

MINUTES
MERIWETHER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
June 14, 2023
9:00 A.M.

Commissioners Present: Chairman Bryan Threadgill, Vice Chairman Gene King, Commissioner Rosla Plant, Commissioner Emmett Collins, and Commissioner Adam Worsley
Commissioners Absent: None
Staff Present: County Administrator Michelle Irizarry, Finance Director Bill Gregory, Deputy County Clerk Allyson Stephens, and County Attorney Nathan Lee
Staff Absent: County Clerk Beverly Thomas

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by Finance Director Bill Gregory

III. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

All. Chairman Threadgill reminded everyone that on June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress introduced the first American Flag and asked that this be remembered as we give Pledge to the Flag.

IV. ADOPT AGENDA

A motion was made to Adopt the Agenda as presented by Vice Chairman Gene King and seconded by Commissioner Emmett Collins. All were in favor.

V. PRESENTATIONS

None

VI. FINANCE REPORT

Finance Director Bill Gregory provided reports and stated they were pretty standard. Director Gregory explained that the General Fund is continuing to go down a little each month due to the timing of property tax payments but that everything still looked good, and the surplus of the General Fund was still in the State Treasury Account. Chairman Threadgill stated he noticed the ARPA went down about \$33,000.00 and not sure of anything approved for that amount as the Board did approve something from that account, but not in that amount. Finance Director Gregory stated he would take a look into that and get back with the Board. Commissioner Worsley asked if there was a breakdown for in depth for the TSPLOST and SPLOST to see what was in each category. Chairman Threadgill explained that this was to see what was committed from previous Boards as well as what has been committed to date. Finance Director Gregory explained that he and County Administrator Irizarry had discussed this and would be working on that. Vice Chairman King asked if Administrator Irizarry mentioned to him about a line item for the landfill. Vice Chairman King stated that on the report it says landfill and asked if that was the money that was set aside for the old landfill. Finance Director Gregory stated that is correct. Vice Chairman King asked Administrator Irizarry if she mentioned to the Finance Director about the line item. Administrator Irizarry stated there is a line item that the revenue goes into within the

budget and explained it is not on the report as a line item because it is not its own separate account. Chairman Threadgill explained that it goes into the General Fund. Finance Director Gregory confirmed that was correct. Vice Chairman King stated that he thought it could be on the report, just for the numbers, but he understood.

VII. CITIZEN COMMENT

Michael Robertson of 35 Dolly Harris Road, Senoia explained to the Board that he sent an email package that contained a budget and objective of what the program is about. Mr. Robertson explained the program is basically catering to SAT, ACT, and ASVAB. Mr. Robertson stated it is for both Manchester and Greenville High School students who meet certain criteria. Mr. Robertson stated the criteria are GPA, interest in the Army or one of the military programs, and/or have interest from a College. Mr. Robertson stated that eligible students must be in the 9th, 10th, or 11th grade to be in the program. Mr. Robertson explained the transparency with the program is that no money is put into their account, and what happens is once the student or student athlete reaches the criteria, the Counselor from each school will contact the County and let them know that there is money set aside for the student to go and take the SAT, ACT, or the ASVAB. Mr. Robertson explained the only other thing in the program is the transportation and food stipends for when the student does go to take the test as the test are no less than three- and one-half hours and this is the reason there is money shown for food. Mr. Robertson stated that again, nothing takes place until the student reaches the criteria and the money that you see in the budget probably won't even be given or reached that year.

VIII. MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Rosla Plant and seconded by Vice Chairman Gene King to accept the minutes of the May 23, 2023, 6:00 p.m. Regular Meeting. All were in favor. A motion was made by Commissioner Rosla Plant and seconded by Commissioner Adam Worsley to accept the minutes of the June 5, 2023, 4:00 p.m. Special Called Meeting. All were in favor.

