

MINUTES
MERIWETHER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

June 8, 2022

9:00 A.M.

This meeting was held in person and also by Zoom due to COVID

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, County Clerk Beverly Thomas, Director of Special Projects Theron Gay, Finance Director Bill Gregory, Attorney Nathan Lee

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Beth-Neely Hadley

II. INVOCATION

Vice-Chairman Alfred McCoy

III. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

All

IV. ADOPT AGENDA

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Rosla Plant to adopt the Agenda with the following changes under New Business: add 7. Fencing request from Keep Meriwether Beautiful, 8. LMIG changes, Move New Business 3. State Agency 2023 Budget Requests to follow Appointments

All were in favor.

V. FINANCE REPORT

Bill Gregory, Finance Director, noted a typo on the Finance Report and stated the balance in the General Fund should be \$4,131,622.85. The original estimate for SPLOST was \$90K but the average is around \$125K. Last month we received \$147K. The same holds true for T-SPLOST. The budgeted amount is \$92K and last month we received \$122K. The average is \$106K.

VI. CITIZEN COMMENT

None

VII. MINUTES

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Shirley Hines to approve the Minutes from the May 24, 2022, 4:00 p.m. Work Session with the following change: In the 5th sentence of the section reading "Update on Fire Stations", change from "Rocky Mount" to "Alvaton" and to approve the Minutes of the May 24, 2022 Regular Meeting. All were in favor.

Motion was made by Alfred McCoy and seconded by Vice Chairman Threadgill to correct the Minutes from the April 26, 2022 Meeting to include the following conditions under Zoning Case #2022-002 – Special Use-Telecommunications Tower, Harmoni Towers: 1. The height of the tower shall not exceed the proposed 305 feet, excluding any antennas. 2. Applicant shall comply with all provisions of The Meriwether County Communications Tower Regulations, as confirmed in The Meriwether County Zoning Ordinance, Appendix A, Article 9. 3. Tower compound area and guy wire anchors shall be fenced in accordance with submitted plans and construction details. 4. Meriwether County shall have the right to co-locate county communication equipment on the subject tower at no cost, provided the placement of the county equipment does not interfere with the tower's equipment or operations. All were in favor.

VIII. PUBLIC HEARING

None

IX. APPOINTMENTS

1. Region 4 EMS Council, Position 1 – to fill a three-year term that will expire on 6-30-2022 (New Appointment term will expire on June 30, 2025)

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Shirley Hines to appoint Danny Stephens to the Region 4 EMS, Position 1. All were in favor.

2. Region 4 EMS Council, Position 2 – Proclaim Michael Nelson to Position 2- With an expiration date of 6-30-24

Mr. Nelson went from full-time to part-time and was not eligible to fill this position.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Shirley Hines to appoint Robert Etheridge to the Region 4 EMS Council, Position 2. All were in favor.

3. Appointment to the Pine Mountain Regional Library Board for a term that Expires 6-30-22

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Rosla Plant to table the appointment to the Pine Mountain Regional Library Board. All were in favor.

4. Appointment to DFACS District 5, term expires 6-30-2022

Motion was made by Chairman Neely-Hadley and seconded by Vice Chairman Threadgill to reappoint Kelly Stephens to the DFACS Board. All were in favor.

5. Appointment to the Pathways Service Board, Term expires 6-30-2022

Motion was made by Chairman Neely-Hadley and seconded by Vice Chairman Threadgill to reappoint Jennifer Jones to the Pathways Service Board. All were in favor.

6. State Agency 2023 Budget Requests (Moved from new Business 3)

Kenya Lovett Jester, Meriwether County DFACS Director, asked for an additional \$3K to be added to her \$25K Budget amount from last year. Ms. Jester explained the increase was due to inflation and all that was going on with children and families. Their office is still working some from home but are in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Foster care is up and they have more foster parents now to move kids back to Meriwether County. There are still foster kids in Augusta and Savannah. Even with the increase they will still be cutting it short to meet the needs of the children. Ms. Jester provided information on the items that DFACS provides to the children and foster families.

