

MINUTES
MERIWETHER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

October 12, 2022

9:00 A.M.

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

Commissioners Present: Chairman Beth Neely-Hadley, Vice Chairman Bryan Threadgill, Commissioner Shirley Hines, Commissioner Rosla Plant, and Commissioner Alfred "Buster" McCoy

Staff Present: County Administrator Michelle Irizarry, Director of Special Projects Theron Gay, County Clerk Beverly Thomas, Finance Director Bill Gregory, and Attorney Nathan Lee

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Beth-Neely Hadley

II. INVOCATION

Chairman Beth-Neely Hadley

III. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

All

IV. ADOPT AGENDA

Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Vice Chairman Threadgill to adopt the Agenda with the following changes. *Move 1. Appointment – Airport Authority, District 5 term expires 10-31-22 from "New Business" to "Appointment's and renumber remainder of items under New Business. Add under New Business the following:*

7. Discuss December 27, 2022 Meeting 8. Discuss Lake Meriwether expense,

All were in favor. Number 9. Discuss the original Radio Relocation Project, was added to the Agenda following the completion of Number 8.

V. FINANCE REPORT

Finance Director, Bill Gregory, reported the General Fund balance, with commitments and payroll, was down to \$500K, and we would add funds from the Local Government Investment Pool bringing the amount of \$1.5M; which is fine because we will have an influx of funds coming in around the 15th of this month. The other funds are looking good as well.

Mr. Gregory asked the Board if they would like to have the Thanksgiving Dinner this year and if so what direction we should proceed. The Board agreed to proceed as we have done over the last few years. The Thanksgiving Dinner will be held on Friday, November 18, 2022.

VI. CITIZEN COMMENT

None

VII. MINUTES

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Rosla Plant to approve the Minutes from the September 27, 2022, 6:00 p.m. Regular Meeting. Voting in favor were Vice Chairman Threadgill, Rosla Plant, Chairman Neely-Hadley, and Shirley Hines. Alfred McCoy abstained. The motion passed.

VIII. PUBLIC HEARING

None

IX. APPOINTMENTS

1. Motion was made by Chairman Beth Neely-Hadley and seconded by Vice Chairman Threadgill to appoint Alfred "Buster" McCoy to the Airport Authority, District 5. This is a five-year term that will expire on October 31, 2027. All were in favor.

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Administrator Irizarry stated Finance Director Gregory had provided the proposed 2022-2023 Budget and questions had been answered since the last meeting.

Commissioner Hines asked if we were bringing on more employees at the Animal Shelter. Vice Chairman Threadgill stated the Board approved a full-time position last year in an open meeting and it was already in the budget last year. The filled the position last year but we were already into the Budget and the Budget was not amended. It is not reflected in the FY2022 Budget but when we do the amendment it will reflect for that portion of the Budget.

Commissioner Hines asked about the Tax Commissioners Budget being decreased in the Advertising and Legal Publication. Commissioner Hines asked if we were not going to have as many tax sales or what was the reasoning. Mr. Gregory stated the amount in last years budget was too high and we only used 15% of the budgeted amount last year.

Contract Services is for the website and Manatron Accounting system.

Commissioner Hines asked about the increase in line item 151 on the Tax Assessor's Budget, under contractual services. Mr. Gregory stated it is for mobile tax assessing system they use when they evaluate property and revaluations. It is an outside company that is brought in for that service. The company that does the assessments for them each year is also in there. Building and Grounds under maintenance and contract has increased. Mr. Gregory stated this is the people we use outside the company such as grass cutters at Lake Meriwether and the Airport, etc. The State Inmate Contract is also under contract services for Public Works.

Vice Chairman Threadgill asked what the \$60K was for towers and maintenance. Mr. Jones stated it covers the leasing of towers, leasing of frequencies, maintenance, A/C, and anything to do with the towers. A lot is contingency in case something breaks. The owners of the towers provide space, and we have to provide air conditioning in the building such as the one at Mt. Carmel. Mr. Jones provided another example regarding the tower in Warm Springs. He stated that we don't have an agreement with them, but we have to service our equipment.

Commissioner Hines asked where the Pathways rental was shown. Mr. Gregory stated it is shown in Revenue under rents and royalties.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Alfred McCoy to accept the 2022-2023 Budget with the stipulation that no funds are to be transferred for any other line item or account by any individual, department, or office without approval from the Board of Commissioners. All were in favor.