IX. PUBLIC HEARING

None

X. APPOINTMENTS

1. Appointment to DFACS, District 4, to fill a five-year term (current term to expire 6-30-2023).

A motion was made by Chairman Bryan Threadgill and seconded by Commissioner Rosla Plant to table the appointment to DFACS, District 4, to fill a five-year term (current term to expire 6-30-2023). All were in favor.

2. Appointment to the Library Board to fill a three-year term (current term to expire 6-30-2023).

A motion was made by Chairman Bryan Threadgill and seconded by Vice Chairman Gene King to table the appointment to the Library Board to fill a three-year term (current term to expire 6-30-2023). All were in favor.

3. Appointment to Region Six Department of Behavioral Health & Development Disabilities Board to fill a three-year term (current term to expire 6-30-2023)

A motion was made by Commissioner Adam Worsley and seconded by Commissioner Emmett Collins to table the appointment to Region Six Department of Behavioral Health & Development Disabilities Board to fill a three-year term (current term to expire 6-30-2023). All were in favor.

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

XII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Agency Subsidies Fiscal Year 2023-2024 funding request

Finance Director Bill Gregory stated that there are several state agencies present whose budget runs on a start date of July 1st. Finance Director Gregory explained that these requests have to be heard and initiated by July 1st.

Meriwether County Department of Family and Children Services- Director of Meriwether County Department of Family and Children Services, Kenya Lovett Jester addressed the Board by Zoom on behalf of their department. Ms. Jester explained that the budget request of \$25,000 is to maintain the funding for the children who are in the custody of DFACS. Ms. Jester explained that the number of children in custody has decreased and right now there is a total of 29 children in the custody of DFACS. Ms. Jester stated they were able to oversee permanency for several of their children last year even through the pandemic and not being in the office full-time. Ms. Jester stated they are still working towards permanency for all of the children in the department's care. Ms. Jester explained that the funds go towards the care of the children when they are not in standardized foster homes, and they are having to be placed in other counties and hotels. Ms. Jester stated that they also use the money for children's extracurricular activities, additional medical needs not covered by Medicaid, and also have to utilize county financial policy if children are placed in another county. Ms. Jester explained that the department wants to provide as much normalcy as possible for the children and allow them to participate in activities. Ms. Jester stated they are asking to still be able to keep the \$25,000 amount for County funds. Chairman Threadgill asked Ms. Jester if the amount was \$25,000 or \$28,000. Ms. Jester thanked him and stated it is \$28,000.

Finance Director Gregory stated these requests will not need to be voted on today but will need to be voted on at the night meeting in June.

Meriwether County Public Defender's Office- Ms. Maryellen Simmons, Circuit Public Defender thanked the Board for allowing them to come and speak. Ms. Simmons introduced the Chief Assistant Public Defender, Rick Samper. Ms. Simmons explained that Mr. Samper is living in Meriwether County with his wife and mother-in-law. Ms. Simmons introduced Dawn Broome, Circuit Administrator. Ms. Simmons stated that their office has been fortunate to have the Meriwether County Public Defender, Ryan Fuller, for 17 years, actually starting with the Public Defender's Office in 2006. Ms. Simmons explained what their agency does in providing legal representation to those that are indigent required by the constitution. Ms. Simmons explained that this started by being funded by county contracts and in 2003 the Department of Justice did a review, and it was determined the system must be more standardized through a state system. Ms. Simmons stated in 2005 the State of Georgia began the Georgia Public Defender Council. Ms. Simmons explained that their department represents people who are indigent, but they do have to qualify and not everyone does qualify because they have to follow indigency guidelines that are set by the poverty guidelines. Ms. Simmons explained that in order to qualify for the services, the individual must fall below poverty guidelines. Ms. Simmons stated there are applications that have to be filled out and verification checks as well. Ms. Simmons stated that the circuit is audited through the legislature and has been audited twice, passing with 100%, showing that they do follow guidelines. Ms. Simmons stated that their office represents cases through Juvenile Court, which is where Mr. Fuller is today. Ms. Simmons stated they also

