

MINUTES
MERIWETHER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
April 25, 2023
6:00 P.M.

Commissioners Present: Chairman Bryan Threadgill, Vice Chairman Gene King, Commissioner Rosla Plant, and Commissioner Adam Worsley

Commissioners Absent: Commissioner Emmett Collins

Staff Present: County Administrator Michelle Irizarry, County Clerk Beverly Thomas, Finance Director Bill Gregory, and Attorney Michael Hill

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Threadgill called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by Commissioner Adam Worsley.

III. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

All

IV. ADOPT AGENDA

Motion was made by Vice Chairman King and seconded by Adam Worsley to adopt the Agenda All were in favor.

V. PRESENTATIONS

None

VI. FINANCE REPORT

Bill Gregory, Finance Director, stated he had passed along the Health Insurance Information for the Board to review. This will be on the May 10, 2023, Agenda. The bank balances are good. Mr. Gregory stated he included a Budget Analysis for the Board to review and get back with him with any questions. All departments are in good shape except EMS which will go over budget due to maintenance on a vehicle. We will need to talk about replacing some of the vehicles at EMS. The 2020 SPLOST and T-SPLOST look good.

VII. CITIZEN COMMENT

Wilton Bettis, 4678 Mt. Carmel Road, Gay, GA, stated the Clean Up Meriwether Day was a grand success. That was evident due to the overflowing of the container north of Gay. Mr. Bettis wants the Board to multiply the events to provide options to illegal dumping. Closing roads does not alleviate the problem.

VIII. MINUTES

Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Vice Chairman King to approve the Minutes from the April 12, 2023, 9:00 a.m. meeting. All were in favor.

IX. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Adam Worsley to go into a Public Hearing to hear Case# 2023-006 Request for Road Closure: Twin Lakes Road from Jimmy Clark Road to Rat Road. All were in favor.

Building, Zoning, and Community Development Director, Cassandra Sharpe, stated there is an application from Quercus Farms to close Twin Lakes Road from Rat Road to Jimmy Clark Road. When doing the investigations of the road, Quercus owns all of the land on both sides of the road except for approximately 200' which belongs to the Estes Family. Ms. Sharpe contacted EMS, the Sheriff's Office, and the Road Department. The road has been a problem to maintain due to washouts and the road being narrow. Ms. Sharpe stated they agreed the road does not serve a public purpose and therefore the recommendation was to close the road. Chairman Threadgill gave 15 minutes to each side, those in favor and those opposed and 5 minutes to each side for rebuttal. Chairman Threadgill explained the process.

Comments in favor of the Road Closure:

Attorney Steven Jones, Applicant Representative from the firm Taylor, English, Duma, LLP – Atlanta, GA stated the request is to close Twin Lakes Road from Jimmy Clark Road to Rat Road. Attorney Jones provided a video that showed a map of the area. He explained the location of the property. The road is approximately 1.1 miles long and Quercus owns all road frontage except approximately a few hundred feet on the south side. Attorney Jones has heard some people like to walk this road, but Quercus Farms is asking that the road be closed. Quercus Farms is open to having a walking gate around the closure gate. Given the age of the road it would most likely revert to the adjacent property owners, but Quercus Farms would still permit folks to walk it under the Recreational Property Owners Act. The County has a list of factors in the Ordinance that must be considered when discussing a road closure. First and foremost is, does the requesting property owner and all questioned property owners adjacent to the road consent to its abandonment and closure. Attorney Jones understands yes, that is the case. There is one other parcel to the south that belongs to the Estes Family, and it has access on Flat Shoals Road. The rear portion of it abuts Twin Lakes Road. The second factor to consider is does the road serve a substantial public purpose in which staff discussed that regarding EMS, the Road Department and the Sheriff's Office. County staff stated it does not. The road closure would decrease the maintenance cost for that road. There are issues that include potholes, washouts, standing water which is a liability for the County, and there is also illegal dumping. The road is prone to accidents and is used for agricultural purposes. Some people use recreational vehicles on the road in a manner they should not. There are concerns of farm vehicles not being able to move quickly and ATV's that are going 60-80 mph. There has been a lot of poaching and vandalism on the road and closing the road would help to prevent that. The third factor is would any other property owner be limited to only one means of ingress and egress and the answer to that is yes. That parcel has much better access along Flat Shoals and Quercus has offered to grant that one parcel an access easement along Twin Lakes Road so this factor also weighs in favor of the Commission granting the request. The fourth factor to consider is road used as a shorter access route to other roadways and if so, does the closure create an undue hardship on the traveling public. The answer is no. Most maps such as google recommend going around this road. The roadway is in poor condition, is rarely and not easily traveled, not up to County Road standards, not wide enough for two cars, the road is not commonly used as a shorter access route to other roadways and would not create an undue hardship on the traveling public. The fifth factor is,

does it have an impact on emergency services. Staff has reported that it does not. The sixth factor is, the cost to the County to maintain and that there is a better use for roadway funds. The seventh factor is, does it prevent access to family cemeteries and the answer is no. Eight, also goes to the impact of other County departments who all recommend closing the road and additional circumstances that would be important and the answer is no. Attorney Jones asked the Board to follow the Staff's recommendation and vote to abandon the road. There were no questions from the Board.

Susan Pritchett, 375 Quercus Farm Road, Gay, GA, stated we all know they have poachers, garbage issues and more. It was not brought up that the road is used for cattle. There are times when they meet someone while they are pushing cattle down that road and that unsuspecting person thinks they should go around or wait and let them pass. One thing that happened recently was people killing animals back there. Someone killed a stray dog and left it in the ditch. The walkers see this. Ms. Pritchett stated they do not want to stop the walkers from walking or have them think Quercus Farms is killing animals and leaving them in the dirt. There was an accident last year on Twin Lakes Road with a mud bogger and the Sheriff's Office and EMS had to be called. The mud boggers come every time it rains and that is a problem. If the person who had the accident had been killed or did not have anyone with him, it may have been a while before anyone found him. There is a lot of drinking going on there, people are coming on private property and fishing without permission and leaving behind non drug related paraphernalia following their time spent there. There is a lot going on that should not be on Twin Lakes Road. Ms. Pritchett feels closing that road is to the benefit and it will still allow the community to stay on the road but will solve the bigger problems of poaching, drug, or alcohol use, driving up and down the road and a mud bogger that could have been killed. Ms. Pritchett stated she did not care if anyone road four-wheelers and dirt bikes, but you could get killed if you were irresponsible and unfortunately most people are.

