

AGENDA
MERIWETHER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MARCH 9, 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 24, 2026, Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

X. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Case #PC26-044 - Request from Robert Williams to close approximately 4,144 feet of Dobson Road, beginning at the southern corner of 2171 Dobson Road and extending north to the corner of 969 Dobson Road.

XI. APPOINTMENTS

1. Appointment for Camera Ready© Liason for Meriwether County

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Approval of Grant Writing Proposal from Ms. Tara Coe — *This item was tabled from the February 24, 2026, Regular Meeting.*

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Confirm Approval to Close Massengale Mill Road Bridge and only Allow Local Traffic
2. Approval to Purchase a Riding Lawnmower — Recreation
3. Approval to Remove Landscape at Lake Meriwether for Youth Baseball Field — Recreation
4. Approval to use Recreation Funds in the Recreation Bank Account to Purchase Fencing for Baseball Field — Recreation
5. Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for Development Plan Review, Permitting, Inspection, and Code Enforcement — Town of Lone Oak
6. Approval to Reallocate TSPLOST Funds from the E911 Parking Lot to Road Striping
7. Approval of Courthouse Roof Project Change Orders — River City Contracting
 - a. Consideration and Approval of Change Order #3 or #4 — Annex
 - b. Consideration and Approval of Change Order #5 — Tuckpointing, Terracotta, and Quoin Repair
 - c. Consideration and Approval of Change Order #6 — Structural Repair
 - d. Consideration and Approval of Change Order #7 — New Conduit for Rooftop Lighting Fixtures
8. Approval to Issue RFP for LRA Projects
9. Consideration to Increase Credit Card Limit with Colony Bank

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. Tuesday, March 24, 2026, Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
2. Monday, April 13, 2026, Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
3. Tuesday, April 28, 2026, Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
4. Monday, May 11, 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 Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting

Time: Mar 9, 2026 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84573944185?pwd=CC0X1Maj9r1W5BGZbF52xpzkr04nRQ.1>

Meeting ID: 845 7394 4185

Passcode: 429317

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Meriwether Board of Commissioners will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Administration Building located at 17234 Roosevelt Hwy. Building B, Greenville, GA.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to hear the following request:

Case #PC26-004 – Request from Robert Williams to close approximately 4,144 feet of Dobson Road, beginning at the southern corner of 2171 Dobson Road and extending north to the corner of 969 Dobson Road. The Meriwether County Board of Commissioners will conduct a Public Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2026, to determine if this section of roadway continues to serve a public purpose.

Please contact the Department of Community Development at 706-672-1283 with any questions.

To: Board of Commissioners

From: Allyson Stephens, County Clerk 

Subject: Appointment of Camera Ready® Liaison for Meriwether County

Date: 03/06/2026

Meriwether County participates in the Georgia Department of Economic Development's Camera Ready® Program, which assists film and television productions in identifying potential filming locations throughout the state. Each participating county designates a liaison who serves as the primary point of contact for the program and for film location scouts seeking information about the county.

For many years, Mrs. Beth Neely-Hadley served as Meriwether County's Camera Ready® liaison and represented the County in this role. Mrs. Neely-Hadley has expressed that, since she has not served on the Board of Commissioners for several years, it would be more appropriate for someone currently connected with the County to serve as the liaison moving forward.

The Georgia Department of Economic Development has advised that the liaison should be someone working with the county in an official capacity, such as tourism, economic development, or another county-related role. The liaison is responsible for communicating with the Department of Economic Development and assisting visiting film location scouts with information about potential filming locations within the county.

Staff is requesting Board discussion and appointment of a Camera Ready® liaison to represent Meriwether County in the Georgia Department of Economic Development's Camera Ready® Program.

To: Board of Commissioners
From: 
John Gorton, County Administrator
Subject: Approval of Grant Writing Proposal from Tara Coe
Date: 03/06/26

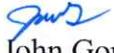
Commissioners,

Staff request this be tabled until the March 24, 2026 meeting to allow Ms. Coe to respond to the email regarding the contract that legal revised.

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: Confirm Approval to Close Massengale Mill Road Bridge and only Allow Local Traffic

Date: 03/06/26

Commissioners,

Staff requests approval to close the Massengale Mill Road Bridge to through traffic and limit access to local traffic only until Georgia Highway 362 reopens. The bridge is rated as 3 tons, and numerous dump trucks and fully loaded semi-trucks have been using the crossing, placing additional strain on a structure that already has a reduced weight limit.

