

**Monroe County Board of Commissioners**

**Minutes of the June 18, 2024**

*Regular Commissioners Meeting*

**9:00 A.M.**

**Present:**

Greg Tapley, Chairman

Eddie Rowland, Vice-Chairman

Lamarcus Davis, District 1-Not Present-Call in

John Ambrose, District 3

George Emami, District 4

**Staff:**

Natalie Sundeen, County Attorney

Jim Hedges, County Manager

Richard Dumas, Public Information Officer

Kelsey Fortner, Community Development Manager

**Welcome**

Chairman Tapley welcomed everyone in attendance.

**Prayer**

Alan Gibbs gave the invocation.

**Pledge**

Chairman Tapley led the Pledge.

**Roll Call**

Community Development Manager Kelsey Fortner called roll.

**Call to Order**

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

## **New Business**

### **Approve Agenda**

Chairman Tapley presented the agenda for approval, with the removal of the approval of the minutes for the June 4, 2024, regular meeting, the City of Forsyth Annexation and the addition of Executive Session for personnel.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve the agenda with said changes.

Commissioner Rowland seconded the motion, and the motion passed 4-0.

### **Approve Minutes-BOC Meeting-June 4, 2024, Regular Meeting**

This item was removed from the agenda

### **Resolution-District 4 Vacancy**

Commissioner George Emami has submitted his resignation to Governor Brian Kemp to consider his resignation from the Monroe County Board of Commissioners-District 4 effective November 4, 2024.

Accordingly, the Monroe County Board of Commissioners, by resolution, must call for a 2024 Special Election, to coincide with the General Election on November 5, 2024, to fill a vacancy in office.

Commissioner Ambrose motion to approve the Resolution.

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

### **City of Forsyth Annexation**

This item was removed from the agenda.

### **2026-2031 SPLOST Resolution**

The next step for the 2026-2031 SPLOST following the joint meeting with the county and municipalities approval of the SPLOST Intergovernmental Agreement, is for the Board of Commissioners to approve the Referendum Resolution imposing a county one percent sales use tax. This Resolution basically details the projects included in the IGA and the call for the election on November 5, 2024.

The resolution designates the following:

Whereas, the City of Forsyth, and the City of Culloden (collectively, the “Municipalities” ), which qualified municipalities comprise more than 50% of the municipal population of the County, and the County deem it to be in the best interest of the citizens of the special district created by the Act (the “Special District”) to improve the public services in the Special District by carrying out the hereinafter described capital outlay projects, and the County and the Municipalities have entered into an Intergovernmental Contract, dated as of May 23, 2024 ( the “Intergovernmental Contract”), which provides for the following capital outlay projects in the following estimated amounts:

a) Projects to be owned or operated or both by the County (the “County Projects”) at an estimated total cost of \$33,278,900:

1. New Water Projects	\$7,400,000
2. New Government Buildings	\$6,320,000
3. Rolling Stock Vehicles & Equipment	\$9,450,000
4. Miscellaneous Equipment for MCES & Recycling	\$2,600,700
5. Recreation Expansion	\$7,508,220

b) Projects to be owned or operated or both by the City of Forsyth (the “Forsyth Projects”) at an estimated total cost of \$6,003,280:

1. Municipal building/facilities	\$3,703,280
2. Vehicles & Equipment	\$2,000,000
3. Downtown improvements	\$200,000
4. Signage	\$100,000

c) Projects to be owned or operated or both by the City of Culloden (the “Culloden Projects”) at an estimated total cost of \$717,800:

1. Land acquisition and improvements	\$100,000
2. Public safety and improvements	\$300,000
3. Parks & recreation improvements	\$217,800
4. Water & Utilities	\$100,000

Proceeds of the Sales and Use Tax. Pursuant to the Intergovernmental Agreement, SPLOST proceeds shall be distributed to the County and Municipalities to fund the Projects pro rata according to the following percentages:

<u>Local Government</u>	<u>Percentage Share</u>
Monroe County	83.1974%
City of Forsyth	15.0082%
City of Culloden	1.7945%

Commissioner Rowland motioned to approve the 2026-2031 SPLOST Resolution.

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

**Notice of SPLOST Resolution**

The final step for the 2026-2031 SPLOST following the joint meeting with the county and municipalities approval of the SPLOST Intergovernmental Agreement and the SPLOST Resolution is

for the Board of Commissioners to authorize the Monroe County Chairman to sign the Notice of Election which will also be signed by the Chairman of the Board of Elections and Registration. Commissioner Ambrose motion to approve the Notice of SPLOST Election and to authorize the Chairman to sign.