Comments opposed to the road closure:

Tracy Watts, 83 Flat Shoals Road, Gay, GA stated she had written a speech that incorporated both roads that were to be discussed for closure as it is a systematic issue. Ms. Watts is a Council Member for the Town of Gay and is an elected voice for Gay, GA. The Town is changing and for the better in most instances. This request is unnerving to the residents. The Town is located directly on busy State Route GA 85 and other than the issue of vehicular speed that the council has been trying to get reduced, the citizens feel safe in the Town of Gay. One aspect of that safety is a place for the citizens to exercise, ride bikes, have a nice drive, a type of park and recreation without the expense of parks and recreation. Twin Lakes Road leading to Jimmy Clark Road, Germany Road, the Department of Natural Resources land and back to Flat Shoals Road or Mount Carmel Road is an asset to the community that they would like to continue to use. As the town grows encompassing large attractions at the Longleaf Venue, the citizens will need public access around the town. All the roads in question are not dead-end roads and some are the original roads of the Town. The Town of Gay taxpayers invest into the enjoyment of this leisure. Most of the children in the town are homeschooled or outsource their education. The roads are a place to keep the children active. Ms. Watts asked the Board to take this into consideration when contemplating the cost of the roads. Until recently, not much maintenance had been done on the roads. Ms. Watts stated she has not witnessed large dumping of trash on the roads or ill-intentioned use of the roads in the 16-years she has lived in Gay. There is the use of recreational vehicles but that is a part of what the town has. Most of the residents have recreational vehicles and all public roads have issues. Ms. Watts submitted documents to the Chairman and copies to

the Clerk for the Board's review. This includes a 42-signature petition in opposition of closing Twin Lakes Road and Jimmy Clark Road. The citizens use both roads for travel and pleasure and the roads provide intrinsic, environmental aesthetic, and recreation benefits to the community. The citizens feel the roads are an asset that they would like to continue to use. Ms. Watts provided the Board with a map of the area and the areas it would affect. The majority of residents in the Town of Gay on Flat Shoals Road and Evans Street are against the road closure. The Estes Estate wants the road to remain open. Ms. Watts stated the citizens want the controlled use of the roads to remain public and not have to be given permission to use something that is already theirs to freely use. Owning both sides of the County Road does not mean you have a deeded right to the road or that you are liable for that road. Ms. Watts stated several citizens brought to her attention that Vice Chairman King may have a conflict of interest in this issue. His business has recently worked for the Summerours, Tower House Farms, Longleaf Venue, and his campaign party was held at the Summerours 1911 Building. Ms. Watts questioned how this relationship may appear to the public when deciding on this issue and he may want to choose to abstain. Ms. Watts asked the Board to please reject this request. The area is an asset and the previous Commissioners kept Jimmy Clark Road open.

Jackie Reynolds, 221 Flat Shoals Road, Gay, GA. Ms. Reynolds and her husband moved to Gay 30 years ago from Peachtree City and wanted to get out of the city and into the country. They enjoy living in Gay. There have been a lot of changes and improvements and Ms. Reynolds likes what is happening in the downtown area. The fair grounds have been spruced up and they look a lot better and nice trees are being planted. The brewery, food trucks and concerts are allowing neighboring cities and counties to enjoy the Town of Gay. For the past 30 years Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds have enjoyed walking on this road that has minimal traffic, so they do not have to worry about getting hit. Sometimes they see the cowboys herding the cows. Due to a health issue three years ago Ms. Reynolds cardiologist strongly recommends she walk at least one mile, five times a week. Ms. Reynolds stated her age and walking on Flat Shoals Road with two dogs is dangerous. Most of the vehicles on Flat Shoals travel fast and exceed the speed limit while doing something on their phones. It has been convenient to leash the dogs and walk to Twin Lakes Road which is a beautiful road with a canopy of trees. Ms. Reynolds did not see a reason for the road to be closed and stated many roads have problems. The disadvantage to closing the road is many enjoy the privilege of walking on that road. Losing this road would be irreplaceable. Ms. Reynolds asked the Board to please keep the road open.

5-Minute Rebuttal in favor of the closure:

Attorney Steven Jones stated the Board heard a lot of reasons to close the road; safety, maintenance, county expense, and preventing illegal activity. What the Board heard in support of the opposition to closing the road is recreation. Quercus is offering a way to do both, stop all the negatives, prevent the maintenance disaster, prevent illegal activity, prevent accidents while also leaving the road open for recreation. Quercus is committed to opening the road and leaving it open for recreation and allowing folks to walk it and enjoy it as they have always done. There is a Recreational Property Owners Act in Georgia that permits them to do so. The happy medium is to close the road and have Quercus hold it open for recreational activities, excluding illegal activities like riding recreational vehicles that are not street legal on a public road but allow legal recreational activities such as walking and mountain biking. Attorney Jones asked the Board to vote with the Staff, Sheriff, and Road Department's recommendation to close the road. Commissioner Worsley asked Attorney Jones if Quercus was willing to leave the road open for recreational use and how does the County validate that and hold them to that commitment.

Attorney Jones stated you can make it a condition to the vote. Attorney Jones stated they can do a walk around the gate to prevent automobiles or other large recreational vehicles from getting through. Vice Chairman King confirmed that bikes could go through there. Attorney Jones stated that was correct.

Susan Pritchett stated the walkers, and the bike riders were not a problem and Quercus Farms was proud to have them. Attorney Jones stated to be clear in terms of the walking gate they only want to leave it open for non-motorized vehicles so you could not go through with a dirt bike.

5-Minute Rebuttal opposed to the closure:

Tracy Watts stated it was nice of them to offer this but why do we need the offer when we have a public road that we can currently use. Ms. Watts asked to please not close the road, they do use the road and it is not wild and crazy as they are suggesting. It is a nice and beautiful County Road that all enjoy. The majority of the citizens own golf carts and recreational vehicles. The Summerours will not be able to use this road to go from Towerhouse Farms over to their property. Ms. Watts stated she knew for a fact that the Summerours use their recreational vehicles on a regular basis going from the 1911 Building over to their property. Ms. Watts stated they do not need someone else to take over a public interest like this and if you are going to give it to them then make them pay.

Attorney Jones asked if the applicant could have a final rebuttal and Chairman Threadgill stated the Board had already given them that timeframe.

The motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Adam Worsley to go out of Public Hearing. All were in favor.

Attorney Michael Hill pointed out State Law on this. The standard that the State lays out is that the County Road system can be abandoned if it is found by this Board that there is no substantial purpose in it, that it is served by it or that it is removable from the County Road system is otherwise in the best interest. The County does have an Ordinance and those factors were read by the proponent. Attorney Hill also pointed out that in order to effectuate the road closure it has to be certified in the Minutes and prior to certifying that abandonment in the Minutes, if there is any Municipality into which or through which that road passes you would give notice to that Municipality. They have the ability by Resolution to take that property and to take that road over if it is a road that does go through the city limit. Commissioner Worsley stated it does, just short of the Estes property. Attorney Hill stated he did hear, and it is an option, if the City wants to take that road over, and they have that ability, by passing a Resolution prior to its certification into the County's Minutes. Chairman Threadgill asked even if the County closes it? Attorney Hill stated that is correct. Attorney Hill read the statute and what it states is prior to certifying the abandonment of a road the County shall give notice of its intent to the Municipality into which or through which any part of the road passes. If certain Municipality by proper Resolution indicates its willingness and desire to take over the road that it is clearly within, and maintain the road, the certification was answered also State and thereafter that part of the abandoned road within shall form part of the Municipal Street System of that particular Municipality. Attorney Hill stated that does not affect what the Board does today if the Board decides to abandon it, but it does give the Municipality into which or through which it runs, Chairman Threadgill stated only the portion that was within the City limits and Attorney Hill stated no. Chairman Threadgill asked if they can take a County Road. Attorney Hill stated basically it becomes part of their City limits. Chairman Threadgill stated he could understand if they were taking property in but not a road system. Adam Worsley stated we would be taking property that the road is on. Chairman Threadgill stated it is different taking personal property in and making it part of a city that it is a

roadway. Attorney Hill stated it is almost like it is annexation of that road system. Chairman Threadgill stated he thought the only road that could be annexed in by a City, of a County Road, is the part that runs through that City. It is not like bringing in personal property. Attorney Hill stated if the Board wants him to look at it more intently, he would be happy to. The way the statue reads, and his guess is this has not been raised very often in the Court System, but it says into which or through which, so it is not just the group part it seems to say that the road flows into the City and that City has the ability to, by the proper Resolution, take it over. Attorney Hill stated it does not affect what the Board is doing, that is on the City to make that indication if they so wish.

Vice Chairman King stated everyone has talked about how beautiful and how pretty it is down through there, but he guessed if Quercus Farms ever wants to take the trees down and clear it all out, they have the right to do that. It is on their property. Vice Chairman King responded to a comment that was made and wanted to make sure it was clear and on record that he has been in the County for almost 30-years and has been in business and has done business with a lot of folks sitting in the room and throughout the County. Vice Chairman King stated he had donated his time and services and has worked hard for the betterment of the County and the Community even when he was not a commissioner. When Vice Chairman King chose to run for office, he did it to represent the people and do what is great and best for Meriwether County. Vice Chairman King stated he wanted to make it clear today that he would never ever make a decision based on knowing an individual or knowing someone better. The decision will always be made based on what was in his heart, what was on his mind, and what they teach the Commissioners in class of what they have to do. Sometimes you make decisions people are not happy with and sometimes you make decisions they are happy with, and some do not care. Vice Chairman King stated he wanted to make sure all realizes if he has to sit here for the next four years and cannot vote on a lot of things because he has so much heart and so much involvement with this County, he should not have run for office so he wants all to understand if he makes any decisions, it is for the betterment of the County and not him personally. He does not need it. He sees the point that was pointed out, but he has worked there and worked for the City. The City calls him every time they need concrete work, and the Mayor has reached out to him needing help. Should he tell the Mayor he cannot help anymore, he will do what is right and if he is ever siding the wrong way, he hopes someone snatches and sets him straight quick, so he understands because his Dad did not raise him that way. Chairman Threadgill responded to Ms. Watts regarding the comment made to Vice Chairman King. Ms. Watts came before the Board of Commissioners and made an accusation, an assumption, that there had been someone in the community that had stated there may be a conflict of interest, so to do that and come before another elected Board without substantial proof, it is hard to take that back whenever you do that to an elected official. Anybody and get up and say anything about the Commissioners at any given point and in every body's mind that becomes a 100% and sometimes 200% reality. Chairman Threadgill stated he was very disappointed in Ms. Watts, being a City Council person and getting up and doing that without having substantial evidence of anything. Chairman Threadgill stated if our Board Members got up in front of your Council and made those same accusations, he promised her constitutes would look at her in a different manner too. Chairman Threadgill stated he was not saying that to correct Ms. Watts in anyway but was saying that after being in this position for a long period of time, he had been ridiculed and criticized and 99% of what was stated was a lie and to get up and do that to somebody, especially a newly elected official was not okay with Chairman Threadgill. Vice Chairman King stated he did not think anything about that until it was

