

**MINUTES**  
**MERIWETHER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**August 22, 2023**  
**6:00 P.M.**

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Commissioners Present: Chairman Bryan Threadgill, Vice Chairman Gene King, Commissioner Rosla Plant, Commissioner Emmett Collins, and Commissioner Adam Worsley  
Staff Present: Interim County Administrator Theron Gay, County Clerk Beverly Thomas, Finance Directors Bill Gregory and John Gorton, and County Attorney Michael Hill

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Bryan Threadgill called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**II. INVOCATION**

The Invocation was given by Bill Gregory, Finance Director.

**III. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

All

**IV. ADOPT AGENDA**

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Gene King and seconded by Emmett Collins to adopt the Agenda with the following changes. Add following Finance Report, DEPARTMENT HEADS. Chairman Threadgill stated this is something we used to have up until the point of COVID. Add under New Business: 5. State Road and Tollway 6. Discuss purchase of vehicle. All were in favor.

**V. PRESENTATIONS**

None

Chairman Threadgill stated Warm Springs Medical Center sent an announcement to the County to invite First Responders and Public Service Workers to a "Lunch on the Lawn" at the Hospital on Friday, September 8, 2023 from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. The luncheon is to honor and show appreciation for all they do each day.

**VI. FINANCE REPORT**

Finance Director, Bill Gregory, reviewed the Bank Report. The General Fund has gone down over the last few months. There is over \$5.1M in the General LGIP fund and there is \$375K in the E-911 account that will be transferred over to the General Fund before September 30, 2023. Finance will move a substantial amount of the almost \$1.3M from the Fire District O&M to the General Fund for reimbursement for payroll. The County pays the payroll for the Fire Department through the General Fund and the Fire District O&M reimburses the County for that. The General Fund is in good shape for September 30<sup>th</sup>.

**VII. DEPARTMENT HEADS**

Chairman Threadgill asked Fire/EMS Chief Danny Stephens to come forward and provide information to the Board on where the Department was, how many openings he had, things we were doing, and things we were looking at for the Fire Stations.

Chief Stephens advised staffing was still a major issue with Fire and EMS. There are 45 total line positions and 19 of those positions are currently filled, which leaves 26 openings. There are about 25 Part time employees. On September 12, 2023, the County will start a new EMT class at the school in their classroom. This class will be on a volunteer friendly schedule. There may be 12 in this class. The class will be taught in the afternoons so some of the volunteer firefighters can come to the class as well. Chief Stephens reported three members of the Department have completed their Firefighter II class and they tested out this past Saturday. All three were successful in their attempts of the test. Chairman Threadgill asked where we were as far as getting all the new Fire Stations staffed. Chairman Threadgill stated we have an obligation to the Citizens of the County and had noticed three Stations were empty this weekend when he rode by and that we need to figure out a plan. Chief Stephens commented on what the pay was at \$10 - \$10.50 per hour. Chairman Threadgill stated no, we need to figure out a plan and with higher positions such as Captains, we should be able to figure out a plan to staff the Stations during the day. Chief Stephens replied they are working every day. Chairman Threadgill stated we need someone in every Station every day and the Board would help him figure out a plan. Chairman Threadgill stated the County has built all these multi-million-dollar buildings and we don't have them staffed and that is an issue. Chairman Threadgill told Chief Stephens they were not blaming him but need to figure out a plan to staff the Stations and we are a team. Chief Stephens stated he will work on that. Commissioner Worsley confirmed Chief Stephens had provided what he needed to staff and run the department in his budget. Interim Administrator Gay stated the Board would have to address this and we had been talking about the staffing issue like everyone else around. We have some thoughts and ideas on how we would like to do that. Chairman Threadgill stated the \$10 per hour that was brought up is really not \$10 per hour. It is a base that looks that way but when you add the other factors in and the additional hours, it is really not \$10 per hour. We have to be realistic and it is more on the line of \$15 to \$17 per hour with what they are paid in benefits. Chief Stephens stated he is sure there is an extra amount with fringe benefits but we are on the same playing field as every other County that offers the same fringe benefits and it is still \$10.50 per hour. Interim Administrator Gay stated we have built in overtime and this may be solved with an effective hourly rate. Interim Administrator Gay spoke to Human Resources about that today. There was more in-depth discussion on the pay rate from Board Members, Interim Administrator Gay and Chief Stephens. Interim Administrator Gay agreed we need to adjust EMS, Fire and Public Works.

