

Monroe County Board of Commissioners
Minutes of the March 16, 2021
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
Ben Vaughn, County Attorney
Kelsey Fortner, Zoning Officer
Richard Dumas, Public Information Officer

Welcome

Chairman Tapley welcomed everyone in attendance

Prayer

Commissioner Rowland gave the invocation after a moment of silence for the loss of Culloden Council Jackie Boling

Pledge

Chairman Tapley led the Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Zoning Officer Kelsey Fortner called roll

Call to Order

Chairman Tapley called the meeting to order at 9:05 A.M.

Proclamation for Agriculture Awareness Week

Chairman Tapley read the proclamation that as of March 16, 2021, Agriculture Awareness Week will be March 22nd through March 28th in Monroe County. The Monroe County Extension Office/4-H had leader, Caitlin Jackson and administration Nicole Waters and Happy Wyatt in attendance.

New Business

Approve Agenda

Chairman Tapley presented to agenda for approval with the change to remove speaker appearance, Mark Dye, and Commissioner Ambrose's request to swap Item C and F.
Motion to approve from Commissioner Davis seconded by Commissioner Ambrose and approved 5-0.

Approve Minutes-BOC Meeting

Commissioner Emami motion to approve the minutes of February 12, 2021, February 25, 2021, and March 2, 2021 with the usual 30 days for changes. Commissioner Ambrose seconded and motion carried 5-0.

MCES Volunteer Pagers—Fire Chief Matt Jackson

Chief Matt Jackson presented his request to purchase pagers for his 50-51 volunteers for a quicker result when being dispatched. He stated that the feedback has been good with the pagers that they have tried out so far.

Also, that they will assist with a much simpler dispatching processing, resulted in less room for error. Pagers would cost \$619.00 a piece with a software update of \$18,990. The total cost would be \$56,130 and with moving forward in the future this can be paid from the departments budget. Commissioner Ambrose asked is there anyway this can be placed on a cell phone, Chief Jackson replied it could—however the issue is a delay with dispatch to the phone. Chief Jackson stated that the money will be coming out of the 2014 unrestricted SPLOST. Chairman Tapley thanked Chief Jackson for his presentation. County Manager Jim Hedges stated that this is something the public wants. Commissioner Rowland made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Emami and approved 5-0.

Health Department Change Order/Scope Change--Morris Hutcheson and Greg Boike

Morris Hutcheson and Greg Boike (MGRC) spoke about the Health Department and its current progress with the CDBG project. Mr. Hutcheson explained they had a couple situations to fix such as the asbestosis found and tested and is currently in remediation. He explained some other changes such as the roof will now be shingle instead of metal. A metal roof has a 20-year life whereas the shingle roof has a lifetime warranty. At first, several windows were not going to be remodeled and now they would like to replace all the windows with the store front windows with longer life expectancy. The idea is to install permanent cabinetry, instead of furniture and remove vinyl soffit and paint the whole building and replace the soffit. The idea for existing porches to be updated, ADA ramp installed, create new conference room and training room. Convert previous conference room area into an employee break room and creating more storage space. With health department funds we want to extend an awning to the parking lot for a drive thru area. Greg Boike (MGRC) stated that the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and county policy to come before the board and request the change order. Chairman Tapley stated that all they needed was approval—they were not requesting additional money. Mr. Hutcheson and Mr. Boike stated that was correct. Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Emami, and approved 5-0.

Towaliga Judicial Circuit Budget—Lorri Robinson

Finance Officer, Lorri Robinson presented the annual Towaliga Judicial Circuit Budget for approval. The budget is for the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. Commissioner Emami made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Davis and approved 5-0.

Recreation Department Pavilion/Capital Expenditures—Landon Sparks

Recreation Director, Landon Sparks proposed to the board a request to have a non-refundable \$25.00 deposit for the use of the pavilions at the Recreation facility in lieu of the refundable deposit. Commissioner Emami made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Rowland and the motion carried 5-0.

Following this request, Mr. Sparks reviewed a list of items with the board to be funded from the restricted 2014 SPLOST, and from the 2020 SPLOST. Commissioner Ambrose made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Davis and approved 5-0.

Mays Road—Abandonment

County Manager presented a PowerPoint of Mays Road located off Johnstonville Road and Rocky Creek Road. Stating that the road has become a burden to the county and being used as a dumping site. Commissioner Emami made a motion not to close the road seconded by Commissioner Ambrose and approved 5-0.

Planning & Zoning Hearing Procedures

County Manager Jim Hedges presented the request of a review of the procedures for conducting a Planning and Zoning Hearing. The procedures coincide with the current methods and would deem to be the best practices.

The following was discussed:

Applicant receives 30 minutes. Those in favor have 2 minutes per person, at an unlimited amount of time. Once completed, those in opposition speak 2 minutes per person, at the **same length of the time** as those in favor did. After they are finished, the applicant of course can go again to answer questions, and if those in opposition went **over the time** that those in favor were allotted, they can go again to make up the difference. And of course, either board may speak, comment or question however they wish. Commissioner Emami made a motion to approve seconded by Commissioner Ambrose approved 4-1 with Chairman Tapley abstaining.

Mask Mandate

Commissioner Davis discussed having a mandated mask requirement for county employees. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve, motion failed for lack of seconded and request was denied 4-1, only Commissioner Davis in favor.

Old Business

County Manager, Jim Hedges reminded the board that a Zoning Class will be held Tuesday, March 30th at 9:00 a.m. in the board room.

Public Comments

None

Executive Session (If necessary)

None

Adjourn

Commissioner Ambrose made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Rowland and approved 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

Respectively Submitted by:

Zoning Officer, Kelsey Fortner