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

**2024 LMIG Bid Approval**

The 2024 LMIG projects include Johnstonville Road, High Falls Road, Juliette Road, and Estes Road and the start/stop points are shown in the attachment and cover 15 plus miles of resurfacing. Bids have been received from four companies as follows:

Reeves	\$3,442,348.45
C.W. Matthews	\$3,598,000.00
McLeroy	\$3,834,464.25
Blout	\$3,947,357.51

Original Estimate	\$4,185,937.75
Difference	\$ (743,589.30)

Road Funds Available

	<u>February 21, 2023,</u>	<u>October 31, 2023</u>
2020 Road SPLOST	1,500,000	1,500,000
McCowan Road	(1,292,779)	(1,292,779)
Lakeshore Drive	(206,830)	(206,830)
2022 LMIG	667,721	667,721
2023 LMIG	681,524	681,524
2024 LMIG		735,621
2024 LRA		911,087
TSPLOST (April 2022-February 2024)	4,114,852	12,419,528
Total Road Funding Available	5,464,488	15,415,872

2022/2023 LMIG	(4,761,101)
Small Project	(600,000)
Equipment	(400,000)
Sweeper/Trailer	(139,997)
Trailer Tank Equipment	(34,400)
Dan Pitts Extension	(689,100)
Reedy Creek Bridge Repair	(162,900)
LRA Grant Projects	(2,588,847)
Skid Steer	<u>(89,859)</u>
2024 LMIG Estimate Funds Available	(9,466,304)
	5,949,568
2024 LMIG Estimate	<u>(3,442,348)</u>
Available Funds	<b>2,507,220</b>

Kim Stokes, Public Works Director, presented the LMIG bids to the Board for approval with the recommendation to award the contract to Reeves Construction as the low bidder.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve Kim Stokes' recommendation to award the LMIG contract to Reeves Construction in the amount of \$3,442,348.45.

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

#### **Early Warning Sirens Purchase**

Monroe County Emergency Services applied for and received a grant for the installation of four additional early warning sirens to be placed at Russellville, Hopewell, Shi, and Johnstonville Fire Stations. This will bring the number of early warning sirens in the county to twelve. The total cost is \$150,045 with \$37,511 being the county match.

Chief Jackson presented the Hazard Mitigation Grant for the purchase of four sirens to the Board for approval.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve the grant with a \$37,511.25 match from the county. The amount of \$37,511.25 will come from the Emergency Services Capitol Budget

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

#### **County Extension Storage Building**

Commissioner Eddie Rowland has been working with Rachel Kirkland at the Extension Office regarding storage space for equipment. The Extension Office equipment is currently being stored at the

Monroe County Hospital and the preference is to have this equipment stored adjacent to the Extension Office Hubbard Dorm building.

Commissioner Rowland asked for the funding to come from his contingency fund.

Following a Board discussion, Commissioner Rowland motioned to use up to \$5000 of his discretionary funds for the purchase and installation of a storage building for the Extension Office.

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

### **Public Comments**

Betty Eskew, resident of 514 Brushy Creek Circle, addressed the Board regarding the warehouse development in Butts and Lamar counties. Ms. Eskew asked the Board to send a letter to Lamar County similar to the one they sent to Butts County stating opposition to the proposed warehouse development and to the EPD regarding an encroachment of the 25' stream buffer they are requesting.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to amend the agenda to add a letter to the EPD and to Lamar County.

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

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to allow Commissioner Emami to draft a letter of concern on behalf of the Board and for the Chairman to sign and send to Lamar County and the EPD regarding a proposed warehouse development regarding the potential impacts on the High Falls environment.

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

### **Commissioner' Comments**

#### **Commissioner Lamarcus Davis**

Commissioner Davis had no additional comments.

#### **Commissioner Eddie Rowland**

Commissioner Rowland reminded everyone that it is election day and encouraged everyone to vote.

Commissioner Rowland praised Assistant Elections Supervisor April Dumas, Elections Supervisor Kaye Warren, Elections Board members, poll workers and public works for their hard work during the elections.

#### **Commissioner John Ambrose**

Commissioner Ambrose stated elections are expensive and he appreciates Commissioner Emami for the way he is resigning and not costing the county additional money for a special election. Commissioner Ambrose thanked county employees for a good job.

**Commissioner George Emami**

Commissioner Emami thanked Chairman Tapley for inviting Alan Gibbs to give the invocation.

**Chairman Greg Tapley**

Chairman Tapley stated Monroe County is great place to live.

**Executive Session-Personnel**

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to enter executive session for personnel at 9:32 a.m.

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

The Board of Commissioners came out of executive session at 9:44 a.m.

**Action from Executive Session.**

County Attorney Natalie Sundeen stated the Board reviewed the Fair Labor Standards Act and approved the recommendation of salaries for exempt employees to go into effect July 1, 2024.

**Adjourn**

Chairman Tapley motioned to adjourn at 9:45 a.m.

Commissioner Emami seconded the motion, and the motion passed 4-0.

Respectively Submitted by:

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Janet Abbott, County Clerk