Vice Chairman King asked if the EMT classes would be in the newspaper. Chief Stephens stated no, but it is shared with the Agencies, etc. We want them to either be a member of our department or a member from another department because there is insurance, HIPPA, etc. that we have to make sure is in place and provided to us in that EMT Class. Chairman Threadgill asked how long the class would take and Chief Stephens stated it would probably finish in January and it will follow a shift basis. This is for basic EMT, not advanced EMT or Paramedics. Chief Stephens explained the dates of the classes and how it works with the work shifts.

Barry Lucas, Road and Bridges Superintendent, stated he has 26 employees and is short 9. Two will retire in September and he is short on help. One of the positions that will retire is a Laborer and the other one is an Equipment I Operator. There are applications for Equipment Operators but some of them are not experienced. There are not any decent Equipment Operator applications. There are a lot of Laborer applications but once they are told what the pay is they are not interested. That pay starts at \$14 per hour and they do not want to work outside in 93

degrees plus heat when they can go to McDonalds and make \$16-\$17 per hour. Mr. Lucas stated even though he tells them the about the benefits the young employees are not interested and the older ones with a family seem to be more interested in the insurance and benefits. Mr. Lucas stated they work 8 hours plus overtime. Chairman Threadgill stated in the Work Session we are talking about having, we do have some other ideas that are coming up for all departments so maybe the Board can help to recruit and retain. That was why the Board wanted a base for different departments that are having issues with employees or more open positions than other areas. This is no fault of the Director. Chairman Threadgill stated a Work Session will be set and he had spoken with Interim Administrator Gay and would discuss this during Executive Session about some ideas to help and get us where we need to be. Mr. Lucas stated he had spoken to Bill Cawthorne and Interim Administrator Theron Gay about a scale and wanted to have something written in stone, because it is different with each individual and we need some type of standard. With standardization employees will know what they will be making. Mr. Lucas explained how that would help employees see how much more they will make the longer they are here which would then encourage them to stay. Vice Chairman King stated this entire Board is to focus on how to get the money to get the pay up and get people in Meriwether County and employees of the County to work in this County and make a difference. Vice Chairman King stated it is the Board's goal to get the pay up and get quality help. Mr. Lucas stated he has one experienced pipe crew and another one learning, two experienced motor grader operators and two that are learning, a bushhog crew with experienced operators but once you get into vacation time, rain days and the eight grass areas that need cutting it spreads everyone thin. Chairman Threadgill asked if the Public Works Department was good with equipment because if you don't have people to run certain equipment. Mr. Lucas stated right now yes, but if he had more people he could get more done. Commissioner Worsley stated if you have more people you will need more equipment. Chairman Threadgill stated we had purchased two new motor graders for a total of four. Interim Administrator Gay stated one motor grader was returned. Mr. Lucas stated we have three motor graders. Commissioner Worsley asked if he was fully staffed did we have enough equipment. Mr. Lucas stated on and off depending on the weather. When the weather is bad the bush hog crew is sent to cut up limbs from the tornado. We still have about 20% of debris on the shoulders and knows there are calls about that but cannot stop the regular duties to clean up the debris, so during the fall and winter there is time to get out there and clean that up. The plan is to get the roads going while the weather is good. Mr. Lucas stated it is the same with the bush hogging. He tries to get around the County at least two times with the bush hog or the grass will be waist high. He is trying to keep all the buildings cut and there is a patching truck and if there were two operators on that he could get more done. Vice Chairman King asked if anyone was running the Gradall that cleans out the ditches. Mr. Lucas stated the person who ran it quit last week. He needs a dump truck to follow the Gradall. Mr. Lucas stated he has one tandem running and has two box dumps but they are pulling the equipment. One of those is broke down in the shop so that gives you one dump truck. Mr. Lucas stated he could not have a tandem waiting for the Gradall to load when he has rock that needs to be hauled for the dirt roads. Vice Chairman King asked if he could use a Skid Steer and Mr. Lucas said yes, but he would need a Skid Steer operator. They are out putting in pipe so he has to prioritize what you have to do each day. Mr. Lucas stated he cannot plan his week and has to prioritize because an emergency may come in the day he has something else to do so he has to stop and postpone that. Vice Chairman King stated until we get the ditches cut out right we cannot get the roads fixed at all. Interim Administrator Gay stated one of the things with equipment is we can get some more in but the

