

Monroe County Board of Commissioners

Minutes of the August 16, 2022

Regular Commissioners Meeting

9:00 A.M. Meeting

Present:

Greg Tapley, Chairman

Lamarcus Davis, Vice Chairman

Eddie Rowland, District 2-not present

John Ambrose, District 3-not present

George Emami, District 4

Staff:

Jim Hedges, County Manager

Ben Vaughn, County Attorney

Janet Abbott, County Clerk

Kelsey Fortner, Community Development Manager

Richard Dumas, Public Information Officer

Welcome

Chairman Tapley welcomed everyone in attendance.

Prayer

Commissioner Davis 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.

Extension Office Introduction

4-H Agent, Rachel Kirkland introduced Amanda Hardener as the new Family and Consumer Sciences Agent. Amanda gave a brief overview of the role she will play as Family and Consumer Sciences Agent.

Grant Writer and Conference Center Manager Introductions

Lorri Robinson, Finance Director introduced Candace Baswell as the Conference Center Manager and Tammy Selman as Grant Administrator.

Proclamation-Library

Chairman Tapley read a proclamation commemorating the 100TH anniversary of the Monroe County Library and proclaiming August 31, 2022, as Monroe County Library's 100th Anniversary Day.

New Business

Approve Agenda

Chairman Tapley presented the agenda for approval as submitted.

Commissioner Davis motioned to approve the agenda

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

Approve Minutes-BOC Meeting-August 02, 2022

Commissioner Emami motioned to approve the minutes of the August 02, 2022, Regular meeting with the usual 30 days for changes.

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

2021 Audit Report

Miller Edwards with Mauldin & Jenkins gave the mandatory annual audit report. A couple of interesting notions were, "Findings-Material Weakness or Significant Deficiencies-None Noted" and, County's management should conduct a long-range study (or forecast) of the next five to ten years of respective revenues and expenses."

County Manager Jim Hedges recommended engaging either Mauldin & Jenkins, or another external firm to conduct the study.

Mr. Edwards stated the county has \$193 million in total assets, and this includes equipment and infrastructure.

Mr. Edwards stated with the county's total liabilities being about \$71 million, that gives the county a total equity of \$122 million. Mr. Edwards stated the total operating revenues were about \$52 million.

Mr. Edwards stated this is the first time in many years that the county has had no findings.

Health Department Food Service Fee

Gina Smith, Monroe County Environmental Health County Manager has requested approval of a fee revision for their Food Service Fees.

The current Food Service Fees are as follows:

- Initial Plan Review \$150.00
- New Application/Annual Inspection \$200.00
- Temporary Food Permit \$50.00
- Temporary/Additional Cost per day \$5.00

Gina Smith stated the last time fees changed it was changed across the Board, this time only focusing on the food service fees. Ms. Smith stated the new fee structure will be based on a points system that combines risk categories with four main factors: number of seats, number of meals served, number of persons served daily and number of employees. Under the new structure, most food service applicants will be charged either \$255 or \$295.

Commissioner Emami motioned to approve the fee revision for Food Service Fees.

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

Flock License Plate Reader System & ROW

The Sheriff's Office has purchased 21 Flock License Plate Cameras and are requesting approval of the Board of Commissioners to allow Bluewater Telecommunications to install 12' poles on county right-of-way at the following locations:

- Brownlee @ Teagle
- High Falls Road @ Virginia Lee
- Highway 87 @ Lassiter
- Highway 83 @ Elbert
- Dames Ferry @ Bridge
- Golden Isles @ Trey
- Dixie Highway @ Old Forsyth
- Highway 341 @ Highway 74
- Highway 74 @ Highway 341
- Juliette Road at Bridge
- Highway 74 @ Debra
- Highway 41 @ Parks Road

- High Falls Road @ I-75
- Johnstonville Road @ I-75
- Highway 41 @ Estes
- Pate Road @ New Forsyth Road
- Wesleyan Drive @ Red Fox
- New Forsyth Road @ Bass Pro
- Zebulon Road @ Estes Road
- Estes Road @ Zebulon
- Highway 42 @ Teagle

This camera system only reads make and model of vehicles as well as license plates. It is powered by a single solar cell, and the data collected is available to only the Sheriff's office that can quickly do searches. The data is only stored for 30 days.