To: Board of Commissioners
From:  John Gorton, County Administrator
Subject: Approval to Purchase a Riding Lawnmower – Recreation
Date: 03/06/26

Commissioners,

The Recreation Department is requesting approval to purchase a new riding lawn mower. Three quotes were obtained for consideration:

1. SunSouth – 2026 John Deere Z960M, 31 HP: \$14,850.00
2. Advanced Power Equipment – 61” Cheetah II, 38 HP: \$13,899.00
3. Advanced Power Equipment – 61” Turf Tiger II, 38 HP: \$14,399.00

Staff recommend the purchase of the 61” Turf Tiger II (38 HP) from Advanced Power Equipment for \$14,399.00. Funding for this purchase is proposed to come from SPLOST, as it qualifies as an allocated SPLOST expense for the Recreation Department.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

To: Board of Commissioners
From: *Jms*
John Gorton, County Administrator
Subject: Approval to Remove Landscape at Lake Meriwether for Youth Baseball Field-
Recreation
Date: 03/06/26

Commissioners,

The Recreation Department is requesting approval to remove small-diameter trees and shrubs at Lake Meriwether in the area where the layout for a Youth Baseball Field has been marked. Public Works has assessed the site and confirmed that they are able to clear the necessary area to accommodate the outfield fencing for the proposed baseball field.

The property is county-owned and will need to be cleared to proceed with this project.

To: Board of Commissioners
JG

From: John Gorton, County Administrator

Subject: Approval to use Recreation Funds in the Recreation Bank Account to Purchase Fencing for Baseball Field- Recreation

Date: 03/06/26

Commissioners,

The Recreation Department is requesting approval to use funds from the Recreation Bank Account at United Bank to purchase either permanent or temporary fencing for the baseball field that has been outlined at Lake Meriwether. The current balance in the account is approximately \$42,696 as of Friday, March 6, 2026. SPLOST funding could also be considered as an alternative funding source.

Staff is currently awaiting quotes for both permanent and temporary fencing options. At this time, the estimated cost of the project is expected to range between \$15,000 and \$20,000. This would get the field ready for the current baseball season.

To: Board of Commissioners
JMG

From: John Gorton, County Administrator

Subject: Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for Development Plan Review, Permitting, Inspection, and Code Enforcement – Town of Lone Oak

Date: 03/06/26

Commissioners,

Staff is requesting approval to enter into a new Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the County and the Town of Lone Oak. This item was contingent upon the execution of the Fire Station Lease, which has now been received by the County.

The anticipated volume of work associated with this agreement is not expected to have a significant impact on the current workload of the Planning and Zoning/Code Enforcement Department.

Legal has reviewed the IGA. Staff recommends approval of the agreement and authorization for the Chairman to sign. The agreement will be for a term of one year, with automatic annual renewals unless terminated by either party.

To: Board of Commissioners
Jms
From: John Gorton, County Administrator
Subject: Approval to reallocate TSPLOST funds from the E911 parking lot to Road Striping
Date: 03/06/26

Commissioners,

Staff is requesting approval to reallocate the remaining balance from the E911 parking lot project to road striping. The E911 parking lot project was allocated \$66,656 and was completed for around \$20,000.

Staff recommends reallocating the remaining \$46,656 toward striping county roads that need maintenance. The striping work will be performed by Two Rivers, with the remaining balance being returned to TSPLOST.



To: Board of Commissioners
From: *JG*
John Gorton, County Administrator
Subject: Consideration and Approval of Change Order #3 – Courthouse Roof Project
Date: 03/06/2026

Commissioners,

River City Contracting, Inc. has submitted Change Order No. 3 for the Courthouse Roof project, which removes the existing metal roof on the Annex, and replaces it with a Fabral standing seam roof to match the existing. The cost of this change order is \$27,720.

Approval of the change order is required for the revised scope of work and will require execution by the Chair or Vice Chair.