lead time to get the equipment is long. It is better to have equipment here and work to try and get someone hired. The budget has included some other equipment that has been requested. Commissioner Worsley asked if you hire nine people tomorrow do you have work for them. Mr. Lucas stated yes, we will have them doing something. Vice Chairman King asked if the County does all the bushhogging. Mr. Lucas stated yes, on the County paved roads. Vice Chairman King asked about contracting so many miles of bushhogging. Interim Administrator Gay stated GDOT has done that and it is very expensive. Mr. Lucas stated the County workers do a good job. Chairman Threadgill spoke about the contract we have with the Harris County Prison System and how we utilize the inmates in the County to pick up trash and hoped we could use them to mow the grass around the County buildings. Interim Administrator Gay stated we do have a few contracts that we bid out for grass cutting at Lake Meriwether, Airport, and the Industrial Park.

### **VIII. CITIZEN COMMENT**

Chairman Threadgill read the section from Citizen Comment on the Agenda regarding Speakers.

1. Mr. Thrower was not present to speak.
2. Michael Robertson addressed the Board again about his request for funding for the M.A.R.S. SAT/ACT Program. Mr. Robertson met with the Board of Education and is to get back with them. They are on board if the Commissioners are on board. Chairman Threadgill asked Board Members if he could have an exception to speak since this was for Citizen Comment. The Board agreed to allow Chairman Threadgill to speak. Chairman Threadgill stated this falls under education. The Board of Commissioners do not have educational guidelines to provide funding and feels this would fall under the Board of Education. Mr. Robertson stated the County helps fund a Summer Program at the Elementary School for children. Chairman Threadgill stated that program is to help children throughout the County and is not for education, but the program Mr. Robertson has falls under education. Some of the fees for the Summer Program were paid from the D.A.T.E. fund which has strict guidelines. There were no others signed up to speak.

### **IX. MINUTES**

1. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Gene King and seconded by Emmett Collins to approve the Minutes of the August 9, 2023, 9:00 a.m. Regular Meeting. Voting in favor were Vice Chairman King, Emmett Collins, Chairman Threadgill, and Rosla Plant. Adam Worsley abstained.
2. Motion was made by Emmett Collins and seconded by Vice Chairman Gene King to approve the Minutes from the August 11, 2023, 10:00 a.m. Special Called Meeting. All were in favor.

### **X. PUBLIC HEARING**

1. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Gene King and seconded by Emmett Collins to go into a Public Hearing for the 2023 Millage Rate and Tax Digest. All were in favor. Interim Administrator Gay stated the first digest numbers were incorrect due to Freeport Exemption, and to stay on schedule we must readvertise since some dollar amounts changed. The Board of Education will hold their meeting one day before ours. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Gene King and seconded by Emmett Collins to go out of the Public Hearing. All were in favor. Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Vice Chairman Gene King to readvertise for a Special Called Meeting on August 30, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. All were in favor.

2. Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Emmett Collins to go into a Public Hearing for Ordinance Text Amendment of the official Zoning Ordinance by adding to Article 3, Section 3.1, definition of a Plat, minor. All were in favor. Interim Administrator Gay asked to continue this until the next meeting since we will need to meet with Council to look at the language. Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Vice Chairman Gene King to go out of the Public Hearing. All were in favor. Motion was made by Emmett Collins and seconded by Adam Worsley to continue this meeting until the next Public Hearing meeting. All were in favor.

3. Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Emmett Collins to go into a Public Hearing for Case #2023-009, request to rezone 17.81 acres on the corner of Todd Road and Hwy. 27-Roosevelt Hwy, from RR to NHC. All were in favor. Cassandra Sharpe, Building, Zoning, and Community Development Director stated this is for the use of office space and truck parking. The advertisement, signage, and letters have been completed. The property is located on Tax ID#073-011 with 10.72 acres and #073-011-007 with 7.09 acres. Mr. Crawford has requested a rezone of the two parcels from Rural Reserve to Neighborhood Commercial. The Staff reviewed the application, area and usage, and recommended approval with the following. A. The applicant has submitted a complete application with all requirements. B. The applicant would have to get approval from GDOT for access off Roosevelt Hwy. 27 and no trucks would access the property from Todd Road. C. Office space can be accessed from Todd Road. D. The approved use is for office space and truck parking only and any other use would have to come before the Board for approval. E. Can not build within the stream buffer. F. All required buffers between NCH and surrounding properties must be met. Vice Chairman King asked about the hours for parking. Ms. Sharpe stated there are no set hours for 18-wheeler parking. Scott Bowden, Representative for Crawford Grading, stated Crawford will put their yard there which has 2 tractor trailers and 3 straight trucks. Crew workers will come in and out if they go that route and probably have a small office trailer onsite. The hours are 6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Right now, it is set up to come off Hwy 27, Roosevelt Highway where there is already an existing entrance on the property. There was no others who wanted to speak and no one was opposed. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Gene King and seconded by Emmett Collins to go out of the Public Hearing. All were in favor. Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Emmett Collins to approve the request for rezone with the six recommendations and add that they plant Leland Cypress trees for the buffer. All were in favor.

4. Motion was made by Adam Worsley and seconded by Emmett Collins to go into a Public Hearing for Case #2023-013 request for an alcohol sales and consumption license for Cowboy Town, formerly Meriwether Steakhouse located at 4776 Nebula Road. Property is identified on Tax ID #112 036 001. Cassandra Sharpe, Building, Zoning, and Community Development Director stated Mr. White is the owner and is requesting the approval of his application for new alcoholic beverage establishment for the location formerly know as Meriwether Steakhouse now know as Cowboy Town. The application was processed, and all required paperwork was received. Background checks were done for Mr. Larry White, Owner, and Julie Parks, Property Manager. Both passed without concerns. Letters, newspaper ad and signage was completed. The recommendation from staff was to approve the application for onsite alcohol sales and consumption for Cowboy Town. Attorney Newton Galloway stated he was here on behalf of the applicants, Mr. White, and Ms. Parks, and unless the Board had questions there is nothing further to add. Attorney Galloway stated he appreciated the staff's recommendation for approval. There

were no comments from Board members and there was no one opposed. Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Emmett Collins to go out of the Public Hearing. All were in favor. Motion was made by Adam Worsley and seconded by Emmett Collins to approve the request, with the recommendation from Building and Zoning, for Alcohol Sales and Consumption at Cowboy Town, 4776 Nebula Road. All were in favor. Mr. White stated the plan was to open in mid-September but it may be the first of October. Mr. White stated he looks forward to seeing everyone there and they plan on doing a lot of good stuff for the County.