mentioned by Ms. Watts. Ms. Watts stated she was trying to let Vice Chairman King know as an elected official that the citizens had relayed that to her. Ms. Watts stated she chewed on it before it was mentioned and thought it should come up so that way, to clear the air and once the decision was made, at least it was out and not something that comes up later for them to say he was a part of this and that. Ms. Watts wanted that to be clear before a decision was made. Chairman Threadgill stated he had to say that because it is very hard to swallow. Ms. Watts stated she understood and did apologize that it came off like it did, and she did not mean to do that but wanted the air to be clear for this decision. Attorney Hill stated one more thing for Commissioner Worsley's question during the Public Hearing, we do have the ability to condition an abandonment if that is what the Board decides to do and as part of that they can do a walking-biking easement dedicated to the County itself or the entire stretch and it sounds like they're also willing to do an ingress/egress to the other parcel that is on that stretch as well. The Board can make both of those conditions of any abandonment if that is what the Board decides to do. There was no one else to speak. Chairman Threadgill stated we have a checklist. We have an Ordinance that states that if the road does not serve a public purpose, then we can vote to close that road. If it does serve a public purpose, we do not close that road. The recommendation from our Building and Zoning Department is to close the road due to it not serving a public purpose. Commissioner Worsley stated the Attorney brought some new information that he cited from the State, therefore; his recommendation would be to table this with the intent to close the road, to allow Attorney Hill more time to investigate the with the annexation of the road by the City Council in Gay. The people who are a proponent of keeping the road open, all inside the City limits of Gay, to give them an opportunity to annex the road and to maintain it before the Board makes the final decision. Attorney Hill stated the Board has the ability to table a decision, it basically continues it until the next general meeting. Chairman Threadgill asked if it would have to be advertised again. Vice Chairman King stated the City of Gay will not be able to maintain the road because they are unable to cut their grass, so he did not know how that would work. Commissioner Worsley stated it is all there to close it and then let them do their own eventually, which would give the Attorney and the City time, and then we could make a final decision. Chairman Threadgill stated it is two separate things, theirs cannot be based on ours. Attorney Hill stated that is correct. What their action is, is after the Commissioners make a vote, they get notice of the Board's intent to close the road at which time they are told that it will be certified on a certain date and by recording that in the Minutes. They have the ability to follow the statue to claim the road themselves. It does not change what the Board is doing this evening. It is on them if that is something they want to investigate further. Adam Worsley stated he would make a different motion based on the advice of the Planning Commission and Sheriff that we vote to close the road with the conditions they can walk around and allow the bikes and walkers to go through by an actual easement to be recorded in the Meriwether County record. There was a question about the Estes property. Adam Worsley motioned to close Twin Lakes Road from Jimmy Clark Road to Rat Road and add in writing an easement for the walking path for citizens and non-motorized bikes and the ingress/egress for the Estes property. Chairman Threadgill seconded the motion. Voting in favor were Adam Worsley, Chairman Threadgill, and Rosla Plant. Vice Chairman King abstained. The motion passed. The County will send a notice of their intent to the Town of Gay, and they can make their decision on what they want to do after that.

2. Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Adam Worsley to go into a Public Hearing to hear Case# 2023-007 Request for Road Closure: Jimmy Clark Road from Mockingbird Lane to Germany Road. All were in favor.

Building, Zoning, and Community Development Director, Cassandra Sharpe, stated this is a request for closure of Jimmy Clark Road from Mockingbird Lane to Germany Road. Keith Summerour owns both sides of this portion of the road. This road seems to wash out in a particular area on a regular basis. This road is also one that Ms. Sharpe contacted EMS, the Road Department, and the Sheriff's Office and all were in agreement that this was not a road needed for public access at all times. Ms. Sharpe stated Planning and Zoning is asking for the closure of this road.

Chairman Threadgill stated he was giving the same stipulations as the last public hearing, 15 minutes for, 15 minutes opposed and 5 minutes each side for rebuttal.

Comments in favor of the Road Closure:

Keith Summernour stated he lives on the farm there with his parents and his boys. They have experienced all the same issues that Quercus Farms has experienced. There have been numerous accidents there. The most serious thing that has happened there was the four-wheelers, particularly during COVID there were quite a few issues with speeding and recklessness, which made it very dangerous to even get out with their side by sides. Mr. Summernour stated this is a real problem for he and his family with a lot of shooting into the fields. They do not see Mr. Summernour's house and DNR has tried to find the people doing this. Some arrests have been made. They have helped people who have turned over their vehicles while mud riding. Mr. Summernour stated present at this meeting are his two boys, some family members, and other people that are neighbors and are associated with their farm. Mr. Summernour stated he owns both sides of the road and a substantial amount of property on Germany Road to the river bordering the WMA and felt like, based on their own internal traffic studies, only four cars a month use this road. Those cars belong to people he does not know. It is either Quercus or him normally. Mr. Summernour thanked the Board for looking at this.

Comments opposed to the road closure:

Tracy Watts, 83 Flat Shoals Road, Gay, GA, stated she did not have much to say because the road that accessed these roads has just been closed. Ms. Watts stated she was very disappointed and knows everyone here on her side of the room is disappointed. Ms. Watts wished that the Board would have left the road open. Ms. Watts stated if the roads are so bad in this County, then why isn't the Board charging them to get all this land? Some of the property in Gay sells for \$65K an acre. Ms. Watts asked the Board to charge for the land and to put that money toward other roads in Gay and Meriwether County. Ms. Watts asked the Board not to give the land away. The Board just gave away something absolutely beautiful and precious to the Town residents.

Jackie Reynolds, no comment.

Lynn Washington, no comment.

There were no other comments in opposition.

5-Minute Rebuttal in favor of the closure:

None

5-Minute Rebuttal opposed to the closure:

None

Vice Chairman King stated someone had mentioned the Board giving land away and that they should have to pay for it. Vice Chairman King had researched this and the property on the road

running through Mr. Summernour's property, never has been owned by Meriwether County. The property on both sides goes to the center of the road. The Summerours are paying taxes for that acreage. It is unfortunate that we have some roads in this County, and it came about years ago before most of us were born, where they started using the area for traveling and that is just the way you went to town. If someone were to flip or get killed on that road, they are liable for anything that happens on that road. If you pull the records, you will see the property line goes to the center of the road on both sides. They are paying taxes and carrying liability insurance on it. It is not like we are closing Jimmy Clark Road; you can still come in from Mount Carmel Road and come all the way down, right before you enter their property that they own on both sides, the road makes a natural curve and runs straight on out to Flat Shoals Road. It is quicker to go to Flat Shoals Road than it is to go through the farm. A lot of people who have called Vice Chairman King did not realize that is their deeded property. Vice Chairman King stated if he had looked this up wrong or was told wrong, he hoped the Attorney, or someone could correct this. It is not like we are giving them free land because they are already paying taxes on that. Ms. Watts stated that was an incorrect statement that it is listed on Q-Public as a County Road. The motion was made by Vice Chairman King and seconded by Rosla Plant to go out of the Public Hearing. All were in favor.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman King and seconded by Chairman Threadgill to close Jimmy Clark Road from Mockingbird Lane to Germany Road. All were in favor.

3. The motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Adam Worsley to go into a Public Hearing to hear Case# 2023-008 Request for Road Closure: Peapod Road to Callaway Road (362) to Lima Lane. All were in favor.

The Building, Zoning, and Community Development Director, Cassandra Sharpe, stated this application is from Mr. Yancey and the surrounding property owners for the closure of Peapod Road which is located between Callaway Road and is known as 362 and Lima Lane. Ms. Sharpe contacted EMS, the Sheriff's Office and the Road Department and they all said this road does not serve public use and that it is basically a cut-through road through the property for these local property owners who have access in other directions. They are asking that it be abandoned by the County as well.

