MINUTES
MERIWETHER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
March 13, 2024
9:00 A.M.

Commissioners Present: Chairman Gene King, Vice Chairman Adam Worsley, Commissioner Rosla Plant, Commissioner Emmett Collins, and Commissioner Bryan Threadgill.
Commissioners Absent: None
Staff Present: County Administrator Jarrod McCarthy, Special Projects Theron Gay, Assistant County Administrator Blue Cole, Deputy County Clerk Allyson Stephens, Finance Director John Gorton, and County Attorney Nathan Lee.
Staff Not Present: County Clerk Beverly Thomas.

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

II. INVOCATION
The Invocation was given by Assistant County Administrator Blue Cole.

III. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG
All

IV. ADOPT AGENDA
Motion was made by Commissioner Bryan Threadgill and seconded by Commissioner Emmett Collins to adopt the Agenda with the following Amendments: *Under Presentations- CAFI – Jennifer Corcione, CEO Updates from CAFI, and Additions under Unfinished Business - #1 Recreation GRPA, and #2 Covered Bridge Report.* All were in favor.

V. PRESENTATIONS:
Removed CAFI – Jennifer Corcione, CEO Updates from CAFI. Ms. Corcione was unable to attend the meeting.

VI. FINANCE REPORT
Finance Director John Gorton provided the Board with handouts of Bank Balances as of 4:00 p.m., March 12, 2024. Director Gorton stated the General Fund was at $4.3 million dollars, with all of the other funds holding strong. Finance Director Gorton stated the ARPA is still listed until there is a Resolution to move that money and create a new bank account with First Peoples Bank. Finance Director Gorton stated the Investment Pool is still pulling in around 5.25% interest and all looks good. Finance Director Gorton explained the second sheet of the handout which shows the SPLOST and TSPLOST commitments. Director Gorton explained the SPLOST is showing negative $58,000 dollars, but in two weeks the County will receive the SPLOST allocation which is averaging about $100,000 dollars per month and there is almost $1.5 million dollars which is available to be spent right now on roads or equipment and there is funding that can be spent right now in the bank.

VII. DEPARTMENT HEADS

Human Resources Director Valerie Chambers introduced Sadie Arnold as the new Human Resources Assistant. Director Chambers stated that she has been asked to provide information on a regular basis on applications, hiring, terminations, and what is going on with staffing. Director Chambers stated in Fire/Rescue or Public Safety there are currently 18 openings which consists of 9 paramedics/firefighters, 2 lieutenants, 1 captain, and 6 other full-time employees. Director Chambers stated she is reporting from February 1st through March 11th in today's numbers and there were three full-time employees hired in the Fire/Rescue Department that included 1 Recruit/Firefighter/EMT, 1 EMT-B, and 1 Firefighter. Director Chambers stated 4 part-time employees were hired during that time consisting of 2 EMT-B's, 1 Firefighter/EMT-A, and 1 EMT-A. Director Chambers stated there was a loss of three full-time employees in the Fire/Rescue Department and all of those were non-voluntary which consisted of two Recruits and 1 EMT-A. Director Chambers stated for the E-911 Office there are 6 openings and the office has lost 1 employee so far which was a voluntary termination. Director Chambers stated the County had received a total of 19 applications for the time period with E-911 receiving 13 of those. Director Chambers stated there are two openings in the Tax Assessor's Office, 1 for a Personal Property Appraiser and 1 GCIP approved Intern with 3 applications being received so far for the Personal Property Appraiser opening and 2 for the Intern position. Director Chambers stated there are currently 3 openings in the Public Works Department with the Public Works Director position, and 2 laborer employees are needed. Director Chambers explained that when she checked with Finance Director Gorton on the Budget, there are currently 33 budgeted positions for Public Works and at the moment 34 positions are actually filled. Director Chambers stated that two full-time employees at Public Works have been hired during this period, which included 1 Building Maintenance Tech, and 1 Heavy Equipment Operator and have lost two full-time laborer employees. Director Chambers stated one of those employees left voluntarily and 1 non-voluntarily and the Department has received 15 resumes or applications.

VIII. CITIZEN COMMENT

Chairman King stated there were three speakers signed up to speak during Citizen Comment. Chairman King read the procedures for Citizen Comment.

1. Sue Ann Reid of 3398 Mt. Pilgrim Road, Greenville – Ms. Reid stated she is a big advocate for her community and her concern is getting some speed bumpers on the road since it has been paved in the last three years. Ms. Reid stated drivers are driving faster now than before the road was paved and was still a dirt road. Ms. Reid stated she is trying to prevent an accident before it happens and is asking that some speed breakers be put down. Ms. Reid stated that the road has been paved for about 3 years and not long after it was paved some of the landowners on the road had timber cleared off of their land and damaged the road in a couple of places, pretty bad. Ms. Reid stated Mr. Bill did come out and lined out the damage and County workers have come out and patched the bad spots, but this is temporary because the cars are still coming across those spots making them worse than they were. Ms. Reid feels if this was repaired properly, this wouldn't continue to happen and right now it is back down to the dirt and is requesting those areas be fixed and speed bumps placed on the road.
2. Dorothy Huff – not present at the Meeting.
3. Alberto Huaracha of 1273 Malcom Road, Gay. Mr. Huaracha stated that the purpose of him being in the meeting is Caldwell Road and Malcom Road. Mr. Huaracha stated the school bus doesn't want to travel down that road to pick up his children for school because of the road

