

Monroe County Board of Commissioners

Minutes of the July 12, 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

Lorri Robinson, Finance Director

Welcome

Chairman Tapley welcomed everyone in attendance.

Prayer

Commissioner 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.

Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent Introduction

New Business

Approve Agenda

Chairman Tapley presented the agenda for approval with addition of item J (Commissioner Emami), item K (School Resource Officer), Item L (John Ambrose) and Executive Session for Personnel, Litigation, and Real Estate.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve the agenda with said changes.

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

Approve Minutes-BOC Meeting-June 21, 2022

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve the minutes of the June 21, 2022, Regular meeting with the usual 30 days for changes.

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

Purchasing Policy Amendment

County Manager Jim Hedges stated it has come to our attention that departments having approved vehicle budgets are experiencing extreme difficulties when locating a vehicle to their specification. As a reminder, all purchases, including budgeted capital expenditures, in excess of \$25,000 must come before the Board for approval. When purchasing a truck for MCES we had to obtain the dealership owner to authorize a 5-day hold until Board approval could be obtained. Recently, the Sheriff's Department found two vehicles that met their specification and purchased them on the spot without Board approval. Just last week, Jeff Corley, who has a capital budget to purchase a service truck, obtained three quotes before lunch and by the time he came to me, two of the trucks had been sold.

Finance Director Lorri Robinson is recommending the suspension of the Purchasing Department Policy section requiring Board approval for purchasing vehicles, that are included in the department budget, and as a way forward, Finance will notify the Board of all purchases after the fact.

MCES Training Program

MCES is short-handed and currently there are 17 vacancies in the department. Our recruitment efforts have not been successful, and this is the norm not only in our area but nationwide. Chief Matt Jackson will propose a training program, with student pay, for an in-house program that will lead to EMT certification, and then Firefighter certification. Upon completion of these training programs, students will be given fulltime

employment and will be required to sign a two-year employment contract. If the contract is terminated by the employee, a pro-rated reimbursement will be due the county.

Chief Matt Jackson stated the EMT Program is typically 6-9 months going two nights a week and the cost ranges from \$2500-\$4600 a person. The Certified Firefighter Program can be done at GPSTC or in-house and is 8 weeks long.

Chief Jackson stated the In-house program outline is as follows:

- Hire individuals with no current certification
- Will have to meet same pre-hire qualifications as current employees
 - Interview
 - Physical agility
 - Background checks
 - Psychological Assessment
 - Medical/Drug Screen
- EMT and Firefighter completed in 20 weeks
- National Registered EMT-B
- State and National Professional Qualification Firefighter
- No cost to employee and draw a salary while in class
- 2-year contract signed when hired, takes affect at completion of certification

Community Development Department

County Manager Jim Hedges presented a proposal for the creation of a Community Development Department.

Mr. Hedges stated opportunities for the creation of a Community Development Department would consolidate Planning & Zoning, Building Permits, Building Inspections, Building Code Enforcement, and a dotted-line relationship with Ordinance Code Enforcement would bring all these activities under one organization.

Additionally, there are two changes that need to be incorporated into the Building Permit process, i.e., requirement for submitting residential site and floorplans, and a lot inspection for potential drainage issues prior to the issuance of the Building Permit.

Animal Control Buildout

Request for bids were advertised for the addition of a room at Animal Services that will provide housing for refrigeration and food and supply storage.

The scope of work is as follows:

- 12' x 20' addition
- 8" block reinforced with rear exit door.

- New door cut out of the existing wall for access to main building
- Rear door with awning
- Engineered trusses to match the existing roof
- Gutters and downspouts
- Electrical
- Split HVAC

Four companies responded to the request with the following bids:

- McWright LLC Bonaire Rates Only
- Bryson Atlanta \$57,000-Base Proposal-Excludes HVAC
- Proform Forsyth \$84,970 including \$7000 contingency
- Renfroe Construction Macon \$140,000

Mr. Hedges stated the way forward is to award Animal Services buildout to Proform Construction, LLC, a local firm.

Bolingbroke Fire Station Addition

Request for bids were advertised for the addition of living quarters at the Bolingbroke Fire Station including laundry facilities and a bathroom.

