

Monroe County Board of Commissioners

Minutes of the May 16, 2023

Regular Commissioners Meeting

9:00 A.M.

Present:

Greg Tapley, Chairman-Not Present

Eddie Rowland, Vice-Chairman

Lamarcus Davis, District 1

John Ambrose, District 3

George Emami, District 4-Not Present

Staff:

Ben Vaughn, County Attorney-Not Present

Natalie Sundeen, County Attorney

Jim Hedges, County Manager

Janet Abbott, County Clerk

Richard Dumas, Public Information Officer

Welcome

Vice Chairman Rowland welcomed everyone in attendance.

Prayer

Commissioner Davis gave the invocation.

Pledge

Vice Chairman Rowland led the Pledge.

Roll Call

County Clerk Janet Abbott called roll.

Call to Order

Vice Chairman Rowland called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

Moment of Silence

The Board held a moment of silence in memory of County Manager Jim Hedge's son, Joe Hedges, and for Monroe County Hospital Authority Chairman Phillip English.

New Business

Approve Agenda

Vice Chairman Rowland presented the agenda for approval with the addition of the Hospital Board appointment as item F, addition of Family Connections discussion as item G, and the removal of legal in executive session.

Commissioner Davis motioned to approve the agenda with said changes.

Commissioner Ambrose seconded the motion and the motion carried 3-0.

Approve Minutes-BOC Meeting-May 02, 2023, Regular Meeting

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve the minutes of the May 02, 2023, regular meeting with the normal 30 days for changes.

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

SeeClickFix

County Manager Jim Hedges stated Commissioner Rowland requested a new evaluation of implementation of the program SeeClickFix that will enable residents of Monroe County to report issues observed in the county ranging from potholes, missing street signs, litter, etc. Richard Dumas has taken the lead role in contacting CIVICPLUS and obtaining price quotations for this software.

Mr. Dumas stated the quote received for the first year was at a reduced price of \$13,055.99. The second year the price would increase to \$18,316.94. This is for unlimited government user licenses for service request management tool to intake citizen submissions via mobile app, assign requests internally, resolve issues and measure request performance and includes support and virtual training. The agreement is an automatic one-year renewal term, unless 60 days' notice is provided prior to renewal date.

Following a board discussion Commissioner Davis motioned to approve to try the use of SeeClickFix for one year and to revisit after the first year.

Commissioner Ambrose seconded the motion and the motion carried 3-0.

Central Georgia Region 5 EMS Council Appointment

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to reappoint Matt Jackson to the Region 5 EMS Council for a three-year term.

Commissioner Davis seconded the motion and the motion carried 3-0.

Senior Center

Commissioner Davis motioned to use \$394.83 of his discretionary funds to purchase seeds, fertilizer, and equipment for the construction of a community garden at the Monroe County Senior Center.

Commissioner Ambrose seconded the motion and the motion carried 3-0.

Hospital Board Appointment

Commissioner Rowland stated a vacancy has been created on the hospital board due to the recent passing of current Hospital Board Chairman, Phillip English. Commissioner Rowland motioned to appoint Mac Brown to the hospital board for the remainder of Phillip English's term that expires at the end of 2023.

Commissioner Ambrose seconded the motion and the motion carried 3-0.

Family Connections

Commissioner Ambrose stated he would like for the county to no longer be the fiscal agent for the Monroe County Family Connections and to no longer allow their use of the county building.

Commissioner Davis stated he had recently met with a member of the Family Connections board, and they would like a commissioner to serve on the Board. Commissioner Davis stated he would be willing to serve on the Board once everything was straightened out.

Commissioner Davis stated he would like to hold off on making a decision regarding Family Connections because he would like to hear all parties' opinions.

Finance Director Lorri Robinson stated the Monroe County Family Connections Board has already been notified by state officials that it won't receive any state grant funding for the FY 2024. Ms. Robinson stated the current contract with Family Connections runs through June 30, 2023.

The Board agreed by general consensus to defer until Commissioner Davis could get more information.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Davis stated he would like the county to work with the City of Forsyth and make the First Saturday events bigger and to have more family-oriented events.

Commissioner Rowland praised the Monroe County 4-H Extension Office. Commissioner Rowland stated they had recently conducted after school clubs, two stem programs for 86 youth, involvement with the Cattleman's Association, visited homes and hosted some virtual cooking classes. Commissioner Rowland thanked the Extension Office staff Rachel Frisbie, Cliff Collins, Amanda Harner, Heather Hardin, and Leigh Wiggins for a job well done.

Commissioner Rowland also thanked Commissioner Davis for coming up with the professional development group, Youth Leadership Monroe.

Commissioner Ambrose stated he was pleased the recreation department was getting the new score boards installed and hoped to soon get the entrances done. He stated the enrollment for the recreation department has increased.

Public Comments

Percy Freeman, resident of 47 Hilltop Street, thanked the board for responding to a letter regarding water on his street. Mr. Freeman stated there has been a rumor the fee would increase but he has been reassured that will not happen for residents that have not gotten their water yet.

Executive Session-Personnel

Commissioner Davis motioned to enter executive session for personnel at 9:48 a.m.

Commissioner Ambrose seconded the motion and the motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to come out of executive session at 10:00 a.m.

Commissioner Davis seconded the motion and the motion carried 3-0.

Action from Executive Session

County Attorney Nathalie Sundeen stated the board discussed a personnel matter in executive session and the board recommends changing the vesting period for all employees from 8 years to 5 years.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve changing the vesting period for all employees effective immediately from 8 years to 5 years.

Commissioner Davis seconded the motion and the motion carried 3-0.

Adjourn

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to adjourn at 10:00 a.m.

Commissioner Davis seconded the motion and the motion carried 3-0.

Respectively Submitted by:

Janet Abbott, County Clerk