conditions and he is trying to get into a School Board meeting for that. Mr. Huaracha stated that there is water pooling across the entire road and apparently there is a law that doesn't allow school buses to go down a road when there is water, however they cannot provide him a copy of that law, but they are not coming down the road to pick up his children and they are missing out on their education because of the road conditions. Mr. Huaracha stated the new owner blocked a natural valley where the water used to go out, which made the road conditions worse. Mr. Huaracha stated further down the road in the curve at the 1600 block of Caldwell Road, the tree line along the side of the road, there are 6-inch diameter trees growing right in the ditch. Mr. Huaracha stated this makes it hard for vehicles to see going in both directions and there have been two near misses with the school bus. Mr. Huaracha states this may be why some of the equipment is getting damaged as they say they maintain the road every two years, but a 6-inch diameter tree takes more than two years to grow. Mr. Huaracha states he has photos, videos, and cameras and whatever the Board needs he can provide them with. Mr. Huaracha stated he can tell the Board how many times Meriwether County Public Works and Meriwether County Sheriff's Office have been down that road. Mr. Huaracha stated according to his records he has paid a little over $108,000 dollars in property taxes, roads, and school taxes and he wants his fair share and stated we need to do something about the road. Mr. Huaracha stated his kids are not going to school because of the road and this year alone they have missed maybe 9-11 days of school. Mr. Huaracha stated down Malcom Road there are two signs that say No Through Trucks, but he contacted DOT and they stated they were not installed by them and not per specification, so somebody else went and put the signs up and his neighbors down the street won't allow any vehicles to go down the road because supposedly they maintain that road. Mr. Huaracha stated he pays taxes and has every right to use that road and if he needs to construct something on his property, he is going to bring trucks down that road as the word through does not mean halfway down the road, it means from one end to the other end, and he should be able to come down that road.

IX. MINUTES

A Motion was made by Commissioner Bryan Threadgill and seconded by Commissioner Emmett Collins to accept the Minutes from the February 27, 2024, Work Session. All were in favor. Commissioner Threadgill stated that under New Business above the County Administrator Comments, there were two Options discussed, but the Motion did state that the ARPA Funds would be moved to the General Fund, but it should have stated Option 1 would be the one to track funds and spending from this account in our software. Commissioner Threadgill stated we do need to make that adjustment. Commissioner Threadgill made a *motion to move the ARPA Funds to the General Fund using Option 1: moving the ARPA Funds to the General Fund, allowing the tracking and spending of funds from the account in our software and to make that change in the Minutes from the February 27, 2024, Regular Meeting.* This was seconded by Commissioner Rosla Plant. All were in favor. A motion was made to approve the Minutes from the February 27, 2024, Regular Meeting with the change by Commissioner Bryan Threadgill and seconded by Vice Chairman Adam Worsley. All were in favor.

X. PUBLIC HEARING

None

XI. APPOINTMENTS

1. Motion was made by Commissioner Bryan Threadgill and seconded by Commissioner Rosla Plant to table the Appointment to the Planning Commission to fill an un-expired term that will end on 1-5-2025, District 4. All were in favor.

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Recreation GRPA – *Amended to Add* – Special Projects Theron Gay stated that in order to join the GRPA there has to be a sanctioned recreation program with advantage to being a member of GRPA is that it allows our staff to get the children into tournaments and programs towards the end of the season. Special Projects Gay stated that we needed to get Mr. Randy Carter registered for the GRPA, because in the past we had another relationship and used that membership to be a part of the GRPA, and will really need to have that membership to be able to get into those tournaments. Special Projects Gay stated there will be a Resolution needed, but that Resolution still needed some changes and modifications to indicate that while we are doing this now, we are not establishing a long-term Recreation program, because we will come back and work with all the cities to do that. Special Projects Gay stated there was a call in to GRPA to see about implementing something less than the Resolution. Special Projects Gay explained that all this does is establish membership so the teams can play in the tournaments and playoff games. Special Projects Gay stated if they do require the Resolution, it will be re-written to be sure that it is clearly stated that the County will be reworking our Recreation program, because he doesn't want any of the cities to feel that the County stated they were going to talk about Recreation and now you have Recreation. Special Projects Gay stated the Resolution would be reworded with those changes and we need to go ahead and get this approved to be able to play in the tournaments and playoffs because baseball is about to start. Commissioner Threadgill left the meeting at 9:48 a.m. Special Projects Gay stated he would like to ask the Board to authorize staff to move forward with the GRPA and if it takes a Resolution, staff will bring that back with the changes that would indicate that this is not the final Recreation Program. Chairman King stated that this same group came out and toured some of the facilities. Vice Chairman Worsley asked if there was a cost associated with this. Special Projects Gay stated there would be a minimal membership cost, but this is a good program that involves numerous recreation programs throughout the state. Vice Chairman Worsley asked if Mr. Carter was an employee of the County. Special Projects Gay stated he is a part-time employee. Vice Chairman Worsley made a motion to approve the membership of the GRPA. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Plant. All were in favor.
2. Covered Bridge Report – *Amended to Add* – Assistant Administrator Blue Cole provided the Board with two packets of information. Asst. Administrator Cole stated that the provided is an opinion letter from the engineer that the filming company hired, and this was the original document according to Asst. Administrator Cole that the production company brought back to staff with a solution. Asst. Administrator Cole stated that since the last meeting staff has had the opportunity to speak with the State Historical Preservation Division, Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation, a GSU adjunct professor, and a preservation consultant, and all of them stated that the scope of work provided was a good scope of work and uses materials that are original to the time period of the bridge. The repair is consistent with what the preservation experts recommend, and they complimented the method of repair because it will not remove any of the siding of the bridge. Asst. Administrator Cole brought Mr. David Ledford to speak to the Board to answer any questions the Board may have and add anything additional, but in short, Asst. Administrator

