

February 27, 2023

David Abbott	P
Don Adkins, Jr.	P
Donald Blansett	P
Joey Blevins, Jr.	P
Ruric Brandt	P
Logan Campbell	P
Jimmy Cantrell	P
Steve Franklin	P
Gene Hargis	P
Linda Mason	P
Chris Morrison	P
Jim Nunley	P
Dennis Rollins	P
Paul Schafer	P
Peggy Thompson	P

The Marion County Board of Commissioners met in a regular called session on February 27, 2023. Chairman David Abbott called the meeting to order. (Time: 0:07) Invocation was given by Commissioner Rollins. (Time 0:32) Pledge led by Marion County Clerk, Joanie Spangler. (Time 0:1:37) Roll call was taken by Chief Deputy Clerk, Jaime Quick. (Time 2:00) Fifteen commissioners were present. At this time Chairman Abbott asked to move line item 20 of the agenda regarding recognition of police officer service up in order due to officers being on duty (shown in Item 16 below)

- 1) Approval of minutes. During this discussion, Chairman Abbott stated that Commissioner Brandt had passed out the Special Powers Act resolution and asked for a vote on a workshop date to move forward with this act, was previously discussed in last month's meeting, and asked all commissioners to attend.(Attachment) Date chosen for workshop is March 9, 2023, at 5pm at the Lawson building. Approval of minutes, motion made by Commissioner Thompson seconded by Commissioner Franklin 15 voting Aye (Time 0:9:36)
- 2) Resolution appointing Road Commissioner- Chairman Abbott opened the floor to nominations. Commissioner Cantrell made motion to nominate Cory Pickett, seconded by Commissioner Brandt. No other nominations were made. Commissioner Hargis made a motion to cease nominations, seconded by Commissioner Franklin. 15 voting aye for Cory Pickett. Oath of office given to Mr. Pickett by the Honorable Melissa Thomas Willis Chancellor, 12th Judicial District (Attachments) (Time 0:12:51)

- 3) Approve use of ARP funds for water line projects (Attachment) (Time 17:00)
Chairman Abbott stated these are funds that support the following projects: A, B and C on the attached list, which will connect to the South Pittsburg water system; Projects E and G on the attached list, which will be connected to the Town of Jasper water system; projects D and F on the attached list, which will be connected to the Tennessee American Water System. Commissioner Franklin asked whether this vote to approve money allocation only or to approve both the money allocation and the projects. Chairman Abbott stated that all projects had already been approved and discussed with the Commission, so yes, this vote would be to approve funds to move forward with these projects. Commissioner Hargis made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Adkins. 14 voting aye Commissioner Schafer voting no.
- 4) Discuss hiring Hussey Gay Bell Engineering for water line projects A, B, and C-on the attached list (Time 22:10) Commissioner Brandt asked whether these projects could be offered to other engineering companies to see other different designs and maybe offers for the work. Commissioner Brandt asked whether the Commission approves the money but not the engineer company. Counselor Gouger explained that this is yes/no because the water system is owned by the city of South Pittsburg, which chooses its own engineering firm, with the funds to be approved through the County Commission. After discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Blevins to approve, seconded by Commissioner Schafer 15 voting aye
- 5) Discuss hiring Croy Engineering for water line projects D, E, F, and G- on the attached list (Time 25:30) Commissioner Blevins expressed thoughts on the hiring of the engineer companies and the timelines due to the timeframe the money must be used in. After discussion, a motion to approve made by Commissioner Campbell seconded by Commissioner Cantrell. 15 voting aye
- 6) Approve Planning Commission Resolution for Subdivision Regulation Amendments- (Attachment)- (Time 27:39) in the absence of Mayor Jackson, Counselor Gouger stated the minor change made was adding the option of roller compacted concrete instead of just asphalt. Commissioner Blevins expressed concern of the compliance of the planning commission at this time due to composition of its membership, and he made motion to table at this time. Seconded by Commissioner Campbell. 15 voting aye
- 7) Discuss awarding bids for trucks for Marion County Sheriff's Department- (Attachment)- (Time 29:33) The truck purchase was advertised for bids, with Wilson County Motors being the low bidder. Sheriff Burnett informed of the savings of \$4,320.00 by purchasing from Wilson County Motors. Commissioner Campbell made a motion to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Brandt. 14 voting aye Commissioner Hargis abstained
- 8) Approval-Sale of Delinquent Tax Property. Map 138, Parcel 003.06 to Dawn Kingman for \$14,600.00 Commissioner Schafer stated that the delinquent tax property committee met at 5:30pm today and brought forth a motion to approve this sale. Commissioner Morrison seconded the approval of the sale. 14 voting aye Commissioner Brandt abstained
- 9) Resolution asking TDOT to install turn lanes at intersections of State Highway 27 and Big Fork Road and at the main entrance to Prentice Cooper- (Time 30:32) Commissioner Morrison responded to the safety issues of these intersections, and he has contacted TDOT regarding the desperate need for turning lanes.

