

**MINUTES**  
**MERIWETHER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**September 28, 2021**

**This meeting was held by Zoom due to COVID-19.**

Commissioners Present: Chairman Bryan Threadgill, Vice Chairman Alfred McCoy, Commissioner Rosla Plant and Commissioner Beth Neely-Hadley  
Commissioner Shirley Hines attended by Zoom.  
Staff Present: Administrator Michelle Irizzary, Director of Special Projects Theron Gay, County Clerk Beverly Thomas, Finance Director Bill Gregory, and County Attorney Michael Hill.

- I. CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Threadgill called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.  
**INVOCATION** – Vice Chairman Alfred McCoy  
**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**II. ADOPT AGENDA**

Motion was made by Beth Neely-Hadley and seconded by Rosla Plant to approve the Agenda with the following additions under New Business: 6. Develop and Execute Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Manchester to allow use of our 2<sup>nd</sup> Tier Engine 7. Closure of Harmony Church Road and Thompson Waddell Road on October 16, 2021, for Airport Activities and the Fly-In 8. Discussion of IT Services. All were in favor.

**III MINUTES**

Motion was made by Vice Chairman McCoy and seconded by Rosla Plant to approve the Minutes of the September 8, 2021, 9:00 a.m. Regular Meeting. All were in favor.

**IV. MUNICIPAL COMMENTS**

None

**V. CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS COMMENTS**

Tax Commissioner Catherine Jenkins stated she noticed IT Support was on the Agenda and asked if it would involve her office. She stated she had asked to be on the Agenda. Chairman Threadgill stated after Tax Commissioner Jenkins requested to be on the Agenda she sent an email wanting to meet earlier than the date of the meeting. There was further discussion regarding this. Tax Commissioner Jenkins stated she wanted to discuss the IT problem and asked for mediation if the Board continues to refuse to communicate. Chairman Threadgill stated the Board had been trying to communicate with Tax Commissioner Jenkins for the last 8-months. There was continued discussion and when Tax Commissioner Jenkins continued to speak over Chairman Threadgill, she was called out of order and asked to leave the meeting. Tax Commissioner Jenkins refused to leave the meeting, then stated this was a violation. Tax Commissioner Jenkins then turned to Attorney Hill and stated, "if you want to step in you would save the County some money." Tax Commissioner Jenkins then stated this was ridiculous then told Chairman Threadgill that she did not think he wanted to embarrass this County anymore. Chairman Threadgill replied she was in an elected position and was that not embarrassing enough. Tax Commissioner Jenkins then addressed Colonel Hadley who had come forth when Chairman Threadgill asked to have Tax Commissioner Jenkins removed from the Meeting and asked Colonel Hadley "aren't you related to another Board member"? Tax Commissioner Jenkins asked if she was going to be allowed to speak. Chairman Threadgill stated to Tax Commissioner Jenkins that she didn't want to hear what anyone else had to say and she just wanted to continue to talk. Chairman Threadgill stated we are done. Tax Commissioner Jenkins stated every time she brought up IT, he would not allow her to talk about IT issues. Chairman Threadgill stated that was because she wanted to make accusations just like when she came before the Board today and stated that she had requested to be on the Agenda. Chairman Threadgill

