

AGENDA
MERIWETHER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FEBRUARY 24, 2026
6:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR CELL PHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES.

II. INVOCATION

III. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

IV. ADOPT AGENDA

V. PRESENTATIONS

VI. FINANCE REPORT

VII. DEPARTMENT HEADS

VIII. CITIZEN COMMENT

Speakers must contact the County Clerk at a.stephens@meriwethercountyga.gov or 706-672-3460 on or before the dates and times listed below in order to be placed on the Agenda to speak. Speakers must provide their name, address, and topic they wish to discuss.

- For the 2nd Monday of the month 6:00 p.m. meeting – Speakers must e-mail or call before 5:00 p.m. on the day of the scheduled meeting.

- For the 4th Tuesday of the month 6:00 p.m. meeting – Speakers must e-mail or call before 5:00 p.m. on the day of the scheduled meeting.

Speakers must direct their remarks to the Board and not to individual Commissioners or to the audience. Personal disagreements with individual Commissioners or County employees are not a matter of public concern and personal attacks will not be tolerated.

Speakers will be allotted three minutes to speak on their chosen topics as they relate to matters pertinent to the jurisdiction of the Board of Commissioners. No questions will be asked by any of the Commissioners during Citizen Comments. Outbursts from the audience will not be tolerated. Common courtesy and civility are expected at all times during the meeting. No speaker will be permitted to speak more than three minutes or more than once unless the Board votes to suspend this rule.

IX. MINUTES

1. Minutes, February 9, 2026, Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

X. PUBLIC HEARING

XI. APPOINTMENTS

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval to Open Local Government Investment Pool Account (LGIP)
 - a. 2025 TSPLOST
 - b. 2026 SPLOST
2. Approval to Update Resolutions for Local Government Investment Pool Account (LGIP)
 - a. General Account
 - b. General Fund
 - c. 2020 SPLOST
 - d. General Fund Projects
3. Approval to Sign New Resolution for Local Government Investment Pool Account - (LGIP)
 - a. 2025 TSPLOST
 - b. 2026 SPLOST
4. Approval to Close Local Government Investment Account — (LGIP) — 2020 TSPLOST
5. Budget Amendment for In-House Paving — Director Tammy Lackey
6. Consideration of Resolution Establishing a Temporary Moratorium on New Data Center Development
7. Approval of Grant Writing Proposal from Ms. Tara Coe
8. Discussion and Consideration to Purchase SmartCop Software — Sheriff's Office, E911, and Fire Department

XIV. REPORT FROM ACCG LEGISLATIVE COORDINATOR

XV. REPORT FROM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

XVI. REPORT FROM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

XVII. REPORT FROM COUNTY ATTORNEY

XVIII. FUTURE MEETINGS & NOTICES

1. Monday, March 9, 2026, Work Session at 4:00 p.m.
2. Monday, March 9, 2026, Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
3. Tuesday, March 24, 2026, Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
4. Monday, April 13, 2026, Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

XIX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Litigation
2. Personnel
3. Real Estate
4. Tax Matters

XX. ADJOURNMENT

Meriwether County BOC is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Meriwether BOC Meeting

Time: Feb 24, 2026 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85606778609?pwd=sibcmJ0ltZ9zvm1Qw40J39XAIsbaCP.1>

