

MINUTES
MERIWETHER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
NOVEMBER 9, 2023
10:00 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, County Clerk Beverly Thomas, Finance Director John Gorton, and County Attorney Nathan Lee

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bryan Threadgill called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

II. ADOPT AGENDA

Motion was made by Commissioner Rosla Plant and seconded by Vice Chairman King to adopt the Agenda. All were in favor.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rosla Plant and seconded by Commissioner Worsley to go into Executive Session at 10:00 a.m. for the purpose of Litigation. All were in favor.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rosla Plant and seconded by Commissioner Worsley to go out of Executive Session at 10:16 a.m. All were in favor.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rosla Plant and seconded by Commissioner Emmett Collins to go back into Regular Session at 10:17 a.m. All were in favor.

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. Chairman Threadgill stated the Board would discuss the consideration of suspension of the Tax Commissioner, pursuant to O.C.G.A. 48-5-140 and in compliance with the order of the Superior Court. Attorney Nathan Lee stated this matter is for the Boards' consideration.

Chairman Threadgill stated the Board has had time to read over the Minutes, and the Court Order, and with the discussion we had, the order states that the Board should have suspended the Tax Commissioner. On March 29, 2022, the Board of Commissioners conducted a hearing on whether to remove the then Tax Commissioner from office for the commission of malpractice in office. Following that hearing, the Board voted to remove the Tax Commissioner. Thereafter, the Board requested the appointment of Deann Cruse as Interim Tax Commissioner, followed by official appointment by Judge Carrie Markham. Catherine Jenkins filed a lawsuit, claiming that we should have suspended her, then had a hearing to remove her. The Superior Court Judge ruled that Ms. Jenkins did, in fact, fail to render the accounting as required by the Board, and ruled that the Board should have first suspended her before she could be removed. The Judge also ruled that some tribunal other than this Board should conduct the hearing.

In keeping with the Judge's order, a motion was made by Chairman Bryan Threadgill and seconded by Commissioner Rosla Plant that Catherine Jenkins be suspended as Tax Commissioner for the reasons set forth in the March 29, 2022 hearing, effective as of March 29, 2022, and that the matter be referred to a tribunal for a hearing, and to request reappointment of Deann Cruse as Interim Tax Commissioner. All were in favor.

IV. PUBLIC HEARING

None

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Was held following the Adoption of the Agenda.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Rosla Plant and seconded by Commissioner Emmett Collins to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 a.m. All were in favor.

Approved by: Majority vote of the Board of Commissioners

Attest: Beverly A. Thomas, County Clerk

Date: November 28, 2023