

MINUTES
MERIWETHER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

August 23, 2022

6:00 P.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, Director of Special Projects Theron Gay, County Clerk Beverly Thomas, Finance Director Bill Gregory, and Attorney Michael Hill

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Beth-Neely Hadley

II. INVOCATION

Commissioner Alfred McCoy

III. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

All

IV. ADOPT AGENDA

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Rosla Plant to remove under New Business 6. Professional Services Meriwether County and SAFEbuilt Amendment #2 and adopt the Agenda. All were in favor.

V. FINANCE REPORT

Finance Director, Bill Gregory, reported the General Fund was at \$1.9M. We have \$423K in the E-911 account and with the August receipts it will increase to over \$450K. Those funds will be moved to the General Fund. There are three more payrolls in September plus one payroll in October to go. We have \$2,045,402.94 in the Fire District O&M account. The reason for the large balance is because we pay the payroll for the Fire Department from the General Fund. From time to time, we move that money back over to the General Fund. We will move some of the funds to the General Fund before the fiscal year ends and big receipts start coming in October.

VI. CITIZEN COMMENT

None

VII. MINUTES

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Alfred McCoy to approve the Minutes from the August 10, 2022, 9:00 a.m. Regular Meeting. Voting in favor were Vice Chairman Threadgill, Alfred McCoy, and Chairman Neely-Hadley. Commissioner Hines and Commissioner Plant abstained as they were not present at the meeting. The motion passed.

VIII. PUBLIC HEARING

None

IX. APPOINTMENTS

None

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

XI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Set date for a Special Called Meeting on September 7, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. to adopt the 2022 Millage Rate and associated documents

Meriwether County staff recently held a meeting with Dr. Al Griffin and Tomika Woody from the Meriwether County Board of Education to discuss setting the 2022 Millage Rate. County personnel in attendance were Administrator Michelle Irizarry, Special Project Director Theron Gay, Finance Director Bill Gregory, Tax Commissioner Deann Cruse, and David Noles from the Office of the Tax Assessor. Staff recommended setting a meeting for September 7, 2022, 9:00 a.m. to adopt the 2022 Millage Rate. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Rosla Plant to set a Special Called Meeting on September 7, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. for the purpose of adopting the 2022 Millage Rate. All were in favor.

2. Agreement between Meriwether County Tax Commissioner and the City of Luthersville for the collection of Taxes

Deann Cruse, Tax Commissioner, provided an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Luthersville, Meriwether County and the Tax Commissioner of Meriwether County, regarding collection of Taxes for the City of Luthersville. Tax Commissioner Cruse stated this Agreement is similar to Agreements we have with other Cities. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Bryan Threadgill and seconded by Alfred McCoy to approve the Agreement. All were in favor. (After item 3 on the Agenda under New Business, the Board voted to allow the Chairman to sign the Intergovernmental Agreement)

3. Cane Creek Watershed Structure No. 2, 2023 O&M Manual and Dam Modification

Administrator Irizarry stated a Geotechnical Engineering Assessment and Hydrologic & Hydraulic Analysis was submitted to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division in 2015. The Department of Natural Resources has completed the review and have five comments that must be addressed within 60-days. A meeting was held with Maxwell Bloom, of Peoples & Quigley, Inc., on August 12, 2022, to discuss what must be done to satisfy the request from the Department of Natural Resources. The cost to prepare that information is \$20K. A Work Order was provided to the Board. This has been budgeted in the General Fund. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Bryan Threadgill and seconded by Alfred McCoy to approve the Cane Creek Watershed structure No. 2, 2023 O&M Manual and Dam Modifications Work Order and allow the Chairman to sign. All were in favor.

Vice Chairman Threadgill stated a motion was needed for item No. 2 under New Business to allow the Chairman to sign the Agreement. The motion was amended by

Vice Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Alfred McCoy to approve and allow the Chairman to sign the Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Luthersville, Meriwether County, and Meriwether County Tax Commissioner. All were in favor.

4. Funding for Cyber Security Upgrades

Administrator Irizarry reviewed three quotes received for Cyber Security Server Upgrades. The low bid was from Dell in the amount of \$66,280.02. This is to replace aging servers. This is for 5-years and includes the licensing for 5-years and service. Skip Richmond, IT Director, stated we are backing up servers daily and some of them are being backed up 4-times per day. Staff recommended payment from ARPA funds. There was additional discussion of ARPA funds including the time for commitment. Motion was made by Chairman Neely-Hadley and seconded by Vice Chairman Threadgill to approve the contract with Dell and use the ARPA funding. All were in favor.

