

MINUTES
MERIWETHER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
AUGUST 1, 2024
9:00 AM

Commissioners Present: Chairman Gene King, Commissioner Rosla Plant, Commissioner Emmett Collins, and Commissioner Bryan Threadgill
Commissioners Absent: Vice Chairman Adam Worsley
Staff Present: County Administrator Jarrod McCarthy, Assistant County Administrator Blue Cole, County Clerk Allyson Stephens, and Finance Director John Gorton
Staff Absent: None

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Collins and seconded by Commissioner Threadgill to Adopt the Agenda with an amendment to *Add under New Business #3 - Discussion of Fleet Program*. All were in favor.

V. NEW BUSINESS

1. Referendum Resolution to Continue a One Percent (1%) County Sales & Use Tax for Transportation Purposes (TSPLOST)

Assistant County Administrator Blue Cole stated that provided to the Board was the Referendum Resolution that calls for this to be placed on the ballot and staff has completed all suggested revisions within the document. Asst. Administrator Cole stated that all executed Intergovernmental Agreements have been received from each City and because of this, with all Cities signing, the TSPLOST can be extended to 6 years. Asst. Administrator Cole thanked all the Cities for working together with the County. Asst. Administrator Cole stated that staff would like to ask the Board for approval of the Resolution that will request the Board of Elections to place this on the ballot for November 5, 2024. A motion was made to accept the Referendum Resolution to continue the One Percent (1%) Sales & Use Tax for TSPLOST and allow the Commissioners to sign. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Collins. All were in favor.

2. Accept Kroger Opioid Settlement and Authorize the Chair to sign.

Assistant Administrator Blue Cole stated this is regarding the ongoing Opioid Settlement and is specifically with Kroger. Assistant Administrator Cole stated that staff is seeking approval to participate in this and allow the Chair to sign. County Administrator McCarthy stated the attorneys had reviewed this and there was no risk and may generate some revenue. He recommended the Board participate. A motion was made by Commissioner Threadgill and seconded by Commissioner Plant to accept and participate in the Kroger Opioid Settlement and allow the Chair to sign. All were in favor.

3. Discussion of Fleet Program

County Administrator McCarthy stated that Enterprise came and reached out regarding a lease program that could enhance the quality of the vehicles and save the County money.

Administrator McCarthy explained it is not something that we have to go all in on, but we could try out with a few vehicles. Administrator McCarthy stated that there is a lot of information on the program and recommended a Work Session. Chairman King stated that one of the reasons he asked that this be placed on the Agenda was to have a brief discussion regarding this, due to the number of emails they have been receiving on it. Chairman King stated that his personal opinion is there are many buildings in the County that need work and before the Board starts committing to \$200,000 to \$300,000 to start leasing vehicles and the Board changes, and another Board comes on, then they will come and take all their vehicles, and the County will be stuck buying everything brand new at one time. Chairman King stated that he feels right now the County is getting by and whenever a vehicle is needed, we always find a way in the budget to get it and doesn't think the citizens need to see everyone in the County riding around in brand-new vehicles when there are buildings that are falling apart and roads that are still damaged.

Chairman King stated that he would like to put a hold on this discussion at this time and not schedule a Work Session. Administrator McCarthy stated that Enterprise is stating there would be savings, but at what point, he is not sure. Administrator McCarthy stated the vehicles could be phased in, or only lease a small number of vehicles and purchase after leasing. Commissioner Threadgill stated that he agrees and doesn't feel the program will benefit every department.

Commissioner Threadgill stated that this program would not cover larger vehicles such as ambulances and firetrucks. Commissioner Threadgill stated that he felt this needed to be moved to the side for now and come up with a better option to accommodate all vehicles. Finance Director Gorton stated there is an option to budget to purchase 4–5 vehicles and stated that this may work for the Sheriff's Office better because the outfitting costs could be built into the lease. Director Gorton stated he is just looking for direction to replace some of the aging fleet.

Commissioner Collins stated that his concern with a lease program is the amount that would be charged for going over the allowed mileage. Commissioner Collins stated that with all that is going on with the Courthouse roof and the Tax Assessor's building, the focus should be on getting those fixed at this time and not trying to lease vehicles. Commissioner Threadgill stated that he felt that there was no need for a Work Session at this time and this could be discussed in the future due to the building repairs. Director Gorton asked if this is something that the Board would like him to do, as he is planning to put the replacement of 3–5 vehicles in the Budget. Chairman King stated that it is something that could be discussed at that time.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Commissioner Collins and seconded by Chairman King to go into Executive Session for Personnel at 9:19 a.m. All were in favor.

A motion was made to go back into the Regular Session at 9:36 a.m. by Commissioner Collins and seconded by Commissioner Threadgill. All were in favor. Chairman King stated there was no action taken in the Executive Session.

Commissioner Threadgill stated that the Board needed to let everyone know that the County Administrator, Jarrod McCarthy, decided to make this his last day and resigned as County Administrator of Meriwether County. Commissioner Threadgill thanked Mr. McCarthy for his time and his service and will move forward with Meriwether County on a daily basis as usual.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, a motion was made to Adjourn the meeting at 9:38 a.m. by Commissioner Collins and seconded by Commissioner Threadgill. All were in favor.

Approved by:

Attest:

Date:

Majority Vote of the Board of Commissioners
Allyson R. Stephens, County Clerk
August 14, 2024