#### **XI. APPOINTMENTS**

1. Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Adam Worsley to table the appointment to CAFI to fill an unexpired term. All were in favor.
2. Motion was made by Emmett Collins and seconded by Adam Worsley to table the appointment to the Airport Authority, District 3. All were in favor.
3. Motion was made by Emmett Collins and seconded by Adam Worsley to appoint John Funderburke to the Planning Commission, District 3, to fill a term that expires on January 5, 2026. All were in favor.

#### **XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

#### **XIII. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Motion was made by Vice Chairman King and seconded by Emmett Collins to approve the request from Wargo's Pumpkin Patch to close Johnson Road beginning September 23, 2023 to November 5, 2023. The times would be 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Monday – Friday for field trips and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. All were in favor.
2. Finance Director John Gorton requested the Board increase approved purchase order amounts for Department Heads/Constitutional Officers from the current limit of \$500 to \$1,000. All purchase orders will continue to come through Finance before payment. This request is due to the increase in the cost of goods. The Ordinance allows the County to adjust periodically. Motion was made by Vice Chairman King and seconded by Emmett Collins to approve the request to increase the purchase order approval limit for Department Heads/Constitutional Officers from \$500 to \$1,000. All were in favor.
3. Interim Administrator Theron Gay stated we have discussed additional office space due to growth. Pathways has vacated their building which will allow us to meet some of our needs. Two offices, the Election Office, and the Sheriff's Administration Office, are in need of the space at this time. After looking at the space and discussion with the Election Superintendent and Sheriff, Interim Administrator Gay asked the Board to allocate the front Pathways Building to Elections and the Sheriff's Office. We will need to revise the entrance. A drawing was shown to the Board on where walls would need to be removed. This space will accommodate all of the Sheriff's needs for space except for the Jail. Next year is a big Election year and Ms. Threadgill will need to set up and get everything ready before the first of the year. The Building will need security, wiring added, and touch up. The County is currently paying \$1K per month for the building rent to house the election equipment. Interim Administrator Gay stated this location has a large third building and there are ideas for that space. The County will get RFP's out on the changes that will be needed. Commissioner Worsley asked about the cost of the renovation. Interim Administrator Gay stated he did not know at this time. We could use SPLOST or ARP

funds. Chairman Threadgill stated the largest cost would be on the Sheriff's side in removing the kitchen. The only electric is in moving the walls. We could use LVP flooring rather than carpet. Interim Administrator Gay stated he will bring this back to the Board before we spend money. Motion was made by Vice Chairman King and seconded by Rosla Plant to allocate the space at the old Pathways Main Building to the Sheriff and Elections Offices pending any funding needed will have to come back before the Board for a decision. All were in favor.

4. Interim Administrator Gay stated we have discussed staffing today and what we have and what we need and there are critical position we need to move forward. One position that we have talked about is an Assistant County Administrator. Currently, we do not have this position allocated. We have added the duties of grants and writing grants, managing special projects, programs, assist with reports on mandates by the State of Georgia, including the Comprehensive Plan, update on the County's Codes, Service Delivery, LMIG and any other related items that come up. This will include assisting in the Tax Digest calculations, and anything the Administrator feels will be necessary. Commissioner Worsley asked if this was at the agreed salary that was discussed. Chairman Threadgill stated yes, it will be included in the offer letter. Motion was made by Adam Worsley and seconded by Emmett Collins to accept the created Assistant Administrator position. All were in favor.