represent persons through DFCS, as well as Magistrate, Probate, and Superior Court. Ms. Simmons stated that Mr. Fuller handles all of this and has a very busy schedule, going to the jail at night and on weekends and is very dedicated to the community. Ms. Simmons stated that Mr. Fuller keeps cases moving, meaning there are less people in jail. Ms. Simmons stated there is a common objective as they don't like their clients in jail and understands the County doesn't like them in jail either as it costs them money. Ms. Simmons stated that the circuit has fallen behind on what they are paying Mr. Fuller and realize she is asking for a substantial pay increase, but over the last 2-3 years there has been an initiative through the state and multiple counties that have recognized that lawyers coming out of school are not wanting to be Public Defenders or District Attorneys and there are numerous vacancies across the circuit. Ms. Simmons explained when there are vacancies, caseloads go up and people sit in jail longer. Ms. Simmons stated it is important to have more attorneys and to do that several counties and the state have initiatives to make the pay more competitive, although it is still behind what people can make in private practice, but at least provides a better standard of living. Ms. Simmons stated the legislature passed a bill 2 years prior that stated that public defenders should be treated on parity with PAC with the District Attorney's Office. Ms. Simmons stated this was supported by Pac, including Pete Skandalakis and Mr. Cranford because they all work a lot of hours and do a lot of hard work to make the judicial system work. Ms. Simmons stated that when they received and looked at the breakdown of salaries trying to get to parity with PAC with the District Attorney's Office, many of the Public Defender attorneys were far behind where they were due to them being around longer and trying to play catch up. Ms. Simmons stated that at this point she is asking for a \$10,000 pay raise taking him to \$90,000 which is still somewhat less than what people on his level are at. Ms. Simmons states this does get Mr. Fuller up to making more than people who have been in the system less time with less experience. Ms. Simmons stated that if Mr. Fuller's salary stays where it is, there are people with less years with the D.A. or Public Defender making more than him. Ms. Simmons explained that she doesn't want to lose Mr. Fuller for this community and has openings in Carroll, Coweta, and Troup Counties currently that have been open for over a year and they are not getting applicants. Ms. Simmons stated Mr. Fuller is dedicated to this community and serves Meriwether County well and they want to make sure he feels appreciated for the service that he provides. Ms. Simmons asked for a \$10,000 raise in salary for Mr. Fuller. Ms. Simmons stated that all state employees were given a \$2,000 raise, but attorneys were given much more. Ms. Simmons stated there is a request also for a \$2,000 increase for the Administrative Assistant, Marianne Behrens, who also lives in Meriwether County. Ms. Simmons stated this was to keep in line with what everyone else was getting through the state, but also through the circuit. Ms. Simmons stated that she handles five counties and tries to keep everyone on a parity with each other and realizes that Meriwether County is a rural county and recognizes that as well as Heard County, but at the same time she stated they have to be able to provide stability for their offices in order to keep providing services. Chairman Threadgill stated that it looks life from last year, the actual budget request was \$30,620. Ms. Simmons explained that with the \$10,000 raise, there are taxes and benefits that go on that, totaling \$154,417.00, an administrative fee that is 5%, totaling \$10,809.00, which has been waived by their agency for the last 5 years. Ms. Simmons stated that she always puts the administrative fee in the breakdown so the Board can see that other counties are paying the 5% administrative fee. Chairman Threadgill asked if Ms. Simmons was asking the Board to pay the employee's taxes. Ms. Simmons stated that it would be just like if they were a county employee, the county would be paying their taxes and benefits, which is an employer cost and is a