2. E-911 Director, Brin Jones, stated this was tabled from the last meeting. Vice Chairman Threadgill had asked for a breakdown. The City of Manchester is still interested but we don't have radios at this time to give them to demo. until this is approved. Vice Chairman Threadgill asked if we do this can we amend the contract to include additional at the same time. Mr. Jones stated anyone who goes into this program with the County will be part of the \$75K annual maintenance contract which means any additional radio we bring into the contract; our price will decrease. Vice Chairman Threadgill stated the Board approved a plan with Motorola a few years ago and asked what the difference was in the system and if it communicates with this one. Mr. Jones stated it is the internal radio system for the 911 Center which is basically software and hardware. There is a group of radios in the back room that control the software upfront. Those radios are part of an old system and can communicate with them. Motorola can communicate with the new system. There was conversation regarding encryption and scanning which Mr. Jones stated would be up to the Sheriff and Fire Chief. This system has an option to encrypt and there is a set of private channels that does not go out to the public. Both Chairman Neely-Hadley and Vice Chairman Threadgill received calls and Mr. Jones received an email. Many citizens listen to the scanners to find out what is going on. It would be up to the offices and departments on whether to encrypt. Mr. Jones stated the Counties surrounding us are encrypted due to safety reasons. There was conversation regarding Government transparency as well as privacy and HIPPA restrictions while listening to calls that go out on the scanners.

Commissioner Hines thanked Mr. Jones for his presentation. It is important for departments to communicate with each other. We must protect those who are serving us. Mr. Jones stated the system can be redesigned to be encrypted.

Commissioner McCoy stated it was his understanding that we received insurance money for the tower that was destroyed. Mr. Jones stated it cost us approximately \$34K to clean up and relocate after the tower went down. It went out on Friday and was back up on Sunday. There is a little bit of insurance money remaining and Mr. Jones assumed it would go toward this purchase. Commissioner McCoy assumed the \$75 is after we considered the insurance money and all else. Vice Chairman Threadgill stated the quote is higher than it was at the last meeting. Mr. Jones stated he overlooked some radios at E-911 and the Detention Center. The monthly fee is down. The price includes the subscription and maintenance the first year. Mr. Jones confirmed there would not be any roaming charges within the County. Vice Chairman Threadgill stated it was in the agreement as a stipulation is the reason he was asking. Mr. Jones stated that carries on to year two and has no roaming charges. Motion was made by Alfred McCoy and seconded by Shirley Hines to approve what was presented. Discussion followed. Vice Chairman Threadgill asked to have a stipulation included in the Agreement of no roaming charges to be included for the 5-year term. Alfred McCoy amended the motion to approve what was submitted and to include no roaming charges for the 5-year term. Shirley Hines seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Finance Director Gregory asked the Board to identify the funding source. Mr. Gregory stated it could be SPLOST or ARP, whatever

the Board would like. Vice Chairman Threadgill stated it is a 5-year contract and if we do it today and the ARP funds are used for something else next year, then that is no longer a funding source. Mr. Gregory stated the \$216K would be upfront and the \$75K can be budgeted out in the General Fund. Commissioner Hines recommended we fund with SPLOST. Motion was amended by Alfred McCoy and seconded by Commissioner Hines to approve what was presented, add the stipulation of no roaming charges for 5-years and use SPLOST for funding. All were in favor.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Commissioner McCoy to adopt the Resolution requesting Local Legislation to establish a technology fund for the Probate Court of Meriwether County and allow the Chairman to sign. Representative Debbie Buckner will sponsor, introduce, and support the enactment of the Bill to become a Local Act in the Georgia General Assembly. All were in favor.