Cole stated that staff has everything they need to do the repair and rehabilitation of the bridge correctly and accurately. Chairman King asked if the engineering firm was contacted by the County or if this is something they provided. Asst. Administrator Cole stated that this is something they provided, Dunlap. County Administrator Jarrod McCarthy stated that staff have been assured that this company has the historical expertise to oversee the work. Vice Chairman Worsley wants to make sure, and the Board makes sure that they are doing this the right way and for the right reasons and not expediting it just to meet a timeline for a film. Vice Chairman Worsley stated if it needs to be done, it needs to be done in the right way and he is not an expert in that field and wants to make sure whatever is needing to be done and approved is done and approved collectively for the right reasons. Vice Chairman Worsley stated the Covered Bridge is a very valuable asset to the County. Asst. Administrator Cole stated the filming schedule has been moved for other reasons and the filming schedule will not speed up or impact the rehabilitation of the bridge work. Chairman King stated he is not sure why the County should have to pay for the repairs up front, if it is the company that is wanting the work done. Vice Chairman Worsley stated he feels the County needs to pay for it and have the company reimburse them, therefore it is documented, because if there are any flaws or issues with the work, then that company would be liable to the Board and the County and not that film crew. County Attorney Nathan Lee recommended the Board do a contract with the scope of work to know exactly in writing what they are agreeing to do including the payment obligations, insurance, and indemnity. County Attorney Lee explained to the Board that the way to protect themselves and the County is through a contract. County Administrator McCarthy stated that they are getting an agreement with both the filming company and the engineer. Commissioner Plant asked if this work would include any type of warranty. Mr. David Ledford stated the work would include a 1-year workmanship warranty. Mr. Ledford explained that there won't be any materials involved because they won't be adding anything or taking anything away. Commissioner Plant asked if anyone had been down to the bridge lately because she had seen pictures from the previous rains that showed the water pretty close to being level with the bridge. Mr. Ledford stated that he will be leaving the Meeting and going out to look at the bridge today. As per the report, the engineers were specifically worried about the trunnels being displaced and when he did a walk around of the bridge, there are other issues that will need to be addressed. Mr. Ledford stated that he wasn't asked to address those issues in the scope of work, but with all the rising water there were some abutment issues, and he will be taking a look at those. Vice Chairman Worsley made a motion to move forward and create the contract for the work on the Covered Bridge, after legal review, to be brought back to the Board for approval. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Rosla Plant. All were in favor.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Intergovernmental Agreement to conduct the 2024 Municipal Special Election for the City of Luthersville. County Administrator McCarthy explained that this Agreement puts in place the ability of Ms. Threadgill to conduct the Election for the cities. Administrator McCarthy stated that there is no hard cost, but under #2 in the Agreement it states the County will be paid for the costs associated with the Election. Elections Superintendent Patty Threadgill stated that her suggestion would be since we have a countywide election, we could just charge a fee for the Special Election. Superintendent Threadgill stated this is a standard IGA that has been used over the years and everything that they need is in place. It would just be adding something to the ballot and charging a fee for that because there is a federal, state, and local election and that's

what has been done in the past. Superintendent Threadgill stated there would not be a need for extra poll workers or anything extra. A motion was made by Commissioner Rosla Plant to move forward with the Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Luthersville for the Municipal Election. This was seconded by Commissioner Emmett Collins. All were in favor.

