

Monroe County Board of Commissioners

Minutes of the March 01, 2022

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

Janet Abbott, County Clerk

Richard Dumas, Public Information Officer

Kelsey Fortner, Zoning Officer

Welcome

Chairman Tapley welcomed everyone in attendance.

Prayer

Commissioner Davis led 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.

Speaker Appearance

Speaker asked to be removed from the agenda.

New Business

Approve Agenda

Chairman Tapley presented the agenda for approval

Commissioner Rowland motioned to approve the agenda.

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

Approve Minutes-BOC Meeting-February 15, 2022

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2022, Regular meeting with the usual 30 days for changes.

Commissioner Rowland seconded the motion and the motion carried 4-0-1 with Chairman Tapley abstaining from the vote due to being absent from the meeting.

Charles Abbott Associates Contract Renewal

County Manager Jim Hedges presented the Charles Abbott Associates Contract for renewal. Mr. Hedges stated the contract for building inspection with Charles Abbott Associates expired on December 31, 2021. A renewal contract is attached for 2022 and there is one change, a decrease from 60% to 50% for large projects.

Mr. Hedges stated it is his recommendation that the contract is renewed for 2022.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve renewing the contract with Charles Abbott Associates.

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

Intergovernmental Sales Contract-Screven County

County Manager Jim Hedges stated the Screven County Fire Chief and County Administrator has reached out to Monroe County expressing interest in purchasing four of our surplus fire apparatus. Screven County is offering \$4,900 each for Engine 4, 9, and 14; this value is in line with the trade-in offer received. They are also offering \$12,000 for Engine 6; again, in line with the trade-in offer we received.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve.

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

Surplus Equipment Auction

At the February 1, 2022, Board of Commissioners' meeting, several vehicles and road equipment were declared surplus and instead of advertising for sealed bids and selling to the highest bidder, the Board requested an auction of the surplus equipment. Hudson & Marshall was contacted and have submitted a proposal that includes an advertising budget of \$2,832.00 and an auction fee of 10% addition to the bid price, and a 10% fee to the county on the bid price.

Commissioner Emami motioned to approve the contract with Hudson and Marshall.

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

Vehicle Surplus

The Sheriff's Department would like to trade-in a 2019 Ford F-150 with 50K miles on a 2022 Ford F-150 with a sticker price of \$46,000. The Ford dealership will allow \$35,000 for the 2019 Ford F-150 on trade-in. For this transaction to proceed, the Board of Commissioners must surplus the 2019 Ford F-150.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve to surplus the 2019 Ford F-150 at the Sheriff's Office.

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

Social Media Policy

County Attorney Ben Vaughn presented a resolution of the Board of Commissioners of Monroe County, Georgia to adopt a social media policy; to authorize the Chairman to sign the resolution on behalf of the Board of Commissioners to authorize the Clerk to attest all documents. Mr. Vaughn stated the purpose of the resolution is to provide guidelines as to the use of social media to protect the County and to appropriately control the dissemination of official information through social media.

Commissioner Davis motioned to keep the County's Facebook page.

Commissioner Emami seconded the motion.

Commissioner Ambrose stated he doesn't think the Facebook page is needed due to the derogatory remarks being made.

Following a Board discussion, the motion carried 4-1 with Commissioner Ambrose opposed.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to not allow comments on the County's Facebook page.

Chairman Tapley seconded the motion.

Following a board discussion, the motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve the social media policy.

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

P&Z Public Hearings

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to enter a public hearing for all four planning and zoning applications at 6:31 P.M.

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

P&Z Hearing-Jones-Variance/Conditional Use

Zoning Officer Kelsey Fortner presented a variance/conditional use application located at 6573 Rivoli Drive, Map 103 Parcel 027A. Ms. Fortner stated the purpose of the application is to have two donkeys on a 3.5-acre residential lot. The property owners and applicant are Linda and Ken Jones.

Ms. Fortner stated the Planning and Zoning Board recommended approval 5-0.

No one present in opposition to the request.

P&Z Hearing-Vaughn-Variance

Zoning Officer Kelsey Fortner presented a variance application located at Hwy 42 South, Map 043 Parcel 006. Ms. Fortner stated the purpose of the application is to create a private road that will access 3 lots divided out of the 143.16-acres and any creation of a road requires board approval. The property owner is Joey Vaughn, and the applicants are Jeff Vaughn and Jeffrey Vaughn.

Ms. Fortner stated the Planning and Zoning Board recommended approval 5-0.

No one present in opposition to the request.

P&Z Hearing-Coleman/Evans-Variance

Zoning Officer Kelsey Fortner presented a variance application located on Marshall Road, Map 042A Plat 003F. The purpose of the application is to create three 1-acre lots on an existing unnamed private road. Ms. Fortner stated the minimum acreage per lot on a private road is 10-acres. The property owner is Clara Evans, and the applicants are Clara Evans and Steve Coleman.

Ms. Fortner stated the Planning and Zoning Board recommended approval 5-0.

No one present in opposition to the request.

P&Z Hearing-Gang-Variance

Zoning Officer Kelsey Fortner presented a variance application located at 202 Tuxedo Circle, map 026H parcel 042. Ms. Fortner stated the purpose of the application is for setback encroachment on the side of the property of approximately 7-8' into the minimum 20'. The house was built mistakenly closer to the adjoining property line. The property owner is wanting to take the necessary steps to correct this error. Ms. Fortner stated the Monroe County Code of Ordinances states in a residential district the principal structure must be set back fifty feet from any street or real lot line and twenty feet from any side lot line. The property owner and applicant are American Craftsman Home, Craftsman II LLC, Eric and Jack Gang.

Ms. Fortner stated the Planning and Zoning recommended approval 5-0.

No one present in opposition to the request.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to come out of the public hearings at 6:40 p.m.

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

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve all four applications.

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

Old Business

There was no old business discussed.

Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Davis stated the resident on Straight Street that had the water issues would like the Road Department to install a ditch.

Commissioner Rowland reminded everyone about the survey regarding the RV's.

Commissioner Ambrose stated he would like the commissioners to consider using some of the money the county is receiving from the state and consider running water on some of the private roads that were passed over.

Commissioner Ambrose stated the county has some water easement rights-of-way where the water comes off the road and it goes through people's property. He stated he would like to know if the property owner wanted to pay for the pipe can the county install pipe on the property.

County Attorney Ben Vaughn stated they can if it is on county property.

Commissioner Ambrose asked for volunteers for a big county wide cleanup day on March 5th. He stated he would like to add to the current littering fee and for people to possibly lose their license and community service for littering.

Commissioner Rowland stated regarding the money the county is receiving, he has an idea about an area in his district he is concerned with and will be bringing it to the board in a couple of weeks.

County Manager Jim Hedges stated he and Lorri have been working on numbers and his plan is to bring in a list on March 15th from 30,000 feet for projects that the money can be used for.

Public Comments

Laura Dewitt, 3639 Dames Ferry Road resident, spoke regarding the discussion to surplus the four firetrucks.

Ms. Dewitt stated we haven't received the new firetrucks and her concern is whether we have enough trucks to cover. She stated she hopes it's listed in the contracts that there is a penalty for the ones that haven't been delivered or in service yet.

Barry Newman, 2241 Johnstonville Road resident, addressed the board stating he doesn't think Facebook should be used.

Executive Session

There was no executive session.

Action from Executive Session

There was no action from executive session.

Adjourn

Commissioner Emami motioned to adjourn at 6:58 p.m.

Commissioner Emami seconded the motion and the motion carried 4-0.

Respectively Submitted by:

County Clerk, Janet Abbott