District Attorney Herbert Cranford, of the Coweta Circuit, requested a 10% increase for personnel. The cost of living is up, and this happened during a difficult hiring market. Lawyers across the State have added staff and his office competes with the offices in Atlanta. All 60 employees are treated as State employees with benefits. The State increased the employer cost and there are more prosecutor cases. District Attorney Cranford stated this was his 4th Commission Meeting and he was optimistic that Troup, Carroll, and Coweta will also approve the pay increases. District Attorney Cranford spoke about staffing, ARP Funds, and the approval for three Assistant District Attorneys. Since April the Circuit has lost 3 Assistant District Attorneys due to taking other positions. His office is focusing on not only hiring good people but keeping good staff. Commissioner Hines asked about the percentage of cases from Meriwether County compared to the remainder of the Circuit. District Attorney Cranford explained what cases were handled in each County in the Circuit Court. More information was shared on the positions in the Meriwether County District Attorney's office. Vice Chairman Threadgill felt the request was reasonable to hire and maintain staff.

Mr. Gregory stated Maryellen Simmons, Public Defender, was unable to attend the meeting due to court. The total Budget request was for \$194,842. This includes \$9,278 for a 5% Administrative fee to State on Salaries and Benefits. Her reason for the request is to maintain staff.

Teresa McDaniel, District Administrator for District 4 Public Health, attended the meeting by Zoom and asked for stable funding at \$152,500. That amount has been the same since 2012.

Cynthia Kilby, Library Director for the Pine Mountain Regional Library System, Manchester, requested a \$25K increase to her budget for a total of \$128K. Wages have increased and the current starting rate for a circulation clerk is \$7.45 per hour. This needs to be increased to at least \$9.00 per hour. It has been hard to fill the positions due to the pay rate which has affected the Library's operating hours on Saturdays due to not having enough staff. A new Branch Manager has been hired and they hope to start back opening on Saturdays. An increase will allow the Library to contract with a managed IT service to serve all four counties. The IT service takes up too much time for staff to do it themselves. The Library provides Wi-Fi even from the parking lot.

County Agent, Ashley Harmon, has changed to an educator position. Two years ago, the Agent left, and they moved the position to an educator position. There have been no applicants and the position has been hard to fill. They are working to make that an Agent position again. Their request was for an additional \$71 to their Budget.

Finance Director Gregory stated the remaining Budget Requests will be discussed in another meeting.

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Veronica Dowell – request for funding for the 2022 AURS Summer Program

Commissioner Hines stated after the previous discussion she had wanted to see the previous Budget that had been submitted by Beverly Ball from AURS. Commissioner Hines had spoken with Mr. Gregory on how to fund this program. We have a line item in Recreation that allows for 4 positions, and we only have two working. There was a walk-a-thon that raised \$1,300. Commissioner Hines stated there is funding and we need the program for the children. It was previously mentioned that the County would help with the PPE. Vice Chairman Threadgill stated he understood but noted the County had denied requests from others and was concerned if the Board approved one we would receive multiple requests from others. Commissioner Hines wanted the Board to come up with a funding program for Non-Profits and stated this was a program we had sponsored for many years, and it was viable to the community. Vice Chairman Threadgill stated Michael Robertson previously asked for \$8K. Chairman Neely-Hadley stated \$1,250 can come from the DATE Fund and knew it was a good program. Chairman Neely-Hadley stated we need something in place, maybe in Recreation. Mr. Gregory had spoken to Sheriff Smith who said if the Board of Education would fund some of this we may be able to help more. Ms. Dowell stated she would go to the School Board and ask for assistance with supplies, cleaning etc. Vice Chairman Threadgill stated Ms. Ball had an additional funding source. Ms. Dowell stated she had taken over the program during COVID last year and had wanted to add an additional week to the program up to August 4, 2022. There was additional discussion of the liability insurance coverage, field trips including local places, accountability of how funds are spent, and fund raisers. Chairman Neely-Hadley did not have a problem with taking the funds from recreation and wants the Board to put something in place for next year. Vice Chairman Threadgill asked if the County gave \$5K plus the DATE funds would that help, and Ms. Dowell stated she would make it work. Vice Chairman Threadgill stated the Board has given before and now more are asking for funding. We have to justify and set limits on the programs. Ms. Dowell stated she understood that and hoped if anything was given it was out of the kindness of the heart. Ms. Ball has run the program for many years and Ms. Dowell wants to make sure the youth are safe and in a good environment. After more discussion of funding, motion was made by Shirley Hines and seconded by Chairman Neely-Hadley to pay \$7,600 which included the DATE funds and PPE/Masks. All were in favor.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Recognize 2022 Graduating Seniors of County Employees

