

MINUTES
MERIWETHER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
November 8, 2023
9:00 A.M.

Commissioners Present: Chairman Bryan Threadgill, Vice Chairman Gene King, Commissioner Rosla Plant, Commissioner Emmett Collins, and Commissioner Adam Worsley
Staff Present: Interim County Administrator Theron Gay, Assistant County Administrator Blue Cole, Deputy County Clerk Allyson Stephens, Finance Directors Bill Gregory and John Gorton, and County Attorney Michael Hill.
Staff Not Present: County Clerk Beverly Thomas.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bryan Threadgill called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

II. INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by Joe Morgan of Cedar Rock Baptist Church.

III. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

All

IV. ADOPT AGENDA

Motion was made by Commissioner Rosla Plant and seconded by Commissioner Adam Worsley to Adopt the Agenda as presented. All were in favor.

Chairman Threadgill stated there was a need for Executive Session to discuss Litigation. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Gene King and seconded by Commissioner Adam Worsley to go into Executive Session to discuss Litigation at 9:01 a.m. All were in favor. A motion was made by Commissioner Rosla Plant and seconded by Commissioner Adam Worsley to go out of Executive Session at 9:37 a.m. A motion was made by Commissioner Adam Worsley and seconded by Commissioner Emmett Collins to go back into Regular Session at 9:38 a.m. All were in favor.

Chairman Bryan Threadgill asked for a motion to set a Special Called Meeting for November 9, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. for the purpose of consideration of suspension of the Tax Commissioner, pursuant to O.C.G.A. 48-5-140 in compliance with order of the Superior Court and request appointment of Interim Tax Commissioner. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Gene King and seconded by Commissioner Rosla Plant. All were in favor.

V. PRESENTATIONS

None

VI. FINANCE REPORT

Finance Director, John Gorton provided handouts to the Board and explained that funds are strong with the General being over \$1.4 million dollars. Finance Director Gorton stated the County has received over \$470,000 in property tax revenue. Finance Director Gorton stated that interest in the investment pool accounts was strong. Director Gorton presented a handout to the

Board and explained it showed the October funds received for TSPLOST, LOST, and SPLOST. There were no questions from the Board.

VII. DEPARTMENT HEADS

None

VIII. CITIZEN COMMENT

None

IX. MINUTES

1. Motion was made by Commissioner Rosla Plant and seconded by Commissioner Emmett Collins to accept the Minutes from the October 24, 2023, Regular Meeting. All were in favor.

X. PUBLIC HEARING

None

XI. APPOINTMENTS

1. Motion was made by Commissioner Rosla Plant and seconded by Commissioner Emmett Collins to appoint Blue Cole to the CAFI Board to fill an unexpired term. All were in favor.

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Chairman Bryan Threadgill read a Resolution urging the Governor and General Assembly of Georgia to continue efforts to reform and improve Mental Health Services for the Citizens of Georgia. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Gene King and seconded by Commissioner Emmett Collins to allow the Chair to sign the Resolution. All were in favor.

2. Interim County Administrator Theron Gay stated that the Contractor is ready to complete the replacement of the Jail Roof and there had been a hold up to allow time to replace the A/C coils. Administrator Gay stated that the Contractor's plan is to have the Jail Roof on by the end of November and he has a meeting with the Contractor next week. Administrator Gay stated he would like to get a Maintenance Agreement in place, and it has been provided by the Contractor. Administrator Gay stated the company would like to come in quarterly to look at the roof. Administrator Gay stated the first year would be free, and then it would be \$1,700 and some change to come out quarterly to maintain the roof and the warranty that goes along with the roof replacement. Vice Chairman King stated that it may not be a bad idea to wait until the roof is replaced before signing the Maintenance Agreement. Commissioner Worsley asked if this was \$1,700 per quarter, which would be \$7,000 per year. Administrator Gay advised that was correct. Commissioner Collins felt that a Maintenance Agreement was yearly. Administrator Gay stated that he felt that two times per year would be sufficient. Administrator Gay suggested waiting until the work was complete and going back and speaking with the Contractor about maintenance for two times per year and bring it back to the Board. A motion was made Vice Chairman King and seconded by Commissioner Worsley to table the Maintenance Agreement for the Jail Roof to be brought back by the Administrator. All in favor.

XIV. REPORT FROM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Interim County Administrator Theron Gay stated that the Jail Roof Replacement will be starting very soon, and he is meeting with the Contractor next Tuesday. Interim County Administrator Gay stated that the Jail Doors and Lock RFP was worked on by Bill Cawthorne and Allyson Stephens and he has reviewed it, and it is ready to be put out and stated that the Jail Plumbing RFP was put out and there were no bids so staff will be calling some plumbers to look at the scope of work. Interim Administrator Gay advised the Board that TSPLOST would be expiring the end of March 2025 and there needs to be discussion on that soon. Administrator Gay passed out an invitation to the Roosevelt Warm Springs Society Ball. Interim County Administrator Gay stated that very soon there will need to be discussion on the 2024 LMIG roads as it is important to get the application to the State as we will be receiving a little over \$800,000. Interim Administrator Gay would like to get some Work Sessions set up. Commissioner Adam Worsley asked what needed to be done to get that set up. Interim Administrator Gay stated that the Board could give them 3 or 4 dates and staff can set that up.

