

Monroe County Board of Commissioners

Minutes of the July 20, 2021

Workshop

8:00 A.M. Workshop

Present:

Greg Tapley, Chairman

Lamarcus Davis, Vice Chairman, District 1

Eddie Rowland, District 2-present by phone

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

Lorri Robinson, Finance Director

Workshop

Chairman Tapley called the July 20, 2021, Workshop to order at 8:00 A.M. The Board discussed the following items on the work-session agenda:

A. 2022 Budget Assumptions

Commissioner Tapley adjourned the work session at 9:10 A.M.

Monroe County Board of Commissioners

Minutes of the July 20, 2021

Regular Commissioners Meeting

9:00 A.M. Meeting

Present:

Greg Tapley, Chairman

Lamarcus Davis, Vice Chairman

Eddie Rowland, District 2-Present by phone

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

Lorri Robinson, Finance Director

Welcome

Chairman Tapley welcomed everyone in attendance.

Prayer

Commissioner Emami gave the invocation.

Pledge

Chairman Tapley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

County Clerk Janet Abbott called roll.

Call to Order

Chairman Tapley called the meeting to order at 9:19 A.M.

Chairman Tapley introduced Joyce White, Executive Director of the Monroe County Development Authority and Shanita Davis with Senator Warnock's office.

Speaker Appearance-Kim Poupard

Ms. Poupard spoke regarding Cedar Creek Subdivision stating she wanted to correct some incorrect information from the last meeting regarding statements made by Ms. Anita Thomas regarding her contact with other

residents, the HOA, the quote regarding road repair and the residents contributing, and children & adults riding four wheelers.

She discussed what the residents are doing to work with the county regarding the road.

Ms. Poupard asked if the county would be willing to take over Red Cedar Court, if the residents brought the roads up to par and leave the one road until the lots sold.

Ben Vaughn stated the first steps would be for the roads to be brought up to county standards and we would have to take the same steps that were taken with Riverwalk Subdivision.

New Business

Approve Agenda

Chairman Tapley presented the agenda for approval.

Commissioner Emami motioned to approve the agenda.

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

Approve Minutes-BOC Meeting-June 15, 2021 & June 18, 2021

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2021, Regular meeting and the June 18, 2021, Called Meeting with the usual 30 days for changes.

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

Administrative Policy-Donations

Finance Director Lorri Robinson stated annually, the county budgets funding for several non-profit organizations, i.e., Hubbard Alumni Association, Monroe Historical Society, and the Forsyth Convention & Visitors Bureau. These organizations are required to report annually their expenditures to the Board which has not been done in recent years.

Ms. Robinson continued with the policy presented establishes a total funding amount of \$20,000 and is available to non-profits on a first come basis and establishes procedures for requesting funding and annual reporting.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve Ms. Robinson's recommendation.

Commissioner Davis seconded the motion.

Commissioner Emami recommended adding that the contributions not go towards any political campaign and a \$5,000 limit per organization be added to the policy also.

Chairman Tapley asked for the motion to be amended to add no political contributions and a \$5000 limit.

Commissioner Ambrose agreed to amend his motion and Commissioner Davis seconded the amended motion.

The motion passed 5-0.

Strickland Loop Landfill-Concrete

Mr. Hedges presented the next item stating push has come to shove with the EPA, and we must show progress by November 1, 2021, on the removal of the concrete pile at the Strickland Loop Landfill. Initially we evaluated the lease of equipment that would crush the concrete; however, with the availability of a permitted inert landfill area, the recommendation is to move the concrete slabs, rock, and rubble to the inert area.