5. Interim Administrator Gay stated we had a grant that we had planned to use to replace a bridge and widen a section of the dirt road coming out of the Industrial Park. This road is on the line with Troup County and there are some opportunities there for developers to make changes for improvements. In the mean time we had been awarded a grant for \$100K and a loan for \$150K for this project. We tried to get that amount moved to another location and was initially told that was a great idea and they thought it would work. They came back and said it would not work and now they are asking the County to make a determination if we're going to do this road project and if not we will need to write them a letter to ask them to release the grant from this project. Interim Administrator Gay stated he did not see this as a priority since there are other needs and the cost for this project would be \$800K-\$900K. We are going to do a portion of that road with a full depth reclamation but not anywhere like what was in the grant. Chairman Threadgill asked if the County committed to doing another project based on thinking we would get this money and then we did not. It was not allowed to be transferred over to the other project. Interim Administrator Gay stated that was correct and we were looking to use the funds for a project at KB until they came back after saying they thought it was a great project for Economic Development and then said no, the funds could not be transferred for the KB entrance project. Interim Administrator Gay would like to approach GDOT and ask for some help on Coleman Creek. Chairman Threadgill would like to have a meeting set up with the GDOT in Atlanta since it previously helped us get additional funds in the past. Vice Chairman King asked since we will have to release the funds from the Grant and had wanted to use it for another project what would happen. Interim Administrator Gay stated we will have to find other funds for the project we had wanted to use this funding for since it was not allowed and hopes a trip to Atlanta will be a good start. Motion was made by Adam Worsley and seconded by Vice Chairman King to release the Grant money per the request of the State. All were in favor.

6. Interim Administrator Gay stated the County had a request from Public Works for a pickup truck and we had allocated \$35K for the truck based on what prices had been. We have not been able to find a 150-class truck on the Georgia Sites where they post State bids. This is the same with other Counties. We have found a 2023 Dodge Ram crew cab for \$49,929.75 and a 2022 that was only \$700 less. Interim Administrator Gay requested the Board approve up to that

dollar amount to purchase the truck from Auto Nation. Vice Chairman King asked about negotiations with them to purchase the truck at several hundred dollars over invoice. Bill Cawthorne spoke about the three different quotes that had been received. Following more discussion, motion was made by Vice Chairman King and seconded by Adam Worsley to approve up to \$46,925.75 to purchase a truck for Public Works. All were in favor.

Chairman Threadgill introduced Mark Pullium from the audience. Mr. Pullium will start work on September 12, 2023 as the new Meriwether County Administrator. He is currently serving as the City Manager for the City of Manchester. He has an extensive background and was interviewed by the Commissioners a few weeks ago. The Board decided Mr. Pullium was who the Board wanted for this position. Everyone welcomed Mr. Pullium.

#### **XIV. REPORT FROM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

Interim Administrator, Theron Gay reported he and Bill Cawthorne had put together a bid package for Ellis Road. It is a long road with a lot of homes. We will recrown the road, replace the pipe, add gravel, and compact and restore a section of the road. This is what the Board had wanted to do. This road impacts the most residents. Commissioner Plant stated this is in her District and this is for the portion of the road where the homes are and not the complete road. Bill Cawthorne stated this will be close to 2-miles. There are 38 homes on Ellis Road, two side roads off Ellis Road, school bus traffic, and homes being built on the Primrose side. Interim Administrator Gay will come back before the Board for approval and feels it is a good project. Commissioner Plant stated it will improve the dirt road. There are a lot of calls due to the traffic on this road. Interim Administrator Gay discussed what the process for this road would include. Vice Chairman King asked about millings. Bill Cawthorne stated they are hard to get and many people are reusing them and not selling them. The consensus of the Board was to move forward. Interim Administrator Gay held a meeting to discuss staffing. Meetings were also held with Patty Threadgill from Election and the Sheriff, IDA, Budget hearings, personnel issue, an IDA prospect, and Interim Administrator Gay worked on the Tax Digest.

The County received the Sales Tax Ratio Study and Interim Administrator Gay reviewed the findings.

Interim Administrator Gay stated there was a need for Executive Session for Personnel, Potential Litigation, and Tax Matters.

#### **XV. REPORT FROM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Adam Worsley: Welcomed Mr. Pullium and was excited about the new position that was approved earlier in the meeting. There is also progress and good communication with citizens. The bush hogging is moving along, patchwork has improved and there are still things to do that we discussed earlier. There is good feedback and Commissioner Worsley stated he appreciates what everyone is doing.