stated she needed to tell the entire story about asking to be on the Agenda. Chairman Threadgill stated she had requested to meet prior to the Board Meeting and the Board accommodated that. Tax Commissioner Jenkins stated Chairman Threadgill closed the meeting down and accused him of using curse words. Chairman Threadgill stated no, that was after the meeting. Chairman Threadgill tapped the gavel and tried to continue the meeting while Tax Commissioner Jenkins continued to speak and would not leave the podium. Commissioner Neely-Hadley addressed Tax Commissioner Jenkins and stated the Board has been through this multiple times and all Board members have seen the same emails where the Tax Commissioner stated it was not satisfactory to meet with the Board at the next meeting and requested an earlier meeting. Commissioner Neely-Hadley stated she does not know what has gone on at all the meetings but knows our Administrator has been in a meeting with her. This Board has worked with every elected official with no issues. We do not always agree but it has not been this way and Commissioner Neely-Hadley cannot understand this. Tax Commissioner Jenkins then stated Chairman Threadgill would intimidate and harass other members and referred to a meeting that was held that lasted 2 minutes. Chairman Threadgill stated it was longer at 6 minutes. Commissioner Neely-Hadley stated we have to work to get things done but Tax Commissioner Jenkins needed to help too. Commissioner Jenkins asked what she could do, and Chairman Threadgill replied you want us to listen, but you do not want to hear anything on our side. Chairman Threadgill stated a meeting had been held in the Tax Commissioner's Office with the following in attendance, Tax Commissioner, Deputy Tax Commissioner, Theron Gay, Skip Richmond, Commissioner Plant and Chairman Threadgill. Everything was worked out and the Tax Commissioner even walked around with IT to discuss where the cables needed to be. When IT came back to do the work IT called the Commissioner Office and stated the Tax Commissioner had stopped the work and asked for a work order. Chairman Threadgill stated the Tax Commissioner's side of the story had been worked stopped because Theron Gay told IT to leave. That was not true, and this was the 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> time that the Tax Commissioner had stopped work in her office and wanted to blame everyone in the County except for herself. Chairman Threadgill apologized to the audience for having to see all of this. Theron Gay, Director of Special Projects, stated when the discussion of IT comes up, his recommendation will be to have the Tax Commissioner go out and get three bids for IT Services and come back before the Board for approval. At that time, we can adjust the Budget once the bid comes back. This has cost the County money and each time we have to get involved. The Tax Commissioner will then have her own IT company to call in case her office staff unplugs 5 cables on a Friday afternoon like what was recently done when the County was asked to call an employee in on their off time to fix the problem. Commissioner Neely-Hadley stated that she thought the Board decided a long time ago that the Tax Commissioner would go out for services. Tax Commissioner Jenkins then said she was not allowed to say more than a couple of sentences without being interrupted. Chairman Threadgill tried to speak about this but was interrupted by Tax Commissioner Jenkins. Chairman Threadgill then called Tax Commissioner Jenkins out of order. Commissioner Neely-Hadley again stated this had already been discussed and Tax Commissioner Jenkins was to go out and get three bids for IT Service. Chairman Threadgill stated he wanted to address the comments Tax Commissioner Jenkins made regarding profanity and encouraged the public to do an open records request, specifically on a letter from the Warden in Harris County, regarding the comments that the Tax Commissioner made to a Corrections Officer. That almost cost the County that contract. Tax Commissioner Jenkins began to speak over the Chairman Threadgill and once again Chairman Threadgill tapped the gavel and asked Tax Commissioner Jenkins to leave. Tax Commissioner Jenkins stated she would stay for the Public Hearing. Chairman Threadgill stated no. Tax Commissioner Jenkins stated they had already come to the conclusion that she could not speak here because she could not say more than three sentences. Chairman Threadgill stated because every time Tax Commissioner Jenkins comes here, and before he could finish, he stated Tax Commissioner Jenkins was so crazy because she came here and was standing there laughing about a situation that she had created. Chairman Threadgill stated it was not this Board then stated he never had a problem with a Constitutional Officer and her actions caused his reaction. Commissioner Plant asked Tax Commissioner Jenkins, for the record, when the group that met walked through your office you pointed out how you wanted each of your new employees to have their own desk, computer, and printer. We were trying to understand what it