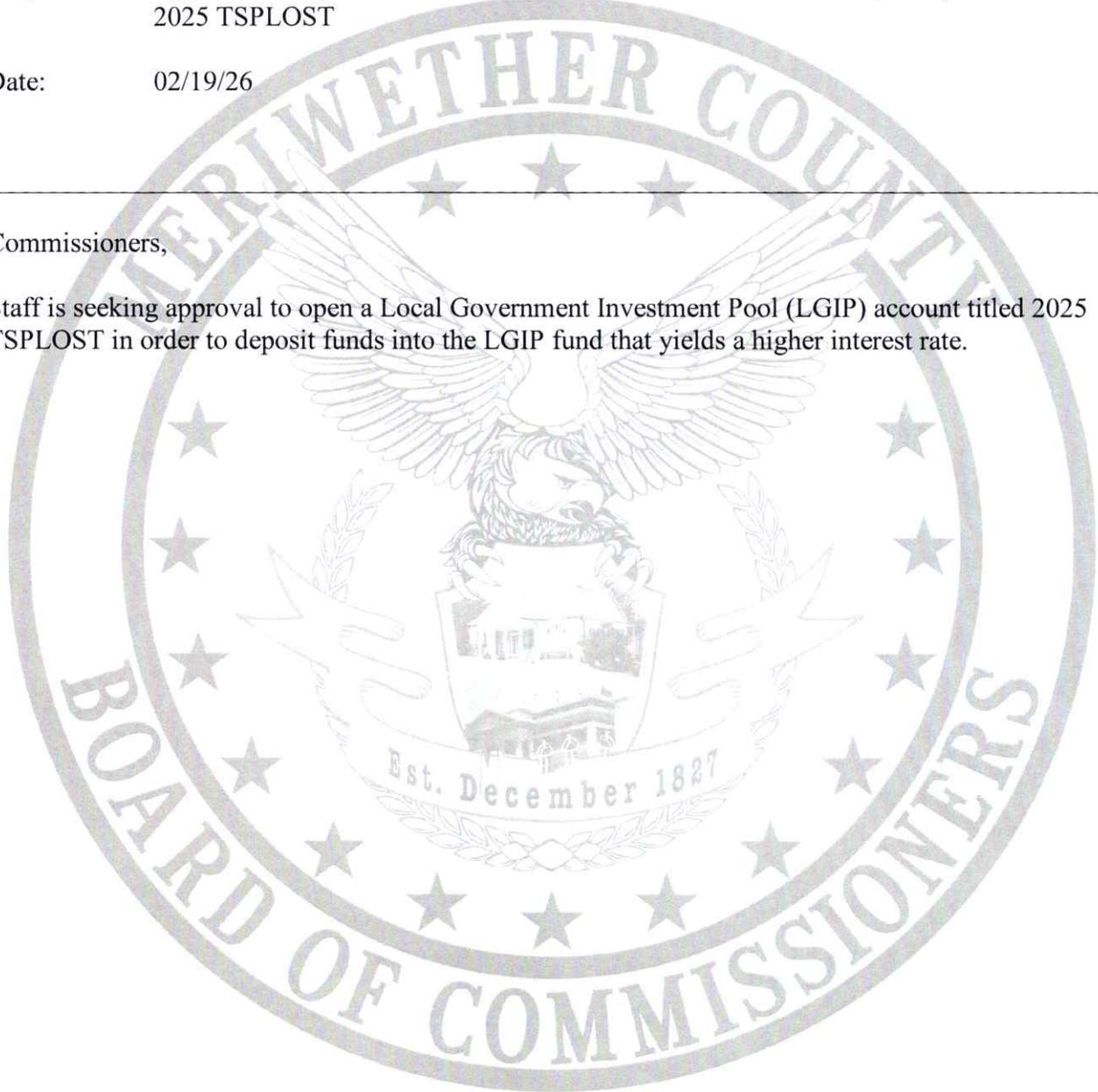
Meeting ID: 856 0677 8609

Passcode: 585174

To: Board of Commissioners
JMG
From: John Gorton, County Administrator
Subject: Approval to Open Local Government Investment Pool Account (LGIP) -
2025 TSPLOST
Date: 02/19/26

