

Monroe County Board of Commissioners

Minutes of the June 20, 2023

Regular Commissioners Meeting

9:00 A.M.

Present:

Greg Tapley, Chairman

Eddie Rowland, Vice-Chairman

Lamarcus Davis, District 1-Not Present

John Ambrose, District 3

George Emami, District 4

Staff:

Natalie Sundeen, County Attorney

Jim Hedges, County Manager

Janet Abbott, County Clerk

Richard Dumas, Public Information Officer

Lorri Robinson, Finance Officer

Welcome

Chairman Tapley welcomed everyone in attendance.

Prayer

Rev Marilyn Tucker Marek, Forsyth Presbyterian Church 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.

Commissioner Emami motioned to approve the agenda.

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

Approve Minutes-BOC Meeting-June 06, 2023, Regular Meeting

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve the minutes of the June 06, 2023, regular meeting with the normal 30 days for changes.

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

Monroe County S & P Report

County Manager Jim Hedges stated S&P Global Ratings is an American credit rating agency and a division of S&P Global that publishes financial research and analysis on stocks, bonds, and commodities. S&P is considered the largest of the Big Three credit-rating agencies, which also includes Moody's Investors Service and Fitch Ratings. Recently, S&P conducted a review of the Hospital Authority of Monroe County, and Monroe County, General Obligation and we have retained our A+ rating.

Bryan Huskey, Managing Director with Stifel, gave an overview of the S&P report.

ACCG-IRMA Insurance Renewal

County Manager Jim Hedges stated the county has been notified by ACCG that the property and liability insurance for the period July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, will increase significantly. ACCG explains there is a long list of events leading to this increase and 3 of the last 5 years have been the worst claims on record. Compounding this increase are rising construction costs, lack of investment returns, carriers turning to less risky areas, and this year is not starting off well either. Lorri Robinson, Finance Director, is projecting a 20.4% increase in the annual premium along with an increase in our deductible for all vehicles and property claims from \$1000 to \$10,000.

Matt Autry, Underwriting and Member Services Manager, from ACCG discussed the increase in cost for liability insurance and the causes.

Finance Director Lorri Robinson is recommending approval of the annual renewal and amending the 2023 budget.

Following a board discussion and the different presentations on various deductible options, Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve the budget amendment in the amount of \$261,760 to come from contingency and to approve the liability coverage with the \$10,000 deductible.

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

Sheriff Salary Recommendation

The Sheriff's Department currently has 16 approved but vacant positions including deputies, jailers, and E-911 operators. Sheriff Freeman's salary review reflects that Monroe County pay is significantly below Upson County, Fayette County, Jones County and Cordele Police Department. The full-year increase being recommended totals \$380,300.

Sheriff Freeman presented the following proposed salary adjustments to take effect after August 1, 2023:

- Deputies-\$4600 added to yearly salary.
- Corporal-\$4900 added to yearly salary.
- Sergeant-\$5200 added to yearly salary.
- Lieutenant-\$5500 added to yearly salary.
- Captain-\$5800 added to yearly salary.
- Colonel-\$6100 added to yearly salary.
- Jail Officer-\$1400 added to yearly salary.
- Communications-\$1400 added to yearly salary.
- Communications Supervisor-\$1600 added to yearly salary.
- Assistant 911 Director-\$1800 added to yearly salary.
- Professional Staff-\$1400 added to yearly salary. (Office Manager, Finance Director, Accreditation Manager)

Following a Board discussion, Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve the salary adjustments for the Sheriff's Office.

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

MCES Salary Recommendation

The MCES has been unable to fully staff the department, primarily due to salaries being significantly lower than the competition in the surrounding area. As a result, MCES has been unable to staff the Russellville substation which provides fire and EMS coverage for the entire southwestern part of the county.

Chief Matt Jackson presented the following proposed salary adjustments to take effect after August 1, 2023:

- FF/EMT-B \$2.00 per hour increase (16.56 hr.)

- FF/EMT-A \$2.00 per hour increase (18.64 hr.)
- FF/Paramedics \$2.26 per hour increase (21.00 hr.)

Chief Jackson stated the cost would be \$350,000 annually, \$175,000 for the last 6 months of 2023 and his department has \$223,000 currently in unused salaries to cover the cost for 2023.

Following a Board discussion, Commissioner Rowland motioned to approve the salary adjustments for MCES. Commissioner Rowland seconded the motion and the motion carried 3-1 with Commissioner Emami opposed.