Vice Chairman Gene King: stated it is nice when you have voicemails, text messages and emails saying, "Tell Public Works and the people at Meriwether County that we appreciate seeing things getting done." A thank you was expressed from someone on Willis Road then another person called about Bill Garner Road. Vice Chairman King thought we could have added a little more gravel on that road. Another gentleman came to the last meeting and stated the road was the best it had looked in 30-years. That is what we want to keep moving forward with. Those



who are on a dirt road will start hearing this and know that we are coming. Vice Chairman King thanked all the staff.

Commissioner Rosla Plant: shared with everyone that Ms. Jane Fryer, IDA Director, was featured in the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Southern Economic Development Magazine as a Legend of the South for 1993-2023. She was number 12 on the list. Commissioner Plant stated it was great to be able to recognize Ms. Fryer and it was an honor to work with her.

Commissioner Emmett Collins: welcomed Mr. Pullium and thanked all Department Heads and Citizens. Commissioner Collins read an article that was published in the Vindicator Newspaper forty years ago stating roads and bridges were the number one problem. Commissioner Plant stated roads and bridges has always been our number one problem and would continue to be the number one problem. Vice Chairman King stated at the Commissioners Training Classes everyone says roads are the number one problem in the entire State.

Chairman Bryan Threadgill: stated a good friend of his that is over a very large County in the State of Georgia that has a \$1.6B Budget and she told him it is the same issue with \$1.6B budget as it is with a \$15M budget. Chairman Threadgill thanked Mr. Pullium for coming on board and accepting the position. With what the Board created tonight with the new position, we are going to extend an offer to someone that was interviewed and feels it will be a good pairing for the two of them. It is hoped he will accept the position once it is offered. Mr. Gay wants to retire and has been saying that for many years. Hopefully with the combination of the two of them, we will get to where we need to be and move the County forward and let Mr. Gay retire and enjoy his grandchildren.

#### **XVI. REPORT FROM COUNTY ATTORNEY**

County Attorney Michael Hill stated we did get the condemnation for Beulah Evans Road filed today and expect an order in the next day or so. Once the order comes out it will be recorded in the real property records. We do have to serve the various parties but the taking should be effective 10-days from the entry of that order and the recording in the real property records. Interim Administrator Gay stated we are nearing the completion of the work there to put that package together and hope to have that ready before too much longer. We also have another one for County Line Road. Chairman Threadgill stated the previous Board had voted to pave Beulah Evans so all we have to do is put the RFP together and go out for bid. Attorney Hill stated this was the only hold out property we had. Everyone else voluntarily signed the Right of Way Deeds. Vice Chairman King asked about the timeframe. Interim Administrator Gay stated he hoped we can get the bids back around the first week of October and get started. Chairman Threadgill thanked Marcelle Womack for her hard work in getting Beulah Evans Road paved and for Mike Womack for backing her up.

#### **XVII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion was made by Adam Worsley and seconded by Vice Chairman Gene King to go into Executive Session for Litigation, Personnel, and Tax Matters at 7:27 p.m. All were in favor. Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Vice Chairman Gene King to go out of Executive Session at 8:10 p.m. All were in favor.

Motion was made by Adam Worsley and seconded by Emmett Collins to go back into Regular Session at 8:13 p.m. All were in favor.  
There was no action taken in Executive Session.

**XVIII. FUTURE MEETINGS & NOTICES**

Chairman Bryan Threadgill announced future Meetings and Notices prior to Executive Session.

**XIX. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, motion was made by Emmett Collins and seconded by Adam Worsley to adjourn at 8:13 p.m. All were in favor.

Approved by: Majority vote of the Board of Commissioners

Attest: Beverly Thomas, County Clerk

Date: September 13, 2023