

Monroe County Board of Commissioners

Minutes of the March 21, 2023

Regular Commissioners Meeting

9:00 A.M.

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

Janet Abbott, County Clerk

Richard Dumas, Public Information Officer

Kelsey Fortner, Community Development Manager

Welcome

Chairman Tapley welcomed everyone in attendance.

Prayer

Bishop China Evans, Pastor of Straight Street House of Prayer and member of the Ministerial Association 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 Davis motioned to approve the agenda.

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

Approve Minutes-BOC Meeting-March 07, 2023, Regular Meeting

Commissioner Rowland motioned to approve the minutes of the March 07, 2023, Regular meeting with the usual 30 days for changes.

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

Forsyth Bicentennial

Richard Dumas spoke representing the City of Forsyth Bicentennial Committee. Mr. Dumas stated the City of Forsyth's Bicentennial Festival will be on September 23-24, 2023. Mr. Dumas stated the City of Forsyth has agreed to donate \$7500 and he is asking the Board for a donation of \$5000.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve the donation of \$5000.

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

Subdivision Plat

Community Development Director Kelsey Fortner presented a subdivision plat for approval. Mrs. Fortner stated the subdivision is located off Lower Simmons Road, connecting to HWY 74. The plat approval is requested by Wellston Associates Land Surveyors, LLC and the property owner is Walker Swamps Hunt LLC. The 74.80-Acres will be divided into 11-tracts, and all have sufficient road frontages, acreage and meet the spacing requirements.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve the subdivision plat.

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

Board of Assessor's Appointments

The appointment term of Mr. Mark Dye to the Monroe County Board of Assessors will expire on April 03, 2023. This is a three-year appointment and Mr. Dye's reappointment is recommended. Mr. Dye's term will run from April 3, 2023, until April 3, 2026.

Chairman Tapley motioned to approve the appointment of Mark Dye to the Board of Assessors for a three-year term.

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

2022/2023 LMIG Bids

County Manager Jim Hedges stated the 2022/2023 LMIG bids were received and analyzed. Only two bids were submitted, C.W. Matthews, and Blount Construction with the latter being the lowest bidder. Blount Construction's bid of \$4,761,101 was 1.6% higher, or \$77,362 above the estimated cost prepared by Kim Stokes.

Mr. Hedges stated the current projects are:

- McCowan Road-Start in March
- Lakeshore Drive-Start in March

LMIG Projects out for bid, due March 10th, BOC to approve March 21st, completion date of October 31st.

- Montpelier Station Road
- Jenkins Road
- Stokes Store Road
- Parks Road
- Josey Road
- Rumble Road

2022/2023 LMIG Bid Estimate

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------|
| • Montpelier Station | \$372,052 |
| • Jenkins Road | \$889,931 |
| • Parks Road | \$557,705 |
| • Josey Road | \$1,007,820 |
| • Rumble Road | \$850,055 |
| • Stokes Store Road | \$1,006,173 |
| • Total | \$4,683,736 |

2022/2023 LMIG Bids

C.W. Matthews Bid Base-\$4,884,395 Additive Alternate-\$377,137 Total Bid-\$5,261,532.

Blount Bid Base-\$4,394,818 Additive Alternate-\$366,283 Total Bid-\$4,761,101.

Public Works Consultant Kim Stokes explained the bids to the Board stating he thinks the bids are in line with the market right now. Mr. Stokes stated the projects should be completed by the end of October.

Mr. Hedges stated the way forward is to award Blount Construction the 2022/2023 LMIG contract at a total cost of \$4,761,100.81 with funding coming from the 2022/2023 LMIG grant and the balance from TSPLOST.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve to award the 2022/2023 LMIG contract to Blount Construction at a total cost of \$4,761,100.81.

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

Mr. Stokes stated he would like to ask for a 5% contingency fund for any overages that may occur.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve the 5% contingency for overages.

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

Assistance to Firefighters' Grant

County Manager Jim Hedges stated Monroe County was not successful in our 2021 AFG grant application. However, some organizations that are awarded end up declining the grant due to lack of match funding. On an after the fact basis, Monroe County has been awarded \$246,564.59 in Federal funding requiring a \$24,656.47 match. If we accept this grant, we have two years to utilize the funds and to provide the matching funds. This is a timing issue if this grant is spent this year in as much as the matching funds would be required to come out of contingency. Alternatively, we can include the matching funds in the 2024 budget.

