

Monroe County Board of Commissioners

Minutes of the January 3, 2023

Regular Commissioners Meeting

6:00 P.M. Meeting

Present:

Greg Tapley, Chairman

Lamarcus Davis, Vice Chairman

Eddie Rowland, District 2

John Ambrose, District 3

George Emami, District 4

Staff:

Jim Hedges, County Manager

Ben Vaughn, County Attorney

Nathalie Sundeen, County Attorney

Janet Abbott, County Clerk

Richard Dumas, Public Information Officer

Welcome

Chairman Tapley welcomed everyone in attendance.

Prayer

Commissioner Davis gave the invocation.

Pledge

Chairman Tapley led the Pledge.

Roll Call

County Clerk Janet Abbott called roll.

Call to Order

Chairman Tapley called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Citizen Service Awards

District 1 Commissioner Lamarcus Davis presented the Citizen Service Award to Yvonne Stroud.

District 2 Commissioner Eddie Rowland presented the Citizen Service Award to Phil Ham.

District 3 Commissioner John Ambrose presented the Citizen Service Award to Gregory Phillips.

District 4 Commissioner George Emami presented the Citizen Service Award to Bronwen Morgan.

Chairman Greg Tapley presented the Citizen Service Award to Dennis Kent.

New Business

Approve Agenda

Chairman Tapley presented the agenda for approval with the addition of personnel to executive session.

Commissioner Davis motioned to approve the agenda with said changes.

Commissioner Ambrose seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0.

Approve Minutes-BOC Meeting-December 6, 2022, Regular Meeting and the December 13, 2022, Called Meeting

Commissioner Emami motioned to approve the minutes of the December 6, 2022, Regular meeting and the December 13, 2022, Called Meeting with the usual 30 days for changes.

Commissioner Ambrose seconded the motion

The motion carried 5-0.

County Clerk Appointment

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to reappoint Janet Abbott as the Monroe County Clerk.

Commissioner Davis seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0.

Middle Georgia Regional Commissioner Council (Point-Out)

Each county has five representatives on the Council-3 voting and 2 associate (non-voting) members. The guidelines and process for appointments are as follows:

- The Chairperson of the Monroe County Board of Commissioners or a designated member of the Board of Commissioners serves as the County Voting Member. The term of County member is the same as the term in office when appointed. This position is currently held by Greg Tapley.
- The cities of Forsyth and Culloden select either a mayor or a councilperson to serve as the Municipal Voting Member. The term of the Municipal member is the same as the term in office when appointed. This position is currently held by Eric Wilson.
- The County Member and the Municipal Member select the remaining three Council members for one-year terms.

- One (1) non-public/non-elected resident of the county to serve as the Non-Public voting member. Currently, this position is held by Dick Bazemore; he is eligible for reappointment for the 2023 calendar year.
- Two (2) residents of the county to serve as Associate Members of the Council. Currently, these positions are held by Lynn Miller and Melvin Lawrence; both are eligible for reappointment for the 2023 calendar year.

Commissioner Emami motioned to re-appoint Chairman Tapley to the Middle Georgia Regional Commission Council.

Commissioner Davis seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0.

Forsyth-Monroe County Chamber of Commerce Appointment

Monroe County's appointed representative to the Forsyth-Monroe County Chamber of Commerce is Chairman Greg Tapley. His term expires on December 31, 2022, and reappointment is required.

Commissioner Rowland motioned to reappoint Greg Tapley to the Forsyth-Monroe County Chamber of Commerce.

Commissioner Emami seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0.

Board of Assessors Appointment

The term of Steve Slocumb, Jr.'s appointment to the Monroe County Board of Assessors will expire on February 20, 2023. Steve currently serves as the Chairman of the Board of Assessors and his reappointment is recommended.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to reappoint Steve Slocumb to the Monroe County Board of Assessors for a three-year term.

Commissioner Emami seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0.