2. Request to move forward with an RFP for road patch and road spray patch and complete the bid process in 60 days. Special Projects Gay stated that Commissioner Worsley had asked that this be put back on the Agenda again. Special Projects Gay stated about three meetings prior, there was discussion to get a list of roads that needed to get patched, and there has been no feedback on what roads the Board wants to consider. Special Projects Gay stated that staff's plans, and he wanted to make sure they are consistent with what the Board wants, is to get a small list of roads to start with and go out to those roads and review with Public Works and Mr. Cawthorne to identify the condition of the road, what potholes need to be patched, estimate the quantity, put the information back into the draft documents, and send that out for bid. Special Projects Gay stated it would be a simpler process and probably wouldn't include a bid bond and after posting and seeing who would respond, the work would be required within a certain time period after the notice to proceed is issued. Special Projects Gay stated that he wanted to make sure that is how the Board wants to proceed and believes that is the best way to get competitive bids. Special Projects Gay understands that there are companies that do that type of work. Vice Chairman Worsley stated the reason he asked that this be placed back on the Agenda is more for entering into a contract with a vendor or possibly multiple vendors to get some road work done that we can't get to because of the conditions and put in for road patch and road spray patch as those were the two companies that were reaching out with asphalt. Vice Chairman Worsley stated this is the 15th month that he has been on the Board, and this has been discussed multiple times, but the Board hasn't gotten anywhere with it. Vice Chairman Worsley stated that if we don't have the manpower to get to the roads, there are contractors available to get the road work done. Vice Chairman Worsley stated he is not asking to keep the program forever, but there are so many issues that need to get done immediately and there needs to be contractors that can be reached out to and have some sort of agreement or spending limit to go out and start repairing these issues, allowing Public Works to take care of other issues. Commissioner Threadgill came back to the Meeting at 9:33 a.m. Vice Chairman Worsley stated secondary would be a second project so the group can go out and bid other jobs. Vice Chairman Worsley stated there is a local guy that helps a couple of Counties next to Meriwether, and he doesn't care if the Board choses to use him or not, as he is not the only guy in business. Vice Chairman Worsley stated we could use him or whoever bids, but he feels it is time this Board takes action and gets somebody approved to start repairing roads and not wait on our department to get out there and do it. Vice Chairman Worsley stated that is the reason he asked that this be put back on the Agenda and asked for a 60-day window, which is not critical in this motion request, but feels like it is time to move. Vice Chairman Worsley stated that he asked for the 60-day window because he doesn't want this to go out and it turns out to be September and nothing is done, as he feels it has been long enough. Special Projects Gay stated that there needs to be a way to determine what the quantities might be, otherwise, we are up to the mercy of the person who goes out and does the work. Special Projects Gay stated that there needed to be something such as square yard price so it could be monitored and controlled. Chairman King stated that he agreed with Vice Chairman Worsley and his main concern has been roads, and it will be necessary to hire vendors, however it is sad that we will hire vendors who will pay their help $20-$25 dollars and hour, who will make a profit, and we can't up the pay scale to get qualified help in the Public Works

Department. Vice Chairman Worsley stated that he manages $75 million dollars' worth of equipment and a little over 200 employees and there are times that he is fully staffed in his maintenance and repair group and sometimes he is not, and when there are issues that arise, he contracts out to get things moving and keep things moving. Vice Chairman Worsley stated we need to move as there are too many good citizens in this County asking can they do the repair themselves, or what trouble will I get in if I do the repairs. Commissioner Threadgill asked how long it would take to get guidelines or stipulations in place so individuals could come in and meet the contract. Commissioner Threadgill stated he felt we would have to look at the warranties of the work and feels that it needs to be looked at from a multitude of individuals. Commissioner Threadgill stated he doesn't feel it needs to take too long and agrees with that. Commissioner Threadgill feels something needs to be in place, such as guideline and it be short-term so we can look at doing something in the future, but guidelines have to be in place to protect the citizens. Special Projects Gay stated that he would like to make sure we can verify the quantities and stated that we could present something at the next meeting if roads are provided or staff can assess. Commissioner Plant stated that she is concerned with the amount of time staff is spending to put contracts out and then when the contracts come back in and are higher than what is anticipated, and we don't move forward. Commissioner Plant stated that there is still the same situation on Ellis Road, with 47 houses on the road, and there are still problems with Ellis Road. Commissioner Plant stated there was a contract put out for Ellis Road, but the Board didn't move forward with it, because the cost came back too high. Commissioner Plant stated her question was if the Board was prepared to move forward or accept lower bids, but for inferior products, and how do we prevent that from happening. Commissioner Plant asked if the Board was prepared to move forward once we go down this road. Commissioner Plant stated there are a lot of roads in the County that need to be addressed and she is not sure that the Board is prepared to move forward with all the stipulations that need to be put in place. Commissioner Plant stated that the work would need to be done to the State standard. Commissioner Plant stated her concern was the Board doesn't want to spend half-a-million dollars and could possibly get 4-5 roads patched for that amount of money, but is it to the State standards? Commissioner Collins stated that if the bids come in at $550,000 dollars to patch 3.5 miles of road, he will not vote for it. Commissioner Threadgill stated that he has concerns of spending a lot of money having contractors come in to do the patching and then the patching isn't worth anything and we have the same potholes that we just repaired, what are we really doing? Commissioner Collins asked how long it would take to get the RFP put together. Special Projects Gay stated that it wouldn't take him long as they already have a concept together. Commissioner Threadgill stated the RFPs need to consist of an "X" number of miles radius because if there are a couple of potholes on one road, and 30 on the other, can that be put together all in one parameter. Vice Chairman Worsley stated that the purpose of the recommendation was to trust staff to put out only state approved work, and if we trust the road condition report that staff has already created, then the roads we start at will be the worst roads safety condition wise. Vice Chairman Worsley stated he doesn't understand why we can start with this program and continue with the second program as we haven't started on the 2023 LMIG yet as there is a stretch of road that is in terrible condition and it is March 13, 2024, and nothing has been done. Special Projects Gay stated that some of the road resurfacing is temperature and weather sensitive, and April to October are the prime months to get that done. Vice Chairman Worsley stated that his point is that the paving company is a private business trying to make money and are not sitting at home waiting on that weather and during April to October of last year, they paved somebody's road, why wasn't it ours? Special