Funds available from the following sources:

- 2020 Bond \$20,000,000
- 2019 Bond-Water \$ 6,827,765
- 2019 Bond-Building \$ 850,986
- State Grant \$ 6,000,000
- ARPA \$ 2,700,000
- ARPA \$ 2,700,000
- Total \$39,078,751

Applications:

- DA Building \$ 2,372,450
- Water Projects \$23,283,479
- Internet \$ 970,000
- High Falls \$ 439,112
- MCES \$ 1,000,000
- Leachate Tank \$ 389,900

- Parking Lot \$ 8,200
- Evidence Room \$ 6,950
- Horse Arena \$ 8,400
- Total \$28,478,491

Balance \$10,600,260

These funds are to be used for Water & Buildings only.

The scope of work is as follows:

- 43' x 23' Addition
- Relocate HVAC
- Relocate generator
- Build cement block addition
- Add sleeping facilities
- Add bathroom facilities
- Add laundry facilities

Four companies responded to the request with the following bids:

- McWright LLC Bonaire Rates only
- Bryson Atlanta \$211,000-Base Proposal
- Proform Forsyth \$199,571 including \$15,000 contingency
- Renfroe Construction Macon \$314,597

County Manager Jim Hedges stated the way forward is to award bid to buildout the Bolingbroke Fire Station to Proform Construction, LLC at a cost not to exceed \$199,571.

Lakeshore Drive Repairs

County Manager Jim Hedges told the Board when we experienced the torrential rains a few weeks back, we lost a significant amount of 48" culvert pipe under Lakeshore drive. This is a complicated repair given the amount of damage downstream, the location of a large pond and dam adjacent to the damaged area, and easements that will be required beyond the county right-of-way that includes easements from the State.

Issues:

- Easements-steep slopes on each side of the right-of-way.
- Corrugated pipe is ancient
- Onshore lake and dam not large enough to require state inspection.
- Concerns of dam failure expressed by both Joe Wood and Kim Stokes.

Carter Engineering Estimate:

• Engineering, Surveying, Bidding	\$40,000
• Clearing & Grubbing	\$ 5,000
• Borrow & Hauling	\$18,750
• Paving	\$ 4,950
• Cross Drain System	\$20,800
• Traffic Control	\$ 5,000
• Erosion Control	\$10,000
• Guardrail	\$15,000
• Landscaping	\$ 5,000
• Inflation-8%	\$ 6,760
• <u>Contingency-15%</u>	<u>\$13,689</u>
• Total	\$144,949

Mr. Hedges stated the way forward is to engage Carter Engineering and bid this project.

DFCS Appointment

The appointment term for Mr. Richard Dumas on the Department of Family and Children Services Board expired on June 30, 2022. Mr. Dumas has served on the DFCS Board for a number of years and was reappointed to a five-year term on August 1, 2017 and has stated that he would like to be reappointed to this board for another five-years.

Body Scanner-Sheriff Jail Fund

The Sheriff's Office is requesting the purchase of a full body scanner for use in the jail at a cost of \$176,500 including a five-year parts and labor on the entire system. Funding for this purchase is from the Jail Fund. Moneys collected pursuant O.C.G.A. §15-21-19 and placed in the county jail fund shall be expended by the governing authority of the county or counties solely and exclusively for constructing, operating, and staffing county jails, county correctional institutions, and detention facilities of the county or for the purpose of contracting for such facilities with other counties, the state, municipalities, regional jail authorities, or other political subdivisions as authorized by Article IX, Section III< Paragraph I of the Constitution.

Old Business

There was no old business discussed.

Commissioners' Comments

Public Comments

Executive Session-Personnel

Commissioner motioned to enter executive session at

Commissioner seconded the motion and the motion carried

Commissioner motioned to come out of executive session at.

Commissioner seconded the motion and the motion carried

Action from Executive Session

Following Executive Session,

County Attorney Ben Vaughn gave an overview of what was discussed.

Mr. Vaughn stated there were

Adjourn

Commissioner motioned to adjourn at.

Commissioner seconded the motion and the motion carried

Respectively Submitted by:

County Clerk, Janet Abbott