Development Authority of Monroe County Appointment

There are nine appointees to the development Authority of Monroe County, all appointed by the Monroe County Board of Commissioners. Four appointees' terms expire on December 31, 2022, as follows:

- Phil Ham
- Larry Evans
- Craig Craddock
- Michael Leverett

The Monroe County Board of Commissioners have agreed with the City of Forsyth that they will nominate a representative to the Development Authority of Monroe County, and their nominee is Greg Goolsby. In

addition to Mr. Goolsby, the Monroe County Board of Commissioners need to appoint three additional members to this authority.

Commissioner Rowland motioned to reappoint Craig Craddock, Phil Ham, and Mike Leverett and to appoint Forsyth Councilman Greg Goolsby to replace Larry Evans on the Monroe County Development Authority.

Commissioner Ambrose seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0.

Hospital Authority of Monroe County Appointment

There are seven appointees to the Hospital Authority of Monroe County, all appointed by the Monroe County Board of Commissioners. Two appointees' terms expire on December 31, 2022, as follows:

- Mac Brown
- Wes Cone

The Monroe County Board of Commissioners have agreed with the City of Forsyth that they will nominate a representative to the Hospital Authority of Monroe County, and their nominee is Chris Hewett. In addition to Mr. Hewett, the Monroe County Board of Commissioners need to appoint one additional member to this authority.

Commissioner Rowland motioned to appoint Forsyth Councilman Chris Hewett and Dennis Kent to replace Mac Brown and Wes Cone on the Hospital Authority.

Commissioner Ambrose seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0.

Library Board of Monroe County Appointment

There are thirteen appointees to the Library Board of Monroe County, eleven members are appointed by the Monroe County Board of Commissioners, one appointed by the Monroe County Board of Education, and one appointed by the City of Forsyth. Two appointees' terms expire on December 31, 2022, as follows:

- Jennifer Hudgins
- Nipper Bunn

The Chairperson of the Library Board of Monroe County, Ms. Taylor Bittick, has recommended the reappointment of Ms. Hudgins. The appointments to this board are four-year appointments.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to reappoint Jennifer Hudgins and Nipper Bunn to the Library Board for four-year terms.

Planning & Zoning Board Appointments

There are five appointees to the Monroe County Planning and Zoning Board, one appointee by each Commissioner for a one-year term. Current appointees are as follows:

- Jim Rollins-Chairman's appointee
- David Hunter-District 1

- Chuck Benson-District 2
- Richard Ezelle-District 3
- Chad Tyler-District 4

Consideration should be given to extending these appointments to a two-year term.

County Attorney Ben Vaughn advised the terms would be addressed in the upcoming UDO.

Commissioner Emami motioned to reappoint Jim Rollins, David Hunter, Chuck Benson, Richard Ezelle and Chad Tyler to the Planning and Zoning Board for one-year terms.

Commissioner Rowland seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0.

Recreation Board Appointments

There are five appointees to the Monroe County Recreation Board, one appointee by each Commissioner for a one-year term. Current appointees are as follows:

- Kenneth Mantle-Chairman's appointee
- Marecha Gaines-District 1
- Ron Shipman, Sr.-District 2
- Adam Ham-District 3
- Melissa Mixon-District 4

Consideration should be given to extending these appointments to a two-year term.

Commissioner Emami stated Melissa Mixon's children have aged out of the recreation department, and she no longer wishes to serve on the Board. Commissioner Emami stated he would like to nominate Hambric Brooks.

Commissioner Davis motioned to reappoint Kenneth Mantle, Marecha Gaines, Ron Shipman and Adam Hand and to appoint Hambric Brooks to replace Melissa Mixon. Commissioner Davis also motioned to change the term for the Recreation Board members from one-year terms to two-year terms.

Commissioner Emami second the motion and the motion carried 5-0

Region 2 DBHDD Advisory Council Appointments

Previously, this organization has been referenced as "Region 4" and as a "Planning Board"; however, the DBHDD website shows Monroe County in Region 2, and the organization is referenced as an Advisory Council in accordance with O.C.G.A. 37-2-4.1. Appointees to this Council are Chairman Greg Tapley, and Debbie Harbin. Mrs. Harbin's term expired on May 7, 2022, and she has indicated she would greatly appreciate being reappointed to this Council.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to reappoint Debbie Harbin to the Department of Behavioral Health and Disabilities Board for a three-year term.

