

Monroe County Board of Commissioners

Minutes of June 15, 2025

Regular Meeting

9:00 a.m.

Present:

Alan Gibbs, Chairman

John Ambrose, Vice-Chairman

Lamarcus Davis, District 1-Present by phone

Eddie Rowland, District 2

Al Turner, District 4

Staff:

Jim Hedges, County Manager

Natalie Sundeen, County Attorney

Janet Abbott, County Clerk

Richard Dumas, Public Information Officer

Welcome

Chairman Gibbs welcomed everyone in attendance.

Prayer

Commissioner Rowland gave the invocation.

Pledge

Chairman Gibbs led the Pledge.

Roll Call

County Clerk Janet Abbott called roll.

Call to Order

Chairman Gibbs called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Georgia Placename Heritage Project Presentation

Attorney Chris Smith, a long-time resident of Monroe County, over the past several months has been engaged in a “Georgia Placename Heritage Project”. He has donated several framed prints to various cities with a name tied to places abroad. Mr. Smith presented to the county a framed photograph of the USS James Monroe. The USS James Monroe is a Lafayette-class ballistic missile submarine that served the United States Navy from 1963 to 1990.

Chairman Gibbs accepted the photograph on behalf of the Board.

New Business

Approve Agenda

Chairman Gibbs presented the agenda for approval with the addition of Old Brent Road as item G.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve the agenda with said changes.

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

Approve Minutes-June 17, 2025

Chairman Gibbs presented the minutes of the June 17, 2025, Regular meeting for approval.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve with the normal 30 days for changes.

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

Property Tax Penalty Refund

Mr. James Kinman, 741 Dunblane Dr., is requesting a tax interest refund of \$554.95. The property tax bill for Mr. Kinman was mailed to Charles P. Deaton III in care of James Walker Kinman Jr. at 4727 Rivoli Dr., Macon.

Mr. Kinman was present on behalf of the request. Mr. Kinman stated he purchased the property in February 2024 but did not receive a tax bill and the property was not listed in his name.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to decline.

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

Board of Assessors’ Appointments

Mr. Robert Watson’s appointment to the Board of Assessors expires on July 31, 2025. The recommendation is for Mr. Watson to be reappointed; this is a three-year appointment.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to reappoint Mr. Watson

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

Personnel Policy Amendment

An addition to the Monroe County Personnel Policy, Personal and Family Relationships in the Workplace, is being recommended. The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines governing personal and family relationships in the workplace.

This policy addition prohibits personal relationships between a supervisor and their subordinate and employees who work in the same department, or at the same station on the same shift because such relationships can create compromising conflicts of interest or the appearance of such conflicts.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve the personnel policy amendment.

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

LMIG/LRA Amendment

Commissioner Ambrose requested that we evaluate Woods Road for repair during the reconstruction of Pea Ridge Road. Woods Road intersects with Pea Ridge near Rumble Road. It is evident that the subgrade soils on Woods Road contain clay content that exhibits a high-volume change (rutting and heaving) with severe base and pavement failures. Woods Road should be reconstructed in conjunction with Pea Ridge to take advantage of the lower-than-normal bid pricing and to avoid an extra mobilization in the future of \$14,315.37.

To perform full depth reclamation and repave, the estimated costs are \$152,598.25. A change order will be issued to Blount Construction Co. in the amount of \$80,731.58, 3.4% of the original contract. The paving will be performed with County Forces; costs of materials are estimated to be \$71,866.67.

TSPLOST funding is available due to the lower-than-expected bid prices and a lower cement content for the cement stabilization.

Kim Stokes, Public Works Director, addressed the board regarding the change order request.

Commissioner Davis motioned to approve the change order.

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

Old Brent Road Bridge

Public Works Director Kim Stokes stated he has been trying to contact the City of Forsyth to perform a locate on the water main and meet with the Contractors, Engineers and Mr. Stokes to discuss a resolution regarding Old Brent Road. The water main encroaches on Old Brent Road right-of-way and the bridge pilings. Mr. Stokes stated Craig Helms, Forsyth's Water Facilities Operations Manager, and Mr. Stokes stated a meeting was set up with Mr. Helms for July 1, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. to discuss a

resolution. Mr. Helms responded he had a meeting but would be there by 2:00 p.m., he did not show up and the group waited until 3:30 p.m. and Mr. Helms did not show.

Mr. Stokes stated the response from the City of Forsyth was they didn't know what else the county wanted them to do.

Mr. Stokes stated the 8-inch water main on Old Brent Road crossing Todd Creek was installed without a mechanism (tracer wire) allowing the main to be locatable using electronic equipment as required by GA Code 25-9-7. As a result of this Monroe County may incur losses or expenses due to lack of information and unreasonable delays in obtaining information regarding the water-main locations. The contractor (McCoy Grading) for the Old Brent Road Project, is nearing the point of stopping work due to the uncertainty of the water-main location in relation to the bridge pilings.

Mr. Stokes stated the solution was to hydro vac the lines so as not to turn off water to the residents nearby so the project could move forward.

Commissioner Davis authorized Mr. Stokes full authority to do what is necessary to get the job done and to have clear communication with the County Manager and the City of Forsyth regarding the issue and the cost associated with the project.

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

Public Comments

No Public Comments

Commissioners' Comments

District 1 Lamarcus Davis

Commissioner Davis thanked everyone for their continuing hard work and staying focused.

District 2 Eddie Rowland

Commissioner Rowland recognized Mr. Otis Wright from Culloden, stating he is involved in the community and improving the area.

Mr. Wright spoke and thanked Commissioner Rowland and stated he appreciates the board.

District 3 John Ambrose

Commissioner Ambrose stated this is a busy time of the year for Public Works and asked the community for their patience with upcoming projects.

Commissioner Ambrose stated he had previously stated he would not run again but with the cash flow expected to come in the next few years he feels it is his duty to ensure the money is spent to improve the county for the citizens.

Commissioner Ambrose stated we need meetings as soon as possible to work on the UDO and the subdivision Moratorium.

Commissioner Ambrose thanked Janet Abbott, Lorri Robinson, Jim Hedges and Kim Stokes for an outstanding job.

Commissioner Al Turner

Commissioner Turner thanked the Board for working with him and stated he thinks Ms. Abbott would be the best person to step into County Manager Jim Hedges' roll.

Chairman Alan Gibbs

Chairman Gibbs stated there is a communication gap between the city and the county and it needs to be resolved.

Executive Session

There was no executive session.

Action from Executive Session

There was no executive session, therefore no action.

Adjourn

Commissioner Rowland motioned to adjourn at 9:54 a.m.

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

Respectively Submitted by:

Janet Abbott, County Clerk