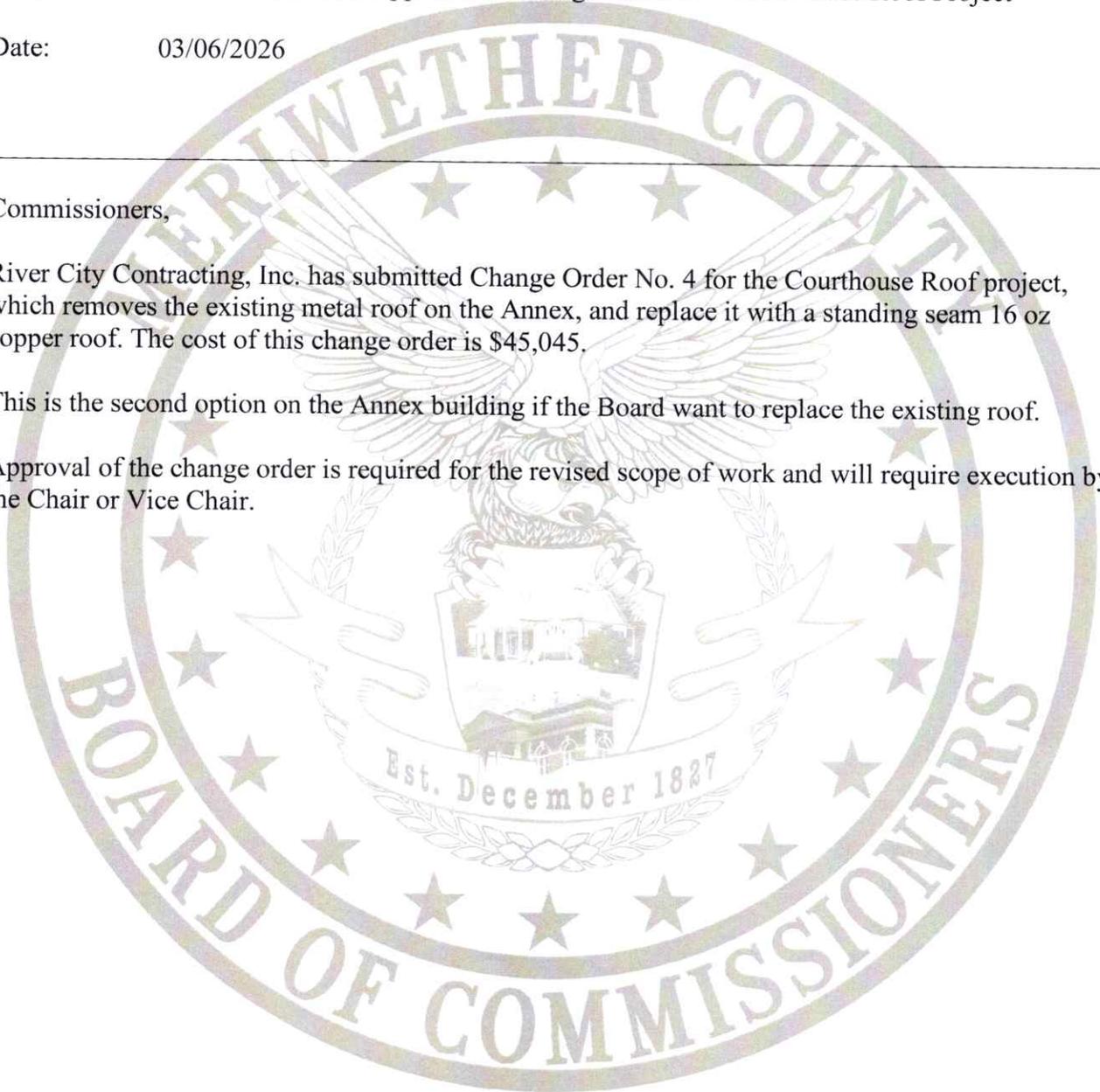
To: Board of Commissioners
From: *JG*
John Gorton, County Administrator
Subject: Consideration and Approval of Change Order #4 – Courthouse Roof Project
Date: 03/06/2026

Commissioners,

River City Contracting, Inc. has submitted Change Order No. 4 for the Courthouse Roof project, which removes the existing metal roof on the Annex, and replace it with a standing seam 16 oz copper roof. The cost of this change order is \$45,045.

This is the second option on the Annex building if the Board want to replace the existing roof.

Approval of the change order is required for the revised scope of work and will require execution by the Chair or Vice Chair.