Following a Board discussion, Commissioner Davis motioned to approve the use of the county's rights-of-way for camera installation.

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

Strickland Loop Change Order

Curtis Reynolds of Harbin Engineering presented a change order from Atlantis Commercial Group, the primary contractor for the new cell at the Strickland Loop landfill. This request is for an extension of time, due to loss of time as a result of weather conditions. Mr. Reynolds stated this is only for construction of Phase 2. There is no change to the total contract price with this change order. The contract time is proposed to be extended by 40 days from July 21 to August 30, 2022. Partial construction certification documents will be submitted to EPD in August 2022, while EPD reviews the minor modification submitted last week, and approval to receive waste in portions of Phase 2 would be expected in September 2022.

Commissioner Emami motioned to approve the change order request.

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

Volunteer Firemen Compensation

EMS Chief Matt Jackson stated for the past couple of years Volunteer Firemen have been receiving \$100 per month provided a certain criterion was achieved. Chief Jackson stated that program is not working and recommended a new volunteer program that would consider volunteers as paid on-call personnel. Training compensation is included in the new program that will include station training, professional classes offered online, and classroom training.

Chief Jackson stated the recommended changes are:

- \$10.00 per hour of training completed thru Monroe County
- \$10.00 per call 2 hours or less then \$10.00 per hour for remainder of call
- \$25.00 per month towards Firefighter pension fund for active members
- Still paid on same 6-month rotation

Commissioner Emami motioned to approved.

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

Ambulance Purchase

Monroe County Emergency Services has \$200,000 in the 2022 Capital Budget for the purchase of a heavy-duty ambulance. Additionally, the Board allocated ARPA funds towards the purchase of an ambulance. Chief Matt Jackson has gone to bid and will be recommending the purchase of a 2023 Dodge 4500 at a cost of \$227,000.

This is not the lowest price; however, based on deliverability it best suits our fleet needs.

Bids received were as follows:

- | | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|--|-----------|
| • Ten-8 | 2022 Ford F-350 | 12 Months | \$200,000 |
| • Ten-8 | 2023 Ford F-350 | 12-18 Months | \$205,000 |
| • Custom Works | 2023 Dodge 3500 | 120-150 Days after
Receipt of Chassis | \$209,000 |
| • Custom Works | 2023 Dodge 4500 | 120-150 Days after
Receipt of Chassis | \$227,000 |
| • Medix | 2022 Ford F-450 | To Be Determined | \$214,575 |

Commissioner Emami asked Chief Jackson if all six current ambulances were fully functional.

Chief Jackson replied they are fully functional, but the problem is when the trucks are sent out to be repaired.

We have had trucks that are out two, three, four months at a time. He stated due to the time frame it takes to get the trucks back from repairs, there have been times that there are no reserve ambulances.

Commissioner Davis asked wasn't this the case last week that we were out of ambulances and had to call on other counties to assist.

Chief Jackson stated that happens at least once a week that we have more calls than trucks.

Commissioner Emami asked if we are limited by the number of trucks or what?

Chief Jackson replied sometimes that has to do with staffing issues.

Commissioner Emami asked Chief Jackson if two trucks were really needed.

Chief Jackson replied I completely understand and typically my recommendation would be to purchase one ambulance a year but with the shortage of chassis at this time his concern is, moving into the next year and the situation arises that a new truck is needed, will they be available.

Commissioner Emami stated he was ok with purchasing one ambulance but stated he would like to see if the prices are going to come down before purchasing a second ambulance. Commissioner Emami stated his question to Chief Jackson is could we survive with one ambulance right now and relook at this in a year.

Chief Jackson replied we could survive with one for right now but with the market being the way it is right now; we don't know when the chassis will be available again and what the price of them will be.

County Manager Jim Hedges stated we are trying to get a fourth ambulance on the road by staffing the Russellville Fire station.

Following a Board discussion, Commissioner Emami motioned to approve the purchase of one new Dodge 4500 Ambulance from Custom Works in the amount of \$227,000.

Commissioner Davis seconded the motion for discussion.

Commissioner Davis stated the ambulances could continue to increase in price and the County had the funding for two ambulances now. Commissioner Davis stated since the funding is already available, he would recommend purchasing both.

Commissioner Emami stated if he was ever going to be for more spending, it would be related to public health, but he would like to reiterate we just bought 12 new firetrucks last year for this department.

