

Monroe County Board of Commissioners

Minutes of October 1, 2025

Regular Meeting

9:00 A.M.

Present:

Alan Gibbs, Chairman

John Ambrose, Vice-Chairman

Lamarcus Davis, District 1

Eddie Rowland, District 2

Al Turner, District 4

Staff:

Jim Hedges, County Manager

Lorri Robinson, Finance Director/Deputy County Manager

Ben Vaughn, County Attorney

Janet Abbott, County Clerk

Kelsey Fortner, Community Development Manager

Welcome

Vice Chairman Ambrose welcomed everyone in attendance.

Prayer

Commissioner Davis gave the invocation.

Pledge

Chairman Davis 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.

New Business

Approve Agenda

Chairman Gibbs presented the agenda for approval with the addition of executive session for Real Estate and Personnel and the removal of Item I, the AG Center Design/Build.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve the agenda with said changes.

Commissioner Turner seconded the motion, and the motion carried 4-0.

Approve Minutes-September 09, 2025, meeting

Chairman Gibbs presented the minutes of the September 09, 2025, Regular meeting for approval.

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

Commissioner Turner seconded the motion, and the motion carried 4-0.

Ray Hartley Road Duplicate Water Line

Oglethorpe Power has requested a duplicate 8" water line on Ray Hartley Road at a cost of \$532,425, which they have agreed will be at their cost. While it appears, there are some easement issues to be resolved, it is recommended that Carter Engineering be authorized to proceed with detailed engineering and go to bid. Don Carter was present on behalf of the request discussing the following items:

- The water usage of the overflow project and highlighting the need for increased capacity and contacting Macon Water Authority.
- The project involves running an additional redundant water line down Ray Hartley Road, with the county being reimbursed by Oglethorpe Power.
- The need for detailed engineering and the public procurement process to start soon.
- The redundancy of the line, suggesting it should be connected to the main line for better reliability.

Following a board discussion, Chairman Gibbs motioned to authorize Carter Engineering to proceed with detailed engineering and the bid process.

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

Monroe County Hospital-Banking

Casey Fleckenstein, Hospital Administrator/Chief Nursing Officer, addressing the Board requesting the County to subordinate the Hospital 's lien on the hospital property to United Bank for the \$2 million dollar loan. Ms. Fleckenstein stated she has a letter from the Bank supporting the request.

County Manager Jim Hedges stated he had received the Subordination Agreement, and the Intergovernmental Agreement from the County Attorney this morning.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve the Subordination Agreement and the IGA and approve the Chairman to sign.

Commissioner Davis seconded the motion, and the motion carried 4-0.

Jim subordination agreement and IGA from Ben this morning.

Sheriff Salaries

Monroe County Sheriff Brad Freeman has developed a proposed salary adjustment and presented it to the Board for approval.

Chairman Gibbs motioned to approve transferring \$100,000 from vacant positions contingency to the Sheriff's Budget for personnel salaries for recruitment/retention.

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

Brad Spoke requesting approval to move 100,000 to his budget for salary adjustments.

Budget Amendment

Finance Director/Deputy County Manager Lorri Robinson-Byrd presented a 2025 Budget Amendment through September for approval in the amount of \$307,908.00.

Mrs. Robinson-Byrd stated this is the second budget amendment for this year bringing the total budget to \$43.9 million. The adjustments include increased revenue from permits, grants, donations, and surplus sales.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve the budget amendment in the amount of \$370,908.00.

Commissioner Davis seconded the motion, and the motion carried 4-0.

Commercial & Industrial Appraisal Contract

The Tax Assessors' Department advertised appraisal services for all commercial and industrial properties in Monroe County. Only one company, Technical Appraisal Services of Georgia, Inc., submitted a bid. Technical Appraisal Services of Georgia conducted the residential appraisals for Monroe County Last year. The bid was for \$125,560 with a start date of October 15, 2025, ending in June 2026.

Chairman Gibbs motioned to approve the contract with funding to come from contingency.

Commissioner Davis seconded the motion, and the motion carried 4-0.

Ambulance Purchase

The 2026-2031 SPLOST has funds allocated for the purchase of ambulances. MCES has advertised and only one bid was received from Custom Works and compliant with our specification at a cost of \$355,466, but unfortunately, delivery time is 14-18 months. Custom Works has also locked in that price for 2026 and 2027.

