

MINUTES
MERIWETHER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
November 10, 2021

Commissioners Present: Chairman Bryan Threadgill, Vice Chairman Alfred McCoy, Commissioner Shirley Hines, Commissioner Rosla Plant and Commissioner Beth Neely-Hadley
Staff Present: Administrator Michelle Irizarry, Director of Special Projects Theron Gay, County Clerk Beverly Thomas, Finance Director Bill Gregory, and County Attorney Nathan Lee

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Threadgill called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

II. INVOCATION – Commissioner Beth Neely-Hadley thanked all the Veterans who served our Country and acknowledged all Veterans in attendance at the Board of Commissioners meeting before giving the Invocation.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Lead by the Board of Commissioners

IV. ADOPT AGENDA

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Alfred McCoy and seconded by Rosla Plant to adopt the Agenda with the following changes. Add under New Business: 6. Confirm purchase of a 2021 Ford F-150 truck in the amount of \$36,200, Stock #F2136 VIN# 1FTFW1P82MKE57851
7. MOU between Meriwether County School System and Meriwether County BOC – Public Safety Grant
Remove under New Business 2. Gene King to discuss tax issues. All were in favor.

V. REPORT FROM FINANCE DIRECTOR

Finance Director Bill Gregory provided three reports. The General Fund is down which is normal for this time of the year due to tax payments not coming in until December. The County is averaging \$20K over the original estimate for the SLPOST account and \$10K over the original estimate for TSPLOST account.

VI. CITIZEN COMMENT

Larry Dunaway, 3361 Wilbur Keith Rd., Greenville – announced the Veterans Day celebration would be held tomorrow at the American Legion Post 186. Stacy Hummer will be the quest speaker. Ms. Hummer is pro-active with mental health programs for 1st Responders who are returning from Afghanistan. The program will start at 11:00 a.m. and the Post is open to the public for this event.
Mr. Dunaway stated he like the order of the Agenda since it allowed Public Comment prior to decisions being made.

Michael Robertson, 35 Dolly Harris Road, Senoia – addressed the Board from his position as Chairman of the Recreation Advisory Board. Mr. Robertson stated he was at today's meeting regarding the Meriwether County-Manchester Recreation Department and in looking at the history of Recreation he understands why we merged with the Manchester Recreation Department. One issue where Mr. Robertson needs help is convenience for those on the North end of the County. Mr. Robertson stated this was not to say someone was not doing their job, it is to get an understanding of this due to his position in Greenville Recreation. With COVID there were limited or no recreation events. Mr. Robertson stated one question that came up was, would the funding that was allotted monthly to Manchester go back into the general fund since it was not used for events, or does it roll over into the FY-2022. The next item was the audit of the funds that was issued from Meriwether County to Manchester Recreation. This is not to say that someone is not doing their job, but Vic Dowis, will not be there forever. The Recreation Advisory Board wanted to know how they would follow those funds and how this was being handled so the next person who steps in would follow the same as Vic Dowis. The North end is struggling and that is probably the reason we let Manchester handle the Recreation Department. They cannot travel from the

Luthersville area down to Manchester just for practice Monday-Friday. If there are different aged children in the family they are having to go to Woodbury and Manchester for practice because it is split up. One of the things Mr. Robertson spoke with Vic about was the facilities and his involvement with the kids on this end. There is not enough involvement and one of the things that Mr. Robertson spoke with Mr. Dowis about was a visual where kids see there are fields and a gym for them to go so there would be more participation like it is in Manchester. Mr. Robertson's time speaking reached the 3-minute limit. He was asked to contact the Finance Director, Bill Gregory, for information on the Budget.

Ms. Sue Ann Reid and Ms. Gail Ellis, representatives of the Mt. Pilgrim Community, thanked Chairman Threadgill and Commissioner Neely-Hadley for attending the Harvest Bar-B-Q on Saturday. They also thanked the Board for all they did for the community. Ms. Reid and Ms. Ellis presented a framed Certificate of Appreciation to Mr. Theron Gay for all of his hard work and effort in getting this project completed. The certificate was signed by Ms. Reid, Ms. Ellis and Mr. Tommy Walton who was not present. Theron Gay, Director of Special Projects, stated they were some of the best people he had ever worked with and apologized for not being able to attend the Harvest Bar-B-Q. Ms. Reid and Ms. Ellis also provided a framed Certificate of Appreciation for the Board of Commissioners.

VII. MINUTES

Motion was made by Beth Neely-Hadley and seconded by Vice Chairman Alfred McCoy to approve the Minutes from the October 26, 2021, Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m. All were in favor.