2. Administrator Irizarry spoke to Tax Commissioner Cruse regarding uncollectable taxes. By State law anything beyond seven years eligible for a FIFA is deemed uncollectable and consists of heavy equipment, timber, personal property, real property, and mobile home, from 1998 to 2015. This is basically to clean up the digest. Administrator Irizarry provide the numbers: Heavy Equipment: \$204.77, Timber \$11,105.11, Personal \$412,602.85, Real Property \$313,627.60, Mobile Home \$695,194.82. Much of the taxes are from penalties and interest due to age on the taxes. The Tax Commissioner and The Tax Assessor are moving forward to place placards on the properties to get them current and to enforce as well. Commissioner Hines confirmed the Tax Commissioners intent was to do this on all mobile homes from 1998 to 2015 because it is uncollectable by State Law. Commissioner Hines wanted this brought to the Board much sooner. Commissioner Hines stated she knows this Board hired David Noles as a consultant to do special projects, like the mobile homes. If he worked on this why is there such a delinquency. Administrator Irizarry stated several Tax Commissioners have been in office since that time and this is just to clean up what was not collected during that time. It goes back to 1998 and some of the mobile homes are no longer there. Attorney Nathan Lee stated the Tax Commissioner collects taxes and the Tax Assessor sets the value. Commissioner Hines stated when brought in so much work on this project, we identified there were mobile homes that were not there. Administrator Irizarry stated correct, and those have been corrected in the digest for whatever year they realized those mobile homes were not there. Commissioner Hines was concerned of the area of the timeframe Mr. Noles was doing. We have had property sold with mobile homes on it and no indication there was a mobile home there. Commissioner Hines stated this should have been brought to the Board sooner and in more detail if the Board was being asked to vote on it today. Chairman Neely-Hadley asked if this had to be voted on today. Attorney Nathan Lee explained after a certain period of time you cannot collect. It is like any judgement. Commissioner Hines asked if it was taken off the digest then how would it work with our overall percentage collection when we are looking at the Department of Revenue. Administrator Irizarry stated by the Department of Revenue standards our collection rate would be higher because we are wiping out a portion that we cannot collect and is sitting on the books. Commissioner Hines wanted to table this until she can see more information. Motion was made by Shirley Hines to table the removal of

uncollected taxes until the October 25, 2022 Meeting. Vice Chairman Threadgill stated he was shocked at the previous Tax Commissioners not bringing this to the Board. Vice Chairman Threadgill thanked Deann Cruse for providing this to the Board. Vice Chairman Threadgill seconded the motion. All were in favor.

3. Administrator Irizarry stated the document in the Commissioners Package had gone through legal and there had been substantial changes to the Maintenance Bond Agreement. This is for the back section of the road in Chambless Village. Maps were included in the package for the Boards review. Theron Gay, Director of Special Projects, stated in reference to Chambless Village they started the development back in 2004. They paved the roads and put in utilities. They developed the first Phase. They started developing the larger section, but they got up to lot 24 or 25 and they stopped and did not develop beyond that. We never accepted the roads beyond that. They have come now and asked that we take in what amounts to the second Phase/second section. That roads runs not all the way down to the end of the subdivision but a portion of the subdivision. They have now performed that work under the FDR process and Bill Cawthorne has inspected that and everything is fine. They are required to bring in a bond under the new County regulations. It has to be a three-year bond and it is 1.5 times the estimated cost of the project. We have received the bond and agreement and we have developed a deed because they also have to deed that right of way over to the County. There were a few issues with the agreement. We need to change the Exhibits. They have Exhibit "A" showing all the streets in the entire subdivision. Mr. Gay felt that was not all the streets and the agreement didn't need to be all of the streets. Mr. Gay stated they went and developed a deed based upon the legal drawing they had and wants to modify the agreement to attach Exhibit "A" as the Deed and attach the plat that was put on record as Exhibit "B". The language needs to be changed where it talks about the obligation will become null and void. Mr. Gay stated it becomes null and void after three years unless they are not halfway built out, which they will be. There is modification in paragraph one that involves the last two sentences. Mr. Gay read those sentences and the changes. Mr. Gay stated they had produced the deed and were still working on getting the right name of the deed. There was another change on the Warranty Maintenance Bond. It said it was for Chambless Village and Hunter Welch Parkway but there is also R.L. Parker Drive and Parker Court that needs to be added. In section with the paragraph that starts out "For" the wording after where is reads "subject to working for under the contract" needs to be taken out. It gets into defective materials and workmanship, and we do not need to argue with that when we get down the road as to whether the road has failed or not. If the road fails the bond needs to be called. Staff recommends approval and acceptance of the deed pending changes and final review from our council. The County will have the group execute the deed and bring back to the County and then at that point in time the roads become part of the County Road System and the three-year Bond will go into effect. Commissioner Hines stated this is in District 1 and it is good to know that someone is finally taking on this project. You can't undo what has already been done but in making this clear in times before, with a project this size, there is only one way in. As this subdivision is built out, we will be looking at ninety homes. Commissioner Hines stated she was thinking about the safety and there should have been more discussion. Commissioner Hines asked if this was just for one section, because of the concern if happened in 2004 happens again. Commissioner Hines did not see where we addressed