Commissioners,

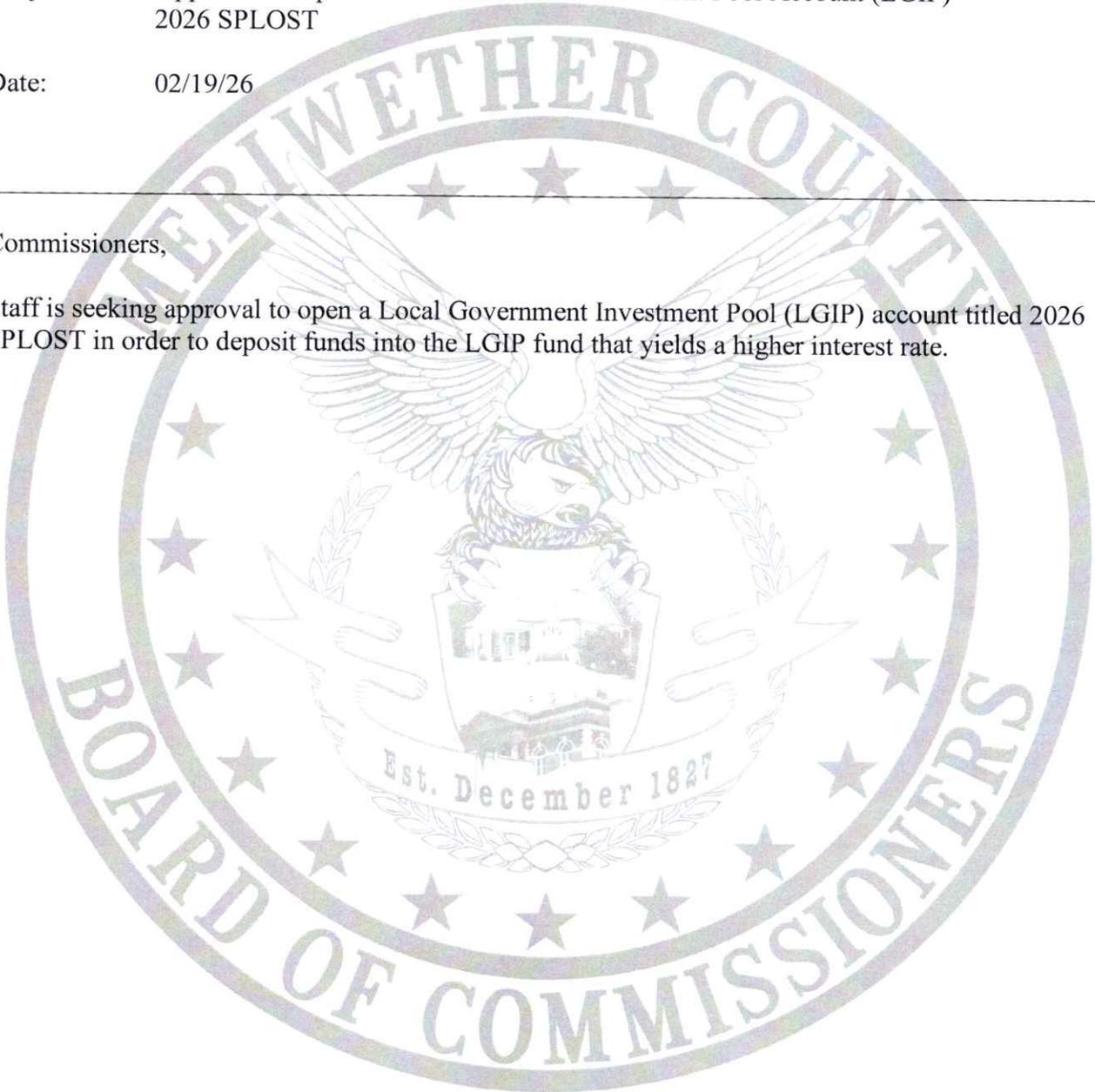
Staff is seeking approval to open a Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP) account titled 2025 TSPLOST in order to deposit funds into the LGIP fund that yields a higher interest rate.



To: Board of Commissioners
From: 
John Gorton, County Administrator
Subject: Approval to Open Local Government Investment Pool Account (LGIP) -
2026 SPLOST
Date: 02/19/26

Commissioners,

Staff is seeking approval to open a Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP) account titled 2026 SPLOST in order to deposit funds into the LGIP fund that yields a higher interest rate.



To: Board of Commissioners
From: 
John Gorton, County Administrator
Subject: Approval to Update Resolution for Local Government Investment Pool Account-
(LGIP) - General Account
Date: 02/19/26

Commissioners,

Staff is requesting approval to update the Resolution to reflect the current authorized check signers for 2026 on the Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP) account titled "General Account," which is the Landfill LGIP account. The updated Resolution will include the current account number and the revised list of authorized signers. The Resolution must be signed by the Chairman, and identification will need to be verified by LGIP.

Staff recommends approval of the updated Resolution for the LGIP account and authorization for the Chairman to execute the Resolution.