percentage of the total. Commissioner Worsley stated that this was a pretty high percentage and is 71.5% just for taxes and benefits of the salary. Chairman Threadgill stated that in 2021 the Board gave a \$4,300 increase, 2022 a \$3,600 increase and for 2023 a \$12,600 and this year being asked to increase that by almost \$31,000. Ms. Simmons stated that she is not denying that appreciates the assistance. Chairman Threadgill stated he is curious as to what the next year will hold. Ms. Simmons stated that she is hoping next year will be \$2,000 per employee and she is trying to get Ryan up after having gotten the breakdown. Chairman Threadgill stated this was a huge increase. Ms. Simmons stated that she recognizes that but when she got the breakdown and realized she had employees that were so far behind, and then start risking losing employees. Ms. Simmons stated that technically Mr. Fuller should be at \$94,000, but she is not trying to do that and will not come back next year and ask for another \$10,000 jump, this is to get him to where he is not behind people that are less qualified than he is. Ms. Simmons explained that this was \$10,000 for the pay raise, which would include the taxes and benefits as well as the \$2,000 for Marianne, but they are willing to waive the \$10,809. Ms. Simmons explained that the \$10,809 is for computers and training and all other counties across the State pay that, however the State agreed to waive the fee, recognizing Meriwether County is a more rural community. Chairman Threadgill asked if the administrative fee was waived, would the employees still be able to attend trainings and receive the subsidy from somewhere else. Ms. Simmons stated that the employees would still receive their training and computers were just replaced within the last couple of years and this comes from state funds. Ms. Simmons stated that the State also pays for the investigative services through their office with Hugh Howard, who is actually shared between Meriwether and Heard County, and also cover conflict cases in Superior Court. Commissioner Worsley stated that according to the spreadsheet and the \$30,620 increase, \$10,000 is for the salary of the Public Defender, \$2,000 for the Administrative Assistant and then with taxes of around \$8,588 still leaves us with ten thousand some odd dollars not accounted for, and the math doesn't add up. Chairman Threadgill explained that what they have in front of them is \$216,184.00 and that is still a \$30,000 increase and where he is also getting confused with the administrative fee supposedly removed. Chairman Threadgill explained that it is still an increase of \$30,000 and they have \$10,000 that is not accounted for. Ms. Simmons stated that she will send this back to them and recalculate as what she is asking for is the \$90,000 for the Public Defender and the \$36,000 for the Administrative Assistant. Ms. Simmons explained that she will recalculate those taxes and benefits and make sure those numbers are correct. Commissioner Worsley asked Ms. Simmons if the Board could see the breakdown of salaries by region. Ms. Simmons stated that what she has is aligning with PACS. Ms. Simmons approached the Board and showed them that Mr. Fuller is a level three attorney based on his 20 years' experience and 17 years with the agency and showed them a chart. Commissioner Worsley stated that he is speaking to the fact of analyzing the salary for the Public Defender in Meriwether County versus the surrounding counties and wanted to know where the Public Defender falls in based on the population and caseloads. Ms. Simmons stated that speaking on caseloads, there are multiple attorneys in the other counties of the circuit. Ms. Simmons explained that they have five Superior Court attorneys in Troup, five in Coweta, six in Carroll and one in Heard. Ms. Simmons stated they have to go back and look at how many years they have been practicing, how many years they have been with the Public Defenders or D.A.'s Office, and the only way she can get the actual earnings of the D.A. is to go on Open Gov and that is a year behind. Ms. Simmons asked Commissioner Worsley if that helped, and he stated some and stated he wanted to see how she came up with what the Public Defenders increase should be compared to everyone else at his level. Ms.

Simmons stated that she can type up what she explained using the PAC numbers. Chairman Threadgill stated that if she would just get us the numbers and break it down more. Ms. Simmons stated she has to be in court when she goes back and that will take a little bit longer and asked if she could get this to the Board tomorrow. Chairman Threadgill explained that they will not be voting on that until a later meeting and that would be fine.

Meriwether County Health Department- Teresa McDaniel with District 4 Public Health explained that she is representing the Meriwether County Health Department. Ms. McDaniel asked for stable funding to subsidize their budget with fee revenue and state revenue they receive each year. Ms. McDaniel stated that some of the services provided are preventative health care, such as immunizations, treatment for STDs, TB, education for the public on preventative health care, and provide environmental health services that include sewage inspections, water testing for swimming pools, etc. Ms. McDaniel stated they also have the vital records department as well.