Commissioner Davis stated we bought those; this money is already set aside for this purchase for emergency services.

Commissioner Emami replied but we don't have to spend it.

The motion to purchase one ambulance passed 3-0.

Commissioner Davis motioned to purchase a second Dodge 4500 ambulance from Custom Works in the amount of \$227,000.

Motion was seconded by Chairman Tapley for discussion.

Chairman Tapley stated he understands pinching pennies but when you are talking about an ambulance and a heart attack or a stroke patient, someone is going to be really upset if the ambulance breaks down on the way to the hospital. He stated if Chief Jackson thinks this is what is needed to set ourselves up to have the right equipment moving forward and the funding is available through SPLOST then he is fine with the purchase.

Chairman Tapley stated when the 12 firetrucks were purchased, we paid \$450,000, they are now \$600,000. He continued with he just doesn't want to be buying another ambulance in a year or two with that type of increase.

Commissioner Emami stated he would like to point out for the record that Chief Jackson was asked if he could make do with one ambulance and his answer was that he could.

Chairman Tapley replied that Chief Jackson requested two ambulances, that's part of the reason we needed to buy the 12 firetrucks. He stated we pinched pennies and like Miller Edwards was saying the county ran equipment until the tires fell off, the firetrucks couldn't get to where they were going, and they couldn't pump water when they got there. He stated I'm not going to have an ambulance show up at someone's house and not be able to get them to the hospital or not be able to show up to begin with.

The motion passed 2-1 with Commissioner Emami opposed.

Out-of-County (Non-residents) Recreation Fees

The Monroe County Recreation Board is recommending an increase in the Out-of-County (non-Monroe County resident) fee from \$10 to \$25 and to add a \$25-dollar late registration fee.

The Recreation Board also recommended to propose a daily usage fee of \$30 for the fields and gymnasium with a 3-hour max and the usage would be subject to scheduling.

The Recreation Board passed the recommended increase in a motion 5-0.

Commissioner Emami motioned to approve the fee increase and the daily usage fee.

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

Budget to Actual Report

Finance Director Lorri Robinson presented a snapshot of where the county's actual revenue and expenditures compare to the current budget. Ms. Robinson stated the county budgeted just over 34.4 million in general fund revenues and expenses for 2022. Ms. Robinson stated through June 30, 2022, the county had collected over \$12 million in revenues and had 16.2 million in expenses.

2022 Budget Amendments

During a normal budget cycle, amendments are required as a result of Board decisions, or unforeseen changes in expenditures. Finance Director Lorri Robinson is mandated to occasionally amend the budget based on the changing environment, which requires Board of Commissioners' approval.

Ms. Robinson stated the approved general fund budget was \$34,434,499 and the amended budget would be \$40,187,570 for an amended increase of \$5,753,071. The increases were as follows:

- Prior year 2021 encumbrances
 - Landfill-Cell Project \$1,900,000
 - Sheriff \$ 38,473
 - Fire/EMS \$ 482,342
 - Energy Efficiency Program \$ 45,918

- Commissioners Discretionary \$ 1,000
 - Royal Seven IGA \$ 50,203
 - **Total** **\$ 2,527,936**
- CY2022 Items Approved by BOC
 - Landfill \$ 523,409
 - ACCG Loans-Vehicle & Energy \$ 2,083,695
 - Salary Adjustments \$ 162,801
 - Public Safety Salary Adjustment \$ 155,867
 - Roads \$ 39,600
 - District Attorney \$ 5,735
 - Sheriff-GST Donated Lasers \$ 12,468
 - Superior Court-ARPA TJC \$ 9,000
 - **Total** **\$ 3,003,029**
- Other
 - Probate Court-Termination payout \$ 10,812
 - Sheriff-Jail-Termination payout \$ 79,665
 - Sheriff-Replacement Items \$ 131,629
 - **Total** **\$ 222,106**

Commissioner Emami motioned to approve the budget amendments as presented.

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

Subdivision Application

Community Development Manager Kelsey Fortner presented a subdivision plat received from Steve Coleman with Coleman Surveying has submitted a plat application and preliminary plat for a location off Lower Simmons Road and Hwy 74. The property owner is James Cecil Johnson. The plat needs board approval due to the amount of lots being requested. Ms. Fortner stated the proposed subdivision will have eight lots, ranging from 6.52 acres to 15 acres. The speed limit is 40 mph, spacing for curb cuts at that speed is 185'. Ms. Fortner stated with the existing curb cuts, plus proposed new ones that gives you exactly 15.