Assistant County Administrator Blue Cole stated that more bids were being obtained regarding the next steps in the remediation for the Court House. Assistant Administrator Cole stated staff is continuing to work on implementation of the new Open Records Request system and attended a Kick-off meeting this week. Assistant Administrator Cole stated he attended the Lions Club Meeting and Rotary Club Meeting. Assistant Administrator Cole advised that staff has continued with recruitment and will be conducting interviews next week for Administrative Assistant and someone has been recruited for Public Works. Interim Administrator Gay stated there was a meeting with GDOT this week regarding an access road for the IDA and GDOT requirements called for acceleration and deceleration lanes along the State Route, so it was decided to take the access off the Industrial Park Road and access from a County Road instead of a State Road. Administrator Gay stated they also met with the IRS about properties in conservation use and that had really taken up a lot of time. There will be no requirement for staff to appear in court. Assistant Administrator Cole stated staff is working on a list of vehicles to submit to ACCG for the lease-to-own program (vehicle replacement program) and hopes to bring a total and more details to the Board at a later date.

XV. REPORT FROM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Bryan Threadgill: stated that the City of Manchester lost a very special person, City Council Member Judy Taylor Foster Pike who was the owner of Taylor Foster Jewelry. Chairman Threadgill stated that she had an unexpected turn of events over the past couple of weeks and passed away on Monday. Chairman Threadgill stated he did not have the arrangements to report as of yet but expressed that she will be an extremely hard individual to replace on the City Council in Manchester and is loved by many people. Chairman Threadgill stated that yesterday was an Election day in the County. ESPLOST for Education was on the Ballot and it passed with 600+ yes to 100+ no.

Commissioner Adam Worsley: stated that he had received several calls this week from citizens with positive feedback since the last meeting. Commissioner Worsley thanked staff for working on those issues as he was receiving more positive interaction this week. Commissioner Worsley asked that staff keep working on those issues and to let the Board know if they needed something.

Vice Chairman Gene King: stated that it was nice to be receiving more calls complimenting what is going on in the County on the roads and stated there were still some complaints. Vice Chairman King thanked the staff and realizes that we are short-handed, and we are no different than any were else in the world as far as needing more help and employees. Vice Chairman King felt if we kept working on it, he was positive for a better 2024 for Meriwether County.

Commissioner Rosla Plant: stated that on behalf of Tom Miller and the American Legion, the Veterans Day Services will be held in Greenville on Saturday which is Veterans Day at 11:00 a.m. Mr. Larry Dunaway stated that the event is open to the Public. Commissioner Worsley stated that it came to his attention that there would not be a parade this year in the City of Manchester and to him it is disappointing. Commissioner Worsley asked if there was some way the County could take on celebrating the Veterans in this County. Interim Administrator Gay stated we would look at doing something in Greenville as it is the County Seat. Commissioner Plant stated that for the last 6 or 7 years the County has been doing Christmas trees around the Courthouse. Commissioner Plant stated that a request was sent out to the municipalities to see if they would like to continue to participate and Greenville had responded. We are awaiting a response back for the others. Commissioner Plant reminded everyone about the Thanksgiving luncheon for staff next Thursday, November 16, 2023, and appreciates all the employees. Commissioner Plant encouraged the Commissioners to come out and help. Assistant Administrator Cole stated another municipality had replied back they would be interested in participating with a tree.

Commissioner Emmett Collins: thanked all the County employees and fellow Commissioners. Commissioner Collins stated he is just glad we are finally getting the roof on the Jail.

XVI. REPORT FROM COUNTY ATTORNEY

There was no report from County Attorney, Michael Hill, but did understand there was a need for Executive Session. Interim Administrator Gay stated there was a need for Executive Session to discuss Personnel, Litigation, and Taxes.

XVII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

See 1st Executive Session in Minutes that followed the Adoption of the Agenda.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Gene King and seconded by Commissioner Emmett Collins to go into Executive Session for Personnel, Litigation, and Tax matters at 10:04 a.m. All were in favor. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Gene King and seconded by Commissioner Emmett Collins to go out of Executive Session at 10:44 a.m. All were in favor. A motion was made by Commissioner Rosla Plant and seconded by Commissioner Emmett Collins to go back into Regular Session at 10:46 a.m. All were in favor. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Gene King and seconded by Commissioner Emmett Collins for a continuation of the Recreation Contract with the City of Manchester for one year at the same amount. All were in favor.

XVIII. FUTURE MEETINGS & NOTICES

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

XIX. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Commissioner Adam Worsley and seconded by Commissioner Emmett Collins to adjourn the meeting at 10:47 a.m. All were in favor.

Approved by: Majority vote of the Board of Commissioners

Attest: Allegra B. Stephens, Deputy Clerk

Date: November 28, 2023