

MINUTES
MERIWETHER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 12, 2022

This meeting was held by Zoom due to COVID-19 for the Public with Board Members and County Staff attending in Person

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

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Beth Neely-Hadley called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

II. INVOCATION –Chairman Beth Neely-Hadley

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - All

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Alfred McCoy to appoint Michelle Irizarry as County Administrator. All were in favor.

Motion was made by Alfred McCoy and seconded by Vice Chairman Threadgill to reappoint Beverly Thomas as County Clerk. All were in favor.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Shirley Hines to reappoint Allyson Stephens as Deputy County Clerk. All were in favor.

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

IV. ADOPT AGENDA

Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Alfred McCoy to adopt the Agenda with the following changes: Add under Appointments, 3. Appointment to Lake Meriwether Advisory Board, District 4, 4. Appointment to Lake Meriwether Advisory Board, District 2

New Business change: 5. Remove the wording "and Board of Education" and change from CCSB -Draft - HD 137-2021 to CCSB- Draft 2 – HD 137-2021

New Business add: 8. Request to approve and allow Chairman to sign Proposal & Contract from Piedmont Paving, Inc. for work at Chambless Village. All were in favor.

V. REPORT FROM FINANCE DIRECTOR

Finance Director, Bill Gregory provided the Board with finance reports and stated that the general fund was at \$3.3M. The December 2021 SPLOST, T-SPLOST and LOST distributions were up \$20K over the November 2021 distributions. The revenue distribution for the County and Cities were provided.

IV. CITIZEN COMMENT

None

VII. MINUTES

Motion was made by Vice-Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Shirley Hines to approve the Minutes from the December 28, 2021, Regular Meeting with the following addition under New Business #5. Add to motion made by Chairman Beth Neely-Hadley, line 14, Redistricting Map *Meriwether CCSB Draft 2-HD 137-2021*. All were in favor.

VIII. PUBLIC HEARING

None

IX. APPOINTMENTS

1. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Rosla Plant to table the appointment to the CAFI Board. All were in favor.
2. Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Vice Chairman Threadgill to reappoint Sharon Bussey to the Planning Commission. This is a five-year term that will expire on January 5, 2027. All were in favor.
3. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Alfred McCoy to appoint Robin Wilkinson to the Lake Meriwether Advisory Board, District 4. This is a two-year term that will expire on January 28, 2024. All were in favor.
4. Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Vice Chairman Threadgill to reappoint Dora Terry to the Lake Meriwether Advisory Board, District 2. This is a two-year term that will expire on January 28, 2024. All were in favor.

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Alfred McCoy to table the revision of the Solid Waste Ordinance RE: Franchise Fee Section 26-118 (7) and approval of the Solid Waste Application until we can get more information. All were in favor.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Alfred McCoy to provide Building Inspections and Permitting Services for the City of Greenville upon the approval of the Agreement by the County Attorney. All were in favor.
2. Motion was made by Alfred McCoy and seconded by Vice Chairman Threadgill to approve Ordinance 2022-01 with respect to unmanned Aircraft. All were in favor.
3. Motion was made by Alfred McCoy and seconded by Vice Chairman Threadgill to set the qualifying fees for the May 24, 2022, General Primary and Non-Partisan Election that will open on Monday, March 7, 2022, and close at 12:00 noon on Friday, March 11, 2022. The fees are as follows: Magistrate Judge \$1,798, County Commission District 1, 3, and 5 \$219 for each District, Board of Education District 1, 3 and 5 \$186 for each District. All were in favor.
4. Motion was made by Alfred McCoy and seconded by Vice Chairman Threadgill to approve the Hardware Warranty Agreement by and between Dominion Voting Systems, Inc. and Meriwether County, GA and allow the Chairman to sign. All were in favor. This contract has an annual renewal for three years with an annual fee each year of \$14,529.
5. Administrator Irizarry stated the Redistricting Map will be put into a Resolution that will be created by the Reapportionment Office for the Board of Commissioners. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Rosla Plant to approve the Resolution requesting Local Legislative Delegation to present the Redistricting Map, corrected from the December 28, 2021, Board meeting, to be labeled as CCSB- Draft 2 – HD 137-2021. Voting in favor were Chairman Neely-Hadley, Vice Chairman Threadgill, Rosla Plant and Alfred McCoy. Shirley Hines was opposed. The motion passed. Theron Gay, Special Projects Director, stated this will be a Resolution drafted by the Legislative Counsel and legal department of the Reapportionment Office to meet the requirements. We are asking the Board to approve this and allow the Chairman to sign after review by the County Administrator and County Attorney. Patty Threadgill, Elections Superintendent, stated she has a deadline of February 18, 2022, to have everything complete. The motion was then amended by Vice Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Rosla Plant to add the information Theron Gay stated, to approve the Resolution that will be drafted by Legislative Council following the review from Legal and the Administrator. All were in favor.
6. Finance Director, Bill Gregory, stated several years ago auditing standards equipment capitalization was changed from \$1K to \$5K. As a new GASB requirement, our Auditors stated we need to raise this for auditing purposes. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Shirley Hines to raise the capitalization from \$1K to \$5K for auditing purposes. All were in favor.

7. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Alfred McCoy to approve the bank signatures and financial service signatures for 2022 and add a third Commissioner on the accounts. The third Commissioner added was Rosla Plant. All were in favor.

**8. (See request from Theron Gay that is listed under Report from Commissioners) Motion was made by Vice Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Shirley Hines to move forward with work from Piedmont on Hunter Welch Parkway in Chambless Village and allow the Chairman to sign the proposal and contract from Piedmont in the amount of \$28,274.90. All were in favor.

XII. REPORT FROM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Administrator Irizarry reported the County has been hit with COVID and Flu cases and was following guidelines from the State to keep everyone safe.

XIII. REPORT FROM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Hines – asked everyone to be safe following the increase in COVID cases.

Commissioner Plant – No report at this time.

Commissioner McCoy – Go Dawgs! The River Trail group met in Warm Springs and Spalding County is about ready to come in with us. Roads have been the same as usual. It has been a slow month at Lake Meriwether.

Vice Chairman Threadgill – reported he and Chairman Neely-Hadley attended the City Council Meeting in Manchester where the Council discussed a new 1300-acre project that would span over a 5–10-year period. There would be homes, trails, restaurants, a brewery, shopping, and other services. Vice Chairman Threadgill asked everyone to stay safe due to an increase in COVID cases.

**Theron Gay, Special Projects Director, asked the Board if they would add one other item to the Agenda.

There is a deep dip in the road where you enter Chambless Village. It does not appear to be pipe related. It is a bad situation and when home builders start construction it will only make this worse. Piedmont will be working in Luthersville and if we move forward with this now it would save \$1,800 by not having to remobilize. The cost will be \$28,274.90 and the County can use SPLOST funds. Motion was made by Alfred McCoy and seconded by Shirley Hines to add under New Business, 8. Request to approve and allow Chairman to sign proposal and contract from Piedmont Paving, Inc. for work at Chambless Village. All were in favor.

Chairman Neely-Hadley – stated it was great to hear the news about Manchester and this comes after hearing about the newly proposed Senior Retirement Living area. Another group will be revitalizing some of the buildings downtown. The City of Manchester's tax revenue is a little over \$1M a year and they expect another \$1M per year from the big project. Chairman Neely-Hadley hopes this is successful and will continue.

Two former Commissioners have passed away in the last year, Ms. Josie Walls, and Ms. Nancy Jones. Chairman Neely-Hadley would like the County to have a Resolution for each and present it to someone from their family.

Chairman Neely-Hadley asked Theron Gay, Special Projects Director, if he had any updates for the Board. Mr. Gay stated the County has submitted the GDOT Road Mileage and the County has received the LMIG funds. Mr. Gay reported he had attended the IDA and Water & Sewerage Meetings.

**The Board moved back to New Business #8.

XIV. REPORT FROM COUNTY ATTORNEY

County Attorney Nathan Lee reviewed the Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Greenville, and they will need to adopt our County Subdivision Ordinance for the County to provide Permitting and Inspection services. County Administrator Irizarry will reach out to the Mayor of Greenville with this information.

Commissioner Hines stated during one of the last meetings, the Infrastructure Bill was brought up and Commissioner Hines wants the County to look and see how the money will be distributed since she had heard it may be through a grant. There was further discussion on the first distribution of funds to the State. There may be a second distribution and Administrator Irizarry will look into this.

XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Rosla Plant to go into Executive Session at 9:32 a.m. to discuss Litigation, Personnel, and Tax Matters. All were in favor.

Vice Chairman Threadgill left Executive Session at 11:02 a.m.

Commissioner Hines left Executive Session at 11:45 a.m.

Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Alfred McCoy to go out of Executive Session at 11:56 a.m. All were in favor.

Motion was made by Alfred McCoy and seconded by Rosla Plant to go back into Regular Session at 11:59 a.m. All were in favor.

Action was taken in Executive Session. Motion was made by Alfred McCoy and seconded by Rosla Plant to allow the Administrator to pursue hiring a firm or company to assist IT. All were in favor.

There was no other Business.

XVI. FUTURE MEETINGS & NOTICES

Chairman Neely-Hadley announced Future Meetings and Notices prior to Executive Session.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Alfred McCoy to adjourn at 11:59 a.m. All were in favor.

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

Attest: *Allison S. Stephens, Deputy Clerk*

Date: *January 25, 2022*