was you needed, and we were there over an hour. When we left it was agreed upon that everything you needed would be ordered. Commissioner Plant stated her question was simple, if there was a need for a work order, why didn't you generate the work order. When you asked the County to purchase desks, computers, and printers to accommodate 11 employees there was a general concern of the Budget and we were all willing to work with you within the confines of what you needed for your office. Commissioner Plant stated this was not the time or place and at this point it would be to the Tax Commissioners advantage to go to an outside service rather than working with the County and continuing to butt heads. Tax Commissioner Jenkins thanked Commissioner Plant for giving her guidance. Tax Commissioner Jenkins responded to the question of why she didn't submit a work order and it was because she did not know exactly what was being done. The work she had requested was being done but the additional work was what she had requested and what she wanted for verification. After asking for written verification, Commissioner Plant stopped Tax Commissioner Jenkins and asked her who was responsible for requesting equipment? Commissioner Plant stated the Tax Commissioner requested the equipment, it was her office, and she should have generated a work order. Tax Commissioner Jenkins began to talk over Commissioner Plant and Commissioner Plant stated we don't have time to continue this. We have many people here waiting for a Public Hearing. Commissioner Plant stated at this point she felt the entire Board was in agreement with the Tax Commissioner seeking her own IT Service. Tax Commissioner Jenkins stated that was the kind of verification she needed, and she had spoken with several agencies, and it would cost about \$400. Commissioner Plant replied to Tax Commissioner Jenkins that she could bring it back before the Board. Tax Commissioner Jenkins stated she would bring it back and get the Budget adjusted and continued to speak about IT Services and the cost of this service to the County. Chairman Threadgill began to speak about the number of wasted hours and companies that refused to come back because of the way they were spoken to from her office. That has cost the County additional money. Tax Commissioner Jenkins stated she wanted to know who that was and did not feel that was true.

#### **VI. DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS**

None

#### **VII. PUBLIC HEARING**

1. Motion was made by Vice Chairman McCoy and seconded by Rosla Plant to go into a Public Hearing regarding the FY 2021-2022 Budget. All were in favor.

Finance Director Gregory stated the Budget had been reviewed and presented to the Board at the last Public Hearing and meeting and he was available to answer any questions. Theron Gay, Director of Special Projects, stated it is recommended that the County adjust the Budget under the Tax Commissioner to where it was last year since the Budget was fully operational, until we get the new IT numbers, then we can bring it back to the Board. Budget adjustments will be made as needed. An adjustment was made to O&M Fire District. Mr. Gregory stated the revenue has been good and he reviewed several departments who had increased revenues.

Cat Jenkins, Tax Commissioner, addressed Theron Gay for clarification that he was not the Administrator. Mr. Gay stated he is not the present Administrator but does work directly for the Board of Commissioners and his recommendation was to remain with the existing Budget and make adjustments when the IT information comes in. Ms. Jenkins asked if Mr. Gay had a specific Title. Chairman Threadgill asked Ms. Jenkins to address the Board. Ms. Jenkins stated Mr. Gay said to leave the Budget as it is and asked if he was talking about the FY 2020-2021 Budget or the FY 2021-2022 Budget. Chairman Threadgill stated the Budget would remain the same as it was at this time. Ms. Jenkins said the Board was decreasing her Budget. Chairman Threadgill stated no, it would be left the same as it has been, and the Board has not yet approved the FY 2021-2022 Budget. Ms. Jenkins argued that if the Board did not approve the Budget she requested, it was a decrease. Commissioner Neely-Hadley stated we know we are going to have to adjust your Budget due to IT. Ms. Jenkins stated the Budget did decrease and did not take into account the IT, phone service and Internet service. Chairman Threadgill asked how many employees were in the Tax Commissioners Office. Ms. Jenkins stated 10 including herself. Chairman