Projects Gay explained that the State has requirements on temperature to lay down the materials, and used the example of Beulah Evans Road, as other work can be performed during that time. Commissioner Threadgill stated that if we do not follow the State guidelines and a paving company does that work during the wrong temperature, we could lose the LMIG. Vice Chairman Worsley stated that maybe we need to find a new paving company and look at what is going on, because if they got to be approved and everybody else is getting their road paved but we aren't. Special Projects Gay stated that he believes we got as many roads paved as anybody around our size. Special Projects Gay explained when you start to do the road, you have to have adhesion to what's there, and the conditions have to be right. Special Projects Gay stated if it is freezing cold, you can't put the product on the road, you might could come in after lunch and put it on if the temperature is going to be rising. Special Projects Gay stated if they can't put the paving material down here, they can't pave here, they are probably not paving anywhere else either. Special Projects Gay stated that April to October are the prime months. Chairman King thought the motion was to be to hire vendors to come in and patch the roads and didn't think they were going to have to put all these roads together, but thought we were trying to get a contractor to give us a price per square yard, and once the Board approves the contractor, either Bill or the Administrator would provide the list of roads the Board approved to the Contractor. County Attorney Lee stated that depending on the amount to do the job, it may require that specific job to be bid. County Attorney Lee stated that what he believes is that the Board is wanting to get a list of contractors approved, but wanted it understood, if the job is going to go over a certain amount, then the State will make you bid it out. Chairman King stated he thought this was to get a qualified vendor list. Special Projects Gay stated that we could do it whatever way the Board wanted, but the issue with that is there is no mechanism in place to measure the materials and work, because some vendors go out and do a job and then send the County a bill. When spending taxpayer dollars, we want the verification in there. Commissioner Collins stated that he spoke with surrounding counties and the way they did it was the County furnished the materials and the Contractor furnished so much labor per day. Vice Chairman Worsley made a motion to request staff move forward on RFP for road patching and spray patching per state guidelines and be completed within 60 days to bring to the Board for approval. Commissioner Collins seconded the motion. The motion passed. Voting in favor of the Motion were Chairman Gene King, Vice Chairman Adam Worsley, and Commissioner Emmett Collins. Voting opposed to the motion were Commissioner Bryan Threadgill and Commissioner Rosla Plant. Commissioner Threadgill stated that the reason for voting opposed is he doesn't think it is that simple.

3. Jail Roof Maintenance. Asst. Administrator Cole stated that this is a maintenance agreement on the Jail Roof that was installed late last year and explained that the Contractor ACR will come out twice a year at a cost of $1,750 and will check the roof, making any repairs and will maintain the warranty. Asst. Administrator Cole stated the first year of this will be free of charge. Commissioner Threadgill stated he thought this had already been approved. Special Projects Gay stated that is correct and this is to execute the documents that have come back. Asst. Administrator Cole stated that the visits per year were reduced from quarterly to bi-annual to save on costs. A motion was made by Commissioner Threadgill and seconded by Vice Chairman Worsley to approve and execute the documents for the Jail Roof Maintenance Agreement. All were in favor.

4. Ambulance Box and Remount. Special Projects Gay stated that the Board recently approved the purchase of two F-450 chassis, with the intent of mounting some existing boxes onto those. Special Projects Gay stated that the opportunity came up to speak with Custom Truck