Michelle Irizarry, County Administrator stated the County recognized the following 2022 Graduating Seniors:

Alan Alexander Smith, son of Alan Smith, Fire Chief. Alex attended Daytona State University and graduated with a BS in Engineering. Alex will be working as an Engineer with Grenzebach Corporation. Alex also served for 4-years in the US Marine Corps as a Combat Engineer, and he served 4-years in the US Army as Military Intelligence. He graduated from college debt free.

Brittany Neely Carroll is the daughter of Chairman Beth Neely-Hadley and Deputy Chief, Byron Hadley. Brittany attended Jones School of Law/Faulkner University. She will be working as a Public Defender in LaGrange and will have a private Practice in Manchester. Ms. Carroll has passed the Bar Exam.

Nathan Randall Gibson is the son of Superior and Juvenile Court Clerk, Kye Gibson. Nathan will be graduating from Southwestern State University in December 2022 with a BA in History and a minor in Marketing. He is currently working with the college and with Sumter County Chamber in marketing design and promotion of ads for special events and social media. He is in the process of launching his own business, Peach 365, that will create content and promote small businesses on social media platforms. Angela Garrett Murphy is the daughter of Commissioner Rosla Plant. Angela will be graduating from University of West Georgia with a Specialist Degree in Early Childhood Education in July 2022. The Board congratulated all of the graduates.

2. Presentation of FYE 09-30-2021 Annual Report by Mauldin & Jenkins

Meredith Lipscomb, partner with Mauldin Jenkins CPA, stated they began the County Audit for the 2020 Fiscal Year. Abbott, Jordan, and Koon no longer provides Government Audits and they were helpful in transferring information to Mauldin & Jenkins. Ms. Lipscomb stated she was thrilled to work for Meriwether County and she had provided copies of the audit. Ms. Lipscomb reviewed the Auditor's Discussion and Analysis as of 9-30-2021. Ms. Lipscomb stated the financial statements are the responsibility of management and the responsibility of Mauldin Jenkins is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on their audit process. They issued an unmodified report, "clean opinion". There was supplementary information included in the financial statements that Mauldin Jenkins, CPA did not express an opinion on but more of a in relationship and beyond, which is typical of the governmental audit reporting. Ms. Lipscomb discussed the funds and revenue sources for year ending September 30, 2021. Total revenues were approximately \$17,173,000. Revenues from the prior year were approximately \$16,900,000. This gave an increase of \$270K from 2020 to 2021. The largest source of the tax is the property tax. The largest expenditure is Public Safety. The total expenditures for the year ending 9-30-2021 were \$14,265,000. The prior year was \$14,613,000. The majority of the Departments came in under budget. The most significant variances were a decrease in general government expenditures and an increase in public works expenditures. Overall, the expenditures did decrease \$300K-\$400K. The fund balance of the general fund for 9-30-2021 was approximately \$4.4 million. That is an increase of approximately \$1,685,000 from last year. The County had a balanced budget. The fund balance does not necessarily equate to funds on hand available to spend. Vice Chairman Threadgill pointed out a typo on page 7 regarding the County maintains seven special revenue funds. There was an (8) following the word seven. Regarding the fund balance the County spends approximately \$1.1M - \$1.2M a month on expenditures. The \$4.4M in the fund balance is technically about 4 months' worth of expenditures. Mauldin Jenkins generally recommends 3-5 months, and the County falls within that time period. This would differ if the County had a lot of growth such as in a large metropolitan area. Meriwether County has a strong fund balance. There are several special revenue funds and project funds. The Industrial Development Authority is a blended component unit. All of the special revenue funds that come in such as SPLOST are earmarked for certain things and cannot be used in the general fund. Ms. Lipscomb highlighted the summary of the footnotes. Ms. Lipscomb spoke of the Auditor's Responsibility under the standard that guides them. The estimates included are part of the