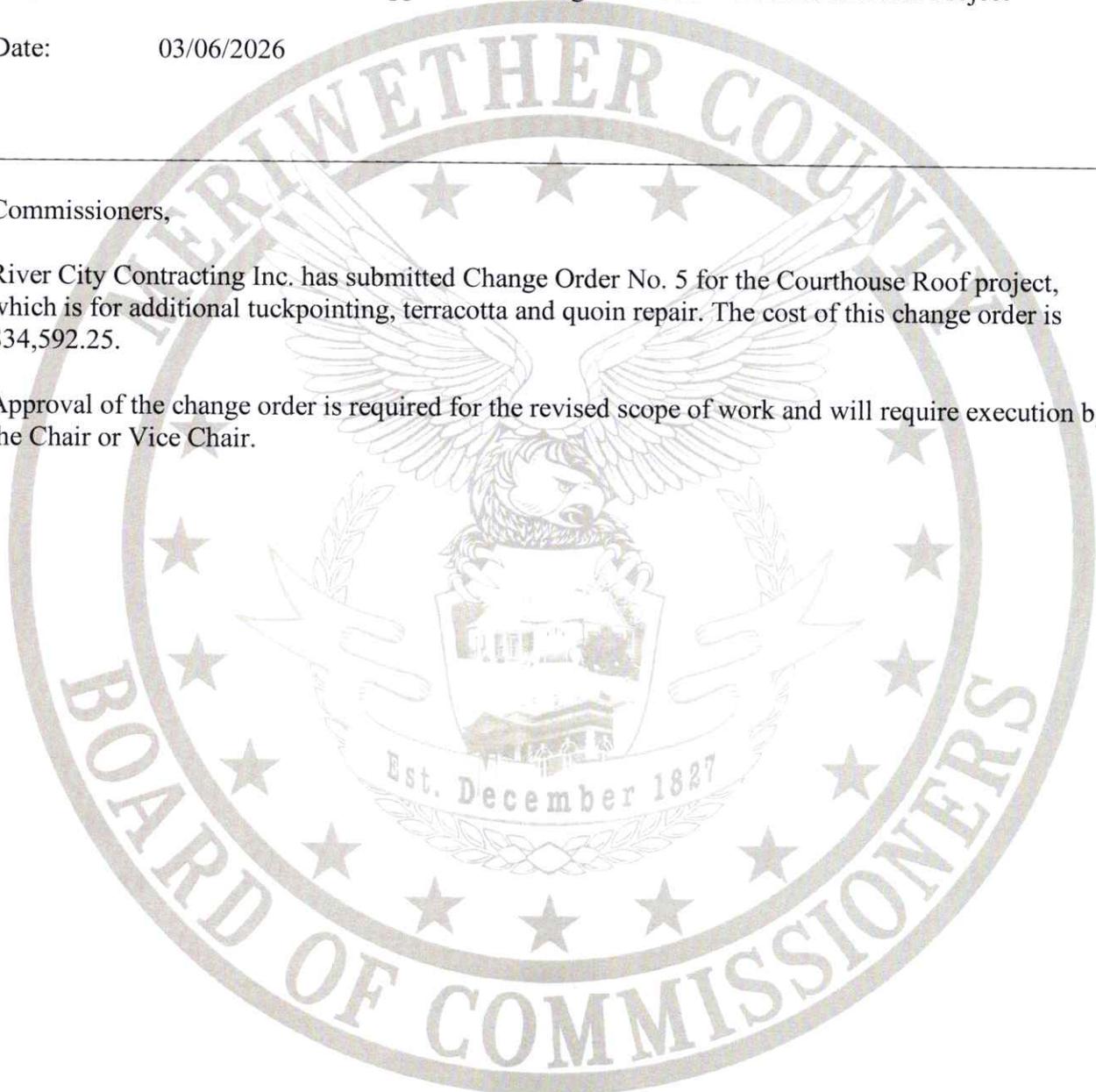


To: Board of Commissioners
From: *JMG*
John Gorton, County Administrator
Subject: Consideration and Approval of Change Order #5 – Courthouse Roof Project
Date: 03/06/2026

Commissioners,

River City Contracting Inc. has submitted Change Order No. 5 for the Courthouse Roof project, which is for additional tuckpointing, terracotta and quoin repair. The cost of this change order is \$34,592.25.

Approval of the change order is required for the revised scope of work and will require execution by the Chair or Vice Chair.