Chairman Gibbs motioned to approve the purchase with funding to come from insurance proceeds and SPLOST.

Commissioner Davis seconded the motion, and the motion carried 4-0.

AG Center-Design/Build

This item was removed from the agenda.

IGA BOE Solid Waste Collection

The Intergovernmental Agreement with the Board of Education for the removal of solid waste expired on June 30, 2025. Superintendent Jim Finch confirmed the BOE wants to renew this agreement, and if approved, he will extend the agreement for another three years.

Nathan Duams, Recycling Coordinator, has considerable information relating to the number of compactors, pick-up schedule, and tonnage and renewal recommendation.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve the three-year intergovernmental solid waste agreement effective July 1, 2025, with annual price adjustments.

Commissioner Davis seconded the motion, and the motion carried 4-0.

Cryptocurrency Mining Moratorium

Attorney Jessica Haywood advises that our current UDO does not allow Cryptocurrency Mining: however, it seems that jurisdictions are considering and passing temporary moratoriums in case the legislature was to pass a law making so that jurisdictions could not outlaw Cryptocurrency Mining. Ms. Haywood believes this is a remote risk, the County should consider a temporary moratorium and include a section in the UDO relating to Cryptocurrency Mining.

Commissioner Ambrose motion to approve the 365-day moratorium on new cryptocurrency mining permits, pending state legislation and UDO amendments.

Commissioner Turner seconded the motion, and the motion carried 4-0.

The county attorney will draft new regulations and bring them back to the board.

Health Insurance Renewal

Johnathan Shaw presented the 2026 Health Insurance Renewal. Mr. Shaw presented a proposal for Anthem for the year 2026, stating the change provides better employee coverage, improved network, and no premium increase for employees. The proposal is approximately a 10% increase over the 2025 renewal.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve the proposal submitted and to switch from Luminare/ClaimDoc to Anthem.

Commissioner Davis seconded the motion, and the motion carried 4-0.

Public Comment

Carol Edge, resident of Stokes Store Road, stated she was concerned about High Falls regarding future warehouse developments, environmental impacts and community planning.

Commissioners' Comments

District 1 Lamarcus Davis

Commissioner Davis thanked everyone for coming to the meeting stating the county has a lot of projects moving. Commissioner Davis stated two projects are to be completed next month, old Brent Road and the new gymnasium at the recreation department. Commissioner Davis stated the paving crew is moving pretty quickly and doing a great job.

District 2 Eddie Rowland

Commissioner Rowland was not present.

District 3 John Ambrose

Commissioner Ambrose stated he would like to reiterate what commissioner Davis said, we see a lot of crap on social media especially Lassiter Road, a full depth reclamation was done on several roads and when this is done, we have to pay a relocation fee for moving equipment around the county.

Commissioner Ambrose stated it is cheaper to do them all and come back and finish. Commissioner Ambrose stated the county has had lots of rain and they have not been able to get back to Lassiter Road. Commissioner Ambrose stated the paving crew is doing an outstanding job and asked citizens to please wait until the project is finished before complaining. Commissioner Ambrose stated the county is in great shape and only going to get better.

Commissioner Al Turner

Commissioner Turner stated public works is doing an excellent job and recreation is doing an excellent job also. Commissioner Turner stated personally he would like to see a Quick Trip on High Falls Road. Commissioner Turner stated he appreciates EMS Chief Matt Jackson, Public Works Director Kim Stokes and Recycling Manager Nathan Dumas. Commissioner Turner stated we have had a good meeting this morning.

Chairman Alan Gibbs

Chairman Gibbs stated we went over some specific items this morning in the Comprehensive Plan meeting. Chairman Gibbs stated Chief Jackson has a plan with the ambulance service and has lots of great ideas, we have a strong county, and we are moving in the right direction.

Executive Session-Real Estate and Personnel

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to enter executive session at 10:14 am for Personnel and Real Estate. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion, and the motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Davis motioned to come out of executive session at 11:05 am.

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

Action from Executive Session

County Attorney Ben Vaughn stated the county discussed a personnel matter and a Real Estate matter and no public action is needed at this time.

Adjourn

Commissioner Davis motioned to adjourn at 11:07 a.m.

Commissioner Turner seconded the motion, and the motion carried 4-0.

Respectively Submitted by:

Janet Abbott, County Clerk