

MINUTES
MERIWETHER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

June 27, 2023

6:00 P.M.

Commissioners Present: Chairman Bryan Threadgill, Vice Chairman Gene King, Commissioner Rosla Plant, Commissioner Emmett Collins, and Commissioner Adam Worsley
Staff Present: County Administrator Michelle Irizarry, County Clerk Beverly Thomas, Finance Director Bill Gregory, and County Attorney Michael Hill

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bryan Threadgill called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by Finance Director, Bill Gregory.

III. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

All

IV. ADOPT AGENDA

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Gene King and seconded by Emmett Collins to adopt the Agenda with the following addition under New Business: 12. Public Transportation Service Agreement between Three Rivers and Meriwether County. All were in favor.

V. PRESENTATIONS

None

VI. FINANCE REPORT

Finance Director Bill Gregory stated the funding in the General Fund were down from a few months ago. The LGIP in the General Account has \$5M and our expenses are running about \$1.1M a month. There are enough funds to cover this fiscal year and we are in very good shape.

VII. CITIZEN COMMENT

Ms. Stella Owens of 130 Copeland Circle in Manchester, wanted to follow up with the Board on the water drainage and damage and repairs to her home. Ms. Owens wanted to check on the progress and to date nothing has been done on this project. Ms. Owens stated she had submitted evidence and of the damage. There have been about eight people who had come out to look at the issue. Ms. Owens stated this issue has been going a long time and the Commissioners back in the day which were: Charles Neely, Beth Neely-Hadley, Bruce O'Neil and his workers Rip Hill, A.J. Harris, Tyrell Johnson, Bill Cawthorne and four or five other people who have gone out to look and assess. Ms. Owens stated she is requesting the problem be handled because she cannot get in and out of her door due to the joists and damage. Ms. Owens saw two snakes and was very concerned they could come into her home. Ms. Owens stated she respectfully requests the Board do something about this, she understands the protocol, and wanted the Board to know she is someone who is there alone, who is afraid in there and cannot get out the back door in case of a fire. Ms. Owens stated she respectfully requests that the Board get on this as soon as possible.

VIII. MINUTES

Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Emmett Collins to approve the Minutes from the June 14, 2023, 9:00 a.m. meeting. All were in favor.

IX. PUBLIC HEARING

None

X. APPOINTMENTS

1. Motion was made by Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Vice Chairman King to table the appointment to DFACS, District 4. All were in favor.
2. Motion was made by Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Rosla Plant to appoint Angie Shirah to the Pine Mountain Regional Library Board. All were in favor. This is a three-year term that will expire on 6-30-2026.
3. Motion was made by Adam Worsley and seconded by Rosla Plant to table the appointment to the Region Six Department of Behavioral Health & Development Disabilities Board. All were in favor. The current term expires on 6-30-2023 and this is a three-year term.
4. Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Emmett Collins to table the appointment to CAFI to fill an unexpired term. All were in favor. 2023-2024

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Administrator Irizarry stated this was discussed at the last meeting and staff recommends moving forward with ACCG for the Property & Liability Insurance renewal. The price had increased due to a 5-year loss ratio of 128.58%. Other bids had been submitted. Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Vice Chairman King to move forward with ACCG for the 2023-2024 Property & Liability Insurance renewal and allow the Chairman to sign. All were in favor.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Motion was made by Vice Chairman King and seconded by Rosla Plant to approve the FY 2023-2024 Budget Request from DFACS. All were in favor.

Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Emmett Collins to approve the FY 2023-2024 Budget Request from the District Attorney. Finance Director Gregory asked Chairman Threadgill if the amount needed to be mentioned. Chairman Threadgill stated it had been brought up in the last meeting. All were in favor.

Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Emmett Collins to approve the FY 2023-2024 Budget Request from the Public Defenders Office. All were in favor.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman King and seconded by Rosla Plant to approve the FY 2023-2024 Budget Request from the Health Department. All were in favor.

Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Emmett Collins to approve the FY 2023-2024 Budget Request from the Pine Mountain Regional Library. All were in favor.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman King and seconded by Adam Worsley to approve the FY 2023-2024 Budget Request from the UGA County Extension Office. All were in favor.

2. Administrator Irizarry stated the bid package was included in the Commissioners Package for the Strickland Town Road Culvert Project and staff recommended going with the lowest bid, Piedmont Paving and Grading the low bidder, in the amount of \$391,750. Motion was made by Adam Worsley and seconded by Rosla Plant to approve the bid from Piedmont

Paving in the amount of \$391,750. Chairman Threadgill asked about the funding source. Staff recommended TSPLOST. Motion was then made by Vice Chairman King and seconded by Adam Worsley to allow the fund to be used from TSPLOST and approve. All were in favor.

