

Monroe County Board of Commissioners

Minutes of the February 2, 2021

Workshop

5:00 P.M. Workshop

Present:

Greg Tapley, Chairman

Lamarcus Davis, Vice Chairman, District 1

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/HR

Richard Dumas, Public Information Officer

Workshop

Chairman Tapley called the February 2, 2021 Workshop to order at 5:00 P.M. The Board discussed the following items on the regular session agenda:

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| A. Approve Agenda | Greg Tapley |
| B. Approve Minutes | Greg Tapley |
| a. BOC Meeting-January 19, 2021 | |
| C. I-75 Central Corridor Coalition Resolution | Greg Tapley |
| D. BOE-Collaborative Partnership | Greg Tapley |
| E. Estes Road Water Extension | Jim Hedges |

Old Business

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| F. Intergovernmental Agreements | Jim Hedges |
| G. Curb Cut Ordinance (First Reading) | Ben Vaughn |
| H. Timber Harvesting Ordinance (First Reading) | Ben Vaughn |
| I. Riverwalk Road Acceptance Resolution | Ben Vaughn |
| J. Term Limits | John Ambrose |
| K. | |

Commissioner Tapley adjourned the work session at 5:57 P.M.

Monroe County Board of Commissioners

Minutes of the February 2, 2021

Regular Commissioners Meeting

6:00 P.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/HR

Richard Dumas, Public Information Officer

Welcome

Chairman Tapley welcomed everyone in attendance.

Prayer

Commissioner Rowland gave the invocation.

Pledge

Chairman Tapley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

County Clerk Janet Abbott called roll.

Call to Order

Chairman Tapley called the meeting to order at 6:03 P.M.

New Business

Approve Agenda

Chairman Tapley presented the agenda for approval adding the internet RFP's after the approval of the minutes and the discussion of the Development Authority budget after the internet RFP's, also adding the need for work sessions and the discussion of term limits under old business.

Commissioner Emami motioned to approve the agenda with the additions from Chairman Tapley.

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

Approve Minutes-BOC Meeting-January 19, 2021

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2021 Regular Meeting with the usual 30 days for changes.

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

Internet RFP's

Commissioner Emami stated he wanted to commend all three companies for putting proposals together. He stated it has been a long road and a long process and he would like to thank all three companies that submitted proposals.

Commissioner Emami stated based on all the information gathered since the Request for Proposals was sent out and in the best interest of the public, I move to reject all proposals that were submitted in response to the RFP.

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

Commissioner Emami stated in our journey through the internet expansion process, we have learned that Central Georgia EMC and Southern Rivers have entered into a regional agreement to provide high speed internet to all their customers'. These customers represent a very large percentage of the unserved or underserved areas of the County. I make a motion to authorize the expenditure of \$1,330,000 of County funds and to authorize our County Attorney to work with Central Georgia EMC, Southern Rivers, the Monroe County Development Authority, the Monroe County School Board, and any other entities that he deems appropriated to facilitate and expedite Central Georgia EMC's and Southern Rivers' internet installation in Monroe County.

Commissioner Ambrose seconded the motion.

The motion carried 5-0.

Development Authority Budget

Tom Baugh and Bo Gregory came before the Board on behalf of the Monroe County Development Authority asking the Board to add back to their budget the \$200,000 which was part of an intergovernmental agreement with the Development Authority and the County.

Commissioner Emami motioned to give direction to the County Manager Jim Hedges and Finance Director Lorri Robinson to add the \$200,000 back to the Development Authority Budget as well as continue the quarterly funds.

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

Commissioner Emami left the meeting at 6:19 P.M.

I-75 Central Corridor Coalition Resolution

County Manager Jim Hedges presented for approval the I-75 Central Corridor Coalition Resolution as well as a formal appointment of the Monroe County Board of Commissioners Chairman as designee. Mr. Hedges stated

the I-75 Central Corridor Coalition has submitted a membership package that included an annual invoice of \$500, a contact form, and a sample resolution.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve the resolution and to appoint Chairman Tapley as the designee.

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

BOE-Collaborative Partnership

Mr. Hedges presented a request from the Board of Education seeking support from parents, local businesses and industry, community agencies, and local government officials in the region to create and establish Monroe County Schools College and Career Academy. The request states the vision of the Monroe County College and Career Academy is to create a personalized learning environment that will educate students with innovative academic rigor, targeted career competencies, employability and technical skills, and work-based opportunities. Chairman Tapley stated this is basically just giving the Boards vote of confidence in support of the Board of Education.

Following a board discussion, Commissioner Davis motioned to approve.

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

Commissioner Emami re-entered the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

Estes Road Water Extension

Mr. Hedges stated Commissioner Ambrose is recommending the closing of a water main loop between Whittle Road and Cardiff Drive and running 8" water mains approximately .7 miles, or 3700 feet with fire protection to close the loop and provide service to 13 plus or minus homes. Mr. Hedges stated this would require a change order with the firm of Jerry McMillan and the cost of the project is \$147,214.82 with funds available in the 2020 SPLOST.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve the change order in the amount of \$147,214.82.