what happens if this builder cannot build all the way out and we will find ourselves in the same situation as we were in 2004. Mr. Gay stated in 2004 they installed minimum standard paving. This is different. The first Phase of this is the roads that have been there, and we already have that responsibility. This road will be for three-years. If there are issues with the road after three-years we will go back to the developer and have them fix the road back to County standards or if he refuses, we will call in the bond. Since we have been working on this the developer has now redone the last Phase. Soon he will come back with another request for the Board to accept the balance of the roads in the subdivision. He has already paved those roads. It was confirmed he had paved Phase II and Phase III, but the County has not accepted it yet. We have only accepted the middle Phase because that is what he started out with and the bonding we gave them was only for the middle Phase. Mr. Gay stated that is why he had an issue with only having Exhibit A, which was the entire subdivision, because in some ways it looked as if it could be argued that we accepted Exhibit A and the bond covers everything, which it does not. He will have to put up another bond for Phase III. Commissioner Hines clarified we were only accepting the middle Phase which is Phase II. Commissioner Hines asked how many parcels were in there. Mr. Gay referred the Board to the Maps that were provided for Exhibit A, it would be 60-70 according to Bill Cawthorne. The roads highlighted in Blue are already part of the system. Mr. Gay stated there were 50 lots in the first Phase and there are more lots than that in the next Phase. On the page where it says Plat Book 21, page 43, it has blue then transitions into a yellow line. Commissioner Hines stated the yellow line did not go all the way through the cul-de-sacs. Mr. Gay stated that is the next Phase. It was confirmed Mr. Gay was only asked the Board to take the roads that were highlighted in yellow. The Deed description reflects that in that it starts with a lot and ends with a lot. Attorney Nathan Lee stated if this developer leaves for any reason we have the bond to protect us for the lots we are approving today. Commissioner Hines wanted to make sure the paperwork reflected that in the deeds and exhibits because when this was first addressed the County did not know that they had not accepted it. Mr. Gay stated they looked at the condition of the road and it was in such bad shape it would have had to have been resurfaced before you could build over it. The road now has a better drain and surface section so it should not cause any problems for years. When they bring the road in, they start building houses which means concrete trucks, building material trucks, etc. which are extremely heavy, and if the streets are not corrected, they will destroy the streets. If that happens in this case, the developer will have to fix it, or we will call the bond and fix it ourselves. Vice Chairman Threadgill stated the document states if it is not completed by 50% of term of the bond they have to extend it. Chairman Neely-Hadley told Mr. Gay the Board appreciates what he has done with looking into this because of many subdivisions are going in we would be stuck taking care of the roads which is not right. It has taken some time to get to this point and Chairman Neely-Hadley hopes they are able to finish this subdivision. Mr. Gay agreed with Commissioner Hines and stated we need to look at the subdivision regulations with Cassandra Sharpe, Building, Zoning, and Community Development Director. In Coweta County if the subdivision had more than 99 lots you had to have a second entrance in the subdivision. This had an opportunity to do that, but they have sold one of the lots on the backside and could not get a separate entrance. But of course, it was not required. This is something we will look at. We have not had that many subdivisions in the past that totaled 99 homes but

will in the future. There was additional conversation regarding safety concerns. Motion was made by Shirley Hines and seconded by Alfred McCoy to accept the Maintenance Bond Agreement between Paran Homes, LLC, and Meriwether County for the performance of infrastructure constructed by Chambless Investors, LLC. contingent on staff and legal review. All were in favor.