Audit process and they have to bring it to the Board's attention if there were any issues during the audit. Management was phenomenal and anything they needed was provided. Ms. Lipscomb discussed the findings and recommendations. The findings related to internal controls in closing out the books at year end. Auditors are not supposed to close out the County books, make the journal entries and audit that. The adjustments were made by working with Bill Gregory in the Finance Department. Some of the adjustments hit the benchmark that they were required to report that. An unmodified clean opinion was issued, and we have a strong Financial Report. Ms. Lipscomb stated that they would be happy to discuss more of the aspect of the report in detail if needed following the brief overview. Commissioner McCoy stated in looking at the Meriwether County Water & Sewerage Authority and the Industrial Development Authority, with us being a small County, how do we prevent the overlap that was discussed since some of the same people are used in different roles. Ms. Lipscomb stated that segregation of duties is something that is prevalent in small government where you don't have enough staff to completely segregate the duties. They know the cost to hire more staff may not be available due to being a small government, but they still have to communicate that to the County so that the County is aware. Mr. Gregory stated they have brought on another staff member who is now doing some of the functions that he was performing and approving. Now she performs the duty and Mr. Gregory makes the approval in order to give that separation of duties. Chairman Neely-Hadley stated it wasn't that many years ago that we had a negative fund balance. Mr. Gregory stated when he and Theron Gay came on board we were at \$2.5M negative. Chairman Neely-Hadley reiterated to the Public that the County's revenues were up, and our expenses are down. The credit for this goes to our Staff, Department Heads, and Constitutional Officers. Ms. Lipscomb stated she would be more than happy to talk to the Board if they have questions after looking over the Audit.

3. *State Agency 2023 Budget Requests (Board voted to move to follow Appointments)*

4. *Approve the 2022-2023 ACCG Property & Liability Renewal and allow the Chairman to sign*

Mr. Gregory stated this year's renewal is up \$50K over the previous year. The total amount is \$375K including the credits. A large percentage of the cost is for Auto Liability and Auto physical damage. We have recently added a New Fire Station and vehicles and we have had a lot of claims this year. Vice Chairman Threadgill asked Mr. Gregory to go out for an RFP next year. There was additional discussion of training which is provided by LGRMS and fine tuning the coverage. Motion was made by Vice-Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Shirley Hines to approve the 2022-2023 ACCG Property and Liability renewal and allow the Chairman to sign. All were in favor.

5. *Discussion and call for LOST Redistribution*

Administrator Irizarry stated the Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) must be renegotiated every ten years following the Census. The County must begin this process by July 1, 2022. Formal negotiations require Meriwether County to notify all qualified Cities and the Department of Revenue that re-negotiations are underway before July 1st. Once this is

initiated we must approve a re-negotiated distribution certificate within 60-days, or we have to go to arbitration or mediation. If an agreement is not reached by December 30, 2022, LOST will cease. As a reminder TSPLOST and SPLOST are different from LOST. Those are for special projects while LOST proceeds must be used to reduce property taxes and roll back the millage rate. Between Mr. Gay, Administrator Irizarry, and Chairman Neely-Hadley, they have met with all of the Cities except for Woodbury and Pine Mountain. Administrator Irizarry later met with the City of Woodbury. Staff recommended formally scheduling a re-negotiation meeting with these Cities and notify the Georgia Department of Revenue Commission no later than June 27, 2022. There are letters and resolutions for the Cities as well as the Intergovernmental Agreement for distribution that was included in the Commissioner's Package. The Cities do not have to pass this until after the re-negotiation meeting. Special Project Director, Theron Gay, stated the entire Board did not have to be there and could appoint the Chair and Vice Chair to be there and then to bring that information back. The purpose of the upfront meeting was to inform the Cities of what we would be doing and what was coming up. Once we notify the Revenue Commissioner the 60-day clock starts. Commissioner Hines asked what the current percentage was. Chairman Neely-Hadley pointed out from the handout what the County and Cities were receiving now from the negotiations in 2012 and how the population has changed with the new census. Motion was made by Chairman Neely-Hadley and seconded by Vice Chairman Threadgill to schedule a Special Called Meeting on June 21, 2022 at 9:00 am for LOST Negotiation and Redistribution. All were in favor.