Pine Mountain Regional Library System (Meriwether County)- Ms. Cynthia Kilby, Director for the Pine Mountain Regional Library System stated that they serve Meriwether, Talbot, Taylor, and Upson Counties. Ms. Kilby stated there are two libraries in the County, one in Manchester and one in Greenville. Ms. Kilby explained that the main branch is in Manchester and there are seven branches which are funded by the City of Manchester, the Board of Commissioners, the Board of Education, and the City of Greenville. Ms. Kilby stated the City of Greenville's funding goes all towards the City of Greenville Library and the City of Manchester's funding goes all towards the City of Manchester Library. Ms. Kilby explained that the Board of Commissioners and Board of Education funding supports both libraries and because the main library is in Manchester, there is funding received from the Georgia Public Library service which pays her salary, her librarian's salary and pay for the business manager's salary. Ms. McDaniel stated that the Georgia Public Library service also gives them materials money that is used to purchase books for all four of the counties in the system. Ms. Kilby stated that this year she is asking for a \$5,000 increase because the insurance that they provide their employees is going up and this is the first time in 10 years they are receiving a rate hike. Ms. Kilby stated that right now the cost is \$10,116 per employee and she has three local employees who are eligible for health insurance and receive health insurance. Ms. Kilby stated in January this will increase to \$11,616 per employee, which is \$1,500 per employee. Ms. Kilby stated that she will be back again as the increase for Fiscal Year 2025 will be \$3,000 per employee, Fiscal Year 26 will be \$2,922 increase per employee and Fiscal Year 2027 about \$1,400 per employee. Ms. Kilby stated that by Fiscal Year 2027 the total cost per employee will be \$18,960.00 per employee. Ms. Kilby explained that for some of the employees, that is close to what their salaries are now, and she had wanted to ask for an increase in salaries this year but found out about the health insurance increase and is the reason she is requesting that. Ms. Kilby stated the money that the Board of Commissioners provides also goes to support the summer reading program and children's activities. Ms. Kilby stated that the summer reading program is going on right now and yesterday they had a magician come to the Manchester and Greenville Libraries where the meeting room was packed with kids, and they are able to promote reading. Ms. Kilby stated that this prevents the summer slide where kids are able to read what they want to read and not what the school is telling them to read and by the time they start school back in August, their reading skills have not slid over the summer.

Meriwether County Extension Office- County Agent Ashley Harman thanked all the Commissioners for their support and explained that 4H is even busier in the summer than in the school year and she took a group of 7th and 8th graders to camp the previous week and had a great time at Camp Fortson. Ms. Harman explained that she will take 34 students on Monday morning to Rock Eagle. Ms. Harman let the Board know that August 1st there will be a new AG Agent and she will come and introduce them to the Board. Vice Chairman Gene King asked if there was a livestock program in Meriwether County. Ms. Harman stated that there is not a livestock program in the County, but she would love to have one, however there didn't seem to be that much interest. Ms. Harman explained when she first came to Meriwether County, she held an interest meeting and it all sounded great until the realization of the expense required to feed an animal. Ms. Harman stated they would love to have the program, but there is not enough interest. Finance Director Bill Gregory stated that would conclude the presentations from the State Agencies and asked that the Board review and vote on the requests at the next meeting.