Commissioner Emami seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0.

Two Rivers RC&D Appointment

Two Rivers Resource Conservation and Development Council, established in 1992, is a member-based, non-profit (IRS 501C (3)) that works in partnership with the private and public sector to develop and implement locally led environmental and economic projects throughout the 14-county membership area. Counties with the membership are include the following counties: Butts, Marion, Pike Chattahoochee, Meriwether, Spalding, Fayette, Monroe, Talbot, Harris, Muscogee, Troup, Lamar, and Upson.

Historically, Monroe County has appointed the Chairman and Road Superintendent to this Council, each serving a one-year term. Current appointees from Monroe County are Chairman Greg Tapley, and Ira Watts, now retired. Suggestion for the replacement of Ira Watts could be Chris Walker.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to reappoint Greg Tapley to the Two Rivers RC&D Board and to appoint Public Works Director Chris Walker.

Commissioner Emami seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0.

Declaration of Emergency Ratification

County Attorney Ben Vaughn explained the need to ratify a decision that was made on December 29, 2022, via email to declare a local state of emergency regarding the North Monroe County Water System. The Board at the recommendation of the County Manager agreed, due to the emergency water situation, to connect fire hoses to the City of Forsyth water system to provide a water source to Northern Monroe County.

Commissioner Emami motioned to ratify the December 29, 2022, decision to declare a state of emergency.

Commissioner Ambrose seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0.

The Board publicly thanked Monroe County Emergency Services, H2O Innovations, and County Manager Jim Hedges for all their hard work in maintaining water service to North Monroe County.

Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Davis congratulated Commissioner Ambrose and Commissioner Emami on their new terms as Commissioner. Commissioner Davis also thanked County Manager Jim Hedges and EMS Chief Matt Jackson for their help in opening the warming center.

Commissioner Rowland thanked EMS and H2O Innovations for their help in maintaining water service.

Commissioner Ambrose stated he agreed with Commissioner Rowland and thinks they should be rewarded in some way.

Commissioner Emami stated he has received complaints about the zoning fee that is being charged on top of the building permit fee. Commissioner Emami asked the County Manager to get with Community Development Director Kelsey Fortner and compare Monroe County's cost for building a 2000 sq ft house to surrounding counties. He stated he would like to revisit the fees if Monroe County is at the top of the fees.

Commissioner Emami stated he had the privilege and honor to meet some of our crews from fire and water. He stated he was absolutely impressed at the way that our staff, our manager, our fire department, and our water department from top down responded to the situation and was absolutely impressed at how quick to action they were.

Chairman Tapley stated he also wanted to thank the crews that worked so hard through Christmas to maintain water service. He stated he would like to announce the boil water advisory has been lifted.

County Manager Jim Hedges stated it is very rare to have the Board of Commissioners involved in an EMA event and he appreciates the Board for being a part of the team and for being there when they were needed.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Executive Session-Litigation

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to enter executive session for litigation and personnel at 6:58 p.m.

Commissioner Davis seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Rowland motioned to come out of executive session at 7:34 p.m.

Commissioner Davis seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0.

Action from Executive Session

County Attorney Ben Vaughn stated several items were discussed in executive session regarding litigation with one item needing action and one personnel matter that needed no action. Mr. Vaughn stated the action item is regarding the Crawford County Borrow Pit. He stated there is a bid from Pounds Property Management in the amount of \$68,400 for the installation of fencing along the high sides of the slopes.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve the bid for the installation of the fence by Pounds Property Management.

Commissioner Davis seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0.

Adjourn

Commissioner Emami motioned to adjourn at 7:39 p.m.

Commissioner Davis seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0.

Respectively Submitted by:

Janet Abbott, County Clerk