

Monroe County Board of Commissioners

Minutes of the April 18, 2023

Regular Commissioners Meeting

9:00 A.M.

Present:

Greg Tapley, Chairman

Lamarcus Davis, Vice Chairman-Not present

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

Welcome

Chairman Tapley welcomed everyone in attendance.

Prayer

Reverend Cleveland Jarrell, pastor of Greater Friendship Baptist Church and member 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 9:00 A.M.

New Business

Approve Agenda

Chairman Tapley presented the agenda for approval with the removal of the approval of the minutes.

Commissioner Emami motioned to approve the agenda with said changes.

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

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

This item was removed from the agenda.

Abatement Schedule

Attorney Kevin Brown, Tom Baugh and Joyce White with the Development Authority were present.

Kevin Brown, Attorney for the Monroe County Development Authority, presented for approval two proposed levels of Abatement Schedules for potential industrial and commercial developments in Monroe County.

Following an extensive board discussion, Commissioner Emami motioned to approve.

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

VESTA 9-1-1

County Manager Jim Hedges stated the VESTA 9-1-1 is the front-end of the E-911 system and consists of both hardware and software. The existing system dates to the early 2000s, an analog system for incoming calls to E-911 operating on a Windows 7 platform that is no longer supported by Microsoft.

The recommendation is to refresh the VESTA hardware and upgrade the VESTA software with Motorola Solutions at a gross cost of \$592,162, and a net cost to the county after discounts and cost sharing with the City of Forsyth of \$437,949. This is an unbudgeted expenditure and funding will come from either Restricted Reserves, or from Unassigned Reserves pending the outcome of the current 2022 audit.

Colonel Mike Hull and E911 Director Ken Blandenburg were present for the request.

Commissioner Emami asked could seized funds be used for this purchase.

County Manager Jim Hedges stated he was not sure if this fell under the rules for use of seized funds.

Following a board discussion, Commissioner Emami motioned to approve as presented and stated he would like to get an opinion on the use of seized funds.

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

High Falls Fire Station Change Order

County Manager Jim Hedges stated Robert Muckenfuss, ProForm Construction, informed him that during the demo phase of the new High Falls Fire Station several unexpected circumstances had come up. These include the discovery of rotten framed walls in the kitchen as well as low percentage asbestos drywall in the main dining hall, front community room, and hallway leading to the bedrooms.

Mr. Muckenfuss quoted the following prices for repairs:

- Reframe walls in kitchen-\$2500.00.
- Asbestos abatement of sheetrock-\$7420.00.
- Replacement of sheetrock: To be determined upon final quote but estimate is about \$6500.00.

Mr. Hedges stated the total cost of these repairs is \$9920.00 but he would also like to establish a contingency of \$30,000 for future change orders. Mr. Hedges stated the expenditures from this contingency would have to be approved by Maintenance Supervisor Ray White and Bentley Cox.

Commissioner Emami motioned to approve the repairs in the amount of \$9,920.00 and the \$30,000.00 contingency.

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

Extension Office Vehicle

Rachel Frisbie, Monroe County Extension Coordinator, has requested replacement of the 2008 GMC 1500 truck with 97,000 miles that has frequently been in for repairs and service over the past few years. The preferred vehicle will be a Crew Cab Truck with 4-wheel drive as the Extension Office goes on site visits, into fields, and usually hauls livestock scales in the bed of the truck.

Article 1 B (2) of the Memorandum of Understanding between Monroe County and the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia provides “The County shall furnish a county government vehicle.....”.

Following a board discussion, Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve the request to purchase a vehicle.

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

Video/Audio Surveillance Policy

County Manager Jim Hedges stated recently, the video cameras in the Administration Building were upgraded and expanded with a system that records both audio and video. In the near future, the camera system in the Courthouse will be upgraded with new cameras that will only record video.

A best practice is to have a policy in place that ensures all Monroe County employees are aware of camera surveillance, video recording, and distribution if necessary. Only authorized personnel will have access to the video management system. All information obtained from the video management system shall only be used for official purposes. All Monroe County employees, where video and audio surveillance are in place, will be required to acknowledge the Video/Audio Surveillance and Recording Policy established by the Monroe County Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve the policy.

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

Old Smarr Fire Station Sale

County Manager Jim Hedges stated the Board of Commissioners approved declaring the old Smarr Fire Station as surplus and authorized the sale of the building and approximately 1 acre of land by auction utilizing the services of Hudson & Marshall. A live auction was held on Saturday, April 15, 2023, and the Smarr Fire Station and the one acre it sits on was sold to the highest bidder.