Chairman Threadgill stated no one had signed up for or opposed to the road closure.

Vice Chairman King looked at the road. Lima Lane is a straight dirt road that goes from Alps Road over to 362. This is a fork off that goes out to 362 through the woods. There are no houses, and the road is in bad shape. Vice Chairman King stated he did not see where it benefits to keep the road open. There were no other comments from the Board.

Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Vice Chairman King to go out of the Public Hearing. All were in favor.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman King and seconded by Adam Worsley to close Peapod Road to Callaway Road (362) to Lima Lane. All were in favor.

X. APPOINTMENTS

None

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

XII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Building, Zoning, and Community Development Director, Cassandra Sharpe, stated Elizabeth Wright, Location Manager with Changeup Productions, LLC has requested to close Cove Road and Corley Bridge Road from Friday, May 5, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. through Saturday, May 6, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. There would be a soft closure where it forks off of Cove Road and Upper Cove Road. They have coordinated with the Meriwether County Sheriff's Office and Danny Stephens, Fire Chief. Residents who are in the soft closure will be given a placard to place in their vehicle for entry to their property that is in this area. Any guest of the home or land owners will need to let them or the Sheriff's Office know and they will be provided with a placard. The hard closure will be located at the Satellite dishes where they will be filming and that will be closed to all traffic. There is one homeowner across from Cove Road where they will be working. The reason for closing the road is for their semi-trucks and trailers that will be parked on one lane of the road. The other lane will be open for emergency vehicles. Ms. Wright provided the parking information which included the production vehicles. It was confirmed the tractors would be attached to the trailers and they would not have any stabilization bars on the road. Chairman Threadgill was concerned of how the County would recover if there were damage to Cove Road and asked if the County required bonding. Ms. Sharpe stated we have not in the past, but we do require an application and we have a certificate of liability insurance from them. The road was recently resurfaced. Chairman Threadgill asked Attorney Hill about the requirement of a bond. Attorney Hill stated there was nothing to prevent the Board from making a road bond part of the condition. The Board and County Attorney discussed requiring a Road Bond in addition to their liability policy to cover any damage if it should occur. Ms. Wright stated it was a Marvel Studios Production and they had never had a road bond done through Marvel. Ms. Wright stated they would need to speak with their Council and did not foresee that being an issue. In the past she had a road bond for GDOT through Warner Brothers but not through Marvel. Vice Chairman King stated the Board wanted to protect the road and wanted to do what was needed to have the filming here. It was confirmed an ambulance could get through in case of an emergency.

Motion was made by Adam Worsley and seconded by Vice Chairman King to allow the closure of Cove Road and Corley Bridge Road for filming from May 5, 2023, 3:00 p.m. until May 6, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. and require a \$5K road bond. All were in favor.

2. Administrator Irizarry explained the Business Associate Agreement between Meriwether County Board of Commissioners and Warm Springs Medical Center. At times Warm Springs Medical Center provides drug screening services for our employees if there is an accident. This document has been reviewed by legal and the recommended changes have been made. Motion was made by Adam Worsley and seconded by Rosla Plant to approve the Business Associate Agreement, Laboratory Services Agreement and Notice of Liability Waiver with Warm Springs Medical Center and allow the Chairman to sign. All were in favor.

3. Administrator Irizarry explained the internet service at the Lake Meriwether Campground was struck by lightning a while back and has been down since then. The insurance claim was made with the City of Woodbury, and they have denied the claim according to David Stewart. We have not heard from the City of Woodbury. Administrator Irizarry has reached out, but it is pending and as a result Bandwidth Solutions has built our new internet extension to help serve the patrons at the Lake Meriwether Campground. There is no cost for the internet extension buildout up to the existing campground equipment, however, there is a monthly fee of \$100. The service is on a month-to-month basis with a 30-day notice to cancel. The maintenance includes

City monthly service charge for Internet service and no cost for the build out to the campground. Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Vice Chairman King to approve the Internet Service at Lake Meriwether and the \$100 monthly fee. All were in favor.

4. Matthew Brown, IT Director, stated currently we have Mitel for our Voice over internet (VoIP) system. We are paying more per month than we need to, and Mr. Brown has received three quotes. The one recommended by Mr. Brown is GoTo and the cost is approximately \$1,900 per now vs. the \$4,500 per month we are paying now. The service is similar, and we are probably getting more features with the new set up. The system we have is antiquated (2018 or longer) and we are still paying the same price we paid when we started, which was probably a good price at that time. GoTo is willing to give us 120 desk phones at no charge and we will pay for the rest of them which is included in the \$6,700 upfront cost. They will send their people out for the set up. The other two companies were Verizon, \$3,000 monthly with an upfront cost of \$4,600. We currently have out cell phone service with Verizon. Mr. Brown looked at Zoom and there did not offer any set up or devices. We would have to pay for the devices and pay annually rather than monthly. The cost would be around \$18,200 per year. The monthly contract at \$1,900 with GoTo is a 36-month contract. Commissioner Worsley left the room. Mr. Brown stated for the lifetime of the contract the maintenance is included. We own the phone so if something happened, we would have to replace it. The standard phones they are giving us are approximately \$120 per phone. Chairman Threadgill asked if there was anything included in the current contract regarding cancellation. Mr. Brown stated unless we opt out of the current contract it automatically be renewed on June 25th of each year. There is 45 days notice to cancel. Mr. Brown stated he thinks we are leasing our phones now and we may have to pack up the phones we have and ship them back to Mitel. Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Vice Chairman King to go with GoTo after legal has reviewed the contract and notify Mitel before May 10, 2023, to cancel current service. All were in favor. The Finance Director, Bill Gregory, asked about funding and suggested it come from the General Fund. Commissioner Worsley returned to the meeting. Rosla Plant motioned to approve going forward with GoTo after legal review of the contract, notifying Mitel before May 10, 2023, and using funds from the General Fund account. All were in favor.