Threadgill stated there had not been more than six employees in the Tax Office before she took office. Tax Commissioner Jenkins explained she had a few part-time employees which cost the County less in benefits. Tax Commissioner Jenkins asked the Board if they were going to take the recommendations of Mr. Gay. Chairman Threadgill stated when it comes time, he would hear motions and it would be whatever the Board decides. Ms. Jenkins stated approving her budget was based on future actions by herself and wanted a timeline of when her Budget would be increased to what she had requested. Chairman Threadgill explained when the Vote is taken, if the Board leaves the budget where it was when she came into office and depending on the RFP's that the Tax Commissioner will send out for IT service, the Board will then take that into consideration once they have the amount. If at some point during the year the budget runs out for a valid reason, Tax Commissioner Jenkins can come back before the Board to request a Budget Amendment to increase her budget during that time. Just because the Board votes on that today it does not mean that is all the funding Tax Commissioner Jenkins could get for her office. Tax Commissioner Jenkins brought up again about IT and said it was ongoing with her budget and she would not have a resolution. Chairman Threadgill asked Tax Commissioner Jenkins how this was ongoing. Tax Commissioner Jenkins stated the conditions that caused her to seek additional IT support because of not being allowed to have any communication that did not end with the Chairman using the gavel and telling her to leave. Chairman Threadgill stated he has not had anything like this with any other Constitutional Officer. Tax Commissioner Jenkins stated Chairman Threadgill did not like her. Chairman Threadgill stated that was not correct that she only wanted things her way. Tax Commissioner Jenkins continues to come before the Board to discuss again what the Board thinks has already been resolved. Commissioner Threadgill stated we will stick with talking about the Budget since that is what this Public Hearing is for. After more conversation Tax Commissioner Jenkins told the Board they were holding her Budget hostage and she would go forward with that. Commissioner Plant clarified the request for the increase in the Budget from \$389,537 to \$417,393 and asked what the difference of \$27,856 was for. Tax Commissioner Jenkins stated her contract services had increased 8%, postage had increased, and training and travel had increased due to the previous Tax Commissioner not doing the Constitutional required training. Chairman Threadgill stated the advertisement line item increased \$10K. Tax Commissioner Jenkins stated this was due to 2800 FIFA's that were not filed by the previous administration. All of the FIFA's has to be filed before she can have another tax sale. Chairman Threadgill asked Tax Commissioner Jenkins how much from that line item had been used this year. Tax Commissioner Jenkins stated she had not been able to do anything with that yet and it costs money to advertise. Tax Commissioner Jenkins asked the Board to address her using her title of Tax Commissioner Jenkins since she goes out of her way to use their title. Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Vice Chairman McCoy to go out of the Public Hearing. All were in favor.

2. Motion was made by Beth Neely-Hadley and seconded by Vice Chairman McCoy to go into Public Hearing to hear Case # 22-2021. Mr. Akeen Steed requested to rezone 27.12 acres on Roosevelt Hwy., known as Map/Parcel #136A 081. The current zoning is RD, and the request is to rezone the property to NHC. The purpose of the rezone is to build a plant nursery. Butch Oliver, Building and Zoning Interim Director, stated his office had tried multiple times to contact Mr. Steed and had not been able to get in touch with him. The zoning request was advertised as 27.12 acres from a plat that was done in June, but it is only 12.83 acres. Mr. Steed has requested to rezone 12.83 acres on Roosevelt Hwy. which is also known as Tax Map/Parcel #136A 081. The current zoning is RD and Mr. Steed would like to rezone to NHC. He plans to use the property to build a plant nursery. There are currently no structures on the property, but Mr. Steed plans to construct a metal building or pole barn in the future. One of the conditions from Building & Zoning is to have a 100' undisturbed buffer between the neighborhood commercial property and the subdivision. There have been phone calls from residents at the Mountain View Subdivision and some of the residents came to the B&Z hearing in August and there was no quorum present. Mr. Steed did not attend that hearing. B&Z tried several times to contact Mr. Steed but was unsuccessful. They wanted to have him go to the Department of Transportation and ask about getting a driveway cut to the property off Roosevelt Hwy. Building and Zoning did not feel the drive should be cut from Anita Drive in the Subdivision.

Commissioner Neely-Hadley stated this is in her district and she had met with citizens at Mountain View subdivision where 36 of 39 property owners had signed a petition. A portion of the property is on the Highway and some of the property goes into the woods behind the properties in the neighborhood. Many of the citizens wanted to speak with Mr. Steed about their concerns of traffic off the subdivision, a buffer, plans to clear cut the property, and the spring-fed creek. There was discussion of the use of the zoning and what could be built. Commissioner Neely-Hadley discussed building homes on the property and the uniqueness of the property if someone wanted to build homes.