Road Equipment Purchase

At the June 6, 2023, Commissioners meeting, the Board approved the purchase of a paver and roller for the Public Works Department that will enable that department to perform small paving projects. Since that meeting, Kim Stokes and Gary Futch have evaluated 9 pavers, and 9 rollers. Their recommendation is to purchase a Caterpillar Paver Model A400 and a Caterpillar Roller Model CB7 from Yancey. The cost for this equipment is as follows:

- CAT AP400 Paver \$319,864
- CAT Roller CB \$109,013
- Total \$428,877

Mr. Stokes stated the machine is the most user-friendly of the ones evaluated and has a 3-year 3000-hour warranty.

Quotes received for the paver were as follows:

- Reynolds-Warren
 - LeeBoy 8608-\$275,000
 - LeeBoy 8616D-\$288,000
- Yancey
 - Weiler P385C-\$262,649
 - Caterpillar AP400-\$319,864
- Tractor & Equipment
 - Vogeles 1300-3i-\$301,700
 - Vogeles 1700-3i-\$517,000
 - Vogeles 1703-3i-\$398,000
 - Vogeles 1703-3i-\$443,900

Quotes received for the roller were as follows:

- Reynolds-Warren

- Sakia SW354-\$54,414
- Dynapac CC1300VI-\$71,000
- Yancey
 - Caterpillar GB2.7GC-\$50,610
 - Caterpillar CB4.4-\$89,213
 - Caterpillar CB7-\$109,013
- Tractor & Equipment
 - Hamm HD8VV-\$40,700
 - Ham HD10CVV-\$42,400
 - Ham HD10iVV-\$48,000
 - Ham HD12iVV-\$50,100

Following a board discussion, Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve the purchase of the CAT AP 400 paver for \$319,864 and the Caterpillar CB7 roller for \$109,013 for a total of \$428,877 with funds to come from TSPLOST.

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

Board of Elections Reappointment Linda Davis

County Manager Jim Hedges stated the term for Linda T. Davis, Vice-Chair, of the Board of Elections & Registration will expire on June 30, 2023. Mr. Hedges stated as a reminder, there are five appointees to this board, 1 appointed by the City of Culloden, 1 appointed by the City of Forsyth, and 3 appointed by the Board of Commissioners. The Board of Elections & Registration recommend the reappointment of Ms. Linda T. Davis for another four-year term.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to reappoint Linda Davis for a four-year term.

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

Towaliga Judicial Circuit Budget 2023/2024

Finance Director, Lorri Robinson, presented the Towaliga Judicial Budget for the period July 2023, to June 30, 2024. Ms. Robinson stated the District Attorney's budget is up \$101,027, the Public Defender's budget is up \$105,108, and the Accountability Courts Budget of \$210,000 is constant compared to the current budget. The combined increase of \$206,135 equates to an increase for Monroe County of \$80,393.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve the increase in the Towaliga Judicial Circuit Budget and to approve a budget amendment in the amount to cover the increase for remainder of 2023.

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

Package Sale Referendum Date

County Manager Jim Hedges stated Kaye Warren, Elections Supervisor, has advised two potential dates for the Referendum on Package sales; March 12, 2024, which is the Presidential Preference Primary; or May 21, 2024, which is the General Primary/Nonpartisan Election.

Commissioner Emami motioned to place the referendum on package sales on the May 21, 2021, ballot.

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

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Rowland thanked the finance group for their hard work, stating the upcoming year will be tough. Commissioner Ambrose stated he agreed with Commissioner Rowland, and he was glad to see the county paving roads.

Commissioner Emami stated he would like to reiterate what both commissioners said and thinks the staff is doing a great job. Commissioner Emami thanked the county's law enforcement and first responders for keeping the county safe.

Chairman Tapley stated it was a good meeting, tough decisions were made, and tighter leaner times are coming. He also stated he is thankful for solid financial management.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Executive Session-Legal

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to enter executive session at 11:00 a.m. for legal.

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

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to come out of executive session at 11:04 p.m.

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

Action from Executive Session

County Attorney Nathalie Sundeen stated a legal matter regarding a license for Georgia Power to access the ground water wells was discussed.

Commissioner Emami motioned to approve the license and to authorize the Chairman to sign the agreement.

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

Adjourn

Commissioner Emami motioned to adjourn at 11:07 a.m.

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

MCBOC draft Minutes of June 20, 2023, meeting
MCBOC approved July 11, 2023,

Respectively Submitted by:

Janet Abbott, County Clerk