To: Board of Commissioners

From: 
John Gorton, County Administrator

Subject: Approval to Update Resolution for Local Government Investment Pool Account-
(LGIP) - General Fund

Date: 02/19/26

Commissioners,

Staff is requesting approval to update the Resolution to reflect the current authorized check signers for 2026 on the Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP) account titled "General Fund," which is the General Fund LGIP account. The updated Resolution will include the current account number and the revised list of authorized signers. The Resolution must be signed by the Chairman, and identification will need to be verified by LGIP.

Staff recommends approval of the updated Resolution for the LGIP account and authorization for the Chairman to execute the Resolution.

To: Board of Commissioners

From: 
John Gorton, County Administrator

Subject: Approval to Update Resolution for Local Government Investment Pool Account-
(LGIP) – 2020 SPLOST

Date: 02/19/26

Commissioners,

Staff is requesting approval to update the Resolution to reflect the current authorized check signers for 2026 on the Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP) account titled “20202 SPLOST,” which is the 2020 SPLOST LGIP account. The updated Resolution will include the current account number and the revised list of authorized signers. The Resolution must be signed by the Chairman, and identification will need to be verified by LGIP.

Staff recommends approval of the updated Resolution for the LGIP account and authorization for the Chairman to execute the Resolution.

To: Board of Commissioners

From: *JWS*
John Gorton, County Administrator

Subject: Approval to Update Resolution for Local Government Investment Pool Account-
(LGIP) – General Fund Projects

Date: 02/19/26

Commissioners,

Staff is requesting approval to update the Resolution to reflect the current authorized check signers for 2026 on the Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP) account titled “General Fund Projects,” which is the General Fund Projects LGIP account. The updated Resolution will include the current account number and the revised list of authorized signers. The Resolution must be signed by the Chairman, and identification will need to be verified by LGIP.

Staff recommends approval of the updated Resolution for the LGIP account and authorization for the Chairman to execute the Resolution.

To: Board of Commissioners
From: *JG*
John Gorton, County Administrator
Subject: Approval to Sign new Resolution for Local Government Investment Pool Account-
(LGIP) – 2025 TSPLOST
Date: 02/19/26

Commissioners,

Staff is requesting approval to sign a new Resolution to reflect the current authorized check signers for 2026 on the Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP) account titled “2025 TSPLSOT.” The new Resolution will include a request for a new account number and list the authorized signers. The Resolution must be signed by the Chairman, and identification will need to be verified by LGIP.

Staff recommends approval to sign a new Resolution for the LGIP account and authorization for the Chairman to execute the Resolution.

To: Board of Commissioners
Jms

From: John Gorton, County Administrator

Subject: Approval to Sign new Resolution for Local Government Investment Pool Account-
(LGIP) – 2026 SPLOST

Date: 02/19/26

Commissioners,

Staff is requesting approval to sign a new Resolution to reflect the current authorized check signers for 2026 on the Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP) account titled “2026 SPLSOT.” The new Resolution will include a request for a new account number and list the authorized signers. The Resolution must be signed by the Chairman, and identification will need to be verified by LGIP.

Staff recommends approval to sign a new Resolution for the LGIP account and authorization for the Chairman to execute the Resolution.

To: Board of Commissioners
From: 
John Gorton, County Administrator
Subject: Approval to Close Local Government Investment Pool Account- (LGIP) –
2020 TSPLOST
Date: 02/19/26

Commissioners,

Staff is requesting approval to close the 2020 TSPLOST LGIP account, as all remaining funds will be disbursed upon completion of the 2025 LMIG project, which is anticipated to be completed in March. The remaining funds will be transferred to the 2020 TSPLOST bank account and remitted to C.W. Matthews upon receipt of the final invoice.

Staff recommends transferring the remaining funds to the 2020 TSPLOST bank account at F&M Bank and closing the 2020 TSPLOST LGIP account.

If any documentation is required to finalize the closure of the 2020 TSPLOST LGIP account, staff requests authorization for the Chairman to execute the necessary documents.