Robert Shiver, 350 Roberta Road, Manchester – has been a resident in the subdivision since 2008 and represents residents who live there. The petition has the signatures of 72 people, Of the 39 property owners, 36 signed the petition. Citizens did not want it rezoned Commercial Residential and wanted to keep the quality of life. There were concerns of commercial traffic that would come into their neighborhood, especially on Julia Circle where they heard the road would run alongside the creek. There are concerns of the frontage being on Anita Drive. Mr. Shiver stated anyone who can buy property has that right as an American citizen. Mr. Shiver hopes Mr. Steed would have the right intentions and does not know him personally. If it has to be zoned commercial, they hope to have the traffic come in off the Hwy. and not in the subdivision. Mr. Shiver feels there will be run off into the creek and has a concern of clear cutting. If it were Commercial there would be a 100' buffer. The consensus from the subdivision is to not rezone and keep it as it is now.

Don Rogers, 488 Anita Drive, Manchester, GA – stated it has been quite there for over 20 years. Mr. Rogers stated he knows success in business is what we want, but not to profit when you hurt others. There are people with children and grandchildren who walk and ride bikes in the neighborhood and there are concerns of the road condition which presently is not in the best shape. The roads are not wide so there was a concern of commercial traffic. Mr. Rogers had no problem with Mr. Steed and did not know him. Some questions Mr. Rogers had was about Mr. Steed's future plans were if the property could go back to residential if the business failed or if he decided to change the business. since you cannot change back what you have already zoned. There is a wash that cuts across and travels the distance of the property and it runs into a freshwater spring. Mr. Rogers was opposed and hoped the Board would consider the information that was shared. Mr. Rogers was willing to come back and talk about alternatives.

There were no other comments.

Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Vice Chairman McCoy to go out of the Public Hearing. All were in favor.

Commissioner Neely-Hadley met with constituents who live there, and they prefer the property not being rezoned as requested. If left residential he could do something with that. Mr. Steed should be present.

Motion was made by Beth Neely-Hadley and seconded by Chairman Threadgill to deny the request and leave the property as is. All were in favor.

## **VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

## **IX. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Motion was made by Vice Chairman McCoy to approve the FY 2021-2022 Budget with the recommendations given by Special Projects Director, Theron Gay. Special Projects Director Gay clarified for the Board. The County realizes the Budget for the Tax Commissioner will need to be adjusted due to IT. Special Projects Director, Theron Gay, suggested the Board leave the Budget for the Tax Commissioner as it was last year since it was operational then come back with the IT proposal and adjust the Budget as needed. It was not to decrease the Budget or do anything other than getting the figures together for IT and come back at that time. Chairman Threadgill stated a Budget is just a projection and we have had to do a lot of amendments for everyone. Motion was again made by Vice Chairman McCoy and seconded by Rosla Plant to accept the FY 2021-2022 Budget as presented and allow the Chairman to sign the Resolution. All were in favor.

2. Motion was made by Beth Neely-Hadley and seconded by Vice Chairman McCoy to confirm the 2022 Contact Form for ACCG Group Self-Insurance Workers Compensation Fund. All were in favor.

3. Motion was made by Vice Chairman McCoy and seconded by Beth Neely-Hadley to purchase a 2014 Dump Truck, Model #M2 106, Serial Number 1FVHCYCY9EHFV5264 at a cost of \$72K. SPLOST funds will be used for this purchase. All were in favor.

4. Director of Special Projects, Theron Gay, stated the request from the residents of Beulah Evans Road for paving from the end of the existing asphalt to near the intersection with Barron Road had been brought before the Board before. A petition was submitted, and we were short on some of the names of property owners. Ms. Womack did a good job in obtaining signatures for the petition. Special Projects Director, Theron Gay, stated he and Bill Cawthorne, had met with other property owners on Beulah Evans and obtained more signatures. There are only a couple of people who they have not met and had not obtained the signatures but feels we will be fine moving forward with this project. Special Project Director, Theron Gay, made a request to move forward to gather the deeds. There will be 30' from the centerline. This will be prepared for all the property owners and then will be brought back before the Board for approval and acceptance of the deeds. The road does qualify in the terms of the number of homes served and traffic flow. The cost will be approximately \$750K. Special Projects Director, Theron Gay, recommended the Board allow the County to move forward to prepare the deeds to obtain the right of way. Motion was made by Beth Neely-Hadley and seconded by Vice Chairman McCoy to approve the request. All were in favor.