6. Discussion of Airport Hanger Development and Financing

Administrator Irizarry stated at the February 22, 2022 meeting the Board of Commissioners approved the Airport Authority to finance \$1.7M for the Hangers. Now we have to move for the County to support the Hanger development and financing. Commissioner McCoy asked if this was just more or less an endorsement. Attorney Lee stated it is. There will be some legal work that will need to be done and brought back to the Board with potential documentation. It would not be with the County going into debt. Attorney Lee stated they are working through the particulars to get this done and it was his understanding this was a statement of support. Ms. Irizarry stated there is information included on the issue paper. Mr. Gay, Special Project Director, stated Allen Parham from F&M Bank was in the audience. A meeting was held between Allen Parham, Theron Gay, and Bill Gregory. They looked at building one T-Hanger for ten aircraft, two end units and box hangers that holds larger aircraft. The 25-year term loan would be for the estimated amount of construction plus closing cost. They are going to work with us on capping the periodic increases on the term and everything would be fixed for 60- months and it could not go up more than 2%. Special Projects Director, Theron Gay, stated one thing they recommend, if the Board agrees to support this, is to bring the finances, check writing, and payment of the bills that is currently managed by the Airport Authority, back under the guidance of our County Finance Department to ensure there is consistency, not meaning that it is not, but it just helps us manage. The airport is a small group, and the Finance Department has experienced staff to help. Legal would be handled with our Attorney who will look at it and Roger Murray, who is a Bond Attorney, will also look at this. Both Attorney Lee and Special Projects Director, Theron Gay, have worked with

Mr. Murray over many years. The decision was made to not to go with a bond due to the cost. Attorney Lee stated he had discussed with Mr. Parham that bond financing was an option but the legal cost with putting a bond together does not make it cost effective. An example was given. It was confirmed that the T-Hangers have been rented and deposits have been made and two of the maintenance hangers have been spoken for. Mr. Parham stated he believed all had been pre-leased along with the storage units. The funding structure discussed, because of the cost of bond financing, is basically a loan to the Meriwether County Airport Authority with an Intergovernmental Contract and Guarantee from the Meriwether County Board of Commissioners. Mr. Parham discussed with Mr. Murray yesterday that the Bank would take a deed for debt on the Airport itself. The Bank has worked with the Airport in the past. This will be a 25-year amortized note. F&M proposed that it would be a loan based on prime and even though Mr. Parham knows the Federal Reserve will be increasing the prime rate this month, F&M will hold the current rate of 4% for 90-days. There is no pre-payment penalty. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Shirley Hines to support moving forward with this loan. All were in favor.

7. *Fencing request from Keep Meriwether Beautiful*

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Alfred McCoy to approve Public Works to move forward with temporary fencing panels for Keep Meriwether Beautiful – 300' of 6' panels with stands for two sites. These can be used over again. Motion was amended to by Vice Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Alfred McCoy to include SPLOST as the funding source. All were in favor.