2. **Jail Roof Proposals**

County Administrator Michelle Irizarry stated that Special Projects Manager Theron Gay had been very hands-on with this project. Special Projects Manager Theron Gay stated that per the request of the Commissioners, staff sent out a request for proposal for the replacement of the roof at the Meriwether County Jail and the Jail Annex, which was split into two different projects. Mr. Gay stated there was a mandatory pre-proposal meeting that was held on May 18th, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. and proposals were accepted until 2:00 p.m. on May 26th, 2023. Mr. Gay stated two proposals were received with three people attending the proposal meeting. Mr. Gay explained that two of the proposals were received in a timely manner that were opened, read aloud, and recorded by County staff. Present for the proposal opening were Commissioner Emmett Collins, County Administrator Michelle Irizarry, Deputy Clerk Allyson Stephens, and Special Projects Manager Theron Gay. Mr. Gay stated that there was a third proposal received that was after the 2:00 p.m. deadline that was not opened or considered. Mr. Gay stated once received both proposals were reviewed by County staff to ensure compliance with the RFP and to determine the proposal was qualified. Mr. Gay stated that he and Administrator Irizarry checked references and they were really good for the recommended company. Mr. Gay stated the proposed work and material of both companies was almost identical, with both quoting a 60mil TPO membrane over an R25 insulation board manufactured by a known material supplier. Mr. Gay stated that warranties for both were 20-year no dollar limit coverage and while the ongoing maintenance contract was not required, he would recommend the Board look at that to assure the 20-year warranties are not breached. Mr. Gay stated that on June 7th, 2023, himself and Commissioner Collins and Commissioner Worsley met as they volunteered to look over the proposals for them and with them to discuss findings and recommendations. Mr. Gay stated there were two major points of consideration coming out of the meeting, one being cost, and the method of roof attachments. Mr. Gay stated the company with the lowest cost proposed a mechanical attachment system, while the other company proposed an adhesive attachment. Mr. Gay stated in order to be sure we would be getting the best product for our investment; the companies were contacted, and this was discussed with them as well as questions that were not answered in the proposal. Mr. Gay stated research was done to see if one methodology of roof attachment was superior to the other and found that about 80% of the TPO projects use a mechanical attachment because it is less expensive, allows a faster completion time, and is not weather dependent. Mr. Gay explained that both mechanical application and adhesive applications have their advantages and disadvantages, but neither is inherently superior to the

other, both are proven applications and carry the same warranty. Mr. Gay stated considering these facts, staff recommendation and the recommendation from the committee was to award the project to A.C.R. (Alpha Commercial Roofing) for the Jail only at this time. Mr. Gay explained that staff felt there was more work that needing to be done on the Annex before moving forward. Mr. Gay stated the quoted price from A.C.R. was \$208,409.04, which was \$75,000 to \$80,000 less than the other proposal. Mr. Gay stated that the company wasn't sure to include the bond and the bond of 3% had to be added in, coming to a total of \$214,661.31. Mr. Gay stated when he called the company to ask about the bond, the company indicated they had not included it, but did indicate that they would give the County the first-year maintenance contract at no cost to subsidize some of that, with subsequent maintenance contracts being \$1500 per year. Mr. Gay stated this would include the company coming out a couple times a year to make sure to check all the edges of the gutters and make sure leaves are all removed, and check anything that looks like it might be starting to deteriorate or any problems and fix them while they are on site. Mr. Gay explained that other information for the Board's consideration was \$78,000 less than the other proposal, materials on site in approximately 30 days, and two to three weeks on removal and installation, depending on weather. Mr. Gay stated the company is aware that this project will have to be done in phases so the jail can stay open, and he has already spoken to the Sheriff and Chief Deputy, and they understand that they will have to move some of the prisoners around and work with them on this project and they were fine to do so. Mr. Gay offered to answer any questions the Board may have. Chairman Threadgill asked what the additional cost was for the Annex. Mr. Gay stated it was \$109,000 to \$110,000 additional. Mr. Gay stated again that the recommendation from staff would be A.C.R. who has also done some work for the City of Manchester as well as Jackson County, and both were very pleased with their work. Mr. Gay stated according to references, A.C.R. was very timely and came in on budget or under budget and came in on schedule. Chairman Threadgill wanted to confirm there was a 20-year warranty. Mr. Gay confirmed. Chairman Threadgill asked if we have to fill out the warranty paperwork. Mr. Gay stated we will make sure the warranty paperwork is filled out and explained for the first two years the warranty goes back to the installing company, but after that it falls back to the manufacturer. Mr. Gay stated the manufacturer will send out a representative to make sure the roof has been properly applied. Mr. Gay stated that one of the goals was not to patch over what was there and this will be stripped all the way down with new flashing and parapet walls, as well as all new insulation. Mr. Gay stated the R25 board that will be installed is a long wedge-shaped board that could create positive drainage from the center of the roof by using it. Chairman Threadgill asked Mr. Gay how long it would take to complete. Mr. Gay stated that the company stated 2-3 weeks, once the material was on the ground. Commissioner Worsley asked if approved, how long would it take to give the company the go ahead. Mr. Gay stated if approved, staff would call the company that afternoon or next day and let them know to get all the bonds together. Mr. Gay stated the company will also put out a yellow color walk track that goes out to the Heating and AC units to allow more of thickness and better access when those items are needing to be serviced. Vice Chairman King asked who will make sure the warranty would be filled out this time. Mr. Gay stated both the company and the County. Administrator Irizarry stated that the warranty will be covered the first year, however they will need to budget for every additional year. Chairman Threadgill asked if that was \$1,500 for 19 years or 20. Mr. Gay stated this will be for 19 years because the first year will be free of charge. Vice Chairman King wants to make sure the warranty is in place before the company is paid in full and counsel reviews the warranty. Mr. Gay explained he understood and expressed the importance of following the