4. Administrator Irizarry stated the Red Oak Creek Covered Bridge was placed on the Places in Peril with the Georgia Trust. Ben Sutton, with Georgia Trust, has reached out to the County. There are some graduate students in the Georgia Masters of Heritage Preservation program. These students would like to document the bridge for the Historic American Engineering Record. This would permanently record the bridges structural design into the Library of Congress. There would not be any disruption to the area, and it could be beneficial to GDOT or the County when and if rehabilitation issues need to be addressed. It is a free opportunity to get some attention to the Bridge. Vice Chairman Threadgill stated we need something in place for liability due to the historical factor. Motion was made by Alfred McCoy and seconded by Bryan Threadgill to move forward with the request, allowing them to document the Bridge and have an indemnity agreement for facility use. All were in favor.

5. Administrator Irizarry stated the County previously allowed payment of up to 80 hours COVID leave for those who tested positive. This was extended early in the year. Now that COVID has decreased and the CDC has lightened up on parameters for COVID, staff recommends this be discontinued. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Alfred McCoy to discontinue up to 80 hours leave time we had approved but also have the Board and Administrator look at each individual case. All were in favor.

6. Administrator Irizarry reviewed the request from the City of Manchester for a John Deere Gator. The lowest bid received was for \$8,743.82 through the Georgia State Contract. Staff recommends approval but may need to put together an Intergovernmental Agreement that shows who is in charge of maintenance, where it will be used, etc. Administrator Irizarry would like direction from the Board regarding this. Vice Chairman Threadgill wanted an Intergovernmental Agreement indicating the ownership stays with the County and the liability for the City of Manchester would be to provide the manufacturer-required maintenance. Commissioner Hines wanted to know why this request came to the County. If it was to be used on the ballfields, the County does not own a field. Administrator Irizarry stated Gators are typically used in recreational parks. It has a bucket area to carry items such as equipment rather than carrying it by hand. Commissioner Hines wanted to know what facilities in the County this would be used. Administrator Irizarry stated that is what we want to address in the Intergovernmental Agreement. Vice Chairman Threadgill stated when the City of Manchester asked him about this they said it would be used to haul a lot of equipment to cut down on the manpower. Some fields do not have enough room for someone to drive a vehicle close to the area. Commissioner Hines wanted to know why the City of Manchester could not find the funding in the \$150,000 the County gives them annually. There was also a concern of no Countywide Recreation after 8 years on the Board. Two years ago, Public Works talked about the need for a Boom Axe, and we got one and we are still short on other equipment that we can't accommodate. Commissioner Hines stated a couple of months ago she asked to have a road paved, and it was taken out. Commissioner Hines stated she

was amazed we could find funds for this but not for other things. Chairman Neely-Hadley stated this would be under SPOLST that is already designated for Recreation. Vice Chairman Threadgill stated there is a line item that has been on the Budget for the last three years that was approved for \$10K for small equipment if needed. Vice Chairman Threadgill thinks the \$150K they get annually is very specific in how the money is utilized for and did not think equipment was one of the items it could be used for. Commissioner Hines confirmed there was a line item under Recreation for this. Chairman Neely-Hadley stated yes, it has been there. Some of that has been used for Lake Meriwether. Commissioner Hines asked if this would be owned by the County. Administrator stated yes and also we would include how it will be utilized and they would be responsible to maintain it according to the manufactures maintenance agreement. Vice Chairman Threadgill stated the City of Manchester would have the responsibility to provide any maintenance per the manufacturer. The County will pay the insurance if we own it. Commissioner Hines asked if other department could use it as well. Vice Chairman Threadgill stated it is under Recreation. There was discussion of who would be able to use it and Vice Chairman Threadgill brought up if we allowed other departments to use it, but we have stated the responsibility of the maintenance belongs to Manchester, that could be an issue. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Shirley Hines to table this until the next meeting. All were in favor.

7. Chairman Neely-Hadley stated the Board does not typically meet on the last meeting in December due to the Holidays. This year the County will observe the Christmas Holiday on December 23rd – 26th. Due to the days of the Holiday and not wanting to schedule a Public Hearing on this day, Chairman Neely Motion was made by Chairman Neely-Hadley and seconded by Vice Chairman Threadgill to cancel the last Board of Commissioners Meeting on December 27, 2022. All were in favor.