5. Administrator Irizarry stated the County received quotes from SafeBUILT, Nova Engineering and Environmental, LLC (NOVA), and Charles Abbott Associates, Inc. (CAA). A chart was provided to the Board to show the breakdown of services. All three were invited and were in attendance at the meeting. After reviewing the information and including the changes requested by Legal, staff recommended going forward with Nova Engineering and Environmental, LLC due to the cost savings. The cost was as follows:

SafeBUILT Georgia, LLC-

Inspection Services 60%, Plan Review 60%, Building Official Services \$105 per hour, After hours/Emergency Services \$100 per hour

NOVA Engineering & Environmental, LLC –

Inspection Services 50%, Plan Review 50%, Building Official Services \$125 CBO, or \$100 Building Inspector

Charles Abbott Associates, Inc. –

Inspection Services 65%, Plan Review 65%

Attorney Hill stated Administrator Irizarry had gotten the documents to him yesterday and/or brought it to his attention. Attorney Hill stated he was not sure if his firm had the change to evaluate all the contract in depth. There was discussion by the Board and Attorney regarding the

review. Attorney Hill stated if there was a contract the Board wanted, he could take a look at it and advise on any issues if there were any and then bring it back before the Board.

Commissioner Plant asked about the Board going with NOVA pending legal review to keep it moving forward. Chairman Threadgill asked if we would be on a day-to-day basis with SafeBUILT while allowing legal review.

Paul Hardy, SafeBUILT representative, stated they had worked with the County for three years on an hourly basis. They were given cost proposals to provide service hourly or as a percentage of fees and that has been provided in the same manner. SafeBUILT does plan reviews and inspections and they provide the software for the inspections along with that which is included in the cost. Chairman Threadgill asked if the County went with someone else would the SafeBUILT services would continue until the new one was in place. Mr. Hardy stated he would have to ask the Regional Manager and currently SafeBUILT is working with the County without a contract. Mr. Hardy stated as of right now it is the 1st of May when the contract ends.

Will Hart, Charles Abbott representative, stated he met with the Administrator and Community Development Director and put together a proposal. Mr. Hart stated they work in Meriwether County already and are servicing the City of Manchester. They have inspectors in this area. They serve the City of LaGrange, City of Hogansville, and City of Thomaston. They are readily available in this area but unfortunately, the price for their service is what it is and cannot be decreased to that 50% bumper. That is based on the County fee schedule they take into calculation as well as the amount of money they must spend on inspectors and things of that nature. Mr. Hart stated they could start tomorrow if the County decides to go with them. Vice Chairman King asked how many inspectors would service this area. Mr. Hart stated they service about thirty communities in Georgia and have about fifty inspectors/building officials. There are about ten people in this area that could do inspections including soil and erosion inspections, engineering services, building inspections and plan review. The inspectors are certified through the International Code Council.

Bill Duck, NOVA Engineering & Environmental, LLC, representative, stated they provide services throughout the State of Georgia and their home office is in Kennesaw. They do work from North Atlanta down through the south side of Atlanta and the lowest area is Spalding County. There are approximately forty inspectors that are all certified and most are combination certified in commercial and residential. Mr. Duck stated they would be able to start as soon as the County signs the contract. Mr. Duck was asked if they provided software. Mr. Duck stated they do not, and if they understood the County wanted their own in-house software. Mr. Duck confirmed they had inspectors that were accessible to the County. Attorney Hill stated in glancing at the contract there seemed to be some strong limitation of liability clauses and strong indemnification clauses, then asked if there was any leeway. Mr. Duck stated they were asked to make a proposal and that is what they typically use but they would work with the County on the language.

Chairman Threadgill knows that the discussion of Software is coming up but asked each company if it was included in the price. SafeBUILT included the cost of software in their hourly rate. Chairman Threadgill asked Charles Abbott if it were included and how much it would cost of the software. Mr. Hart stated there are different levels and they could give us a cost. Vice Chairman King confirmed SafeBUILT came in with the software. Vice Chairman King thought it may be best to allow the Attorney to look at all the contracts to see what was good or not good and what benefited the County before a decision is made. Attorney Hill discussed the contract language with the Board and what was not recommended. Attorney Hill stated the Board could

either table it tonight and to allow Legal time to look at all contracts or proposals. Chairman Threadgill stated this was out stepping a little bit with legal making the Board's decisions. Legal does not make decisions for the Board as far as what they do, legal approves legally what the Board approves to move forward with and thought the Board may be crossing the line in what they are asking legal to do. Attorney Hill stated they would just be making recommendations. The Board can table this and allow legal to make recommendations that are presented or approve someone tonight subject to review or approve someone tonight regardless of review.

Administrator Irizarry reminded the Board that SafeBUILT said they plan to discontinue service as of May 1st and if they were not selected tonight, they would have to check with upper management to find out when they would be able to continue services. Vice Chairman King stated that is very important too but did not want the Board deciding on something to find out there is a clause that does not protect the County. Mr. Hardy stated they were willing to extend 30-days. Chairman Threadgill stated he felt the Board needed to listen to the software part too. Without making a decision on #5, the Board moved to #6 to discuss the zoning software portion. There was conversation between Board members of tabling this or waiting until they discuss #6 then coming back to #5 to vote. Commissioner Worsley was concerned that on May 1st we may not have anything. Commissioner Plant confirmed SafeBUILT would give us 30 days and if we hear about the software that should help the Board on the decision. Attorney Hill stated the Board could move the decision to after #6 on the agenda is addressed.

Motion was made by Adam Worsley and seconded by Vice Chairman King to skip #5 to be able to listen to #6 before going back to #5 to make a decision. All were in favor. (See motion toward the end of #6 where this was tabled until the May 10, 2023, Board of Commissioners Meeting)

6. Cassandra Sharpe, Building, Zoning and Community Development Director, explained currently, SafeBUILT has the software, and it is their system, they are in control of that system, and it is not a user-friendly system. There are a lot of mistakes and errors, and it is not one that can be utilized if we go to another company. If we use our own permitting software, the two permit techs will be the ones who will do the scheduling. They will not have to call SafeBUILT to make a schedule and we will know when people are going out and seeing the inspections, etc. Ms. Sharpe received quotes from Charles Abbott, IWorks and Cloud Permit. The recommendation is for Cloud Permit. This would be a program the County will own. The initial cost is \$13K to set up and that includes the \$9K for the first year and the cost would be \$9K each year for the first three years. That includes the building permitting, code enforcement which we do not have with SafeBUILT, plan reviews and any other documentation we may need for our inspections. It is cloud based so we can put our forms online so that they can be accessed online or emailed to the County. We can do all reviews from our inspectors. Charles Abbott was more expensive, approx. \$18K per year. IWorks was \$15K per year and those had the portal for code enforcement that we do not have right now with SafeBUILT. There was discussion of what the programs offered above what we currently offer, and the number of inspectors pads and forms we can place online. They will provide training and do not charge extra for updates. The \$9K annual cost provides all the training we need and updates. It will take approximately 4 weeks to transfer from one system to another. Ms. Sharpe has spoken with NOVA, and they do not have a problem with us doing our inspections on paper until the software is in place. Ms. Sharpe answered questions from Board members including the type of software that was being used in Spalding County. It was confirmed that SafeBUILT includes the software as part of the service per hour. Ms. Sharpe stated the software belongs to SafeBUILT's and if anything happens with our contract the software is theirs. The newly requested software will belong to the County from