maintenance schedule. Vice Chairman King stated that he wants to make sure the warranty company has been around for a while and doesn't want to end up in a situation where the company goes bankrupt. Mr. Gay explained that the warranty will be with the manufacturer, which is GAF or Firestone. Mr. Gay stated that if for some reason the company does go out of business, a representative would be able to come out from GAF or Firestone. Chairman Threadgill asked if the company would be using GAF or Firestone. Mr. Gay stated the company advised that we could use either one and he will let them know to use GAF as Chairman Threadgill stated they had a better rating. A motion was made by Vice Chairman King and seconded by Commissioner Collins to accept the company A.C.R for the Jail only at this time with the 3% bond for the total of \$214,661.31 plus adding the \$1,500 maintenance contract for 19 consecutive years, contingent on coming out of SPLOST funding, pending Finance Director Gregory providing the Board with proper documentation of funds available. All were in favor.

3. **ACCG Property and Liability Renewal Contract and Allow Chairman to sign**
Administrator Irizarry started about by explaining that the County had several large claims to include the Health Department times 2, DFCS, still waiting on the Courthouse, and motor vehicle accidents. Administrator Irizarry stated that there is a significant increase that has been proposed by ACCG in the amount of \$547,000. Chairman Threadgill asked what the previous year premium was. Finance Director Gregory stated \$375,000. Chairman Threadgill asked if the individuals wrecking the vehicles are being held liable. Administrator Irizarry stated that was a very small part of our claims, however the County needs to look at working with the Safety Committee and offering a defensive driving course for all employees who operate County vehicles. Chairman Threadgill asked if that would help. Administrator Irizarry stated that it would help, and didn't know how significantly, but it would teach those drivers important skills. Chairman Threadgill asked if we needed to vote on this today. Administrator Irizarry stated that it could be voted on today, however staff are working to seek other quotes to see if there are better premium options available, and she does state this with caution due to claim history. A motion was made by Vice Chairman King and seconded by Chairman Threadgill to table the ACCG Property and Liability Renewal Contract to the next meeting on June 27, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. All were in favor.