5. Vice Chairman McCoy brought before the Board updates and requests from the Lake Meriwether Advisory Board. Lake Meriwether produces income for the County and there are items that will help to increase the income. The largest items are to add Broadband. The bid for Broadband was \$4K and they are working through the City of Woodbury to cover the area at the Lake. It could also be part of the service to the citizens there. Other requests were to install signage along SR18 and SR85 with GDOT approval, gather cost estimates on resurfacing the parking area and road across the dam, adding a new septic system, and including use of joint trench for water and electrical. They are working on setting up an online reservation system for camping sites. They would like to increase camping prices and currently have 8 RV lots. Vice Chairman McCoy asked the Board to allow them to install Broadband using \$4K from the General Fund. Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Beth Neely-Hadley to install Broadband and confirm at the next meeting the funding source. All were in favor.

6. Motion was made by Beth Neely-Hadley and seconded by Vice Chairman McCoy to allow staff to develop and execute an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Manchester to allow use of our 2<sup>nd</sup> tier engine and allow the Chairman to sign. All were in favor.

7. Motion was made by Vice Chairman McCoy and seconded by Rosla Plant to close Harmony Church Road and Thompson Waddell Road during the Fly-In and Air Show event on October 16<sup>th</sup>. All were in favor.

8. IT services for the Tax Commissioner's Office had been discussed earlier in the meeting. It was the recommendation to ask the Tax Commissioner to seek IT services and a contract (3 quotes) for those services and bring it back before the Board to approve. Budget adjustments will be made as necessary at that time. Motion was made by Vice Chairman McCoy and seconded by Rosla Plant to allow the Tax Commissioner to solicit 3 RFPs for IT services and bring back to the Board to approve and do a Budget Amendment accordingly once it is decided upon. All were in favor.

#### **X. REPORT FROM FINANCE DIRECTOR**

Finance Director Gregory stated the General Fund is down to \$830K and there are two more payrolls before we receive the Insurance check from the State on October 15th. The County has over \$2M in the State treasury account. All else looks good. We were down this August compared to last year in the T-SPLOST account. The 2020 SPLOST is \$30K down from last August. Beth Neely-Hadley brought to the attention of Mr. Gregory a mistake that was confirmed a typo.

## **XI. REPORT FROM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

Administrator Irizarry thanked the Board of Commissioners for allowing her to serve the citizens of Meriwether County. The first two-weeks have been great. A meet and greet will be scheduled with the Department Heads and Constitutional Officers to find out more about their departments and needs. The Meriwether County Chamber of Commerce sent out a notice regarding the Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening of Towerhouse Farm Brewery on Friday, October 8, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. The event will be held at The Ice Block located at 18736 Highway 85, Gay, GA. The Fly-In and Air Show will be held at the Airport on October 16, 2021. Administrator Irizarry attended the ACCG Fall Regional Training last week where they discussed LOST and Redistricting. A copy of the Power Point program has been placed in each Commissioner's box. On Monday, Governor Kemp announced \$1K pay supplements for all eligible sworn officials and first responders in Georgia. This information will be gathered and shared with the OPB office.

## **XII. REPORT FROM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Shirley Hines: stated she understands Epps Paving is in the County and is glad to know they are here. They should be on Primrose Road tomorrow. Commissioner Hines had concerns that this had taken over a year and wants to look at how we will address this when subcontractors cannot fulfill their obligation. There are only a few companies who can do this type of work. They have already done Cove Road and Commissioner Hines was under the impression that they were going to work on Primrose first. There were some things we didn't have any control over. Commissioner Hines wants more clarity on their contract for 2019. Commissioner Hines asked for and received a copy of the 2019 LMIG contract. A more recent copy of that contract will be provided. Commissioner Hines applauds the Board for putting something in place regarding paving roads that make it easy for the citizens to follow and for the citizens and Ms. Womack for their help regarding the proposal to pave Beulah Evans Road. Commissioner Hines thanked Commissioner Plant for the Card. The Board was glad to hear from Commissioner Hines since she had been absent.