and Body Works and they have a box that is almost new. Special Projects Gay explained that this box was put on an ambulance for another county and was involved in a wreck that totaled the truck but did not damage the box. Custom is offering to remount their box on our chassis for the cost of $115,306.00. This is pretty competitive as to what it would take to take one of our old boxes off and remount to another chassis. Special Projects Gay stated the advantage of using that box is there will not be anywhere near the work on reconstructing one of our used boxes. They will have to strip down the old boxes and put in new wire and check the welds. Special Projects Gay stated the new box could be done in a much quicker time period to be able to put the ambulance into service for the County. Special Projects Gay stated that there are two chassis coming and two boxes, with one of those boxes being on an ambulance that is dead, and the other is on an ambulance that just needs an engine. He feels if we spend $15,000-$20,000 on an engine and keep that box on that ambulance, we could have another unit that could serve as a back up unit by making that repair. Commissioner Threadgill asked if there were additional costs for the options listed under the remount price. Special Projects Gay stated those would be included in the price. Commissioner Collins stated that those are included in the same price as stated. Discussion ensued on the remount. Commissioner Threadgill asked if this box would be placed on one of the new chassis. Special Projects Gay stated that it would. Commissioner Threadgill asked when the new chassis would be in. Asst. Administrator Cole stated it would be the first of April and the build date was February 26th. Commissioner Collins stated that there would be an additional cost of $10,000 in addition to lower the truck. Special Projects Gay explained that because of it being an F-450 the height would have to be lowered for patient access. Vice Chairman Worsley asked what staff recommendation would be. Special Projects Gay recommended that we move forward and get the box and as soon as the chassis is here, have it mounted, and be put back in service. We could then send out an RFP to remount one of our other boxes to the additional chassis. Commissioner Threadgill stated this is a good deal on the box, but to him it is a cluster because we did not approve any additional money for the lowering or option that is needed. Commissioner Collins stated that when we approved the chassis, we approved more than we paid for them and knows we need to do something to get this done. A motion was made by Commissioner Threadgill to approve the purchase of the box at the amount of $115,306.00 with an additional not to exceed amount of $10,000 for the additional equipment needed on the chassis, since it is needed today, Commissioner Threadgill stated that is the motion to approve the $115,306 with options not to exceed $10,000 dollars. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Collins. All were in favor.

5. Discussion of 2025 T-SPLOST. Special Projects Gay stated this is a request to kick off our T-SPLOST renewal which we are trying to bring forth in November to have it renewed for another 5 years and feels this has been a great program. Special Projects Gay stated that we have to have an IGA with the cities on distribution of funds and asked that the Board allow staff to move forward to have those meetings. Special Projects Gay stated we have the documents, but we need the projects from the Cities and the County to put into the document to then be able to finalize the agreement. Special Projects Gay stated he would like to ask the Board to approve staff to go ahead and start setting up some of those meetings. He further asked that the Commissioner that represents those cities and maybe another commissioner meet with the Cities to go over the program and process and what projects they are interested in. County Administrator Jarrod McCarthy stated that he would like to add that we can't go in and campaign, but we can educate as to the pros and cons. Administrator McCarthy stated that one educational point for the pros is a lot of people think T-SPLOST and they think there may be a

road here or there that will not help them, but a lot of times there is equipment involved that maintains roads for everybody and that is an important point as to the flexibility of the program. A motion was made by Commissioner Plant and seconded by Commissioner Threadgill to move forward with the T-SPLOST negotiations with the Cities and set the meetings up. All were in favor.

6. Update on Pay Scale. Finance Director John Gorton stated that they would like to update the Board on the progress of the Pay Scale that the Board indicated they would like to move forward with in the January 10th, 2024, Work Session. Director Gorton stated the staff has updated all the job titles and are working on getting all the job descriptions updated and back to Human Resources. With the addition of Sadie and Kelly we are adequately staffed. Director Gorton stated the next step is to meet with Department Heads and Constitutional Officers and place their staff on the pay scale and then Finance will run the numbers and get a cost associated with the changes. Director Gorton stated that staff hopes to have a draft to the Board by the first meeting in April with a final draft at the last meeting in April and a projected beginning date of the April 29th to May 12th pay period. Finance Director Gorton stated that right now there is about $138,000 dollars in the Investment Fund, and we receive around $40,000 dollars a month that comes in around the 5th. Director Gorton stated between now and April he expects the Investment Fund to have $175,000 dollars and in May, $215,000 dollars. He doesn't expect any taxpayer funds to pay for this pay scale and recommends using the investment income. Director Gorton stated he wanted to provide the Board with an update, and nothing needed to be voted on today. Vice Chairman Worsley stated that when this was discussed in January, there was a deadline. Director Gorton stated that the presentation deadline was April with implementation in May and staff are scheduled to meet that deadline.

7. Bank Signature Cards – addition of new Administrator. Finance Director Gorton explained that this would be to remove Theron Gay and add new County Administrator Jarrod McCarthy to the four banks, and the documents will be ready for the Board to sign at the March 26th Meeting. Commissioner Threadgill stated that it had been standard in the past to wait a full 90 days before adding the new Administrator to the signature cards, although there was nothing in writing this has been the standard. Vice Chairman Worsley asked if there was an urgency to do this as to why the Board would break this precedent. Finance Director Gorton explained that the Ordinance states that the County Administrator, Finance Director, Chairman and Vice Chairman are the only ones that can sign checks, and with the new County Administrator, Theron Gay would no longer be the Administrator. The only ones able to sign checks are himself, Chairman King, and Vice Chairman Worsley. A motion was made by Commissioner Threadgill and seconded by Vice Chairman Worsley to add County Administrator Jarrod McCarthy to the Bank Signature Cards on day 91 of employment. All were in favor. Special Projects Gay verified that he was to still stay on the signature cards until the 91st day. Chairman King stated yes.