XIII. REPORT FROM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Administrator Irizarry read an article from the newspaper, which was a letter to the Editor, titled "Grateful Thanks to EMS" by Roy and Inez Watson. Administrator Irizarry stated this was in the Star Mercury Vindicator on Wednesday, May 3, 2023. The article thanked and wanted Fire and EMS acknowledged for their professionalism and quick work as well as the volunteers regarding Ms. Watson falling and receiving a deep laceration to her head. Administrator Irizarry stated that she wanted to take a moment and let the Board know this was in the paper and thanked Fire and EMS for what they do. Administrator Irizarry stated there was a mandatory pre-bid meeting held on June 5, 2023, for Strickland Town Road and River Cove Road. Administrator Irizarry stated that the bid opening for those projects would be June 15, 2023. Administrator Irizarry stated that was a mandatory pre-bid meeting and all questions that have been asked and have been answered to the vendors. Administrator Irizarry stated there was also a mandatory pre-bid meeting for Dukes Waddell Road on June 12th, and those questions are in the process of being answered and the bid opening will be on June 22, 2023. Administrator Irizarry stated that staff are currently working on the RFP for the Tax Building, and she received an excellent report from Peaches in the Pines that there was over 1,400 in attendance with lots of food trucks, disc golf, and

entertainment. Administrator Irizarry stated that they wanted to express thanks to Public Works and Fire/EMS for being in attendance.

XIV. REPORT FROM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Emmett Collins: Thanked all of the county employees and staff for all the work they have done.

Commissioner Rosla Plant: Stated that West Georgia Technical is offering summer adult classes on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at the Greenville facility from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. Commissioner Plant stated for more information there is a flyer available and encouraged anyone that wanted and could to participate. Commissioner Plant also thanked West Georgia Technical Institute for offering the classes.

Vice Chairman Gene King: Wanted to clarify that what he was asking for earlier with regards to a line item. Vice Chairman King stated that he understands the money goes into the General Fund, but when a big check is deposited, all they see is the balance of the General Fund and since the money is received quarterly, he would like to see the amounts deposited on the bottom of the sheet. Vice Chairman King stated that Towerhouse Brewery in Gay will be putting on a professional fire works performance on July 1, 2023, with live entertainment. Vice Chairman King stated that they will be offering the purchase of tables to businesses with parties of 6 or 8 in advance and there are things that go along with the VIP tables, which is most likely done to help fund the show. Vice Chairman King stated it will be large fireworks show and all family oriented. Vice Chairman King stated that he is still getting a lot of calls regarding dirt roads and wanted to thank all the employees and staff for all they do.

Commissioner Adam Worsley: Thanked all the employees and staff for what they are doing and really appreciated it.

Chairman Bryan Threadgill: Stated that the City of Manchester is having the annual fireworks show on July 3, 2023, and he was told it would be bumped up this year to be twice as big as previous years. Chairman Threadgill stated that the invitation extends to the entire County, and it will be free entry with multiple genres of music and increased the number of vendors with more activities for children and adults as well as food. Chairman Threadgill stated this will be on July 3, 2023, in Manchester at the old mill.

XV. REPORT FROM COUNTY ATTORNEY

County Attorney Nathan Lee had no report but understood there was a need for Executive Session to discuss Litigation, Personnel, Real Estate, and Tax Matters.

XVI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Vice Chairman King and seconded by Chairman Threadgill to go into Executive Session at 10:05 a.m. to discuss Litigation, Personnel, Real Estate, and Tax Matters. All were in favor.

Motion was made by Commissioner Plant and seconded by Commissioner Collins to go out of Executive Session at 11:02 a.m. All were in favor.

Motion was made by Commissioner Plant and seconded by Commissioner Collins to go back into Regular Session at 11:03 a.m. All were in favor.

There was no action taken in Executive Session.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman King and seconded by Commissioner Collins to fund the Tax Commissioners Office as discussed in Executive Session. All were in favor.

A motion was made by Commissioner Worsley and seconded by Commissioner Collins to allow the County staff to seek an RFP for a portion of County Line Road, extending 1050 feet. All were in favor. Commissioner Plant abstained the vote.

XVII. FUTURE MEETINGS & NOTICES

Chairman Bryan Threadgill made the announcement of future Meetings and Notices prior to Executive Session.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Commissioner Worsley made a motion to adjourn the Meeting. This was seconded by Commissioner Collins. All were in favor and the Meeting was adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

Approved by: Majority vote of the Board of Commissioners
Attest: Beverly Thomas, County Clerk
Date: June 27, 2023