VIII. PUBLIC HEARING

None

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Motion was made by Vice Chairman McCoy and seconded by Commissioner Plant to table the revision of the Solid Waste Ordinance RE: Franchise Fee Section 26-118 (7) and approval of the Solid Waste Application until the January 12, 2022, Board meeting. All were in favor.

X. APPOINTMENTS

None

XI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Director of Special Projects, Theron Gay, stated at the last meeting, the Board was asked to take a formal vote to pave Beulah Evans Road. An update on the process was provided. Motion was made by Shirley Hines and seconded by Beth Neely-Hadley to pave Beulah Evans Road pending acquisition of the right-of-way. All were in favor.

2. This item was removed from the Agenda.

3. Tim Marlow, Assistant District Attorney, explained the Memorandum of Understanding regarding the Pre-Trial Diversion Program. There were no questions. Motion was made by Vice Chairman McCoy and seconded by Beth Neely-Hadley to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between John Herbert Cranford, Jr., District Attorney, and Meriwether County Board of Commissioners for the purposes of establishing a pretrial diversion program. All were in favor.

4. Chairman Threadgill motioned to continue with the meetings as they are set for November and December since the Board meetings will not actually fall on any of the holidays. Vice Chairman McCoy seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

5. Theron Gay, Special Projects Director, reviewed the 2022 LMIG Project Report. This report included the road name, beginning location and ending location of project, length of miles, description of work, project cost and the projected let date. Commissioner Hines asked why we were only getting 7 miles of road rather than the normal 11-12 miles. Theron Gay, Special Projects Director, stated Luthersville Road is a full depth reclamation with striping and widening. It is a combination project with

multi-districts. We are looking at approximately \$1.2M. Commissioner Hines asked the length of Luthersville Road and reported it is in worse shape at the end of Rocky Mount Road and Luthersville Road. Theron Gay, Special Projects Director, stated the County did not have enough funds to pave the entire road at one time and he had spoken to GDOT. Years ago, this would have been considered a secondary road and GDOT said they would take a look and see if they could help. The City of Luthersville did a section that was in the City limits. From the City Limits of Luthersville Road to Hwy. 362 is approximately 7.5 miles. Motion was made by Vice Chairman McCoy and seconded by Rosla Plant to accept the 2022 LMIG Project Report. All were in favor.

6. Motion was made by Chairman Threadgill and seconded by Vice Chairman McCoy to confirm the purchase of a 2021 Ford F150 truck, VIN #1FTFW1P82MKE57851 for the Animal Shelter, in the amount of \$36,200. Funds will be used from the Animal Shelter account. That account includes donations. All were in favor.

7. Motion was made by Beth Neely-Hadley and seconded by Rosla Plant to approve the MOU between the Meriwether County Board of Education and the Meriwether County Board of Commissioners for the Public Safety Grant. All were in favor.

XII. REPORT FROM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Administrator Irizarry reported TSLOST projects for paving Mt. Pilgrim, Peaceful Lane and Tuskegee are complete. Piedmont Paving will finalize the shoulder work on Mt. Pilgrim and then move to Peaceful Lane and Tuskegee on November 10, 2021, to finish the shoulder work. Permanent striping and grassing should be complete next week.

Piedmont Paving framed and poured the head the walls on the Massengale Mill Road culvert project on Tuesday. Public Works will now be able to finish the back fill work so the road can be reopened to the public. The section will not be paved for several weeks, and traffic can use the road. Piedmont Paving is working on LMIG 2020 and LMIG 2021 and hopes to finish both contracts in the next few weeks.

County 4-H is headed to Rock Eagle for the Junior Conference. Ten will be in attendance including our own Landin Cunningham who serves as the Northwest Junior President. Sixty pumpkins were judged at the recent Pumpkin decorating contest.

The Cities have been contacted regarding decorating the Christmas Trees that will be place around the Courthouse lawn. All Cities are willing to participate. Administrator Irizarry provided the dates and times of installation and decorating. Anyone wishing to help decorate can contact Beverly Thomas. The Thanksgiving luncheon will be held on Monday, November 22, 2021. Due to COVID we will be unable to join as a group. Board members and administrative staff will prepare the takeout meals for delivery or pick up.