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

Old Business

Intergovernmental Agreements

County Manager Jim Hedges presented the following Intergovernmental Agreements with the City of Forsyth for review:

- Elections-City of Forsyth pays 25% on all cost associated with a general election and 100% of all cost associated with a Municipal election-No change recommended.
- Tax Commissioner-Agreement dated June 15, 2004 provides for the Tax Commissioner to charge the City \$1.50 per parcel; currently 2646 parcels which equals \$3969 annually. The Tax Commissioner would like to increase her fee somewhere between \$3.50 and \$5.00 per parcel. Recommendation is to encourage the Tax Commissioner to calculate her cost and enter into a new agreement with the city.

- Animal Control-City of Forsyth pays an annual fee of \$7,500 plus \$22.00 per animal collected and the actual cost to euthanize an animal collected within the city. No change is recommended.
- Fuel-The City of Forsyth pays for the actual cost of fuel, the IGA references a 11.2% operational charge but what it applies to is unknown and is not being billed. The recommendation is to charge the BOE \$164 per month and the City of Forsyth \$68 per month for depreciation and administration fees.
- E-911-Currently 15% of net operating costs. 2021 will be 15% of net operating costs based on the 2021 budget. Adjustments yet to be determined.
- Courts-The City of Forsyth only pays for bailiffs, there is no charge for jailers, deputies, HVAC, or cleaning. The recommendation is to charge \$2100 per day to cover those costs.
- Inmate & Medical-Prisoners housed, incarcerated, or boarded is \$45 per day, booking and processing fee is \$15 per prisoner, and 100% of medical cost. No change is recommended.
- Jail Fine Fund-Georgia Code requires an additional penalty in fine cases of 10% and the City is complying. No change is recommended.
- Library-IGA cannot be found. Librarian confirms no funding from the City of Forsyth. The Service Delivery Strategy reflects that the City of Forsyth will provide funding for the Monroe County Library. The recommendation is for the Chairman to discuss this matter with the City of Forsyth Mayor.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to instruct the county attorney to draft a new intergovernmental agreement for the fuel depot and the justice center and to hold discussions with the City of Forsyth regarding annual contributions to the Monroe County Library.

Commissioner Rowland seconded the motion.

The motion carried 5-0.

Curb Cut Ordinance (First Reading)

County Attorney Ben Vaughn presented for discussion and review an Ordinance of the Board of Commissioner of Monroe County, Georgia, sitting for county purposes for the purpose of amending the Code of Ordinance of Monroe County in regard to Access to County Roads. Mr. Vaughn stated the ordinance had been adapted to fit the county code and to fit the culvert ordinance in place.

Timber Harvesting Ordinance (First Reading)

County Attorney Ben Vaughn presented an Ordinance of the Board of Commissioners of Monroe County, Georgia, sitting for County purposes for the purpose of amending the Code of Ordinances of Monroe County in regard to Timber Harvesting. Mr. Vaughn state in the last legislative session, HB 897 made several changes to the state timber harvesting statute. He stated the amendments require the State Forestry Commission to create a notification website for providing notice of timber harvesting operations to local governments, changed surety

bond and letter of credit requirements, and provides procedures for making adjudicating claims against bonds, including appeals. He stated ACCG recommends every county to update its local timber harvesting ordinance as a result of these amendments to the statute. Mr. Vaughn stated this was presented at the last meeting and the recommended changes had been made and was being brought back for review.

Riverwalk Road Acceptance Resolution

County Attorney Ben Vaughn provided an update on the Riverwalk Road acceptance and a Resolution for approval. Mr. Vaughn stated the Riverwalk Homeowners Association's Attorney, Anna Usry of Martin, and Snow, has completed the condemnation action of the Riverwalk Roads, and has submitted a resolution for acceptance of the roads to the Board for approval. The first paragraph of the resolution reads:

A Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of Monroe County, Georgia, Accepting Certain Roadways for Public Roadway purposes, said Roadways being know as Rivers Edge Drive, River Rapids Drive, and Rolling River Court and being more Particularly show on Plat Book 28, Pages 189-93 Clerks Office, Monroe County Superior Court.

Commissioner Emami motioned to approve and to allow the chairman to sign.

Commissioner Davis seconded the motion.

The motion carried 5-0.

Term Limits

Commissioner Ambrose discussed the need for term limits for the Board.

Following a board discussion, Commissioner Ambrose motioned to set term limits to three full consecutive terms, three as a commissioner or 3 as chairman or Commissioner of another district.

Commissioner Emami seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-2 GT and ER opposed.

Work Sessions

Commissioner Ambrose stated he would also like to eliminate the one-hour work sessions prior to the regular board meetings. The board discussed the work sessions but took no action.

Public Comments

No public comments

Executive Session (Personnel/Real Estate/legal)

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to enter executive session at 6:59 p.m. for Personnel and Real Estate.

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

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to come out of executive session at 7:54 p.m.

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

Action from Executive Session (If necessary)

Adjourn

Commissioner motioned to adjourn at 7:55 p.m.

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

Respectively Submitted by:

County Clerk, Janet Abbott