now on at a cost of \$9K annually after the first-year initial cost of \$13K which includes the set-up, training, and us of the system correctly. Administrator Irizarry stated they have had a lot of issues with their current software. Vice Chairman King asked what kind of issues they were having to not reach out and get it corrected. Administrator Irizarry stated the issues with the current software. Ms. Sharpe stated it is not a system that you can correct if something is typed in error, to do an inspection there are five steps and it is not user friendly and is very time consuming. They have total control, and it is not ours. Administrator Irizarry stated there had been times when SafeBUILT was unavailable to assist, and she had to get involved to have them come in. Chairman Threadgill confirmed with Ms. Sharpe that when something is typed into the system it becomes a permanent record and cannot be changed. Ms. Sharpe reiterated what she said earlier regarding the current program vs. what a new software program will do and issues the Department has with the current vendor. It was confirmed that the County does not know when SafeBUILT schedules are done until. With the new software the County would be recording when the inspections are scheduled. Vice Chairman King stated with paying \$9K per year we do not own the system. Ms. Sharpe stated we would have control of the system, not a third party. Chairman Threadgill asked NOVA if they comply with other County and City software systems. NOVA stated they utilized the software they have with iPads at the inspection, and they would enter it directly into the permitting system with the County. The process was explained. Vice Chairman King asked if we had data from last year showing how many permits were issued, how much was brought in and paid out. Administrator Irizarry stated based on SafeBUILT's analysis we were at a 50/50 split with the hourly rate they were charging. There was additional discussion of the data in terms of the revenue. Administrator Irizarry stated the reason we went with an hourly rate with SafeBUILT was because there was not enough data that showed revenue back when we contracted with them. Now we were able to provide data to the different vendors and they came back with their proposals. NOVA's price is \$125 or \$100. One price is for a Certified Building Official (CBO) and the other is for a Building Official. Mr. Duck stated the inspector rate is \$100. Mr. Duck explained what services were included in the \$125 per hour cost vs. the \$100 per hour cost. Mr. Duck stated there are two different proposals. One is the hourly rate method which is \$125 for the Building Official or plans review or \$100 for the Building Inspector that would do most of the inspections. The other rate is 50% of revenue (collected permit fees) for everything including the plan review, CBO if needed and the inspector. Mr. Duck understood it would be the monthly rate based on permit fees. Administrator Irizarry asked if that was the percentage for plan review as well. Mr. Duck stated yes. Administrator Irizarry stated since they will honor the 50% rate, mark out the hourly rate. Commissioner Worsley confirmed we would mark out the hourly rate and the only thing we would pay is the 50% based on the collected permit fees. Mr. Duck explained they offer two options, and the County recommended the 50% option which would cover any services that the Building Department needs from CBO to Inspector. Vice Chairman King as for clarity, when Lynn Westmoreland was Speaker of the House, and passed that law, which is it referring to as a Certified Building Official or Inspector where Inspectors come on the jobsite if they are not State certified we can put up a sign in the building department that says all inspectors are not State certified and if his is not State certified we have to send a letter stating he is not allowed back on the property. Vice Chairman King asked how many of the Inspectors were certified so we do not have problems. Mr. Duck stated all of their Inspectors are certified and there will not be a problem. Mr. Duck explained what the law was addressing. If the County chose not to hire certified inspectors, then you were required by that law to post the people that you were using for

inspectors that were not certified. Commissioner Worsley asked if NOVA just says 50% and there is no hourly rate, SafeBUILT is 60% for all services or \$105 and \$100 hourly if we do it. Administrator Irizarry stated we are only looking at the cost share. Commissioner Worsley stated he was trying to understand what was on the sheet. Administrator Irizarry confirmed with Vice Chairman King that revenue received from building permits would be split 50/50. Administrator Irizarry stated she wanted to bring to the Board something that would impact their decision. When SafeBUILT and Meriwether County were going through some issues, SafeBUILT was asked to break down a building permit and they said it would be difficult if not impossible. Administrator Irizarry told them if they were billing it, then it should not be impossible to break it down. Once Administrator Irizarry got into their system, she uncovered they have been charging the County for our own employees going out during 2021, 2022, and 2023. There were a multitude of those charges. Vice Chairman King thought we did not have inspectors while they were here. Administrator Irizarry stated there are certain things that our county employees can do. Vice Chairman King asked Mr. Duck if the County contracts with you to handle all of our permits and a county employee or Cassandra goes out and makes an inspection, you still get paid. Mr. Duck stated he did not know, and it would be something that has to be resolved. Administrator Irizarry stated based on what SafeBUILT has said as well, the same situation would be. Administrator Irizarry stated the only time the County has done the inspection is based upon the need of the citizens when SafeBUILT was unable to come out. NOVA confirmed that what was charged was on an hourly basis. The SafeBUILT representative stated there was a credit back to the County. Administrator Irizarry stated that was correct. The credit came back to the County once we asked about it and had that not been identified we would not have received the credit. Commissioner Worsley asked for a ballpark guess of the average income on the fees and services that we are going to have. Mr. Hardy stated what we are paying now would be between \$200,000 and \$250,000. Chairman Threadgill confirmed that amount the County brought in and not what we paid them. Commissioner Worsley stated the difference between the three agencies is \$12K to \$18K and not knowing enough about the topic he would defer and be in favor of whatever the County employees have agreed to do. Commissioner Worsley stated he would like to know which of the three was the most thorough and most reputable organization. Administrator Irizarry stated that is why she felt it was important to know some of the experiences we have had. Commissioner Worsley stated he would support what the majority of the Board does. Chairman Threadgill the Board was here to move the County forward and is aware there have been some issues with the current company but there could be issues with anyone we choose. It has been frustrating to a point for what he had seen over the last three years for the employees in Building and Zoning. If the staff is wanting to move toward something else, Chairman Threadgill would be willing to give it a try. It may not be better, but we have to give them a try in order to please out own staff. Commissioner Worsley stated it can be better and confirmed we did not make the decision based on cost. Ms. Sharpe stated if we decide to bring back an in-house inspector, we will already have our system. Chairman Threadgill stated that was something he had been pushing for because it does make it easier. Administrator Irizarry stated we had advertised since September and had not received any qualified applicants. Mr. Duck confirmed there was a 30-day notice to discontinue service with NOVA for either party, Charles Abbott and SafeBUILT had the same 30-day notice. Motion was made by Adam Worsley and seconded by Vice Chairman King to table #6 until the next meeting. Discussion followed. Commissioner Worsley did not see where there needed to be a difference in the software and the building inspections. All three companies stated they could work with the