Chief Jackson stated the grant must be accepted or denied by March 26, 2021. This would fund 26 air packs, 52 bottles, 26 face pieces and would outfit all remaining apparatus.

EMS Chief Matt Jackson reviewed the request with the Board.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve to accept the grant and to purchase the equipment out of the 2023 contingency budget.

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

Emergency Management Overview

County Manager Jim Hedges stated in light of the major train derailment in Ohio, Commissioner Emami has asked for an overview of emergency management preparedness in Monroe County. A major area of concern for Monroe County is the lack of training and equipment to handle hazardous material that would include such substances as toxic chemicals, fuels, nuclear waste products, and biological, chemical, and radiological agents. In the event of a hazmat spill on the railroad, Commissioner John Ambrose advises that Norfolk Southern is prepared to step in with their resources; however, an event on I-75 leaves us dependent on resources and personnel from Bibb County.

EMS Chief Matt Jackson gave a presentation on EMA Operations.

Chief Jackson stated the Incident Command System (ICS) is made up of the following:

- Command Staff
 - Incident Commander-In charge of the organization's on-scene response

- Public Information Officer-Conduct periodic media briefings monitor and forward useful information to the media and public.
- Liaison-Point of contact with outside agencies and companies.
- Safety-Identify and assess hazardous situations; prevent accidents.
- General Staff
 - Operations-Manage all tactical operations during the incident.
 - Planning-Conduct and facilitate planning meetings and supervise preparation of the Incident Action Plan.
 - Logistics-Provides resources to stabilize the incident and support personnel, systems, and equipment.
 - Finance-Manages all financial aspects of the incident.

All Hazards Approach

- Preparedness
 - Identification of potential hazards
 - Training
 - Exercises
 - Mitigation
 - Emergency Operations Plan
 - Projects to protect people and property from exposures, hazards, i.e., early warning sirens, mass notifications, etc.
 - Response
 - Coordinated response to actual emergency.
 - Recovery
 - Ensure that reconstruction and rebuilding programs are completed to reduce the risk of further losses.
 - Chief Jackson stated regardless of if the incident is natural or manmade each incident will be different yet mitigated in the same manner and all incidents will start and end at a local level.
- Chief Jackson stated the department is continuously being updated on the following:
- Training
 - Updating Emergency Operation Plans (LEOP, HMP, Mass Casualty, Debris removal, etc.
 - Updating Mutual/Automatic Aid agreements
 - Hazard Assessments

- Applying for additional grant funding (sirens, Haz-Mat)
- Conducting annual exercises (3 a year, Full scale every 5 years)

Commissioner Emami stated he would like a little more information on a few things such as:

- Are we aware of what is traveling throughout the county via rail and is there a way to know this?
- In the event of a liquid spill, are protocols in place to stop the contamination from streams.
- Is there training occurring with regard to businesses and structures within the county that may be storing hazardous materials?

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Davis thanked everyone in attendance. Commissioner Davis stated Forsyth Main Street has several events planned to discuss what the citizens would want to see in downtown Forsyth, he encouraged citizen attendance.

Commissioner Rowland stated he would like to revisit implementing the SeeClickFix app for the residents.

Commissioner Ambrose stated he has been getting a lot of complaints that the County is authorizing the City of Forsyth to use its Right-of-Way to run the sewage to Ocmulgee River. Commissioner Ambrose stated the County Attorney says the county must give the City of Forsyth permission to use its Right-of-Way and he intends to vote against it.

Commissioner Ambrose also stated the Board needs to move forward with UDO or at least finish the RV portion. He continued to state the county needs a county ordinance stating that every resident and business must have a reflective blue sign marking their address.

Commissioner Emami stated Hubbard Elementary School needs funding for tables, and he wants to offer to sponsor a table. Commissioner Emami motioned to use \$950 of his discretionary funds to sponsor a table for Hubbard Elementary School.

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

Public Comments

195 Deer Lane resident Mark Mimbs addressed the Board regarding running water to his house. The Board stated Deer Lane is a private road and it would be the property owner's responsibility to run the water lines from Jenkins Road to his property on Deer Lane.

Executive Session

There was no executive session.

Action from Executive Session

There was no executive session therefore no action was necessary.

Adjourn

Commissioner Emami motioned to adjourn at 10:22 a.m.

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

Respectively Submitted by:

Janet Abbott, County Clerk