

MINUTES
MERIWETHER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
December 8, 2021

Commissioners Present: Chairman Bryan Threadgill, Vice Chairman Alfred McCoy, Commissioner Rosla Plant, and Commissioner Beth Neely-Hadley
Commissioners Absent: Commissioner Shirley Hines
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 – Vice Chairman Alfred McCoy

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – All

IV. ADOPT AGENDA

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Alfred McCoy and seconded by Beth Neely-Hadley to adopt the Agenda with the following addition under New Business: 7. Set Work Session for December 14, 2021, to discuss Redistricting. All were in favor.

V. REPORT FROM FINANCE DIRECTOR

Finance Director, Bill Gregory, reported there was not much change in the Bank Balance. Funds will be moved from the Animal Shelter to the General Fund to take care of the purchase of the Animal Control Truck. The monthly SPLOST distribution was \$190K and it will be split between the County and Cities. The running average for the life of SPLOST was estimated at \$105K collections \$122K, averaging \$17K over projected collections. The TSPLOST distributed amount was \$160K and the TSPLOST average estimate was \$92K and we are currently at \$102K.

VI. CITIZEN COMMENT

None

VII. MINUTES

Motion was made by Beth Neely-Hadley and seconded by Rosla Plant to approve the Minutes from the November 23, 2021, Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m. All were in favor.

VIII. PUBLIC HEARING

None

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

X. APPOINTMENTS

None

XI. NEW BUSINESS

1. The Board of Commissioners recognized recipients of the 5, 10, 20, 25, and 40-year Service Awards. Chairman Bryan Threadgill read out each name as listed below and presented each of the following employees with a Service Award Certificate:

5-Year Service Award Recipients: Kenyatta N. Brawner – Public Works, Lori L. Dockery – Probate Court, Curtis L. Johnson – Public Works, Lauren E. Godowns – Sheriff, Bobby L. Miley – Public Safety,

Amanda Owens – Public Safety, Alphonsus A. Pynenburg – Public Safety, Alphonso Render – Public Works, Amy M. Robinson – Animal Shelter, Raymond B. Vandyke – Public Works, Michael D. Watson – Court Services.

10-Year Service Award Recipients: Willie T. Johnson – Public Works, Barry T. Lucas – Public Works.

20-Year Service Award Recipient: Linda D. Martin – Tax Assessor

25-Year Service Award Recipient: Franky H. Whitlock – Sheriff

40-Year Service Award Recipient: Barbara F. Gordon – Court Services

Photographs were taken with each employee.

Chairman Threadgill recognized Tonya Moody, Woodbury Mayor-Elect, and stated he looked forward to working with her. Ms. Moody stated she also looked forward to working together and advancing Woodbury.

2. Administrator Michelle Irizarry presented the 2022 ACCG Workers Compensation renewal. The renewal includes a premium reduction of 7.5% based on meeting the ACCG Safety Discount requirements. Administrator Irizarry recommended approval. Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Beth Neely-Hadley to approve the ACCG Workers Compensation renewal of \$221,365 and allow the Chairman to sign. All were in favor.

3. Finance Director, Bill Gregory, received four proposals for the Courthouse Roof repairs. They ranged in price from \$80K to \$500K which is a broad range and scope. Mr. Gregory recommended rejecting the bids and negotiating with the three most responsive contractors to come up with more information on what we are getting for that price. Motion was made by Vice Chairman McCoy and seconded by Beth Neely-Hadley to reject the bids and to allow the Administrator to negotiate with three bidders. All were in favor.

4. Motion was made by Beth Neely-Hadley and seconded by Rosla Plant to approve the UPS battery backup for the new IT equipment at a cost of \$14,183.88. The funding source would be through ARP. All were in favor.

5. Motion was made by Beth Neely-Hadley and seconded by Vice Chairman Alfred McCoy to use funds from-SPLOST to pay for the emergency repair to the Massengill Mill Road culvert after it washed out. The invoice from Piedmont Paving was for \$22K. The Bridge has been repaired and has reopened. All were in favor.

6. Special Project Director, Theron Gay, stated he had been working on the Water and Sewer expansion line for a while. Representatives from the Water & Sewerage Authority and the Industrial Development Authority were in attendance today. They are trying to bring water and sewer to KB Industries. They were asked to look at other options after receiving the initial bid. The cost was \$765K and after further negotiating and changes it is now \$300K. This will benefit the County, Water & Sewerage Authority, and the IDA. They are looking at a three-way cost share under ARP funds. This needs to be done and we now have it at the lowest price available. It would be \$100K for each entity and the County funding would come from ARP funds. Jane Fryer, IDA Executive Director, stated this would be on their next Agenda. Motion was made by Beth Neely-Hadley and seconded by Vice Chairman McCoy to approve participating in the Water & Sewer expansion for KB Industries. Voting in favor were Beth Neely-Hadley, Chairman Threadgill, and Vice Chairman McCoy. Rosla Plant abstained.

7. Motion was made by Vice Chairman McCoy and seconded by Rosla Plant to set a Work Session for December 14, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. to discuss redistricting. There will be representatives from the State present at the meeting. All were in favor.

XII. REPORT FROM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Administrator Irizarry thanked all employees for their service especially, those who are being presented Service Certificates. There are more than 160 years of knowledge with their combined service. Board Appointments will be on the December 28, 2021, Agenda.

XIII. REPORT FROM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Neely-Hadley: Thanked all employees and those who were recognized today.
Commissioner Neely-Hadley wished all a very Merry Christmas.

Commissioner Rosla Plant: Thanked all Cities who participated in decorating the Christmas Trees around the Courthouse. The trees and Courthouse were featured in Vanishing Georgia. Commissioner Plant thanked all employees and wished everyone a very Merry Christmas.

Commissioner Shirley Hines: Absent

Vice Chairman McCoy: Congratulated those for their tenure and all employees. The beavers are back on Old Woodbury Road, and we are working to get them removed.

Chairman Bryan Threadgill: Congratulated all employees. Chairman Threadgill stated he and Commissioner Neely-Hadley participated in the Christmas parade in Manchester on Saturday. Chairman Threadgill wished everyone a very Merry Christmas.

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 Rosla Plant to go into Executive Session at 9:23 a.m. to discuss Litigation, Personnel, and Real Estate. All were in favor.

Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Beth Neely-Hadley to go out of Executive Session at 10:46 a.m. All were in favor.

Motion was made Beth Neely-Hadley and seconded by Rosla Plant to go back into Regular Session at 10:50 a.m. All were in favor.

Action was taken in Executive Session. Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Beth Neely-Hadley the Board approved leave without pay for an employee who was discussed during Executive Session. All were in favor. Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Beth Neely-Hadley to approve the Sheriff incentive pay as discussed in Executive Session. All were in favor.

XVI. FUTURE MEETINGS & NOTICES

Chairman Threadgill announced future meetings and notices.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Beth Neely-Hadley to adjourn the meeting at 10:51 a.m. All were in favor.

Approved by: *Majority vote of the Board of Commissioners*

Attest: *Allyson L. Stephens, Deputy Clerk*

Date: *December 28, 2021*