

Monroe County Board of Commissioners

Minutes of the March 15, 2022

Regular Commissioners Meeting

9:00 A.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

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 9:00 A.M.

Moment of silence for School Board Member JP Evans.

New Business

Approve Agenda

Chairman Tapley presented the agenda for approval with the addition of item K, the City of Forsyth is looking to annex 45 acres into the City; item L, request to continue public hearing for High Road; and setting a Planning and Zoning work session date.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve the agenda with said additions.

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

Approve Minutes-BOC Meeting-March 01, 2022

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve the minutes of the March 01, 2022, Regular meeting with the usual 30 days for changes.

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

Public Defender Budget

County Manager Jim Hedges stated on March 24, 2022, elected officials from Lamar, Butts, and Monroe Counties will meet with representatives from the Towaliga Judicial Circuit for their annual budget meeting. This meeting will be hosted by Monroe County at the Monroe County Convention Center. The Towaliga Public Defender, Doug Smith, has requested to address the Monroe County Board of Commissioners to discuss his budget for fiscal year 2023 prior to that meeting.

Public Defender Doug Smith presented the request for his 2023 budget to the Board.

High Falls Fire Station

County Manager Jim Hedges stated several months have passed since Monroe County has purchased the Falls View Restaurant for conversion into the High Falls Fire Station. Costs have escalated since the purchase of this building and I have asked Warren Selby, Warren & Associates, to address the Board on the current estimated cost to renovate this facility. Mr. Hedges stated the focus will be on the addition of a 3-bay apparatus building, civil, drainage, cement requirements, and the restaurant renovation.

Warren Selby presented an update on the High Falls Fire Station. Mr. Selby presented an existing condition study.

Commissioner Davis motioned to define the scope of work needed for the High Falls Fire Station.

Chairman Tapley seconded the motion.

Following a Board discussion, the Board agreed to table the motion pending the County Attorney reviewing the contract with Warren Selby and determining the termination guidelines.

Sheriff/MCES Recruiter Bonus

Mr. Hedges presented the next item stating Sheriff Brad Freeman is currently 17 deputies short in the Sheriff's department and wants to recommend to the Board of Commissioners a bonus program to existing deputies that recruit a new deputy, and if after 6 months the recruit is still in the department, the deputy that recruited the new employee would receive a \$1,000 bonus. Chief Matt Jackson, who has 12 plus vacant full-time positions would like to participate in this program as well as extending the program to current volunteers that recruit new volunteers, and if after 6 months, they will receive a \$500 bonus.

Sheriff Brad Freeman addressed the Board regarding the recruiter bonuses. Sheriff Freeman stated the program would be through December 31, 2022.

Chief Matt Jackson spoke stating he would also like to offer this program to his volunteers.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve that the employees clear \$1000, and volunteers clear \$500.

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

Internship Program Grant

Finance Director Lorri Robinson presented a grant position that has been awarded to the county through ACCG Civic Affairs Foundation. Ms. Robinson stated the Foundation is providing grant funding through the Georgia County Internship Program to reimburse certain costs to the County to employ interns to complete projects. In exchange for the County hiring the intern(s) to perform projects and to learn about the operations of county government the Foundation shall provide reimbursement to the county as follows:

- Reimbursement for the cost of wages at the rate of \$12.00 per hour for each hour worked up to 200 hours for a maximum reimbursement of \$2400.00 per intern.
- Workers Compensation-a portion of the cost to cover the intern under the County's workers compensation plan up to a maximum reimbursement rate of \$24.00 per intern.
- FICA-a portion of the cost of paying FICA in the Foundations sole discretion at a maximum reimbursement of up to \$183.60 per intern.

Finance Director Lorri Robinson stated the position would be a Retention Specialist.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve.

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

EPD Enforcement-Landfill

The EPD frequently conducts inspections of the Strickland Loop Landfill. These inspections always result in numerous findings, mostly petty in nature. The last inspection was conducted in November 2021 and a response to the inspection report was provided by Harbin Engineering on December 13, 2021. The response did not satisfy the EPD, and an Enforcement Conference was held in late January 2022. The EPD has established

artificial deadlines and are threatening additional enforcement action including monetary penalties. Some of the action items have already been completed, some are on-going daily, and some items are not practicable.

The findings were as follows:

- Repair existing erosion and cover exposed waste.
- Replace damaged edge of liner markers and monitoring well labels and repair damaged wind fence.
- Remove woody vegetation and mow each slope of the landfill.
- Relocate trees and woody vegetation to recovered material area.
- Drainage ditch maintenance, repair, replace or install erosion control best management practices.
- Install slope matting and establish vegetation where necessary
- Vegetate soil stockpiles not to be disturbed in 90 days.
- Sediment Pond #1 sediment removal and install silt gauges. Frank Newton to discuss with Atlantis.

Boone Trucking has quoted \$5,000 to remove the woody vegetation and mow each slope of the landfill.