3. Administrator Irizarry stated a copy from the mandatory pre-bid sign in sheet were included in the Commissioners package for River Cove Road at Tarver Road culvert replacement. There were two options for this and the staff's recommendation was to go with the lowest bidder, Piedmont Paving and Grading, option 2, at a cost of \$169,900. Option 2 uses the pipe that was previously purchased and is on site. The recommended was to use that pipe rather than using a box culvert. This would save on the cost. Commissioner Collins asked if there was any funding to help with this and Administrator Irizarry stated no, the event that happened in March was not part of the declared event that happened in January so there would be no funding available from FEMA. Chairman Threadgill stated we had already purchased that pipe and was going to have to replace it anyway. Vice Chairman King asked if that pipe would be sufficient or should we go with a box culvert. Bill Cawthorne stated it is the new polymer pipe with a 50-year life expectance vs. concrete with one-hundred years or more. The polymer pipe can handle this and is equivalent to what a box culvert would be. There will be concrete headwalls. Mr. Cawthorne understand the old pipes were installed by GDOT many years ago and they were used pipes when they were installed. Commissioner Collins agreed due to having the head wall. That will prevent the track hoe from being able to bend the pipe. Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Emmett Collins to accept the bid from Piedmont, Option 2, and use TSPLOST funds. All were in favor.

4. Administrator Irizarry stated staff recommended Crawford Grading for Dukes Waddell Road culvert project who had the lowest bid of \$108,449. Motion was made by Emmett Collins and seconded by Vice Chairman King to award the bid to Crawford Grading and use TSPLOST funds. All were in favor.

5. Administrator Irizarry stated Staff was unable to get the safety overlay amount in time for the meeting today and requested to table this until the next meeting. Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Emmett Collins to table the addition of Trammell Bottom Road to the LMIG. All were in favor.

6. Chairman Threadgill stated the City of Manchester had requested \$12,500 to help with cost for the 4th of July fireworks since it is for everyone in the County. The cost has increased over the years and this is only a small portion of what Manchester pays toward the fireworks. Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Adam Worsley to contribute \$12,500 to the City of Manchester for fireworks for the 4th of July. All were in favor.

7. Administrator Irizarry stated when the Fire District and Fire District Bonds were approved there were locations identified for the Fire Stations. This agreement was provided to the Town of Lone Oak for execution at their meeting. Unfortunately, there was a tragic event that occurred before the Town of Lone Oak was able to sign the Property Lease and return it to the County. The Property Lease has been reviewed by the County Attorney. Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Chairman Threadgill to approve the Fire Station Property Lease with the Town of Lone Oak and allow the Chairman to sign. All were in favor.

8. Administrator Irizarry stated Brin Jones, E-911 Director, was not online today but Matthew Brown, IT Director, was present. The County has done some research on this. Mr. Brown stated he had gotten the software specs from Mr. Jones and received quotes based on what the software vendor said was needed to adequately run their software program. Mr. Brown stated the one he recommended to add to our server is not the cheapest but it will add to what we

already have and it will have room to grow in the future if needed. The cost is \$23,170.71. Mr. Brown stated in the long run it is the best investment for the County. Motion was made by Adam Worsley and seconded by Rosla Plant to approve the Computer Aided Dispatch Server in the amount of \$23,170.71. All were in favor.

9. Administrator Irizarry asked the Board if they would like to set the Public Hearing for the recommended Text Amendment to change Article 3, Section 301 during their day or evening meeting. This will change the definition of final Plat minor. Following discussion, motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Emmett Collins to set a Public Hearing on July 25, 2023 to hear this text amendment. All were in favor.

10. Motion was made by Vice Chairman King and seconded by Rosla Plant to set a Public Hearing for July 12, 2023, to hear the recommended text amendment to change Article 16, Section 16-2D. All were in favor. The purpose of this amendment is to change the Planning Commission meeting dates to the 3rd Monday of each month. (Note: see amended motion to set the Public Hearing following XVI. Executive Session)

11. Motion was made by Vice Chairman King and seconded by Rosla Plant to set a Public Hearing for July 25, 2023, to hear Case #2023-009, request to rezone 17.81 acres on the corner of Todd Road and Hwy. 27 Roosevelt Hwy. from RR to NHC. All were in favor.

12. Administrator Irizarry stated the County received the Transit Agreement from Three Rivers. The agreement was sent to the County Attorney and there were some edits that were needed. The agreement was sent back to Three Rivers with our requested changes. Those edits have been made. This is more of housekeeping and there was no increase in the amount that we are asked to pay Three Rivers. It can go up to \$25,900 and cannot exceed that amount, which is the same as last year Attorney Hill stated the contract is basically the same except Three Rivers took out a 3rd party operator provisions that had been in the agreement. Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Vice Chairman King to approve the Agreement with Three Rivers in Meriwether County in the amount not to exceed \$25,900 and allow the Chairman to sign. All were in favor.

XIII. REPORT FROM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Administrator Irizarry reported Public Works has plans to replace the cross drainpipes on Hidden Lakes Road tomorrow, June 28, 2023. They have put out signage to notify the residents that the road will be closed between 9:00 a.m. and 12:01 p.m. on Wednesday. They have steel plates that can be utilized if there is an emergency, and if someone needs to get in or out.