8. The Board had approved the expenses at Lake Meriwether but now there is a change. Commissioner McCoy stated when we came before the Board we were extending the RV Park. It was a guesstimate and the amount of \$30K was approved. Since that time there are now additional cost. The soil science report was about \$700, an unanticipated thousand-gallon pump tank was \$1,020, two tank risers were \$90, the water meter and water service application with the City of Woodbury cost \$1,020. There will be a meter coming through the park off the water treatment plant to account for what they are producing there. Due to the overrun, Commissioner McCoy asked to go from \$30K to \$33K. Administrator Irizarry made a recommendation, after looking at the numbers, not to exceed \$33,400. Commissioner McCoy stated they did not think some of these costs would be involved. They had to change the entire drain field and move it up and having to do collections at two sites and add a dump tank. The plans are to close this project out by the end of the month. Mr. Cawthorne stated we ended up with approximately 800 linear feet of drain field lines with the two systems, which was quite expensive. Mr. Cawthorne stated they hoped for finish out with the Georgia Power Company meter any day. They did not charge us for this. The County is hauling more dirt and millings and people are getting excited.

Danny Stephens, Lake Meriwether Advisory Board Member, thanked Commissioner McCoy for his work at Lake Meriwether and the Boat Ramp at Flint River and stated this could not have been done without Commissioner McCoy's leadership.

Motion was made by Shirley Hines and seconded by Commissioner McCoy to approve the expenses cost at Lake Meriwether and not exceed \$33,400. All were in favor.

9. Vice Chairman Threadgill requested the Agenda be amended to add discussion of the original Radio Relocation Project. We had already approved that based on the fact of reception. Vice Chairman Threadgill stated he wanted to make a motion to withdraw that approval due to fact that the Board just agreed to the new radio system. We would need to take that off of approval since it was done at a different location. Administrator Irizarry stated Brin Jones had presented two different proposals and wanted clarification on this. One was for the PoC System and the other was for what is needed for the redundancy of the old system of moving the equipment to the tower. Was both of those approved with the earlier motion. Vice Chairman Threadgill stated the Board has approved the radio and antenna but did not know at the time the radios were being tested. Then the subject of the radios came before the Board. The reason the radio and antenna was approved and brought before the Board was the reception. But now that we are going to another system, there is no reason to move forward with that money for a better reception since we will be using a different radio system. Administrator Irizarry stated part of the proposal was for \$70K for the tower and wanted to know if that was approved. Chairman Neely-Hadley thought that was all together. Vice Chairman Threadgill motioned to withdraw the approval of \$70K to move the equipment to the antenna located behind the Texaco Station, Chairman Neely Hadley seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Chairman Neely-Hadley stated this was totally different from what we are doing now. Commissioner Plant needed clarification. Chairman Neely-Hadley stated we had approved to go in a different direction when the tower first went down. Vice Chairman Threadgill stated Mr. Jones had wanted to build a new tower then there was conversation about the tower behind the Texaco Station. We had decided we could use the tower at the Texaco Station, and this takes it out of the approval status, and we will go with what was discussed today. Commissioner McCoy asked Mr. Jones if this was clear with him. Mr. Jones it is clear to him, and he understands what Vice Chairman Threadgill is saying but we still have issues with the old system and that is needed for redundancy. That is why we shaved off \$30K, down to the bare minimum. Chairman Neely-Hadley stated we have not changed that. This was when we thought we would have to build. Vice Chairman Threadgill stated there was one approval the Board did from the request Mr. Jones had to move the equipment to the Texaco Tower. That is what the Vice Chairman Threadgill was asking to withdraw the approval for at this point. Vice Chairman Threadgill asked Mr. Jones to come back before the Board if he thought that was needed at a later date with a presentation of why and the amount. Vice Chairman Threadgill stated if we are moving forward with a new system he did not see the need to do both and if they find out there is Mr. Jones will need to bring this back before them. There was further discussion. Chairman Neely-Hadley asked how that would affect the Cities if we were going with the Radios. Mr. Jones stated the Cities would not have anything to do with that per se right now. There was additional conversation of when the request started back in March for a new tower, then later it was discovered the County could add equipment to an existing tower located behind the Texaco Gas Station and an approval was given to move forward with that. Before Mr. Jones moved forward with moving the equipment from the Sheriff's Office tower to the tower behind the Texaco Station, Mr. Jones came back before the Board regarding new radios that were being tested and that provided good

signal coverage for most of the County. Vice Chairman Threadgill wanted to see how we did with the new radios before we spent the money to move the equipment off the tower at the Sheriff's Office to the tower behind the Texaco Station. All were in favor of withdrawing funds in the amount of \$70K for the moving of equipment from the Sheriff's Office Antenna to the Texaco Station Antenna.