Commissioner Rosla Plant: reminded all of the Cotton-Pickin' Fair this weekend. Commissioner Plant and her husband attended the Boy Scout recognition of Jim Mabon and Dan and Marie Branch. It was well attended.

Commissioner Beth Neely-Hadley: Welcomed Michelle and has received very positive feedback on having her in Meriwether County. Commissioner Neely-Hadley attended the informative ACCG LOST and Redistricting Meeting last week.

October 9<sup>th</sup> is the Harvest Hoe Down in Warm Springs. It will begin with a parade at 11:00 a.m. and there will be vendors there all day. Everyone was encouraged to come out and support the City of Warm Springs and businesses.

Renovation is going on in a building in downtown Warm Springs where there are plans for an all-day breakfast restaurant, and maybe a pub.

Vice Chairman McCoy: Promoted and announced the schedule of upcoming events for the Manchester-Meriwether County Recreation. This will be added to the County website.

Chairman Bryan Threadgill: No report.

## **XIII. REPORT FROM COUNTY ATTORNEY**

County Attorney Hill stated an Executive Session was needed for Litigation and Personnel.

## **XIV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Catherine Jenkins, Tax Commissioner, wants the Board to go back and look at the Budget for her office. The Board approved last year's Budget which is out of alliance with the current state of what things cost.

Employees were starting out at \$11 per hour when Tax Commissioner Jenkins took Office. Commissioner Jenkins advised the Board if they thought it was fair to continue this she would let her employees know that the Board of Commissioners said they should be paid that amount. Tax Commissioner Jenkins asked for clarification on the time frame and expectations once she presents the Board with the requested Bids for IT support. Chairman Threadgill advised Tax Commissioner Jenkins this was the time for Public Comments. Tax Commissioner Jenkins stated, "so you are not going to communicate with me and take this opportunity to do that." Chairman Threadgill stated this was just for Public Comment. Tax Commissioner Jenkins stated she would continue and there would be a time this Board would need to work with her office and her office has tried to work with the Commissioner's Office. Tax Commissioner Jenkins stated if we can figure out a way to come to terms and can meet in a professional way it would benefit the County. Tax Commissioner Jenkins stated if the Board was willing to work with her, she would come and sit down to talk but when we get to a disagreement, and she gets thrown out she did not feel that was beneficial for anybody. Tax Commissioner Jenkins stated if they could keep this in their heads, working for the citizens of the County, she thought we could come to terms and work together on this.

Chairman Threadgill stated the Board had made their decision earlier in the meeting regarding the Budget. Tax Commissioner Jenkins stated, "so you are penalizing my office." Chairman Threadgill stated the Board was not penalizing her office. Tax Commissioner Jenkins stated the Board voted to decrease the Budget. Chairman Threadgill stated this was the Public Comment section of the meeting not the Constitutional Officer Comment section of the meeting. Tax Commissioner Jenkins stated she would continue to speak until her three minutes of speaking time expired. Tax Commissioner Jenkins stated the Board had penalized her office, the only office here, rather than trying to work with the Budget as it is.

#### **XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion was made by Vice Chairman McCoy and seconded by Rosla Plant to go into Executive Session at 7:12 p.m. to discuss Personnel, and Litigation. All were in favor.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman McCoy and seconded by Rosla Plant to go out of Executive Session at 7:59 p.m. All were in favor.

Motion was made by Beth Neely-Hadley to go back into Regular Session at 8:00 p.m. All were in favor. Chairman Threadgill stated action was taken in Executive Session. The Board voted in favor of increasing and changing salaries. Those voting in favor were Vice Chairman McCoy, Rosla Plant and Chairman Threadgill. Beth Neely-Hadley abstained, and Shirley Hines was not in the meeting.

#### **XVI. FUTURE MEETINGS & NOTICES**

Chairman Threadgill announced future meetings.

#### **XVII. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Vice Chairman McCoy and seconded by Commissioner Plant to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m. All were in favor.

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

Attest: *Beverly A. Thomas, County Clerk*

Date: *October 13, 2021*