Three bids were received to crush and remove:

- Peed Brothers \$1,149,241
- Fall Line Materials \$1,248,800
- Vertical Earth \$1,377,00

The cost to lease equipment and do this inhouse, is as follows:

- CAT 950GC \$16,945
- Cat Articulated Truck \$20,834
- CAT Excavator336/w/thumb \$15,107
Monthly \$52,886
- Three Month minimum \$158,658
- Fuel \$5,000
- Contingency \$36,342
- Proposed Budget \$200,000

Mr. Hedges stated the recommendation is to approve the lease of equipment from Yancey Brothers at a 3-month minimum of \$158,658 plus consumables and contingency not to exceed \$200,000 without further Board approval with funding to come from General Fund.

Commissioner Emami motioned to approve the recommendation to do in house.

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

Region 5 EMS Council Appointment

Monroe County's representatives on the Central Georgia Region 5 Emergency Medical Services Council are Chief Matt Jackson (term 2019-2022) and Volunteer Chief Chuck Benson (term 2018-2021). The Council has pointed out that Chuck Benson has not been involved in the Council since his last appointment and has not met the attendance requirements, and accordingly been dismissed from the Council

The Monroe County Board of Commissioners need to appoint a replacement for Chuck Benson and Chief Jackson recommends Firefighter/Paramedic Jessie Suggs to the Central Georgia Region 5 Emergency Medical Services Council for a term of 2021-2024.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to appoint Jessie Suggs to the Central Georgia Region 5 EMS Council.

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

ACCG Grant-Public Defender

Public Defender Doug Smith has been informed by the ACCG Civic Affairs Foundation that Monroe County is eligible for a grant to reimburse certain costs to the county to employ interns for the Public Defender. The total Grant is \$2,607.60 as follows:

- 200 hours at \$12.00 per hour.
- Workers Compensation up to \$24.00 per intern.
- FICA reimbursement up to \$183.30.

Mr. Hedges stated this is a reimbursement grant and recommended by the Public Defender Doug Smith.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve the “Georgia County Internship Program Grant Agreement”.

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

Financial Aid Agreement-EMT/Paramedic

Chief Jackson presented for approval a Financial Aid Agreement for EMT-A/Paramedic Training. Chief Jackson stated the agreement will allow county funding for tuition, books, associated fees and other required materials leading to passing the required exams and certifications, and the employee agrees to be employed by Monroe County for a period of one-year. Chief Jackson stated if the employee fails to meet any conditions of the agreement, he/she will be required to repay the county.

County Attorney Ben Vaughn stated the Board will need to authorize Chief Jackson to sign on behalf of the county.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve the agreement and to allow EMS Chief Matt Jackson to sign on behalf of the County.

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

2020 SPLOST Declaration

Mr. Hedges presented a Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of Monroe, County Georgia to declare the Internet Capital Outlay SPLOST projects complete; to allocate these remaining Internet Capital Outlay Projects SPLOST funds to Emergency Management services; to authorize the Chairman to sign the resolution on behalf of the Board of Commissioners; to authorize the Clerk to attest all documents; and for other related and lawful purposes.

Mr. Hedges stated with the Monroe County Board of Commissioners agreeing to partner with Central Georgia EMC for the distribution of broadband internet, to be paid for from the American Recovery Plan Act of 2021,

the 2020 SPLOST-Internet fund project are required to be declared complete. Mr. Hedges continued these funds are to be reallocated to an approved Public Facilities Authority category and it is recommended these funds be allocated to Emergency Management Services (MCES).

Mr. Hedges stated it is his recommendation for the Board of Commissioners to declare the \$700,000 SPLOST project with the allocation for the internet complete and reallocate to approve the reallocation of those funds to Monroe County Emergency Services.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve the County Managers recommendation for the reallocation of the internet funds to Monroe County Emergency Services.

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

Real Estate Affirmation

County Attorney Ben Vaughn stated a deal had been reached with Mr. and Mrs. Estes for the purchase of the land and restaurant located at 42 Towaliga River Road for \$375,756.24 which included the purchase price of \$375,000 and title and recording fees of \$756.25. On Tuesday, July 13, 2021, all documentation was signed, and funds transferred to Mr. and Mrs. Estes. Mr. Vaughn stated the Board needed to affirm the purchase.

