

**MINUTES**  
**MERIWETHER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**January 13, 2021**  
**This meeting was held by Zoom due to COVID-19**

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

- I. CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Threadgill called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.  
**INVOCATION** – Beth Neely-Hadley  
**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Motion was made by Vice Chairman McCoy and seconded by Rosla Plant to elect Bryan Threadgill as Chairman for 2021. All were in favor.

Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Beth Neely-Hadley to elect Alfred McCoy as Vice Chairman for 2021. All were in favor.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman McCoy and seconded by Shirley Hines to appoint Beverly Thomas as County Clerk for 2021. All were in favor.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman McCoy and seconded by Shirley Hines to appoint Allyson Stephens as Deputy Clerk for 2021. All were in favor.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman McCoy and seconded by Rosla Plant to appoint Glover Davis Law Firm as the County Attorney for 2021. All were in favor.

**II. ADOPT AGENDA**

Motion was made by Beth Neely Hadley and seconded by Vice Chairman McCoy to adopt the Agenda and add under New Business - 17. Set Public Hearing for the abandonment of a small section of County Line Road between SR54 and Meriwether Park Drive as shown on the provided plat. All were in favor.

**III MINUTES**

Motion was made by Beth Neely-Hadley and seconded by Vice Chairman McCoy to approve the Minutes of the December 22, 2020 Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m. All were in favor.

**IV. MUNICIPAL COMMENTS**

None

**V. CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS COMMENTS**

None

**VI. DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS**

Administrator Gay introduced Valerie Chambers who was hired as our new Human Resources Director. Ms. Chambers is experienced and has a good attitude. She is a good addition to our staff.

**VII. PUBLIC HEARING**

None

**VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Motion was made by Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Beth Neely-Hadley to appoint Shirley Hines to the CAFI Board. All were in favor.

2. Motion was made by Vice Chairman McCoy and seconded by Beth Neely Hadley to table the appointment to the Planning Commission. All were in favor.
3. Motion was made by Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Vice Chairman McCoy to remove the Agreement with WellStar Client Services. All were in favor. This can be added back in the future when the corrected document is received from WellStar.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Motion was made by Shirley Hines and seconded by Beth Neely Hadley to reappoint Charles Moody to the Lake Meriwether Advisory Board, District 1. All were in favor.
2. Motion was made by Vice Chairman McCoy and seconded by Rosla Plant to reappoint Ronnie Heard to the Lake Meriwether Advisory Board, District 3. All were in favor.
3. Motion was made by Beth Neely-Hadley and seconded by Vice Chairman McCoy to reappoint Danny Stephens to the Lake Meriwether Advisory Board, District 5. All were in favor.
4. Motion was made by Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Beth Neely Hadley to reappoint Alfred McCoy to the Lake Meriwether Advisory Board to represent Commissioners. All were in favor.
5. Motion was made by Vice Chairman McCoy and seconded by Chairman Threadgill to table the appointment to the Lake Meriwether Advisory Board for the City of Woodbury. All were in favor. Vice Chairman McCoy wanted to speak with Carolyn Ledbetter before he made the appointment.
6. Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Vice Chairman McCoy to reappoint Larry Dunaway to the Water & Sewerage Authority, District 2. All were in favor.
7. Motion was made by Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Vice Chairman McCoy to table the appointment to the Water & Sewerage Authority, District 4. All were in favor.
8. Motion was made by Beth Neely-Hadley and seconded by Rosla Plant to reappoint James Stephens to the Water & Sewerage Authority, District 5. All were in favor.
9. Administrator Theron Gay explained the Software License Agreement for the Tax Assessors Office. This system will allow staff to draw properties and enter measurements while on location. The cost has been budgeted. Motion was made by Beth Neely-Hadley and seconded by Vice Chairman McCoy to approve the Software License Agreement. All were in favor. \* (see 2<sup>nd</sup> vote following Future Meetings and Notices)
10. Susan Pritchett wanted to bring to the Board's attention that she receives calls regarding livestock situations of abuse, neglect, etc. Ms. Pritchett stated she does not mind but, in the end, she is left with a lot of animals. There is confusion when Animal Control calls regarding a horse, cow, chicken, or pig. Ms. Pritchett stated she brought this to the attention of being the responsibility of the Sheriff's Office and if that is correct where are they during the calls. Ms. Pritchett stated the County did not have a place to put the large animals and would need a small barn to isolate. The employees at the Shelter are not trained for this. A horse trailer and facilities are needed. Ms. Pritchett stated the Sheriff's Office had not been participating and she did not want to be cut out of the loop and was willing to help and do whatever it takes. Ms. Pritchett can only take possession of livestock and wants to help the County set up something. The County will look into this issue and reach out to the Department of Agriculture if needed.
11. Motion was made by Beth Neely Hadley and seconded by Rosla Plant to appoint Valerie Chambers as the ACCG-IRMA HR Helpline liaison. All were in favor.
12. Administrator Gay stated O.C.G.A. 48-5-242 allows the Tax Commissioner to waive certain taxes and penalties. The Tax Commissioners Office was closed December 22, 2020 – January 4, 2021. During this time, some citizens needed car tags. Administrator Gay recommended the Board allow the Tax Commissioner to release penalties and interest only on ad valorem taxes from automobiles from December 22, 2020 – January 4, 2021. The online State program is down today through the 15<sup>th</sup> and it may come before the Board to release additional fees, interest, and penalties in the near future. The County will look at this on a case-by-case basis. Motion was made by Beth Neely-Hadley and seconded by Vice Chairman McCoy to allow the Tax Commissioner to waive fees, interest and penalties on ad valorem taxes that occurred during this time. All were in favor.

