

**MINUTES**  
**MERIWETHER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**January 11, 2023**  
**9:00 A.M.**

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

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Bryan Threadgill called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**II. INVOCATION**

The Invocation was given by Reverend Jonathan Porter, of Greenville Baptist Church

**III. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

All

**Appoint Chairman**

Motion was made by Gene King and seconded by Emmett Collins to appoint Bryan Threadgill as Chairman. All were in favor.

**Appoint Vice-Chairman**

Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Emmett Collins to appoint Gene King as Vice-Chairman. All were in favor.

**Appoint County Administrator**

Motion was made by Chairman Bryan Threadgill and seconded by Vice Chairman King to re-appoint Michelle Irizarry as County Administrator. All were in favor.

**Appoint County Clerk**

Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Emmett Collins to re-appoint Beverly Thomas as County Clerk. All were in favor.

**Appoint Deputy Clerk**

Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Emmett Collins to re-appoint Allyson Stephens as Deputy Clerk. All were in favor.

**Appoint County Attorney**

Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Vice Chairman King to re-appoint Glover Davis, LLC as Legal Counsel. All were in favor.

**IV. ADOPT AGENDA**

Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Emmett Collins to adopt the Agenda. All were in favor.

## **V. PRESENTATIONS**

None

## **VI. FINANCE REPORT**

Bill Gregory, Finance Director, presented the Financial Report. Mr. Gregory reviewed each account, provided the financial institution where the funds are held, and explained how the accounts work. Chairman Threadgill asked for a list of allowable expenses for the County ARPA funds. Chairman Threadgill asked which account included the LOST funds. Mr. Gregory stated the LOST funds were in the General Fund, the County is not required to have a separate fund for LOST. Mr. Gregory provided a report on the monthly deposits for the 2020 SPLOST and T-SPLOST. The Statewide distribution from the December 2022 SPLOST was \$237,663.14. The County's portion was \$154,504.81. The Statewide distribution for the December 2022 T-SPLOST was \$199,318.70 and the County's portion was \$129,318.70. Mr. Gregory was very pleased with the distribution amounts to the County.

## **VII. CITIZEN COMMENT**

None

## **VIII. MINUTES**

Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Chairman Threadgill to approve the Minutes of the December 27, 2022, 6:00 p.m. Regular Meeting. All were in favor.

## **IX. PUBLIC HEARING**

None

## **X. APPOINTMENTS**

1. Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Adam Worsley to appoint Chairman Bryan Threadgill as the ACCG Legislative Coordinator. This is a one-year term that will expire on January 1, 2024. All were in favor.
2. Motion was made by Emmett Collins and seconded by Vice Chairman King to appoint Robert Phillips to the Meriwether County Board of Assessors to fill a vacant term that will expire on December 31, 2024. All were in favor.
3. Motion was made by Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Vice Chairman King to re-appoint Nneka Carter Young to the CAFI Board. This is a one-year term that will expire on January 1, 2024. All were in favor.
4. Motion was made by Emmett Collins and seconded by Rosla Plant to re-appoint Alan Parham to the Industrial Development Board, District 3. This is a four-year term that will expire on January 20, 2027. All were in favor.
5. Motion was made by Adam Worsley and seconded by Chairman Threadgill to appoint Beth Neely-Hadley to the Industrial Development Authority, District 5. Discussion followed. Commissioner Plant wanted to go on record that she was appointed to serve on this Authority in 2017, has served consecutively and is presently serving as Chair. Commissioner Plant stated she would like to continue to serve in that capacity because of all the work the Authority has going on. Commissioner Plant asked for the Boards consideration for this appointment. Voting in favor of appointing Beth Neely-Hadley were Adam Worsley and Chairman Threadgill. Opposed were

Vice Chairman Gene King, Rosla Plant and Emmett Collins (*Voted under approval of Minutes during the 1-24-2023 BOC Meeting to correct from Emmett Clark to Emmett Collins*). The motion failed.

Motion was made by Rosla Plant to re-appoint herself to the Industrial Development Authority, Emmett Collins seconded the motion. Voting in favor were Rosla Plant, Emmett Collins, and Vice Chairman King. Those opposed were Adam Worsley and Chairman Threadgill. The motion passed. This is a four-year term that will expire on January 20, 2027.