Commissioner Emami motioned to approve the subdivision plat.

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

LMIG and Roads

County Manager Jim Hedges stated the 2022 LMIG bids are in at \$450,000 per mile. Mr. Hedges stated more importantly the clock is winding down on McCowan road which is a 2020 LMIG grant project.

Mr. Hedges stated McCowan Road was originally identified as a candidate for 2020 LMIG and “must” be under contract in 2022 per GDOT regulations, or we could miss out on 2023 LMIG.

Available Road Funds:

- 2020 Road SPLOST 1,500,000
- 2020 LMIG
- 2022 LMIG 667,721
- TSPLOST(May-June-July) 1,255,784
- TSPLOST(August-September) 836,000
- Total Funds Available 4,259,505

2022 LMIG Projects & Bids

			Original	Revised	
		Length	Estimate	Estimate	Bid
	District	Feet	10/18/2021	11/05/2021	08/05/2022
Parks Road	1	6,600	271,117	410,121	541,513
Montpelier Station Road	2	5,500	188,603	249,269	372,052
Josey Road	2	12,800	526,695	759,796	977,392
Jenkins Road	3	11,400	468,254	689,351	889,931
Rumble Road	3	5,600	237,838	521,584	813,331
Stokes Store Road	4	11,700	480,722	759,796	977,087
Total		53,600	2,173,229	3,389,917	4,571,306
Mileage/Cost per mile		10.15	214,079	333,932	450,308
				56%	110%

GDOT District 3 LMIG State Aid Coordinator reports this is not uncommon throughout the district.

Options:

- Do nothing: 2022 LMIG funds must be spent by the end of 2024.
- Submit a revised LMIG project list to GDOT. Kim Stokes to redefine project list and scope-of-work.
- Utilize 2022 LMIG funds on revised project list and change in scope-of-work.

County Manager Jim Hedges stated the way forward is to award engineering contract for McCowan Road to Watkins & Associates in the amount of \$14,400; and authorize going to bid.

Following a Board discussion, Commissioner Davis motioned to go with the County Manager recommendation. Commissioner Emami seconded the motion asking Commissioner Davis to amend his motion to include sending a letter to the Georgia Department of Transportation requesting the county be allowed to postpone accepting bids on the McCowan Road resurfacing project until the cost of road resurfacing materials decreases. Commissioner Davis amended his motion to include Commissioner Emami's request. The motion passed 3-0.

Surplus Equipment

The Recreation Department is recommending a John Deere Gator with a cracked engine be approved for surplus. For the past few years, they have used it for parts.

Additionally, the Recreation Department has 14 pipes of various sizes; and there approximately 40 pipes of various sized, located next to the Bolingbroke Recycling Center. It is recommended these pipes be declared surplus and relocated to the Public Works facility for inclusion in the next auction.

Commissioner Davis motioned to approve the recommendation to surplus.

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

High Falls Fire Station

County Manager Jim Hedges stated at the August 2, 2022, Board of Commissioners' meeting, it was pointed out that only Proform Construction submitted a bid of \$1,281,914 for construction and renovation of the High Falls Fire Station. While the Board was ok with the cost, Commissioner Emami requested additional time for input from his constituents. The recommendation was tabled until August 16, 2022. My understanding from social media and other sources is the residents in District 4 are ready to go forward.

The County Managers way forward is to award the contract to Proform Construction, LLC, for construction and renovation of the High Falls Fire Station.

Commissioner Emami motioned to approve to award the contract for construction and renovation of the High Falls Fire Station to Proform Construction.

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

Old Business

There was no old business discussed.

Commissioners' Comments

No commissioner comments

Public Comments

Fred Dungan, 293 Maynards Mill Road resident, addressed the board stating his opinion is the county is spending too much on engineering and not completing projects.

Executive Session

There was no executive session.

Action from Executive Session

There was no action from executive session.

Adjourn

Commissioner Davis motioned to adjourn at 11:15 A.M.

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

Respectively Submitted by:

Janet Abbott, County Clerk