

Monroe County Board of Commissioners

Minutes of the April 20, 2021

Regular Commissioners Meeting

9:00 A.M. Meeting

Present:

Greg Tapley, Chairman-**Not Present**

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

Vice Chairman Davis welcomed everyone in attendance.

Moment of Silence

There was a moment of silence held for former County Clerk Gail King and for Mary Persons High School Former Coach Dan Pitts.

Prayer

Commissioner Rowland gave the invocation.

Pledge

Vice Chairman Davis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

County Clerk Janet Abbott called roll.

Call to Order

Vice Chairman Davis called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

New Business

Approve Agenda

Vice Chairman Davis presented the agenda for approval with the following changes, insert public hearing for item C, move executive session to the end and remove item E and put discretionary fund discussion in its place. Commissioner Emami motioned to approve the agenda with the changes.

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

Approve Minutes-BOC Meeting-March 16, 2021, March 30, 2021, and April 6, 2021

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2021, March 30, 2021, and the April 6, 2021 meetings with the usual 30 days for changes.

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

Monroe County Hazard Mitigation Plan

Commissioner Rowland motioned to enter a public hearing at 9:03 a.m.

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

Dean Nelson with the Regional Commission presented an update to the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The Hazard Mitigation Plan is a locally adopted plan for reducing the loss of life, property, and economic hardship from a disaster or hazard and is required by the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act. The plan must be updated every five years and is required by FEMA for grant eligibility and funding opportunities. Monroe County's current plan was approved by FEMA on April 1, 2017 and expires on April 9, 2022. The cost associated with the update of the plan is as follows:

Federal Share \$15,000.00

State Share \$ 2,000.00

Local Share \$ 3,000.00

Total approved cost is \$20,000.00.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to come out of the public hearing at 9:08 a.m.

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

Following a brief discussion by the Board, Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve the \$3000.00 for the Hazard Mitigation renewal.

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

Tax Refund-Margie Baker Greene

Ms. Margie Baker Greene has petitioned the Tax Commissioner for a \$50.79 refund for property tax penalty and interest. The claim is she did not receive the original tax bill and that it was mailed to the wrong address.

Tax Commissioner Lori Andrews recommends and agrees with the refund. However, County Attorney Ben Vaughn stated Ms. Greene was under duty after purchasing this property to investigate and be sure that the tax bill was paid, and it is his opinion that the refund should be denied.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to deny.

Commissioner Rowland seconded the motion.

Following a Board discussion, the motion to deny carried 4-0.

Discretionary Funds

Commissioner Rowland stated he would like to use \$15,000 of his discretionary funds to rehab a ball field in Culloden.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve.

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

Probate Prosecutor Fees

This item was removed from the agenda.

Court Software

County Manager Jim Hedges stated Superior Court Clerk Lindsey Taylor was requesting to change the case management and jury management software from MicroPact to Icon software. Mr. Hedges stated both software packages are proprietary and cannot be purchased only leased. Cancellation of the MicroPact agreement requires a 30-day notice. The migration to Icon Software will require a one-time conversion fee of \$10,000 which includes training, set-up, and support/hosting since Icon is a cloud-based program. Mr. Hedges stated this is an unbudgeted request and funding will come from contingency.

Following a Board discussion, Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve the purchase with funds to come from contingency.

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

Mini-Excavator Purchase

Mr. Hedges presented the next item on the agenda stating Road Superintendent Jr. Watts, Maintenance Director Ray White, Landfill Director Frank Newton, and Jeff Dorough, with Utility Partners, are recommending the purchase of a John Deere mini excavator. Each department has identified multiple uses for this piece of equipment at a cost of \$38,565 with funding to come from the 2020 Public Works SPLOST.

Three proposals were received:

Flint Equipment Company	John Deere	\$39,565
Mason Tractor & Equipment Sales	Kubota	\$42,194
Yancey	Caterpillar	\$52,459

Kerry Glass was present on behalf Flint Equipment Company to answer questions regarding the purchase and warranty.

Following a Board discussion, Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve the purchase for the John Deere Flint Equipment Company in the amount of \$39,565 with the funds to come from the 2020 public works SPLOST.

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

Old Business

2022 TSPLOST Projects

County Manager Jim Hedges stated at the Board meeting on April 6th, it was agreed to proceed with calling a referendum on November 2, 2021 for approval of a Single County TSPLOST. The first step is to review the project list which is limited to resurfacing. Mr. Hedges continued with all TSPLOST funds collected will be used for renovation and resurfacing of county roads. The funding projection of \$23,538,000 will enable the county to resurface between 150 to 175 miles of county roads. Mr. Hedges stated the previous 2020 road evaluation will be the guide for the 2022 project list and the final list will be presented on May 18th.

The Board followed with an extensive discussion regarding the road conditions and the various options to fund the repairs in Monroe County.

MWA Contract Amendment

County Manager Jim Hedges gave a presentation and stated at the March 2, 2021 Board meeting, approval was authorized to amend the MWA contract for the purchase of water for resale for the new Juliette Service area giving the county a 20% discount, extending the contract back to the original 50-years, and contingent on increasing the daily capacity from 2.5 MGD to 5.0 MGD. Mr. Hedges stated after discussing these terms with the MWA, and upon obtaining actual consumption and the cost of increasing capacity, it is his opinion that the Board should accept the offered discount and term extension, eliminate the contingency of increasing daily capacity from 2.5 MGD to 5.0 MGD and to consider an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Forsyth establishing limitation on daily consumption.

The Board discussed in detail the MWA contract, county consumption and capacity.

County Attorney Ben Vaughn stated clarification was needed on the coverage area of the 50-year contract. The Board agreed by general consensus to table until the County Attorney could get clarification.

Code Red Clarification

Public Information Officer Richard Dumas and EMS Chief Matt Jackson addressed the Board giving an update on the Code Red Emergency Alert system and discussed some of the issues being encountered with the system. Mr. Dumas stated additional people still need to sign-up to make the system work more efficiently. He stated EMS Chief Matt Jackson and himself are starting another publicity drive to get more people signed up and asked the Board to please share the information.

Public Comments

Larry Evans, Marshall Road, addressed the Board regarding the recent death of former Regional Commission member Ralph Nix. He stated he would like the Board to place his obituary in the Board minutes. Mr. Evans stated he would also like to address some of the comments made during meeting. He stated the roads in River Forest were not supposed to be supported by Monroe County. He continued with Monroe County could not produce water, so the County went to Macon Water Authority.

Commissioner Ambrose would like to be able to add stuff to the agenda after Fridays.

Executive Session (Litigation)

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to enter an Executive Session for litigation at 10:32 a.m.

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

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to come out of Executive Session at 11:18 a.m.

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

Action from Executive Session (If necessary)

Adjourn

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to adjourn at 11:18 a.m.

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

Respectively Submitted by:

County Clerk, Janet Abbott