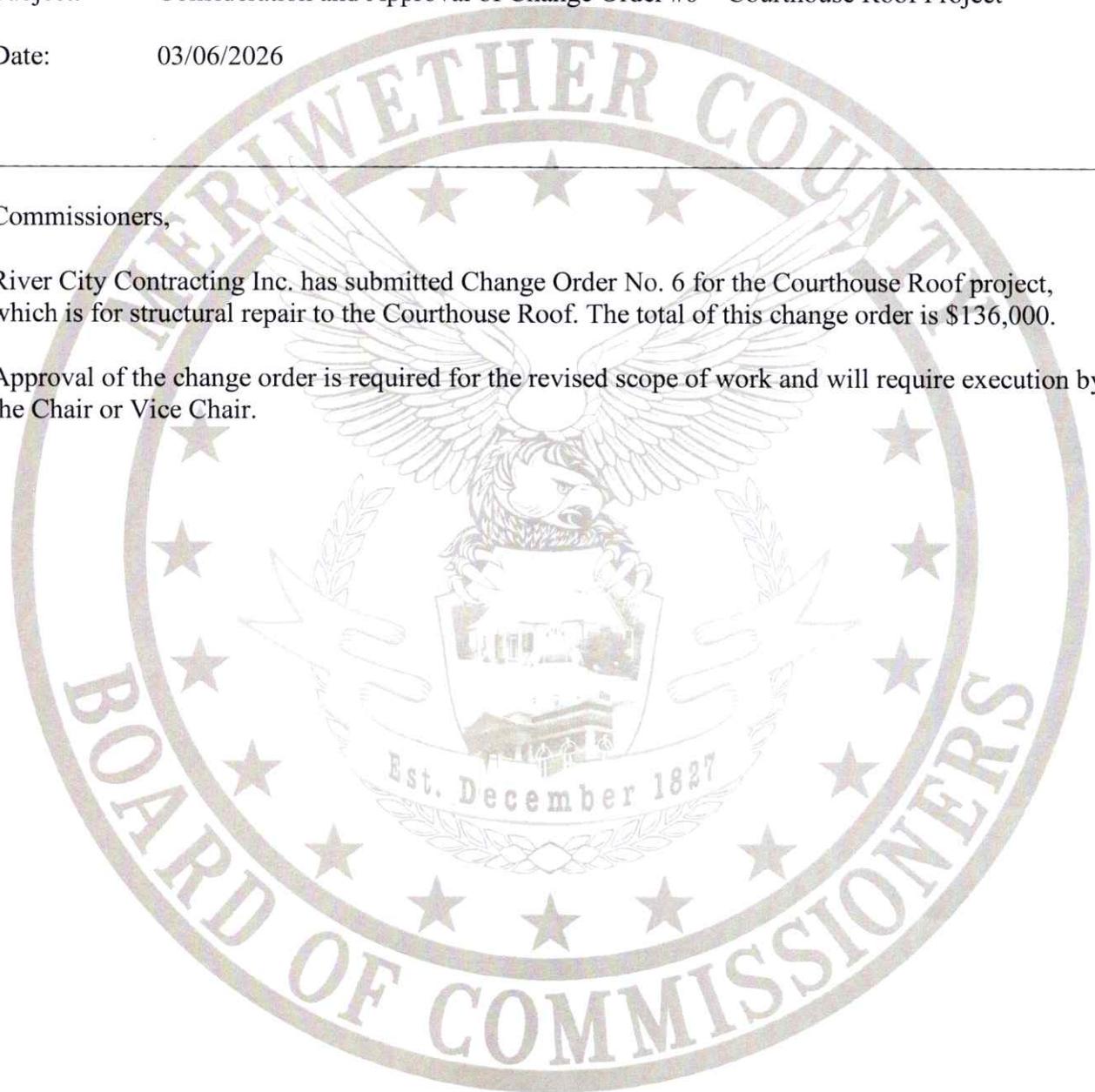


To: Board of Commissioners
From: *JG*
John Gorton, County Administrator
Subject: Consideration and Approval of Change Order #6 – Courthouse Roof Project
Date: 03/06/2026

Commissioners,

River City Contracting Inc. has submitted Change Order No. 6 for the Courthouse Roof project, which is for structural repair to the Courthouse Roof. The total of this change order is \$136,000.

Approval of the change order is required for the revised scope of work and will require execution by the Chair or Vice Chair.



