

Monroe County Board of Commissioners

Minutes of the April 04, 2023

Regular Commissioners Meeting

6:00 P.M.

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

Janet Abbott, County Clerk

Richard Dumas, Public Information Officer

Kelsey Fortner, Community Development Manager

Welcome

Chairman Tapley welcomed everyone in attendance.

Prayer

Reverend Pam Johnston member of United Methodist Church and of the Ministerial Association 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.

Proclamation-Volunteer Firefighters

Chairman Tapley read a proclamation commemorating April 4, 2023, as Monroe County Volunteer Firefighter Appreciation Day. The proclamation stated the Monroe County Board of Commissioners wishes to recognize the dedicated service of Monroe County Emergency Services' longest-tenured volunteer firefighters. Those honored in the proclamation were:

- Samuel Bennet-51 years at the Culloden Fire Station
- Bennett Norris-50 years at the Culloden Fire Station
- Margie Bryant-47 years at the Culloden Fire Station
- Charlie "Chuck" Benson-38 years at the Smarr Fire Station
- Darrell Welch-38 years at the Culloden Fire Station
- Barry Lawson-38 years at the Popes Ferry Fire Station
- Eric Tully-33 years at the Popes Ferry Fire Station
- Tyler Mitchell-32 years at the Culloden Fire Station (1972-2004)

The proclamation also gave special recognition to three deceased fire fighters:

- Charles Edward "Edd" Norris, Jr., -49 years at the Culloden Fire Station
- Donald Allen "Don" Benson-42 years at the Smarr Fire Station
- Reuben Jordan-22 years at the Culloden Fire Station

A plaque was presented to each recipient or family member.

Proclamation-Hubbard Alumni

Chairman Tapley read a proclamation commemorating Saturday, April 14, 2023, as Hubbard Celebration Day in Monroe County in honor of the annual Hubbard Alumni weekend festivities.

Hubbard Alumni Association representatives Margie Bryant and Winifred Berry accepted the proclamation on behalf of the Association.

New Business

Approve Agenda

Chairman Tapley presented the agenda for approval with the addition of a resolution for a moratorium for right-of-way permits, the addition of culvert/headwall repair bids and the removal of item E-Hanson Aggregates Application.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve the agenda with said changes.

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

Approve Minutes-BOC Meeting-March 21, 2023, Regular Meeting

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2023, regular meeting with the usual 30 days for changes.

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

Regroup-Mass Notification Trial

County Manager Jim Hedges stated over the past couple of years utilizing the Code Red mass notification system, numerous issues have come forward including user notification failures, and most recently, system overloads. While there are a number of mass notification systems on the market, Chief Jackson has identified a system that provides a 90 day, no cost, demonstration.

EMS Chief Matt Jackson made a presentation to the Board on the Regroup Mass Notification System.

Chief Jackson proposed contracting with Regroup Mass Notification, on a free three-month trial period to determine if it is effective in sending out emergency alerts and can eventually replace the current Code Red on a permanent basis. Chief Jackson stated Regroup representatives have stated their system can make up to 100,000 calls with text and email within one minute and the citizen information from the current Code Red system can be transferred easily.

The estimated cost of contracting with Regroup for a year would be \$5000.00, and the cost currently for Code Red is \$11,500.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve the trial period for the use of Regroup-Mass Notification Trial.

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

Traffic Control SR 42 at Mize St.

County Manager Jim Hedges stated a few weeks ago, a Monroe County citizen stopped by expressing concern about the traffic layout at the intersection of SR 42 & Mize. Mr. Hedges stated he had passed these concerns to Kim Stokes and Gary Futch, after investigating, they made a recommendation to the GDOT, who in turn fully agreed with the recommendation.

Road Consultant Kim Stokes presented a new traffic layout for the SR 42 & Mize Street intersection for Board approval.

Commissioner Rowland motioned to move forward with Mr. Stokes' recommendation for the new traffic layout.

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

Culvert Repair/Headwall Repair Bids

Road Consultant Kim Stokes stated three 10-foot-wide culverts along with headwalls and wingwalls need to be replaced on Jenkins Road to stop further erosion. Mr. Stokes stated during the recent heavy rains the culverts

and headwalls had suffered significant damage. Mr. Stokes stated the project is expected to cost between \$100,000 to \$150,000.

Mr. Stokes stated there is also a culvert on Cross Creek Circle that is eroding and will require special equipment to handle. Mr. Stokes stated this project is expected to cost between \$100,000 and \$120,000.

After a board discussion, Commissioner Ambrose motioned to advertise for bids for repairs to culverts and headwalls/wingwalls on Jenkins Road and Cross Creek Circle.

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

Right-of-Way Permit Moratorium

County Attorney Ben Vaughn presented a Moratorium for Right-of-Way encroachment. Mr. Vaughn stated the moratorium establishes a temporary emergency moratorium on applications or permits requesting access to county rights-of-ways and is in place until October 31, 2023, but can be lifted if the ordinance revisions are made prior to that.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to move forward with a Moratorium for Right-of-Way encroachment.

Commissioner Rowland seconded the motion and the motion carried 4-0-1 with Commissioner Emami abstaining due to not having time to review.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Davis motioned to use \$500 of his districts discretionary funds to assist Monroe County Chamber of Commerce for the purpose of assisting in the creation of a Youth Leadership Monroe Program. Commissioner Rowland seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Rowland thanked the Monroe County Road Department for their hard work during the recent extreme rain. Commissioner Rowland stated it was handled with professionalism.

Commissioner Ambrose stated he thinks the county should require any out of county businesses to have permits to work in Monroe County.

Commissioner Ambrose stated he thinks there should be a county wide ordinance that every business and every residence be required to have blue reflective address markers.

Commissioner Emami reminded everyone of the rescheduled bike ride on April 22, 2023, in High Falls.

Commissioner Emami stated there will be an Art Scavenger hunt on June 10, 2023, in High Falls. The name of the event will be the Game of Shrooms.

County Manager Jim Hedges publicly thanked Chairman Tapley for taking the lead in dealing with state officials to ensure Monroe County was reimbursed for the \$6 million dollar grant for Water and Sewer infrastructure allocated to the county as part of federal COVID-19 relief funding.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Executive Session

There was no executive session.

Action from Executive Session

There was no executive session therefore no action was necessary.

Adjourn

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to adjourn at 6:54 p.m.

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

Respectively Submitted by:

Janet Abbott, County Clerk