Commissioner Emami motioned to affirm the purchase.

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

Commissioner Ambrose stated he would like for it to be noted that the Estes were not under duress to make this sale, it was completely voluntary.

Dames Ferry ROW Easement-CGEMC

County Manager Jim Hedges presented a request from Mr. Marcus Jacob for a right-of-way easement. Mr. Jacobs owns 53.64 acres (Parcel 078 020C) east of the Dames Ferry Fire Station and has requested a right-of-way agreement that would allow Central Georgia EMC to bore from the Dames Ferry Fire Station/Recycling Center approximately 280' for the installation of an underground electrical line to his property. This bore would pass under the driveway of the Dames Ferry fire Station and will be 4' deep and would include the installation of piping that would encase the electrical line. According to Joe Wood, Carter Engineering, a bore of this nature and size (2"-3") would not interfere, or be of any concern, with the operations of either the Fire Station or the Recycling.

Following an extensive Board discussion, Chairman Tapley motioned to approve contingent upon a discussion with Central Georgia EMC that they either go straight out HWY 18 and come down or they give us a guarantee that if the line needs to be moved in the future it will be done at no cost to the county.

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

Greg motioned to approve contingent upon a discussion with EMC that they either go straight out HWY 18 and come down or they give us a guarantee that if the line needs to be moved in the future it will be done at no cost to the county.

Old Business

Building Ordinance Amendment (2nd Reading)

County Attorney Ben Vaughn presented the Building Ordinance Amendment. Mr. Vaughn stated this ordinance was previously submitted and the contentious points have been removed and the ordinance has been streamlined as much as possible. Mr. Vaughn stated Chapter 5 of the Monroe County Codes, Buildings and Building Regulations does not address the issue raised by the Code Enforcement Officer regarding existing buildings. Mr. Vaughn stated during the past several months, Brett Hanes (CAA) and himself have drafted Article VI, Property Maintenance and are recommending this new Article be incorporated into Chapter 5. Following a Board discussion, Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve the property maintenance ordinance as submitted.

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

2021 LMIG Contract Award

Mr. Hedges presented the next item stating the LMIG bids have been received for the 2021 LMIG projects and Blount Construction is the low bidder at \$1,022,584 which is \$162,533 over budget.

The bids received were as follows:

- Blount Construction \$1,022,584
- C.W. Matthews Contracting \$1,037,157
- Reeves Construction \$1,112,697

Mr. Hedges stated it had been discussed to redo the scope of work and if that is the case it is his recommendation to reject all bids and to rebid the project.

Following a Board discussion, Commissioner Ambrose motioned to reject all bids and to redo the scope of work.

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

The Board directed Mr. Hedges to set up a meeting with the Board of Commissioners, County Engineer, someone from DOT, someone from the State Legislature, and Kim Stokes to go over the paving requirements for county roads.

2022 TSPLOST Resolution

County Manager Jim Hedges presented for approval a Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of Monroe County, Georgia authorizing the imposition of a one percent transportation sales and use tax as authorized by Article 5A of Chapter 8 of Title 48 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. Mr. Hedges stated this is the last piece needed for calling for the referendum in November.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve the resolution.

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

Commissioners' Comments

Liberty Communities Statement

Chairman Tapley read a letter from Liberty Communities regarding Bolingbroke Manor.

Public Comments

Debra Carpenter of 205 Hilltop Circle Lorraine Woods spoke stating her concerns regarding the square footage of the homes being built in Bolingbroke Manor and that the builders will not use quality materials.

County Engineer Shon Hampton spoke stating we designed the resurfacing to DOT guidelines but meeting as a group is a good idea.

Executive Session

Commissioner Emami motioned to enter executive session at 10:57 A.M. for real estate and litigation.

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

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to come out of executive session at 11:15 A.M.

The motion carried 5-0.

Adjourn

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to adjourn at 11:15 A.M.

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