

MINUTES

February 16, 2016

MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

The Monroe County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on February 16, 2016 at 9:00 am with the following present: Chairman Mike Bilderback, Vice Chairman Jim Ham, District 1 Commissioner Larry Evans, District 3 Commissioner John Ambrose, District 4 Commissioner Jarod Lovett, County Attorney Ben Vaughn, Human Resource Officer/Deputy Clerk Janet Abbott, and County Clerk/Administrator Anita Cauthen.

Citizen Complaints

Ms. Margaret Holland of 191 Lakeshore Drive addressed the Board concerning vacant and dilapidated properties around High Falls Lake. She asked the Board to begin the process of remedying these properties with the Abandoned Property Ordinance. Commissioner Lovett motioned to pursue legal options to clean up 89 Lakeshore Drive, 162 Lakeshore Drive, 214 Lakeshore Drive, 224 Lakeshore Drive, and 230 Lakeshore Drive. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Ham and approved 5-0.

Code Enforcement Officer

Commissioner Lovett motioned to pursue having a deputized Code Enforcement Officer. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion for discussion. The Board discussed the options and agreed to request the County Attorney to research the authority given to the position. Motion was approved 5-0.

Tax Refund Request

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve a tax refund request by Ms. Garnto, seconded by Commissioner Ham. Commissioner Evans stated his objections in granting a refund based on the property owner claiming they did not receive a tax bill. Motion was approved 4-1 with Commissioner Evans opposed.

Zoning Appeal

The Board reviewed a request letter from Ms. Joyce Osburne of Ham Road to have an appeal hearing of her zoning request that was denied in December of 2015. Commissioner Lovett motioned to deny the request, seconded by Commissioner Ambrose and approved 4-1 with Commissioner Ham opposed.

Vice Chair Terms

Chairman Bilderback motioned to change the vice chairman terms to 1 year, seconded by Commissioner Ambrose. Motion was approved 4-1 with Commissioner Ham opposed.

County Manager

Commissioner Lovett motioned to send a resolution to the state to change our form of government to a County Manager form of government, seconded by Commissioner Ambrose. Commissioner Evans stated he disagrees with that form of government, that the Board was giving too much power away. Motion was approved 3-2 with Commissioner Evans and Commissioner Ham opposed.

Consolidation

Commissioner Ham motioned to send a resolution to the state for consolidation of governments of the City of Forsyth and Monroe County, seconded by Commissioner Evans. Motion failed 3-2 with Commissioner Ambrose, Commissioner Lovett and Chairman Bilderback opposed.

Water Department Capital Contingency Request

Chairman Bilderback reminded the Board that during the budget meetings he had requested the purchase of a truck, trailer, and small excavator for the Water Department. Commissioner Evans stated that the County has three backhoes, and one is assigned for the use of the Water Department. Commissioner Lovett asked if the request could be tabled until mid March.

Field Trip

3rd Graders from Hubbard Primary School joined the meeting to ask questions of the Board as part of a field trip.

Business Continuity Plan

Commissioner Ham motioned to send a Technical Assistance request to the Middle Georgia Regional Commission to help develop a Business Continuity Plan for the County, seconded by Commissioner Lovett and approved 5-0.

Ice Machine

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve the purchase of an Ice Machine for the Road Department with funds to be split between the Road Department and Emergency Services. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Lovett and approved 5-0.

Probation Services

Commissioner Evans informed the Board that he had met with the Probate Judge and requested that instead of probation, some people might be better served by mandatory GED classes and enrollment in Workforce Development. Commissioner Lovett motioned to approve the contract with Georgia Corrections Corporation through December 31st with the understanding that the Probate Judge will use her discretion and use alternatives such as GED class and Workforce Development instead of probation.

Hubbard Dormitory Lease Agreements

Commissioner Evans motioned to allow Save the Children and Workforce Development the use of the Hubbard Dorms for free, seconded by Chairman Bilderback and approved 5-0.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Evans motioned to waive the reading of the Minutes of February 2, seconded by Chairman Bilderback and approved 5-0.

Commissioner Evans motioned to approve the Minutes of February 2, 2016 with any changes to come before the Board within 30 days, seconded by Chairman Bilderback and approved 5-0.

Accounts Payable Checks

Commissioner Ham motioned to approve AP checks #56672-56782 in the amount of \$202,146.91, with the exclusion of check#056756, 056757, 056783, and 056784 which were printed by mistake, and the inclusion of a check to Dan's Automotive for service repair to a rescue truck, seconded by Chairman Bilderback and approved 5-0.

Planning and Zoning Board

Commissioner Lovett reappointed Philip Brewster to the Monroe County Planning and Zoning Board.

Executive Session

At 10:49 am, Commissioner Lovett motioned to enter into executive session for land acquisition, personnel, and litigation seconded by Commissioner Ambrose and approved 5-0.

The Board reconvened in regular session at 11:15 am, on motion by Chairman Bilderback, seconded by Commissioner Ham and approved 5-0.

Hydrants

Commissioner Lovett motioned to allow Chief Mercer to develop a color coded system for hydrant pressure identification. Motion was seconded by Chairman Bilderback and approved 5-0.

At 11:20 am, the board adjourned on motion by Commissioner Evans, seconded by Commissioner Ham and approved 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Anita Cauthen, County Clerk/Administrator