6. Motion was made by Vice-Chairman King and seconded by Emmett Collins to appoint Frank Keller to the Lake Meriwether Advisory Board, District 1. This is a two-year term that will expire on January 28, 2025. All were in favor.

Chairman Threadgill made a statement regarding Item 5 on the agenda. Commissioner Plant lost her commission seat to Mary Bray. At that time Commissioner Plant wanted to continue being involved in the County. Commissioner Plant went to Commissioner Beth Neely-Hadley and asked if she could serve on the IDA as a non-Commissioner. She has since served well on the IDA. She has served as Chair. Chairman Threadgill stated he has an issue with her being on the Board of Commissioners and serving as Chair of an Authority at the same time. Chairman Threadgill stated he and Commissioner Plant have had this discussion on multiple occasions. Commissioner Neely-Hadley served the County well for fourteen-years and she requested to be allowed to continue to serve in some type of capacity and that was to be placed in her District seat on the IDA which is now held by a third District Commissioner. There is no representation from District 5 on the IDA. Chairman Threadgill stated that he disagrees with the appointment that was made and did not feel it was appropriate as to what the County needs. There is a reason Rosla Plant was placed on the IDA and a reason she should not be on that Authority. That is because she serves in an elected position. It is a conflict of interest and now the Board has reappointed her with a conflict of interest. Chairman Threadgill stated that was his statement and he needed that to be public.

Commissioner Collins specifically asked, because he was on the Tax Assessors Board and was told he had to come off that Board when he was elected as Commissioner. Commissioner Collins attended the ACCG Training Class and specifically asked them if a commissioner could be on that Authority. ACCG told him they recommended having a Commissioner on that Authority. Chairman Threadgill stated ACCG is not a government entity, they are a private entity. They have no government authority. Commissioner Collins stated that is where Commissioners go to get their training.

Attorney Nathan Lee stated however the IDA was created whether it be Local Legislation or Statutory it would say in that document. Attorney Lee stated he would have read this if he had known Attorney Lee state the County's statutory government authority it would be discussed. There is law that sets this up and as far as the State Statue you can have no more than one member of the Board of Commission.

Vice Chairman King stated he was at the same training and as Chairman Threadgill pointed out, we all go to that organization to receive training. We have to rely on them and hopefully they are training Board members and putting them in the right direction. The point was made when Commissioner King asked ACCG was that it was not against the law to have a Board member serve on the IDA and it would be nice because they could stay on top of what is going on and report back to other Board members. Obviously, Commissioner Plant cannot vote when it comes before the Board. Chairman Threadgill stated that is the issue, she is the Chair of the IDA and

when you are in an elected position and you have an obligation to those people who put you in to that position, and you have to abstain from giving your vote for those people, that is wrong. You should always be able to vote in this position instead of having to abstain because you are not elected to that position but appointed and your obligation is to the people that put you in your seat.

Vice Chairman King stated to make it clear why this was his decision today, he had asked about this at the ACCG training at UGA and he had reached out to Jane Fryer, IDA Executive Director, who told him she was doing a fantastic job and they would love to keep her on the Authority. When you see something that is working and going in the right direction, you hate to interrupt it. Commissioner Worsley stated he attended the same training through ACCG, who stated it was a conflict of interest but he did not seek out what he could or could not do in relation to that. If the Commissioners were to have a split vote that could be a problem with abstaining. Commissioner Worsley appreciates what Commissioner Plant has done on the Authority and the feedback received is that she has done a fantastic job. Commissioner Worsley stated it was his intention to have equal representation at all ends of the County and District 5. The Board could be equally split on an issue in having a Board member serve on the IDA. Commissioner Worsley stated he thought Beth Neely-Hadley would have done a good job for the County. Chairman Threadgill stated it had nothing to do with Commissioner Plant and she has done a great job but we now continue to have two representatives from the Greenville District on the IDA Authority with no representation from District 5.

Vice Chairman King stated there probably should have been an appointment from District 5 in 2017.

7. Motion was made by Emmett Collins and seconded by Rosla Plant to appoint David Williamson to the Lake Meriwether Advisory Board, District 3. This is a two-year term that will expire on January 28, 2025. All were in favor.