Steve Slocumb with Hudson & Marshall was present to present the bid.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve the bid and authorize the Chairman to sign the contract.

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

MCES Headquarters Doors

Mr. Hedges stated the roll-up doors at the MCES Headquarters are beginning to fail. Recently, 2 of 8 doors have failed, one had a catastrophic mechanical failure, and a second door hangs and prevents the tanker truck from exiting the building. We have had these doors evaluated and they have been deemed to be inappropriate for this building given the high-volume usage, not intended for light-weight roll-up doors currently installed. The existing light-weight doors on the MCES Headquarters would be more appropriate for use at a Volunteer Station where usage is minimum.

Mr. Hedges stated the recommendation is to replace the 8 light-weight doors with heavy-duty panel doors at a cost of \$32,015.

Following a board discussion, Commissioner Rowland motioned to approve replacing the eight (8) doors at a cost of \$32,015.

Commissioner Emami seconded the motion and the motion carried 3-0-1 with Commissioner Ambrose abstaining from the vote.

East Redding Road & Hill Top Street

Mr. Hedges stated East Redding Road and Hill Top Street in the Juliette area was overlooked for the installation of water mains. East Redding has a 6-inch stub coming off Highway 87 and is a public road with 5 residents and 1 church. Hill Top Street is shown on the tax maps as private; however, County records show this street as public.

United Grading has estimated running a 2-inch line on each road will cost \$168,109 and will cover approximately 1,450 linear feet of pipe.

Mr. Hedges stated the way forward is to issue a change order to United Grading for \$168,109 to run water mains on East Redding Road and Hill Top Street.

Following a discussion, the board agreed by general consensus to table the change order.

McCowan Road Fence/Change Order

The Monroe County Board of Commissioners entered into a contract with Southeastern Site Development for the reconstruction of McCowan Road. This contract included a line item to install a fence parallel to the roadway along the right of way separating the County's ROW and the Ham property: *Item 643-0010 Field Fence Woven Wire, 2800 Linear Feet @ 18.00 per LF, Total Cost \$50,400*. The original discussion, as we can determine, between the parties, (Monroe County & Phil Ham family) prior to entering into the construction contract, that Monroe County would purchase the necessary materials to install the fence and deliver the materials to the Ham family and they would install the fence with their own forces.

During the course of construction, it was determined that the Ham family understood the fence was to be installed for 5900 LF and not 2800 LF as in the contract. This would increase the fence item to \$106,200, with the contracted unit price. Negotiations were started with Phil and Cody Ham to determine their understanding and intentions for the fence. They agreed the intent was for the County to furnish the fence materials along their property line for 5900 LF and they install with their labor and equipment. They have agreed to accept payment to Sleep Creek Farms in the amount of \$50,400 for the fence materials.

A change order should be issued to Southeastern Site Development deleting the fence item, to be handled by Watkins and Associates. An agreement should be written between Monroe County and Phil Ham, et al, DBA as Sleepy Creek Farms, releasing the County of any liability and responsibility to the fence installation, quality of the materials, or the quantity of fence.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve the change order to remove the \$50,400 from the Southeastern Site Development contract, sign the agreement and issue a check to the Ham family for \$50,400.

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

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Ambrose stated he would still like to look into an ordinance requiring the reflective sign address markers and requiring business license.

Commissioner Emami stated the town hall meeting in High Falls was a great meeting.

Chairman Tapley informed everyone that there would be a fundraiser at Jonah's Pizza and 5% of the proceeds would go to Leadership Monroe.

County Manager Jim Hedges publicly thanked the 10-12 first responders to the fire in the city that occurred the previous weekend. Mr. Hedges stated it was the first time the ladder truck had been used and everything and everyone worked great.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Executive Session-Litigation and Personnel

Commissioner Emami motioned to enter executive session at 10:14 a.m., for personnel and litigation.

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

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to come out of executive session at 10:35 a.m.

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

Action from Executive Session

County Attorney Ben Vaughn stated a personnel item was discussed during executive session and no action was needed. Mr. Vaughn stated a litigation item was also discussed, and no action was needed on that item as well.

Adjourn

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to adjourn at 10:27 p.m.

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

Respectively Submitted by:

Janet Abbott, County Clerk