8. *LMIG changes*

Commissioner Hines has been receiving calls about Forrest Road. Photos were shown to the Board members. The County worked on a part of Forrest Road 2-3 years ago, and other sections have been worked on numerous times. Commissioner Hines stated she did not know how Weaver Parks Road got on the list since no one lives on that road and half of that road was closed off about 3-years ago. Commissioner Hines stated Forrest Road needs to be resurfaced this year. There was a concern of future detours on Hwy. 100 and Hwy. 54 which means traffic will come onto Forrest Road. Commissioner Hines recommended to use funds that were set aside for Weaver Parks Road on Forrest Road. Commissioner Plant stated Forrest Road from Cousins Road to the City limits of Lone Oak is three miles. The first mile off Forrest Road from Hwy. 100 was addressed and it was possibly a full depth reclamation. When you hit Cousins Road it is noticeably different with major areas in the 3-mile stretch. To address the full 3-miles we are looking at \$1,526,870. If we just address the major 5 patches we are looking at \$337,706. If we take the amount allotted from King Road \$193,356.62, and Weaver Parks, \$88,223.44 we would be looking at \$281,581.06 which is a difference of \$56,225 that we had for the LMIG funding to address those two roads. Commissioner Plant recommended that we have to do work on Forrest Road and that we do the full 5 patch area which will address some of the road, but it will not address all 3 miles. It is from the City limits of Lone Oak south to Cousins Road. Bill Cawthorne stated there are 5 different sections that are in complete base failure. The patches do not address the 3-mile section that is in very bad shape and will continue to deteriorate in the areas we don't patch. The patch prices

were based on what we have in our current bid. Vice Chairman Threadgill stated with the detour coming and having trucks on this road would it be beneficial to patch this road at this time since they may tear up the patches and the rest of the road or would we want to wait until after the detour. Chairman Neely-Hadley stated this would not be the actual detour, but people may use it as a detour. There was discussion of when GDOT may start their project that may have an effect on Forrest Road traffic. Commissioner Hines stated there are approximately 100 houses on Forrest Road and that it was in a bad condition. Commissioner Hines thanked Mr. Cawthorne for the list he previously provided that rated the roads. Commissioner Hines stated the Board had previously stated they would address roads that were in a bad condition first rather than each Commissioner selecting from their district. Chairman Neely-Hadley stated that is why we are doing so much on Luthersville Road. Commissioner Hines wanted to look at other options for revenue and asked Administrator Irizarry about information on the Infrastructure Bill. There is a SS4A grant and is due by September 15, 2022 that could help offset the cost. Commissioner Hines stated both she and Commissioner Plant gets calls regarding Forrest Road. Vice Chairman Threadgill stated it wasn't that he did not want to get this done but wondered how the road would be affected with more traffic on this road and what the outcome would be at the end. Vice Chairman Threadgill wondered if the County could do something for now, until after the detour and was worried about it costing more in the end because of what is coming. Bill Cawthorne stated it would depend on the process such as a full depth reclamation in those five areas, they would be fine. The County could do a temporary leveling and surfacing over the five bad areas that would be a lot less. That would hold it over and make it a safe drive that would be temporary. There was more conversation regarding how to address the conditions of Forrest Road. Mr. Cawthorne stated there are so many Roads and section of Roads in Meriwether County that are in the same condition or worse than Forrest Road. Mr. Cawthorne stated it all goes back to funding. Funds would be available in T-SPLOST to address the 5 areas on Forrest Road, after taking away LMIG funds for Weaver Parks Road and King Road. Mr. Cawthorne stated he would need to get Piedmont out there to look at the patches regarding prices on full depth or deep patch depending on how stable the area is. Pricing will probably change due to the equipment that would be used and asphalt prices have increased since we have had that contract. Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Shirley Hines to move forward with making the necessary changes on LMIG funds to move from King Road and Weaver Parks Road to Forrest Road to address the 5-patch areas and come back to the Board with prices. All were in favor.

XII. REPORT FROM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Administrator Irizarry reported Flags were at half-staff due to the passing of former First Lady of Georgia, Betty Foy Sanders, on May 29, 2022.

EPPS is not able to start correction work due to rain.

Cameras have been used to photograph inside the roof drains at the Courthouse and they feel they can make the repairs. Principle will come back with the cost for the repairs.

XIII. REPORT FROM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Hines – reported a Rural Housing Preservation Grant just came out June 5, 2022. The deadline to submit is July 11, 2022. The grant is for repairs to homes and

there are houses in low-income rural areas. Commissioner Hines gave some of the specifics of the grant. The information on the grant was given to Administrator Irizarry to review. DCA has a program to help assist people with their rent. There is a meeting today at the DFACS office in LaGrange and Commissioner Hines wants to have them come to Meriwether County to discuss how the system works.