Jonathan Banks has quoted \$35,250 to install slope matting and establish vegetation where necessary. For a total cost of \$44,037.50.

County Manager Jim Hedges stated the way forward is to engage the services of Boone Trucking to remove vegetation and slope mowing; and engage the services of Jonathan Banks to install matting and vegetation at a cost of \$44,037.50 with funding to come from contingency.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve.

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

Scrap Metal

Mr. Hedges stated at a recent BOC meeting, the Board authorized going to bid on an annual basis for the removal and sale of scrap metal at the Strickland Loop landfill. Three companies bid and the best bid for the count is from SA Recycling. The bids were as follows:

- SA Recycling-\$180 per gross ton (2,240 pounds), or \$0.08/pound. Will place open top trailers at no charge at the landfill.
- ADM Rolloff LLC-\$134.40 gross ton (2,240), or \$0.06 pound. Will place open top trailers at not charge at the landfill.
- Custom Metal Recycling-\$123.20 gross ton (2,240 pounds) or \$0.055 per pound. Open top container to be located at the landfill.

Mr. Hedges stated the way forward is to award the scrap metal contract to SA Recycling for a period of one year.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve.

Commissioner Davis seconded the motion and the motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Rowland was not present for the vote.

South Water Project-Division III-Change Order-Close Out

The water line project for the installation of water lines on GA. Hwy 42 and Maynard Mill Road has been completed and there is a small overrun of \$8,187.36 that requires Board approval of a change order. The additional cost was due to the relocation of water lines to the opposite side of the road to avoid telephone cables and due to no easement being granted from Joseph Egloff.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve the change order of \$8,187.36 and the final project cost for \$490,278.43.

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

Speed Bumps-Newton Street

Mr. Hedges stated the Planning and Zoning Department has received a request for speed bumps on Newton Street by a property owner. The Planning and Zoning department sent out letters and received a majority vote in favor of speed bumps. The traffic control process, confirmed by the Road Department, has been completed. It is the Boards decision on whether the speed bumps are approved, should they be approved the Road Department will place a sign alerting property owners this is coming prior to installation.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to not install speedbumps due to not having 100% of resident's approval.

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

The Board asked the County manager to bring back a policy.

City Annexation

The Board discussed the City of Forsyth's annexation of property on Montpelier.

Commissioner Emami motioned to send a letter to the City of Forsyth requesting interior roads and the zoning density be restricted to R2.

Commissioner Rowland seconded the motion and the motion carried 4-1 with Chairman Tapley opposed due to the interior road request.

High Road Planning & Zoning Hearing

County Attorney Ben Vaughn addressed the Board stating notices and violations have been issued to Junior Johnson on High Road. His attorney Mr. Turner has requested a continuation of the hearing due to him being out of town. Mr. Johnson will be out of town as well and due process needs to be given so he is allowed to be heard.

Commissioner Emami motioned to continue the hearing to the May 3rd meeting.

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

Public Hearing work session date for UDO workshop

County Attorney Ben Vaughn stated feedback has been received regarding the Unified Development Ordinance that consensus is needed from the Board on. Mr. Vaughn continued with this will allow for close to final ordinance prior to the Public Hearings being held. Mr. Vaughn stated if the Board could give him a couple dates to give to Attorney Brandon Bowen so that he can be there.

Chairman Tapley stated he thinks the meeting should start at 9:00 a.m. and maybe end at noon.

The Board suggested the dates of March 31st, April 1st, April 12th, or April 13th.

Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Ambrose asked about a possible water tank to be located potentially where the burned-out Fire Station in Smarr was.

Commissioner Davis stated he would like to donate \$3,000 of his 2021 discretionary funds to assist with the funding for a new American Legion Hall on Hwy 83 South.

Commissioner Emami motioned to approve the request.

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

Commissioner Davis stated he would also like to suggest maybe putting dumpsters out in areas in the County to help people with blight.

Public Comments.

John Ricketson resident of 120 Carriage Drive stated he is Monroe County's representative on the Macon Area Transportation Study Citizen Advisory Committee. Mr. Ricketson stated in Bibb County if a specific area request speed bumps only 75% of people on projected stretch need to agree and the speed bumps will be put in but all the people on the street have to pay for them.

Mr. Ricketson stated this is the 5th year in a row he has complained to the water department about a leak on Plantation drive and Carriage drive and they won't do anything about it.

Warren Selby Sr. and I started our businesses in the same year. He stated when the Falls View Restaurant was built there were no building codes.

Executive Session-Litigation, Real Estate, Personnel.

Commissioner Davis motioned to enter executive session at 11:29 A.M.

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

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to close executive session at 12:06 P.M.

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

Action from Executive Session

There was no action from executive session.

Adjourn

Commissioner Davis motioned to adjourn at 12:06 P.M.

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

Respectively Submitted by:

County Clerk, Janet Abbott