The Joint Comprehensive Plan Update meeting is July 12, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. The deadline for the completion and submission is October 31, 2023. We are working with Three Rivers, in compliance and are on a timeline. The deadline for the Service Delivery Strategy is October 31, 2028.

The Meriwether County two-day Open Enrollment went well. Many employees told Valerie Chambers, HR Director, that they were pleased the County stayed with Anthem Blue Cross. Vendors present at the enrollment were NFP, Retirement Consultants, and AFLAC. Many employees took advantage of being able to meet with the vendors in person. There were 35 employees who met with Retirement consultants, 11 employees increased their current contributions, and 13 employees began first time contributions. Fifty-six employees met with NFP representatives and 41 employees met with the AFLAC representative.

A Department Head Meeting was held on June 21, 2023.

The survey is in for the Beulah Evans property and the appraiser will be going out to the properties as soon as they can.

XIV. REPORT FROM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Emmett Collins: Thanked the county employees for continuing to do a good job. The T-pads have been completed at Lake Meriwether on the Disc Golf. There will be fireworks for the Independence Day celebration starting on July 1, 2023 at Tower House Farms in Gay, then on July 3, 2023 the City of Manchester will have fireworks. Commissioner Collins wished everyone a safe great 4th of July.

Commissioner Rosla Plant: Wished everyone a safe and happy Independence Day.

Vice Chairman Gene King: continues to receive emails from citizens regarding dirt roads. One man on Cato Findley Road reported his wife's car could not go down the road due to ruts. The man stated the County had scraped the road but water was running down the center of the road rather than running off the road. A man who lives on Split Rail Farm Road reported a neighbor took buckets and wheelbarrows to get some gravel off the Railroad to put in front of the driveways. Public Works spread gravel this week. There was another road where the person had a dozer brought in and he reshaped the ditches and crowned the road. It now looks beautiful. The County put some gravel on it, and he paid for two or three loads out his pocket to add to the road. Vice Chairman King stated that emergency things such as the Courthouse water leaks must be fixed and the Jail, and we must solve our problems. All of these other buildings that need work and the County is going to start voting to spend money on, he doesn't know how other Commissioners feel about it, but his personal opinion is that if we don't start focusing on the taxpayer's dirt roads, he just assumes not to vote to spend any more money in this County, as their Commissioner. Vice Chairman King stated he knows that maybe doesn't sound right, but it is time for their dirt roads to be addressed and fixed. Vice Chairman King stated that one gentleman stated he moved here from Fayetteville and is paying three times the taxes he paid in Fayette County and can't get his roads fixed. Vice Chairman King stated that if they are paying their taxes and paying them on time, they should be able to drive decently to their homes and to work. Vice Chairman King stated that they chose to be on a dirt road and if it is muddy then that happens, he personally didn't choose to live on a dirt road as he likes his truck to stay clean. Vice Chairman King stated however, they are taxpayers, they do live in this County, and they look up to us for help. Vice Chairman King hopes that all can work together and understands there are some new processes in the works and hopes the citizens can breathe a sign of relief that progress is being made. Vice Chairman King wished everyone a Happy 4th of July.

Commissioner Adam Worsley: Thanked all the employees for their work. Commissioner Worsley has received phone calls about roads and people noticing the work we are doing. Progress is being made. Commissioner Worsley wished everyone a safe and happy 4th of July.

Chairman Bryan Threadgill: Echoed what the other Board members said and wished everyone a happy and safe 4th of July.

XV. REPORT FROM COUNTY ATTORNEY

County Attorney Michael Hill had no report but understood there was a need for Executive Session to discuss Litigation and Personnel.

XVI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Vice Chairman King and seconded by Commissioner Worsley to go into Executive Session for Litigation and Personnel at 6:33 p.m. All were in favor.

Motion was made by Commissioner Plant and seconded by Commissioner Worsley to go out of Executive Session at 7:30 p.m. All were in favor.

Motion was made by Commissioner Plant and seconded by Commissioner Collins to go back into Regular Session at 7:32 p.m. All were in favor.

There was no action taken in Executive Session.

Motion was made by Commissioner Worsley and seconded by Commissioner Collins to amend the original Agenda under New Business #10. Set a Public Hearing on July 25, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. during the regular scheduled meeting to hear the recommended text amendment to change Article 16, Section 16-2D. All were in favor. (Earlier in the meeting the Board voted to set this Public Hearing for July 12, 2023)

Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Adam Worsley to set a Work Session on July 13, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. for the purpose of Budget and Personnel. All were in favor.

XVII. FUTURE MEETINGS & NOTICES

Chairman Bryan Threadgill made the announcement of future Meetings and Notices prior to Executive Session.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Rosla Plant made a motion to adjourn at 7:33 p.m., Adam Worsley seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Approved by: Majority vote of the Board of Commissioners

Attest: Beverly Thomas, County Clerk

Date: July 12, 2023