13. Motion was made by Vice Chairman McCoy and seconded by Beth Neely-Hadley to set a Public Hearing on February 23, 2021 for a rezone request of 72.62 acres – LL 104, 11<sup>th</sup> LD owned by Meriwether County from CIPD and PID to (I)-Industrial. All were in favor.

14. Mayor Ledbetter of Woodbury contacted Administrator Gay about updating the Service Delivery Strategy. Mayor Ledbetter wanted to look at more grants and wants to be listed as a provider of Internet Service. Some of the Cities did not include SPLOST as a means of income when the County was working on the Service Delivery Strategy. This can be accomplished in an update. Motion was made by Beth Neely Hadley and seconded by Shirley Hines to set a Public Hearing on February 23, 2021 for amendments to the Service Delivery Strategy. All were in favor. Administrator Gay will contact the Cities.

15. Motion was made by Vice Chairman McCoy and seconded by Rosla Plant to surplus a 1981 Foam Engine at the Fire Department. It was donated to the County by Ashland Chemical Co. on May 1, 1997. This equipment was designed for chemical fires not structural fires. It has never been used and has been in storage for 23 years. All were in favor.

16. Motion was made by Vice Chairman McCoy and seconded by Rosla Plant to set a Public Hearing on February 10, 2021 for changes to the Meriwether County Timber Ordinance as required by the State. All were in favor.

17. Motion was made by Beth Neely-Hadley and seconded by Vice Chairman McCoy to set a Public Hearing on February 26, 2021 for an abandonment of a small section of road on County Line Road from SR 54 to Meriwether Park Drive. All were in favor.

#### **X. REPORT FROM FINANCE DIRECTOR**

Finance Director Bill Gregory reviewed the property tax collections which is at 74%. There is a strong balance in the General Fund. We have received the EMS collection check. We will wait until June to move money to the General Fund. Most of the Fire Bond will be spent for Public Safety equipment which includes lift beds, cardiac monitors, extrication equipment etc. We will use the remaining funds in the 2014 SPLOST by the end of this month.

#### **XI. REPORT FROM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

Administrator Gay stated he had been out of the office taking care of some issues at home. Over the last few weeks Administrator Gay attended the Water & Sewerage Authority Meeting, and worked with Luthersville, Lone Oak, Woodbury and Gay.

Administrator Gay met with an Industrial prospect, attended the Meriwether Water & Sewerage Meeting, worked on Open Records, spoke with GDOT, met, and offered support to the new Coroner and Tax Commissioner. The new Coroner is still waiting to attend a required State class that has been shut down temporary due to COVID. Many phone calls and emails have been made and returned. Commissioner Hines asked about LMIG and the Luthersville Road project with the two options. Administrator Gay stated he will go back and seek assistance from GDOT to extend the Luthersville Road project.

#### **XII. REPORT FROM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Shirley Hines: Wished everyone a Happy New Year. There has been a lot of trash on County Roads including Forrest Road. Commissioner Hines encouraged citizens who live in these areas to help with this. We all need to take pride in our communities.

Commissioner Rosla Plant: Commissioner Plant stated she looked forward to working with everyone.

Commissioner Neely-Hadley: Wished everyone a Happy New Year and stated many good things can happen and hopefully COVID will get under control.

Vice Chairman McCoy: Stated it was good to see everyone back. We receive many complaints on Luthersville Road, and it is hard to drive along that road at night. We are getting calls about trash

especially around the landfill. Some of the trucks that are leaving the landfill have litter that comes off the back of their vehicles. We must police this. The collection box at Lake Meriwether was broken into between January 2-3. We need to look at adding surveillance cameras there, and at the Covered Bridge, Airport, and River. There was discussion of moving the entry to the Covered Bridge from 10' in *height* to 9' in *height*. Commissioner Hines stated the theft falls under the Sheriff's Office so they can address the vandalism. There was discussion of the need for evidence.

Chairman Bryan Threadgill: Wished everyone a Happy New Year and welcomed Commissioner Plant. Part of the Agenda is Public Comments. Chairman Threadgill asked to either remove this or have a time stipulated to speak while we are having meetings by Zoom. There was discussion of having citizens who wanted to speak to call the County Clerk or Deputy Clerk before Friday at noon on the week before the meeting so they can be added to the Agenda under Public Comment.

### **XIII. REPORT FROM COUNTY ATTORNEY**

County Attorney Nathan Lee stated there was a need for an Executive Session for Personnel, Litigation and Real Estate.

### **XIV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

### **XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion was made by Vice Chairman McCoy and seconded by Beth Neely-Hadley to go into Executive Session at 9:58 am to discuss Personnel, Litigation and Real Estate. All were in favor.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman McCoy and seconded by Beth Neely-Hadley to go out of Executive Session at 10:39 am. All were in favor.

Motion was made by Beth Neely-Hadley and seconded by Vice Chairman McCoy to go back into Regular Session at 10:45 am. All were in favor.

There was no action taken.

### **XVI. FUTURE MEETINGS & NOTICES**

Chairman Threadgill announced future meetings and notices that were listed on the Agenda prior to Executive Session.

\*\*\* Chairman Threadgill stated a correction needed to be made to New Business #9. Motion was made by Beth Neely-Hadley and seconded by Rosla Plant to include allowing the Chairman to sign the Software License Agreement. All were in favor.

### **XVII. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Beth Neely-Hadley and seconded by Vice Chairman McCoy to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 a.m. All were in favor.

Approved by: *Majority vote of the Board of Commissioners*

Attest: *Bellamy A Thomas, County Clerk*

Date: *January 26, 2024*