XIII. REPORT FROM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Neely-Hadley: Commissioner Neely-Hadley and Chairman Threadgill attended the Harvest Bar-B-Q for the Mt. Pilgrim Road Community on November 6, 2021. Commissioner Neely-Hadley stated she had never seen a more appreciative and gracious event. The Mt. Pilgrim Community gave a Certificate of Appreciation to Board. They used a golfcart to ride and show the changes in the road once it was paved. Commissioner Neely-Hadley stated they needed to give themselves credit for the way they went about this entire process. This was possible because of the work they did and because of the citizens of this County voting to pass the T-SPLOST. The decorations and food were wonderful, and they were very proud of their road.

The Candlelight weekends will begin November 19th - 20th and go through December 17th - 18th. Everyone was invited to come out and support the Warm Springs merchants.

Commissioner Neely-Hadley addressed her constituents in District 5. In 2018 Commissioner Neely-Hadley ran opposed and wanted to think the people thought she was doing a good job. Commissioner Neely-Hadley stated she wanted to put it out there in hopes there is someone out there who is committed to service. Qualifying is in March and the election will be next November. Commissioner Neely-Hadley stated it was her intention not to run again and hopes there is someone else to run for the office of

Commissioner, District 5. Commissioner Neely-Hadley stated it had been a pleasure to serve the Citizens of Meriwether County.

Commissioner Rosla Plant: thanked Chairman Threadgill and Commissioner Neely-Hadley for attending the Harvest Bar-B-Q for Mt. Pilgrim Road. Commissioner Plant stated was unable to attend since she was responsible for Santa at High Cotton and had to get a substitute Santa. They had a great attendance at the High Cotton Ribbon Cutting and Grand Re-Opening. It was good event. Thanks was given to Clerk Thomas for heading up the Christmas Decorations for the Courthouse. Commissioner Plant offered to help with the Christmas decorations and the Thanksgiving staff Luncheon.

Commissioner Shirley Hines: thanked the Board for putting things in place a seamless process of going from a dirt road to a paved road. Commissioner Hines is looking forward to the paving of Beulah Evans Road.

The Infrastructure Investment and Job Act, HR3684 passed. This is a big opportunity for Americans to invest back in infrastructure. Commissioner Hines read on the National Association of County Commissioners website, that there will be a separate program that is not part of the Federal Highway systems and wants the County to follow up with this. This could help with bridge work needed on County Line Road and on other roads. Commissioner Hines recommended the Board have a Work Session to talk about this after the first of the year.

November 15th starts Apprenticeship Awareness Week. Commissioners Hines wants the County to look at some of the apprenticeship programs they we can help get started at the Technical School. Commissioner Hines also wanted to look at how we can partner to get some of our workers the skills needed for the jobs. Commissioner Hines thanked Marcelle Womack and her group for their work on Beulah Evans Road.

Vice Chairman McCoy: added to what Commissioner Plant said about the High Cotton Ribbon Cutting & Re-Grand Opening where he was told a stagecoach had sold for \$28K.

Broadband has been installed and is up at Lake Meriwether.

A meeting was held with Gordon Rogers of Riverkeepers to discuss getting other Counties involved. Most of the calls being received now are regarding subdivisions that are coming into the County.

Chairman Bryan Threadgill: had a great time at the Mt. Pilgrim Bar-B-Q event on Saturday where there was enough food to feed 100 people. It was great to meet and get to know everyone there. Some of those in attendance told Chairman Threadgill that he was a down to earth person.

Chairman Threadgill had spoken to a School Board member, and they were interested in a joint meeting with the Commissioners regarding redistricting lines.

XIII. REPORT FROM COUNTY ATTORNEY

County Attorney Nathan Lee stated there was a need for Executive Session to discuss Litigation, Personnel, and Real Estate.

XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Vice Chairman McCoy and seconded by Beth Neely-Hadley to go into Executive Session at 9:41 a.m. to discuss Litigation, Personnel, and Real Estate. All were in favor.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman McCoy and seconded by Beth Neely-Hadley to go out of Executive Session at 10:45 a.m. All were in favor.

Motion was made Beth Neely-Hadley and seconded by Vice Chairman McCoy to go back into Regular Session at 10:48 a.m. All were in favor.

Action was taken in Executive Session.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman McCoy and seconded by Beth Neely Hadley to increase the pay of Robert Lovett from \$25 per day to \$30 per day. All were in favor.

XVI. FUTURE MEETINGS & NOTICES

Chairman Threadgill announced future meetings and notices.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Alfred McCoy and seconded by Beth Neely-Hadley to adjourn the meeting at 10:48 a.m. All were in favor.

Approved by: Majority vote of the Board of Commissioners

Attest: Beverly A. Thomas, County Clerk

Date: November 23, 2021