Commissioner Cantrell expressed the concern of the slide area to be repaired. Commissioner Morrison stated that the repairs for the slide have already been bid out and once again we are waiting for the State to respond. Commissioner Blevins asked when this resolution passes could a copy be sent to the Governor of Tennessee and all State legislative representatives. Commissioner Morrison made a motion to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Rollins. 15 voting aye. Commissioner Hargis commented about the information given in an email from the Governor's office about the percentage of gas tax money that would be coming back to each county highway department.

- 10) Update on status of Brow Trail – (Time 35:19) Commissioner Morrison stated Counselor Gouger has been working very diligently on this project. Counselor Gouger stated he has met with Jim Henry, an attorney in Chattanooga, who owns land on Brow Trail and represents another owner of land along the proposed road. There has been surveying completed from beginning to end of the road to do an overlay of a survey prepared by Paul Glen Jones. The additional surveying should be completed in two weeks, and it is anticipated that all surveying will be consistent.

- 11) Tom Kinningham- Stagecoach Rd- (Time 39:32) Mr. Kinningham along with other residents addressed concerns of the road's condition since the washout in 2019 and the repair work completed by a contractor that did not hold. Also the conversations with prior Road Superintendent Jim Hawk, and he questioned the reimbursement money from the state in the amount of \$351,000 that was spent to repair this road that did not hold. Commissioner Blansett stated we just now have a newly appointed road superintendent, Cory Pickett, who will begin corrections of this department. Commissioner Morrison recommended new Road Commissioner Cory Pickett return to the March meeting to address and give an update to this road issue.

- 12) Bill Jochym Water on Highway 41- (Time 53:14) Mr. Jochym lives at 455 Holder Lane in the Riverside Community on Highway 41. He came to address the need for water and the water issue in this area. Mr. Jochym had prepared packets, which he distributed to Mayor Jackson, Commissioner Hargis, Commissioner Cantrell and Commissioner Blevins. Commissioner Blevins stated this section of Highway 41 just got approved for a water line earlier in this meeting. Commissioner Blansett stated that this line will go down Highway 41 not off the side roads. A lady in the audience asked for clarification of the water projects (Attachment) that had been approved and for them to be read. Chairman Abbott read the attachment of all water projects that were previously approved.

- 13) Approval of Innovation and Technology Committee Resolution-(Attachment) (Time 1:01:57) This is a charter that Commissioner Brandt is working on with the constant help of Counselor Gouger. Commissioner Hargis made a motion to move forward and approve the Resolution, seconded by Commissioner Schafer. 15 voting aye

- 14) Approval to opt-in to OPEB retirement coverage (Attachment) (Time 1:03:00) Counselor Gouger stated this is a yearly vote to opt in to allow retired County employees to continue receiving the option for health insurance benefits at the retired employee's expense. Commissioner Schafer made a motion to approve, Commissioner Blansett seconded. 15 voting aye

- 15) Recognition of Johnny Carson-Appreciation for his years of service as the Veteran's Services officer- (Time 1:03:24) Chairman Abbott read and presented

plaque to Mr. Johnny Carson for all his years of service and dedication for all the veterans. Commissioner Franklin spoke of the research he had collected in detail of all the services and things Mr. Carson used his time for.