County's software. Commissioner Worsley stated if this is the software staff wants to work toward becoming independent, he did not see why we could not make that decision.

5. Rosla Plant made a motion on #5 to table the Building Inspection and Plant Review Contractor until the May 10, 2023, Board of Commissioners Meeting, to allow review of all three contracts by Council and to approve a 30-day extension of the SafeBUILT the current contractor. Vice Chairman King seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

6. Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Adam Worsley to purchase the Software from Cloudpermit. All were in favor. Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Adam Worsley to amend the motion to approve the purchase of the Cloudpermit Software for the Building and Zoning Office and use SPLOST funds for the initial amount of \$13,000 and the General Fund for the annual amount of \$9,000. All were in favor.

XIII. REPORT FROM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Administrator Irizarry reported that pressure washing would occur at the Courthouse on May 6, 2023. We will coordinate with the City of Greenville to use water for the pressure washing of the Courthouse at no cost in case the company needs extra water to complete the job.

An RFP has been written and prepared for the Jail Roof. This will be advertised next week with a deadline of May 26, 2023.

The Coleman Creek Project was pushed out by GDOT, and we were not notified. The GDOT detour signs are covered. Hopefully, they will start on this soon.

Congressional discretionary spending – Chief Stephens and Administrator Irizarry submitted an application and supplied supplemental information to Senator Ossoff's office, and we have received word that Senator Ossoff supports a new fire truck for the citizens of Meriwether County. This still has to go through the Appropriations Committee and pass a budget.

The LMIG bid packages are completed and posted and information was provided to the Board members during the Work Session. If Commissioners want a complete package, please let Administrator Irizarry know. We will accept sealed bids on that with a deadline of May 19, 2023.

Fire Rescue completed the biannual EMS inspection, and our EMS license has been renewed for two more years. We do need to discuss purchasing an ambulance.

XIV. REPORT FROM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Adam Worsley: appreciates everyone's hard work and offered thanks for the Work Session today. Commissioner Worsley stated we have short staffed. We have the money to spend to resolve a lot of issues that citizens are dealing with. Commissioner Worsley suggested having another Work Session to discuss this.

Vice Chairman Gene King: Thanked everyone for the work they are doing. There have been fire fighters that are complaining they come here and get put on an ambulance and they are quitting. We really need help/guidance to focus on our employees.

Commissioner Rosla Plant: There was a meeting with the Comprehensive Planning group on April 12, 2023, and the next meeting is scheduled for May 10, 2023, hopefully around 2:00 p.m. Commissioner Plant attended the Boy Scout Distinguished Citizen Award Dinner where Mr. Solomon Ferguson was honored. Commissioner Plant also hears we are short-staffed and that is across the board. It is unknown how to address this and whether it would be through schools or workforce development. Commissioner Plant stated maybe we need to review salaries. One concern, after speaking with her son-in-law, was the build out time for fire trucks and

ambulances is two years according to Peachtree City. If our budget is unable to cover ambulance repairs, we need to go ahead and get that ordered and in place. Peachtree City is preparing to build new Fire Stations and it was understood there is a higher density and higher cost to build out. They are anticipating \$500 per square foot commercial build.

Chairman Bryan Threadgill: was impressed at a building he saw today in the County and feels we need to look at other options when it comes to possibly building Fire Stations. More information will be shared at a later time on this. Chairman Threadgill thanked everyone for what we are doing. Chairman Threadgill has serviced on the Board of 11 years, and it is very hard. The Board tries every day to move the County forward as much as they can in this County. There are a lot of things that we have to do and unfortunately, staffing is an issue across the board in every profession each day. Chairman Threadgill enjoyed the Work Session and feels it brings light to everybody and feels we need to plan one quarterly.

XV. REPORT FROM COUNTY ATTORNEY

Attorney Hill stated at the last meeting the Board asked legal to look into the referendum process for package of distilled spirits. A draft of the referendum was provided to Administrator Irizarry. The Board would have to pass a Resolution calling for a referendum and the call will go to the Election Supervisor who will publish the call. There are some time frames that we need to get the Election Supervisor to fill in the blanks. Administrator Irizarry stated she has the dates. Attorney Hill stated Administrator Irizarry can get this to the Board and maybe it could be on the next Agenda. Administrator Irizarry stated there would be a cost of about \$30,000 to the County if this were to be in November since we do not have a mandated election. The next Election would be the PPM. The Secretary of State will not announce the date until after December 1, 2023. Attorney Hill stated if this was a majority vote, then an Ordinance would be made that would regulate, and legal will address the actual contents of that Ordinance at that time. Legal has the draft Resolution and the draft call ready. It was confirmed that packaging and by the drink were two different things and by the drink is already allowed as long as they serve more than 50% food. Administrator Irizarry will provide the drafts to the Commissioners before the next meeting.

The Cotton Fair is weekend after next.

Chairman Threadgill received the call from Senator Ossoff and he wants us to reach out to our other counterparts in the State, to let them know he is about to push this through Appropriations and it is for a fire truck. He feels good that we will get this. Chairman Threadgill will call Congressman Ferguson's office in the morning to let him know the Board does want him to help push this through Appropriations.

XVI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

XVII. FUTURE MEETINGS & NOTICES

Chairman Threadgill announced Future Meetings and Notices.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Rosla Plant and seconded by Vice Chairman King to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m. All were in favor.

Approved by: Majority vote of the Board of Commissioners
Attest: Beverly Thomas, County Clerk
Date: May 10, 2023