8. Bank Resolution to open a new account at First Peoples Bank. Finance Director Gorton stated this was a Resolution to add the new County Administrator and open a new account at First Peoples Bank named General Fund Projects, but he can revise that document to still list Theron Gay as the Administrator to go ahead and open that Account. Director Gorton stated that no funds will be moved from the General Fund Projects account without Board approval and he may ask for a Resolution for the Investment Pool to place the money in the Investment Pool until the Board decides how to spend it to earn 5% interest off the funds and he will have that on the next Agenda. Director Gorton stated this is just the paperwork we have to have the Chair to sign

to create the new Bank account. A motion was made by Commissioner Threadgill and seconded by Vice Chairman Worsley to allow the Chair to sign the paperwork to create the new account at First Peoples Bank, and name it General Fund Projects. All were in favor.

XIV. REPORT FROM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

County Administrator Jarrod McCarthy stated that he is nearing the end of his second week and that I.T. Director Matthew Brown had been very helpful in getting him set up and access to all the different systems and Mr. Theron had been very helpful in taking him around and introducing him to the various departments as well as the numerous facilities, such as the Industrial Park, which is a huge part of the County. Administrator McCarthy stated that he handled an HR issue that he will discuss in Executive Session and has been trying to get into the core documents such as the Comprehensive Plan, Service Delivery Strategy, and some of the Personnel policies to understand the vision and the policies of the County and how it operates. Administrator McCarthy stated he attended two Water and Sewer meetings, an Economic Development meeting, and went out and viewed Caldwell Road, but didn't want to interject as a final decision has not been reached. Administrator McCarthy stated that he had also been working with Valerie on the organizational chart, which is something that is not only helpful for new employees but existing employees as well to see the chain of command and he knows that a few of the grant sources require you to include the organizational chart. Administrator McCarthy stated the staff has been great and very proactive, communicate well, and are easy to work with and he is very happy to be here. Human Resource Director Valerie Chambers wanted to give credit to Jake Holloway for working on the Organizational Chart. Commissioner Threadgill left the meeting at 10:14 a.m.

Assistant Administrator Blue Cole stated that in the packet there some utility updates with the first item being Georgia Transmission which has a preliminary study on constructing additional transmission line that will run north to south through Meriwether County. We will be sending out additional information on that in the future. Asst. Administrator Cole stated that the next item was a request for feedback from DOT as they are looking at the bridge on Hwy 85 to elevate it up over the railroad. Asst. Administrator Cole stated there was another notification from DOT for a scoping study for improvements along Hwy 109 from Hwy 41 all the way into Pike County and these are information gathering sessions looking for local feedback and when Staff has more concrete information they will bring it back to the Board. Vice Chairman Worsley asked that the responsibility of the County would be for the land that Georgia Transmission is looking to run the line through. Special Projects Gay stated that this will be private landowners and Georgia Transmission will have to go out and negotiate all the property. There will be a lot that goes into this process, and this is their preliminary concept. County Attorney Lee stated that they have the power of imminent domain and if there is no agreement with the landowner, they can exercise imminent domain, but still have to pay fair market value to the landowner. Chairman King asked if there was a meeting on this. Asst. Administrator Cole stated there was an open house, but that it was for a different project that went through the Industrial Park and there were 1 or 2 that showed up. Special Projects Gay explained that to run that line through the Industrial Park is easier because it is near the interstate and away from homes and farms, as opposed to the other project that will run through people's back yards. Vice Chairman Worsley stated this is mainly in his District. The projected start date is 2025.

Asst. Administrator Cole stated in the package there is a final copy of the FY24 RAISE Grant that was submitted on February 28th, and this was turned in well before the deadline of 5:00 p.m.

and hope to hear something back by early July on if we receive it. Some additional grants that staff is working on are a couple of grants through EPD, 319 for clean water, Tire Amnesty and/or Right-of-Way event for the Keep Meriwether Beautiful cleanup that is coming, and talking with UGA about a potential asphalt seed grant which is research into asphalt and how it works. Asst. Administrator Cole stated next month staff will come back to the Board for several authorizations which include the 319, the amendment to the LWCF for the Greenville Park to extend the end date, and George at the Animal Shelter is putting in a grant with the Atlanta Humane Society. Asst. Administrator Cole stated there should be several items for the Board to review and/or approve at the next meeting. Special Projects Gay reminded the Board of the Leadership Meriwether event that will be held at the Administration Office on March 21st, 2024, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and invited the Board to attend. Special Projects Gay advised that the bids went out this week for the Courthouse Roof and the 2024 LMIG and thanked the Board for hiring Mr. McCarthy as he has had the pleasure of working with him over the last two weeks and has been very impressed with his work and what he is doing and will free up Special Project Staff to get a lot of other things done.