To: Board of Commissioners
From: Tammy Lackey, Finance Director ^T
Subject: Budget Amendment-InHouse Paving
Date: 02/24/2026

Commissioners,

This is a request to reallocate funds in the amount of \$1,088,903 for in-house paving. The current budget in Fund 541 Site Improvements is \$1,530,101. Reallocating the \$1,088,903 would leave a budget balance of \$441,198. This amount is available from Fund 541 (2025 TSPLOST) Site Improvements and would be transferred to the Fund 541 Site Improvements-Repaving account.

Staff recommends approval of this budget amendment to properly allocate the in-house paving expenditures for accounting purposes.

This would require the Charman and Finance Director signature.

Debit: Fund 541 2025 TSPLOST Site Improvements \$1,088,903

Credit: Fund 541 2025 TSPLOST Site Improvements-Repaving \$1,088,903

Emmett Collins, Chairman

Tammy Lackey, Finance Director

To: Board of Commissioners

From: Allyson Stephens, County Clerk

Subject: Consideration of Resolution Establishing a Temporary Moratorium on New Data Center Development

Date: February 18, 2026

Commissioners,

Staff requests that the Board consider adopting a temporary moratorium on the acceptance and approval of new data center development within the unincorporated area of Meriwether County. Data centers are currently an allowable use within the Planned Industrial District under Appendix A (Zoning) of the County Code of Ordinances.

The purpose of the moratorium is to allow the County a limited period of time to evaluate whether existing public infrastructure, including water supply, distribution, and fire protection capacity, is sufficient to support the demands associated with data center facilities. The moratorium will also allow the County to ensure that its Service Delivery Strategy is current and adequately addresses the impacts of such development.

Given the infrastructure requirements typically associated with data centers, staff believes additional review is appropriate prior to further approvals.

The proposed moratorium would be effective February 24, 2026 and remain in place through August 23, 2026, unless earlier terminated by the Board. It would apply only to new applications submitted after the effective date and would not affect permits already issued or complete applications lawfully submitted prior to February 24, 2026.

A draft resolution has been prepared and reviewed by legal counsel.

Staff recommends approval.

To: Board of Commissioners
From: *Jms*
John Gorton, County Administrator
Subject: Approval of Grant Writing Proposal from Tara Coe
Date: 02/19/26

Commissioners,

Ms. Tara Coe has submitted a proposal for grant writing for Meriwether County. This includes providing comprehensive grant support services, including researching and identifying funding opportunities aligned with the Client's mission, preparing and revising grant proposals and required materials, ensuring compliance with funder guidelines, coordinating application assembly, and submitting completed applications as directed.

Staff recommends approval pending legal review of the Contract.

To: Board of Commissioners

From: 
John Gorton, County Administrator

Subject: Discussion and Consideration to Purchase SmartCOP Software- Sheriff's Office, E911 and Fire Department

Date: 02/19/26

Commissioners,

The Sheriff's Office recommends that Meriwether County adopt the SmartCOP Public Safety Platform to replace the Sheriff's Office's legacy Eagle Records Management System, which has been in use for over twenty years. This will also replace E-911's current aging CAD system and GCIC/NCIC interface. The current system reflects an outdated, office-based system that lacks mobile capability and cannot meet modern operational standards or the State of Georgia's statutory requirement to verify Mobile Driver's Licenses (mDLs) by July 1, 2027.

SmartCOP is presented a comprehensive public safety solution integrating Records Management (RMS), Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD), Jail Management (JMS), Mobile Field Reporting, and Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL). SmartCOP is already used by the Georgia State Patrol and includes native mDL verification, eliminating the need for costly third-party integrations.

The total project cost is \$379,776 with annual maintenance of \$62,320, allocated between E-911 and the Sheriff's Office.

SmartCOP would allow deputies (and Fire Rescue) to access CAD in the field, complete reports electronically without returning to the jail, and eliminate duplicate data entry across multiple county departments.

The system's AVL capabilities would enhance officer safety through real-time vehicle and deputy tracking, while also improving dispatch efficiency and administrative oversight.

This will eliminate unnecessary travel for report writing could save thousands of miles annually, reduce fuel and vehicle costs, and recapture between 518 and 854 deputy work hours per year—equivalent to dozens of additional patrol shifts without increasing staffing.

Additionally, SmartCOP would strengthen liability protection through mandatory documentation fields, audit trails, and improved evidence tracking, while providing data-driven management tools for budgeting and operational planning.