8. Motion was made by Adam Worsley and seconded by Vice-Chairman King to re-appoint Danny Stephens to the Lake Meriwether Advisory Board, District 5. This is a two-year term that will expire on January 28, 2025. All were in favor.

9. Motion was made by Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Rosla Plant to appoint Emmett Collins to the Lake Meriwether Advisory Board as the District 3, Commissioner Appointment. This is a one-year term that will expire on January 28, 2023. All were in favor.

10. Motion was made by Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Rosla Plant to table the appointment to the Lake Meriwether Advisory Board for the City of Woodbury appointment. All were in favor.

11. Motion was made by Vice-Chairman Gene King and seconded by Emmett Collins to appoint Patrick Dell (*Voted under approval of Minutes during the 1-24-2023 BOC Meeting to correct spelling of name from Dale to Dell*) to the Planning Commission, District 1, to fill a vacant term. This term will expire on January 5, 2024. (It was stated the term would expire on January 5, 2024 (*Voted under approval of Minutes during the 1-24-2023 BOC Meeting to correct year from 2029 to 2024*)). The correct expiration is January 5, 2024) All were in favor.

12. Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Emmett Collins to table the appointment to the Planning Commission, District 2. All were in favor.

13. Motion was made by Adam Worsley and seconded by Vice Chairman King to appoint Brad Jordan to the Planning Commission to fill a vacant term, District 5. This term will expire on

January 5, 2028 (*Voted under approval of Minutes during the 1-24-2023 BOC Meeting to correct year from 2023 to 2028*). All were in favor.

14. Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Adam Worsley to appoint Alfred "Buster" McCoy to the Public Facility Authority. This is a three-year term that will expire on December 31, 2025. All were in favor.

15. Motion was made by Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Emmett Collins to appoint Vice Chairman King to serve as the non-public member of Three Rivers RDC. This is a one-year term that will expire on December 31, 2023. All were in favor. Mayor Glover stated she thought that particular appointment was a non-public appointment in which Faye Perdue has served. Chairman Threadgill stated Mayor Glover was correct. Motion was then made by Chairman Threadgill to reappoint Faye Perdue as the non-public member of Three Rivers RDC, Rosla Plant seconded the motion, and all were in favor. This is a one-year term that will expire on December 31, 2023.

16. Motion was made by Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Vice-Chairman King to appoint Bill Cawthorne to the Two Rivers RC&D. This is a one-year term that will expire on December 31, 2023. All were in favor.

17. Motion was made by Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Rosla Plant to appoint Emmett Collins as the alternate to serve on the Two Rivers RC&D. This is a one-year term that expires on December 31, 2023. All were in favor.

18. Motion was made by Vice Chairman King and seconded by Rosla Plant to re-appoint Tracy Thigpen to the Water & Sewerage Authority, District 1. This is a four-year term that will expire on December 31, 2026. All were in favor.

19. Motion was made by Emmett Collins and seconded by Rosla Plant to re-appoint Kenneth Murphy to serve on the Water & Sewerage Authority, District 3. This is a four-year term that will expire on December 31, 2026. All were in favor.

20. Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Emmett Collins to re-appoint Vivian Smith to serve on the Zoning Board of Appeals. This is a three-year term that will expire on January 5, 2026. All were in favor.

## **XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Upon the recommendation from Administrator Irizarry, motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Adam Worsley to table the Acceptance of ROW Deed and Bond for Chambless Village Subdivision, TRGGC Chambless Investors, LLC, and Paran Homes, LLC. All were in favor.

2. Bill Cawthorne provided a handout for the 2023 LMIG. Administrator Irizarry reminded the Board that at the last meeting, the Board approved to allow the new Board members to decide where the additional funds would be spent. Mr. Cawthorne stated Georgia Department of Transportation has a deadline of February 1, 2023, for the LMIG funding and it must be submitted online. A list of recommendations for the 2023 LMIG was provided to Board members for their review. This includes the \$525K extra assistance that GDOT is putting toward Luthersville Road. It was confirmed that T-SPLOST would be used for Beulah Evans Road. LMIG is supplemented with SPLOST funds. Mr. Cawthorne stated he has time to go back if we need to make changes. The County must put a minimum of 30% with the LMIG funds. The minimum project would be almost \$1,700,000. The total presented for the 2023 LMIG project is \$2,195,957.28. Motion was made by Vice Chairman King and seconded by Rosla Plant to go with the recommendation of Mr. Cawthorne and allow the Chairman to sign. All were in favor.