XV. REPORT FROM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Gene King: Chairman King stated he wanted to thank the Staff for doing a phenomenal job with the calls coming in on the roads from the previous rains and the phone calls are not coming in as much as people are seeing the gravel coming in on the roads and it is great. Chairman King stated that on June 22, 2024, Towerhouse Brewery would be hosting a Country Music Festival to include, Diamond Rio, Alabama, and the Marshall Tucker Band. Chairman King stated this will be an all-day event and 3,000 tickets have already been sold and will bring revenue into the County.

Vice Chairman Adam Worsley: Vice Chairman Worsley thanked the staff and welcomed County Administrator McCarthy. Vice Chairman Worsley stated he had sent several texts and emails to staff over the last couple of weeks with positive feedback mixed in with some negative but is happy with the feedback and is trying to share that with the staff as he gets it. Vice Chairman Worsley asked about the logging that was occurring and asked if we were able to get the bond due to the damage caused by those companies on our roads. Special Projects Gay explained the Forester's Associations and the Foresters of Georgia are a very powerful lobbying group and have managed through the years to do a lot of things to include reducing their taxes at the expense of other taxpayers. Special Projects Gay stated through the years they have been able to get the tonnage up so they could haul larger loads on County roads than anyone else can and all they have to have is a $5,000 dollar Bond and if they have 4 or 5 projects going, they still only have to have one Bond. Special Projects Gay stated that you can't do much repair with $5,000 dollars. County Attorney Lee stated that this is set by statute and used to be higher, however legislature lowered it. Chairman King asked how many times we have used the Bonds. Special Projects Gay stated that we have not had to except for one incidence and the company paid for the repairs. Discussion continued on how the Bond works and Commissioner Collins stated that they should be required to take more than one Bond if they leave and come back, and it has to be proved that the Timber company damaged the road. Commissioner Collins stated that Planning and Zoning Director Sharpe has been taking before and after pictures. Discussion between the Board and staff continued on what could be done to prevent further damage to the roads.

Planning and Zoning Director Sharpe stated that she is also issuing a stop work order to have the loggers get the mud off the road.

Commissioner Rosla Plant: Commissioner Plant stated when she agreed to the Harris County ACCG meeting that will be held on March 27th, regarding the Opioid Settlement and got to looking at the information, there is actually three representatives that the County can submit and she has asked for a notebook to be put together, because it will have different representatives. Deputy Clerk Allyson Stephens explained that the members nominated would be voting delegates in the process. Commissioner Plant stated that she chose not to run again after 40 years and sitting on the Board three different times she can move forward with full retirement. Commissioner Plant asked if any of the other Board members would be interested in doing this as this may involve continuity. Deputy Clerk Stephens stated that she reached out to our ACCG representative and there are only two required representatives. Deputy Clerk Stephens stated that if there was to be a change she would need to notify ACCG today. Commissioner Plant asked County Attorney Lee if this would be something that would be settled this year. County Attorney Lee stated he had no idea, but if they could request a change if that was the case. Commissioner Plant stated that she found it interesting that when GDOT reached out for stakeholder engagement study, she believes the state route study from Hwy 41 to Hwy 18 in Pike County would impact Woodbury and Greenville and she would like to be involved with that, because she lives on a state thoroughfare and whether or not there is a bypass around Greenville or Woodbury, she feels this is long-term and feels it is something to stay updated on and has asked to be kept informed.

Commissioner Emmett Collins: Commissioner Collins thanked the staff and all the employees for the work they are doing, especially the Road Department for working on the rainy roads. Commissioner Collins stated they had the meeting for the Lake Meriwether Advisory Board the night prior and talked about getting an online registration system for camping and member David Williamson reached out to a vendor in North Georgia and he will be bringing back information to the Board. Commissioner Collins stated not to forget the BBQ cook-off on April 9th, 2024, where there will possibly be 15 teams or more and offer a walkthrough to taste all of the different BBQ.

Commissioner Bryan Threadgill: None

XVI. REPORT FROM COUNTY ATTORNEY
There was no report from County Attorney Nathan Lee.

XVII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
A motion was made to go into Executive Session for Real Estate, Litigation, and Personnel by Vice Chairman Adam Worsley and seconded by Commissioner Emmett Collins at 10:36 a.m. All were in favor. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Worsley and seconded by Commissioner Plant to go out of Executive Session at 11:06 a.m. All were in favor. A motion was made to go back into Regular Session at 11:08 a.m. by Commissioner Rosla Plant and seconded by Commissioner Emmett Collins. All were in favor. A motion was made to amend the Agenda to add to address Appeal Times in the HR policy by Vice Chairman Worsley and seconded by Commissioner Collins. All were in favor. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Adam Worsley

to change the HR appeal time from 5 calendar days to 5 business days. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Emmett Collins. All were in favor.

XVIII. FUTURE MEETINGS & NOTICES

XIX. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Commissioner Emmett Collins and seconded by Vice Chairman Adam Worsley to Adjourn the Meeting at 11:09 a.m. All were in favor.

Approved by: Majority vote of the Board of Commissioners

Attest: Allyson L. Stephens, Deputy Clerk

Date: March 26, 2024