

Monroe County Board of Commissioners

Minutes of the December 13, 2022

Regular Commissioners Meeting

9:00 A.M. Meeting

Present:

Greg Tapley, Chairman

Lamarcus Davis, Vice Chairman-present by phone

Eddie Rowland, District 2

John Ambrose, District 3

George Emami, District 4

Staff:

Jim Hedges, County Manager

Ben Vaughn, County Attorney-Not Present

Janet Abbott, County Clerk

Richard Dumas, Public Information Officer

Welcome

Chairman Tapley welcomed everyone in attendance.

Prayer

Commissioner Rowland 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 Ambrose motioned to approve the agenda as presented.

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

Approve Minutes-BOC Meeting-December 6, 2022 Regular Meeting

Moved to the January 3, 2023, meeting.

2023 Budget Approval

County Manager Jim Hedges stated the development of the 2023 budget has been a real challenge given the significant decrease in property taxes from Plant Scherer, inflation, and the need to include a market adjustment for employees. As a reminder, the Monroe County Budget contains more than 2,200-line items, funding for 34 departments, and utilization of 3 pay scales. The proposed budget includes a 4% market adjustment for all employees, and the bottom-line is the budget includes a contingency reserve of \$630,828.

County Manager Jim Hedges presented the 2023 budget for all funds totaling \$45,765,618, a 6% reduction for 2022, and also includes a contingency of \$630,828.

Mr. Hedges stated the 2023 Budget is the 5th budget for Jim, Lorri, and Janet, combined over 100 years of budget experience. This is the 5th year for no TAN (Tax Anticipated Note), and the 4th year of adding reserves. Mr. Hedges stated this is the 5th year of presenting a balanced budget which consist of 2200 budget line items, 34 departments and 3 pay scales.

The summary of the 2023 Budget for all funds is as follows:

- General Fund \$ 37,077,485
- Capital Projects \$ 1,438,820
- Enterprise Funds \$ 5,028,225
- Special Revenue Funds \$ 2,221,088
- Total \$ 45,765,618

Mr. Hedges stated the way forward is to move to adopt the 2023 budget in the amount of \$45,765,618 for all funds.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to adopt the 2023 budget as presented and to approve the budget resolution.

Commissioner Rowland seconded the motion.

Commissioner Emami asked were there any changes, Mr. Hedges replied there were no changes.

Chairman Tapley read the budget resolution into the record.

The motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Davis stated his affirmation of the Budget.

McCowan Road

New bids for civil work only have been received for McCowan Road.

- Southeastern site development, Newnan, GA. \$1,292,779
- McLeRoy, Inc., Zebulon, Ga. \$1,388,609

Mr. Hedges stated the way forward is to award the contract for civil work on McCowan Road to Southeastern Site Development for \$1,292,779.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve McCowan Road project as presented.

Commissioner Rowland seconded the motion.

The motion carried 4-0.

MCES Resource Management Study

Commissioner Eddie Rowland requested Chief Matt Jackson to conduct a Resource Management Study including response rates, future residential and commercial growth, impacts of rebuilding Station 10 (Smarr), and the benefits of staffing Station 9 (Russellville).

Battalion Chief Clay Walton presented the study to the Board.

Commissioner Rowland stated he thinks this study validates why we needed to put the manned stations where we did.

Commissioner Emami asked Mr. Walton and Chief Jackson to compile data on which hospitals MCES transports patients to, particularly what percentage of patients are transported to our local hospital.

Breathing Air Compressor Purchase

The existing breathing air compressor used by Monroe County Emergency Services needs to be replaced. The current air compressor was purchased used approximately 10 years ago from Gov Deals and used to fill all breathing apparatus bottles County wide. Chief Jackson stated it has failed and been taken out of service approximately a half dozen times this year. During these times the bottles are filled at Macon/Bibb Fire Department. Quotes for a new compressor are as follows:

- Breathing Air Systems Chattanooga, Tn \$44,625.77
- Vitco Fire Fighting Equipment Macon, Ga \$54,341.20
- Georgia Fire & Rescue Supply Canton, Ga \$66,400.00

Chief Jackson stated the recommendation is to purchase the Centaur Compressor/Fill Station from Vitco Fire Fighting Equipment for \$54,341.40 using the remaining funds from budgeted 2022 funds.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve the purchase.

Commissioner Emami seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Davis confirmed his approval.

2023 Holidays

County Manager Jim Hedges stated annually, the Board of Commissioners approve the holiday schedule for the coming year. The following holidays are being submitted:

- Monday, January 2nd New Year's Day
- Monday, January 16th Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Monday, February 20th Presidents' Day
- Monday, May 29th Memorial Day
- Monday, June 19th Juneteenth Day-Personal Time off
- Tuesday, July 4th Independence Day
- Monday, September 4th Labor Day
- Friday, November 10th Veterans Day
- Thursday, November 23rd Thanksgiving Day
- Friday, November 24th Day after Thanksgiving
- Friday, December 22nd Christmas Break
- Monday, December 25th Christmas Break

Commissioner Emami motioned to approve.

Commissioner Ambrose seconded 4-0.

Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve the purchase of two new vehicles for the Building Inspection Department.

Commissioner Rowland seconded the motion and asked the County Manager for clarification on the purchase. Mr. Hedges stated funds collected in the building department can only be spent within the department and the current vehicles will be reallocated to other departments. He recommends purchasing two new vehicles not to exceed \$90,000.

The motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Davis affirms his approval.

Commissioner Davis reminded everyone about the toy drive on December 17, 2022, hosted by Men Making a Difference.

Commissioner Ambrose thanked his district for another 4 years.

Commissioner Emami thanked his district for re-electing him.

Public Comments

Yvonne Stuart, Hwy 41 Smarr Georgia resident, addressed the Board stating Mr. Ambrose suggestion of reducing the voting precincts from 14 to 5, is a bit of an overreach. Ms. Stuart stated she thinks there are some

that could be consolidated but doesn't think closing nine at one time is a good idea. Ms. Stuart asked the board to use caution and maybe form a bipartisan committee to evaluate.

Executive Session-Litigation

There was no executive session.

Action from Executive Session

Adjourn

Commissioner Emami motioned to adjourn at 9:48 a.m.

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

Respectively Submitted by:

Janet Abbott, County Clerk