5. Discussion of Greenville Recreation Grant

Administrator Irizarry stated a grant application was made several years ago to develop a new Park to be known as the Greenville Recreation Facility. The grant request was for \$200,000 and the estimated cost of the project was \$400K at that time. Last week, notice was received that Meriwether County was approved. This had to go through many extra steps with one being a tribal consultation. DNR is asking the Board to pass a Resolution to accept the terms of the grant, approve the project fund agreement and return the executed documents. Staff recommended approval and the additional \$200,000 was budgeted from SPLOST and in-kind services. Vice Chairman Threadgill asked when the project would begin. Theron Gay, Special Projects Director, stated there is a mandatory workshop coming up that has to be attended before any work is started. We had an engineer come and help us with this and we will contact him about going forward. The City of Greenville has received some calls about the name "Greenville Recreation Park" and Mr. Gay wanted to clarify that it is a Meriwether County Park that is located in Greenville. Mr. Gay stated we budgeted \$250K in SPLOST for recreation but we will provide grading and other in-kind work. We may be able to count the 25 acres. It will be a very nice park that will include a walking track, nature trail, dog park, playground equipment that will be ADA accessible, a pavilion, and restrooms. It was designed to be able to expand in the future. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Rosla Plant to accept the grant and all the requirements including passing a Resolution accepting the terms of the grant and approve the projects Fund Agreement, staff to attend workshop, contract with engineering firm, and return the executed documents. All were in favor.

XII. REPORT FROM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Administrator Irizarry reported harassment and discrimination training will be held in September for management and employees. Valerie Chambers, HR Director, is working with Laurie Roberts, from the Health Department, to schedule Biometric screenings that will be held in mid-September through early October. The contractor has started work on the drains at the Health Department and the moisture level reading has dropped. The flooring for the Health Department should arrive later this week. The weather has slowed down the completion of the exterior work, but it should be completed next week. Fire Station No. 1 in Greenville is about 98% complete. The water and site wiring at Lake Meriwether RV sites are complete. The grading should be complete next week, and the

timber borders should be installed soon. All of the 2021 LMIG Roads that needed repairs have been repaired, however, striping has not been done. Resurfacing has been completed with the exception of striping. Luthersville Road and Hawks Nest are outstanding because they are full depth reclamation projects. Keep Meriwether Beautiful has provided participation packages for the September 24, 2022 Countywide clean up day. Packages are available to anyone who would like to help.

XIII. REPORT FROM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Hines – no comment at this time.

Commissioner Plant – reminded everyone of the Fall Keep Meriwether Beautiful Clean up day in September. Packages are available up front. Everyone was encouraged to participate.

Chairman Neely-Hadley – no comment at this time.

Vice Chairman Threadgill – no comment at this time.

Commissioner McCoy – announced upcoming scheduled events through October 1, 2022 for the Manchester Meriwether County Recreation Department. Seven new Coaches have been certified by the Southern Youth Football Conference. Commissioner McCoy stated a sign needs to be installed at the gym for identification of the property. A recorded video was shown of the ramp being installed at the Flint River. The ADA parking is in place, and everything is progressing according to schedule.

XIV. REPORT FROM COUNTY ATTORNEY

An Executive Session was needed for Personnel and Real Estate.

XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Alfred McCoy to go into Executive Session at 6:23 p.m. to discuss personnel and real estate. All were in favor.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Chairman Neely-Hadley to go out of Executive Session at 6:34 p.m. All were in favor.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Rosla Plant to go back into Regular Session at 6:35 p.m.

Action was taken. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Alfred McCoy to allow an employee to take a requested leave of absence. All were in favor.

XVI. FUTURE MEETINGS & NOTICES

Future Meetings and Notices were announced prior to Executive Session. The September 7, 2022 Special Called Meeting at 9:00 a.m. was added to the future meeting announcement.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Alfred McCoy and seconded by Rosla Plant to adjourn at 6:36 p.m.
All were in favor.

Approved by: Majority vote of the Board of Commissioners
Attest: Emily Thomas, County Clerk
Date: September 14, 2022