on McLaughlin Road between the Animal Shelter and Reinforced Earth. This was seconded by Commissioner Hines. All were in favor.

XVI. FUTURE MEETINGS & NOTICES

May 13, 2020 Regular Meeting 9:00 a.m.

May 26, 2020 Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Vice Chairman McCoy and seconded by Commissioner Bray to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 p.m. All were in favor

Approved by: Meriwether County Board of Commissioners
Attest: Cellyon G. Stephens, Deputy Clerk
Date: June 10, 2020