Under the Infrastructure Bill there are three tiers, and we can apply with the Federal Government or the State of Georgia. There is also a program for Rural County Culverts and Bridges. Commissioner Hines would like for the County to look into this as a resource to get some of the Culverts and Bridges in Meriwether County repaired. On June 12th there is a Pasture Dash at the Cotton-Pickin' Fair for those who want to compete.

Commissioner Plant – attended an ACCG class at Callaway Gardens last week called Global Commerce. Good contact information was provided. Commissioner Plant found out that Ms. Jane Fryer, from the Meriwether County IDA, was very well known and respected throughout the State. The second class taken was about the Service Delivery Strategy. The interesting thing that Commissioner Plant took away from that class was when Amazon started to collect sales tax and how that revenue comes back to the County from the Department of Revenue. We may be losing revenue because Grantville, Hogansville, Pine Mountain, and Senoia have addresses that are in Meriwether County. We may need to push home addresses of the recipient of the Amazon orders for the sales tax to come to us. This would require State Legislature. Jane Fryer, IDA Director, came up with a news release last week of IDA parcels of land sales and the potential for creating 275 jobs that will come to Meriwether County. Commissioner Plant thanked Ms. Jane Fryer and Alan Parham who were in the audience and who serves on the IDA Board. Commissioner Plant expressed thanks to Mr. Freddie Hines, who just left the meeting, for his service on the IDA Board. Peaches in the Pines will be held this Saturday. Thanks were given to Commissioner Alfred McCoy for building the stage and also to Mr. Bill Cawthorne. Commissioner Plant thanked Larry Dunaway for the tickets. Everyone was invited to attend the event.

Chairman Neely-Hadley – announced that Commissioner Hines had completed a Specialty Training Class, Economic Development, through ACCG. The Board congratulated Commissioner Hines on her achievement. The annual Freedom Celebration will be held in Warm Springs on June 25, 2022. All were invited to attend.

Vice Chairman Threadgill – reported the City of Manchester will have fireworks this year. More information will follow.

Today was a good report on the finances of the County. Vice Chairman Threadgill thanked everyone who had a hand in that.

Commissioner McCoy – reported next Monday work will begin on the boat launch at Flint River. The State will be building the boat launch. Bill Cawthorne provided an update on the progress at Lake Meriwether. Presently, the County is still working on installing the new septic system which is a lift station and drain field area in back of the bathroom/shower house. A septic tank and drain field area have been installed for the RV

area. We have the electrical boxes and wiring for the RV sites and are waiting to get the lift station hooked up and activated. Commissioner McCoy stated the County agreed to extend RV parking to allow for six more spaces. The water was rerouted out of the City's Water Plant and some of the pipes burst yesterday. The bathrooms have been shut down overnight due to the pressure coming off that Plant. They should be repaired this morning. Commissioner McCoy stated Bill Cawthorne came in last Tuesday and helped to mix concrete for the stage at Meriwether Park. Thanks, were also given to Doug, Alan, and others from Public Works for their help.

XIV. REPORT FROM COUNTY ATTORNEY

Stated Executive Session was needed for Personnel and Real Estate.

XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Rosla Plant to go into Executive Session at 10:58 a.m. All were in favor. Vice Chairman Threadgill left Executive Session at 11:24 a.m.

Motion was made by Alfred McCoy and seconded by Rosla Plant to go out of Executive at 11:46 a.m. All were in favor.

Motion was made by Alfred McCoy and seconded by Rosla Plant to go back into Regular Session at 11:49 a.m. All were in favor.

Action was taken. Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Alfred McCoy to approve the salary adjustment as discussed in Executive Session. All were in favor.

Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Shirley Hines to approve an unpaid leave request for an employee. All were in favor.

Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Alfred McCoy to override Empower's withdrawal decision for a hardship withdrawal. All were in favor.

XVI. FUTURE MEETINGS & NOTICES

June 20, 2022, Juneteenth Holiday

June 28, 2022, Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Alfred McCoy to adjourn at 11:50 a.m. All were in favor.

Approved by: Majority vote of the Board of Commissioners

Attest: Beverly A. Thomas

Date: June 28, 2022