## **XII. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Motion was made by Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Emmett Collins to add a No-Thru Truck sign on Wrightsville Road due to the bridge being closed and more 18-wheeler traffic that is causing additional damage to the road. All were in favor.
2. Administrator Irizarry stated in the past, the Commissioners were provided a laptop from the County. Now with social media, open records, and the First Amendment Auditors, there has been discussion of County provided Lap Tops and Cell Phones. Chairman Threadgill stated this was his 11<sup>th</sup> year and he has not had a county phone. The State mandated a pay increase for Commissioners in the amount of \$5K. Phones would increase the budget by \$40 per phone and Chairman Threadgill felt this cost should be paid by Commissioners. The County has both AT&T and Verizon services. Vice Chairman King stated he only pays \$20 more per phone on his account. Skip Richmond, IT Director, stated with the County's cell phone program, when there is an emergency, we get precedence. Vice Chairman King asked if the board voted for Commissioners to have the phones could it be a separate account. Mr. Gregory stated he could take care of the funding if the Board agrees to purchase the phones. Vice Chairman King stated since there are some Commissioners in business for themselves, he felt Board members needed a County phone to take care of County business and to separate County business from personal business. Attorney Nathan Lee stated if you use your personal phone for County business and someone sends an open records request wanting to see your call list you would have redact what is non-public. If you use a private phone for County business, those records can be public. The same goes for a County E-Mail. Motion was made by Vice Chairman King and seconded by Emmett Collins to approve allowing the Commissioners to have County cell phones to conduct County Business. Voting in favor were Vice Chairman King, Emmett Collins, Chairman Threadgill and Rosla Plant. Adam Worsley was opposed.
3. Bill Cawthorne stated Public Works is in need of a cab and chassis strong enough to move the County's heavy equipment around the County. Crawford Grading has moved the County's excavator from time to time when they had time. In the five-year plan for needed equipment in 2024 the County had \$150K earmarked for a road tractor. Public Works has located a used 2000 Mack 613 for \$35K and it is in very good mechanical condition. The County fleet supervisor looked over the truck and has driven the truck and feels like it will work well for the County. Motion was made by Vice Chairman King and seconded by Rosla Plant to accept the recommendation from Public Works to purchase the 2000 Mack 613 for \$35,000 and use T-SPLOST funding for the purchase. All were in favor.

## **XIII. REPORT FROM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

Administrator Irizarry thanked the Board for re-appointing her for another year and congratulated the new Board members. Administrator Irizarry stated she looks forward to working with everyone.

## **XIV. REPORT FROM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Emmett Collins: Nothing at this time.

Commissioner Rosla Plant: Welcomed the new Board members.

Chairman Bryan Threadgill: Welcomed the new Board members.

Vice Chairman Gene King: Thanked the citizens in district one for their vote and hopes 2023 will be a good year for all.

Commissioner Adam Worsley: Stated he was thankful to be here and appreciated the support.

**XV. REPORT FROM COUNTY ATTORNEY**

None

**XVI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Administrator Irizarry stated an Executive Session was needed for Personnel and Litigation. Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Vice Chairman Gene King to go into Executive Session at 9:45 a.m. to discuss Personnel and Litigation. All were in favor.

Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Emmett Collins to go out of Executive Session at 10:02 a.m.

Motion was made by Emmett Collins and seconded by Rosla Plant to go back into Regular Session at 10:05 a.m. All were in favor.

There was no action taken.

**XVII. FUTURE MEETINGS & NOTICES**

Chairman Threadgill made the announcement of Meetings and Notices.

**XVIII. ADJOURNMENT**

With no other business, motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Adam Worsley to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 a.m. All were in favor.

Approved by: Majority vote of the Board of Commissioners

Attest: Beverly Thomas, County Clerk

Date: January 24, 2023