XII. REPORT FROM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Administrator Irizarry reported that she, Allyson Stephens, and Bill Gregory attended the grants meeting for the Greenville Park which was the first step to get that started. We are working on the ribbon cutting for the Fire Station in Greenville and we are working with the State on the Boat Ramp ribbon cutting. We have advertised an RFP for the IDA regarding the drive and road improvements. Work on the additional mile on Luthersville Road started yesterday.

Commissioner Hines stated we had talked about getting back with GDOT in reference to resources for Forrest Road and Luthersville Road. Administrator Irizarry stated a letter had been sent but we have not received any information back at this time. Administrator Irizarry will follow up with GDOT. Commissioner Hines asked if we had started looking at the LMIG road list for 2023. Administrator Irizarry stated as she is aware, we have not at this point.

XIII. REPORT FROM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Hines – reported she will be hosting a joint Town Hall Meeting on October 13, 2022, 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Cuttie in Luthersville at the auditorium. There will be different people there to discuss resources that are available for them in the County. One of the biggest calls is the assistance for senior on their heating. Commissioner Hines stated this would be her last Town Hall Meeting as an Elected Official and she encouraged everyone to come out for the meeting.

Commissioner Plant – Keep Meriwether Beautiful had a follow up meeting from the last clean-up. One of the things that was overlooked was Amazon Smile. When ordering you can press the smile key and designate Keep Meriwether Beautiful. There are some funds there and every little bit helps. Beverly Thomas has started the process of the Christmas around the Courthouse. We are asking the Cities to participate and to decorate their tree before November 22nd in order to kick off the Christmas Season. Commissioner Plant asked for prayers for the family and friends of former Tax Commissioner, Mr. Pete Johnson. Mr. Johnson had previously served in the Tax Assessors Office for ten years before serving as the Meriwether County Tax Commissioner. Commissioner Plant provided the details of his funeral service. Commissioner Plant expressed thanks for his many years of service to this County.

Chairman Neely-Hadley – Announced if those who were unable to attend the Open House of the Wedding Venue in Warm Springs, a video tour is available on FB. This is a beautiful venue and is an asset for Warm Springs and Meriwether County. The Candlelight weekends in Warm Springs will start on November 18th and go through December 23rd-24th. Chairman Neely-Hadley encouraged all to shop local.

Vice Chairman Threadgill – No comments at this time.

Commissioner McCoy – stated Mr. H.Y. “Pete” Johnson, former Tax Commissioners, was a lifetime resident of Meriwether County and a long-time member of Post 186. Commissioner McCoy was asked to remind POST 186 member they will have designated seating at his funeral.

Lake Meriwether has been a thrill and a lot of work has been done there. Commissioner McCoy thanked Danny Stephens for his earlier comments. There will be a future dedication of the dock at River Cove Landing. Commissioner McCoy stated we lease the property, and we are secondary in the dedication program. This is one of the nicest ramps on the Flint River.

XIV. REPORT FROM COUNTY ATTORNEY

Attorney Lee had nothing to report. Administrator Irizarry stated an Executive Session was needed for Personnel, Real Estate and Tax Issues.

XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Alfred McCoy to go into Executive Session at 10:20 a.m. for Personnel, Real Estate and Tax Issues. All were in favor.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Shirley Hines to go out of Executive Session at 11:15 a.m. All were in favor.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Shirley Hines to go back into Regular Session at 11:17 a.m. All were in favor.

There was action taken. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Alfred McCoy to execute Quit Claim Deed from the Meriwether County Board of Commissioners to the Meriwether County Industrial Development Authority consisting of land located on Lot 123 of the 11th Land District containing 2.3 acres. Voting in favor were Vice Chairman Threadgill, Alfred McCoy, Chairman Neely-Hadley, and Shirley Hines. Rosla Plant abstained. All were in favor.

XVI. FUTURE MEETINGS & NOTICES

Future Meetings and Notices were announced.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to discuss, motion was made by Vice Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Alfred McCoy to adjourn at 11:18 a.m. All were in favor.

Approved by: Majority vote of the Board of Commissioners

Attest: Blueley Thomas, County Clerk

Date: October 25, 2022