To: Board of Commissioners
From: 
John Gorton, County Administrator
Subject: Consideration and Approval of Change Order #7 – Courthouse Roof Project
Date: 03/06/2026

Commissioners,

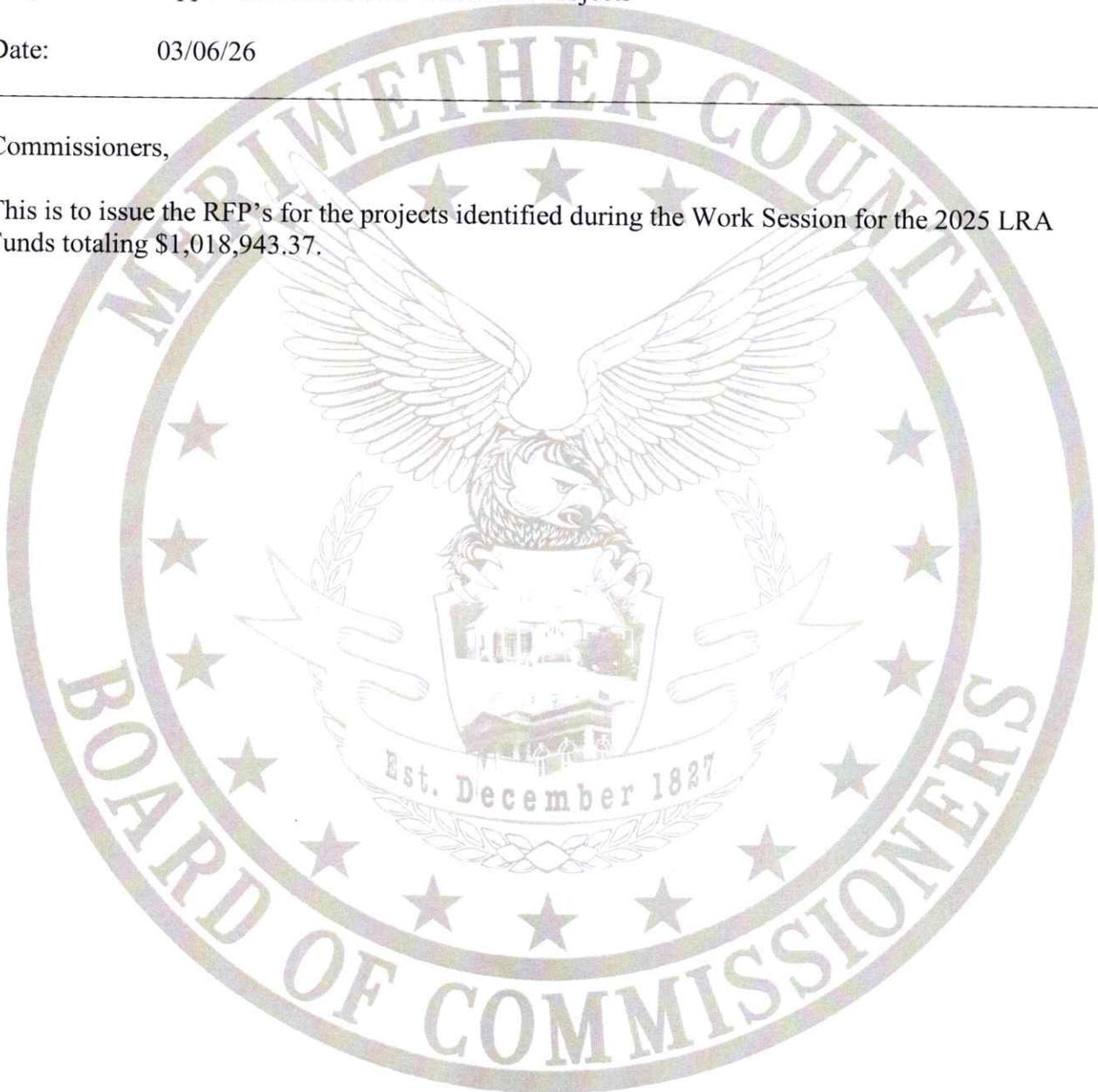
River City Contracting Inc. has submitted Change Order No. 7 for the Courthouse Roof project, which is for new conduit for rooftop lighting fixtures. The cost of this change order is \$15,796.

Approval of the change order is required for the revised scope of work and will require execution by the Chair or Vice Chair.

To: Board of Commissioners
From: 
John Gorton, County Administrator
Subject: Approval to Issue RFP's for LRA Projects
Date: 03/06/26

Commissioners,

This is to issue the RFP's for the projects identified during the Work Session for the 2025 LRA Funds totaling \$1,018,943.37.



To: Board of Commissioners
From: 
John Gorton, County Administrator
Subject: Approval to Increase Credit Card Limit-Colony Bank
Date: 03/06/26

Commissioners,

Our current limit with Elan Financial is \$25,000, with the County switching to Colony Bank we have sent in the required documents and Staff is requesting to increase the credit card limit to \$40,000. This would be managed by the County Administrator and the Finance Director.