- 16) Christina Mount- Recognition of Officers Brent Hubbard, Anthony Gamble, and Cody Pittman (Time 3:00) Christina Mount with Puckett EMS wanted to take time to thank and present plaques to named officers for going above the call of duty with life saving measures they performed during some recent calls for help. Caleb Ballard with Puckett spoke as well.
- 17) Kelly Arnold – Tennessee Recovery Monitoring (Time 1:07:00) Kelly Arnold spoke to share information of what Tennessee Recovery Monitoring provides for inmates needing alcohol monitors for home release, the benefit of electronic monitoring and cost savings for the county.
- 18) Susan Johnson- Isaiah 1:17 House in Monteagle, Tennessee Susan Johnson presented an information card of what The Isaiah 1:17 is about, and she provided a well-prepared, in depth description of what the Isaiah 1:17 House provides emotionally and materialistically for children who are removed from their homes at any hour. (Time 1:09:13)
- 19) Commission Schafer- Approval of updated Ethics Policy- Commissioner Schafer explained the workshop held on Thursday, February 23, 2023, at 4:30pm and also presented the policy with minor changes and made a motion for approval. Commissioner Cantrell seconded 15 voting aye
- 20) Commissioner Brandt- Cumberland at Sewanee- Past, Present and Future- (Time 1:28:00) Multiple citizens from this area attended to express their feelings of the distribution of the funds for the water projects stated here this evening. Commissioner Adkins addressed the water in Mullins Cove along with Commissioner Rollins stating that the Mullins Cove project includes two roads, a section of Mullins Cove Rd and Old Bennett Lake Rd. Chairman Abbott addressed how the projects and funds are distributed due to the amount of work material that would be required and the municipalities that are involved in that specific project. Commissioner Blansett stated that more houses on the South Pittsburg Mountain project would require a larger pump station which would require more funds.
- 21) Marion County Commissioner website- (Time 1:39:00) Commissioner Campbell commented about the lackluster calendar of the county web page that it is not up to date. Commissioner Campbell made a motion to have a workshop for the commission to create their own webpage. Commissioner Brandt seconded. 15 voting aye. Commissioner Campbell will lead the organization of this workshop.
- 22) Budget Amendments- Marion County Local Government- None at current time of this meeting (Time 1:47:00)
- 23) Budget Amendments- Marion County Board of Education – (Time 1:47:17) Dr. Griffith discussed the cash flow analysis that's presented monthly to the Commission. Dr. Griffith also gave a detailed update on the building of the new Jasper Middle School. Commissioner Morrison asked for the best place to view the plans. Dr. Griffith stated the best contacts for these views would be through Randy Gilliam or Gabe Yeagan. Commissioner Rollins asked if there are drone

pictures available. Dr. Griffith stated he would request an aerial view map to report back to next month's meeting. (Attachments) Dr. Griffith asked for approval of Fund 142 Amendment #5. Commissioner Schafer made a motion to approve. Commissioner Morrison seconded 15 voting aye. Next request, Fund 141 General Purpose School Fund Commissioner Morrison made a motion to approve Commissioner Schafer seconded 15 voting aye.

24) Budget Amendments- Marion County Highway Department- None at current time of meeting (Time 1:48:17)

25) Mayor's Report – (Time 1:48:42) In the absence of Mayor Jackson, Counselor Gouger gave this month's report. Counselor Gouger stated this month there were 5 RFIs. Project Pixel, Project Leath, Project Gray Platinum, and Project Sam that the county had nothing to offer to accommodate those project needs. A packet was returned for Project Mayflower on port property in New Hope. The fire chiefs have met twice to discuss the distribution of the grant money they will be receiving. TDEC approved these funds, but still waiting on state approval. The next County Commission meeting is March 27, 2023 6pm at the Lawson Building.

26) Approval of Notaries County Clerk Joanie Spangler read the following names for approval: Keyle M. Henderson, Starla D. Collins, E. Gary Clouse, Timothy Dustin Capes, James C. Eggert, Lisa I. Orange, Rhonda Blizzard, Stacy Pruitt, Rosa L. Chaudhari, I. Castro, June D. Summers. Commissioner Franklin made a motion to approve. Commissioner Schafer seconded. 15 voting aye (Time 1:56:00)

27) General Business – (Time 1:57:00) Commissioner Schafer commended the 4H participants. He read an article in last week's newspaper on horse knowledge and the awards they won at state level. David Riley spoke from the audience to give kudos to Dannie Bradford from the Marion County 4H Extension in the instruction of this program. Commissioner Mason asked Commissioner Blevins about the Haletown Fire Department seeking memberships because of the inquiries she has received. Commissioner Hargis stated he was bothered tonight by the accusations made of favoritism of the water projects. Commissioner Adkins announced the upcoming performance of the 4H performing arts April 13th, 14th, 15th at the Princess Theater in South Pittsburg, Tennessee. Commissioner Adkins also commended the Marion County wrestling team members who placed in state awards in this past weekend's competition in Nashville, Tennessee. Commissioner Campbell stated he's been approached by citizens concerning meeting/workshop times and moved for all committee meeting times to be at 6pm. Seconded by Commissioner Brandt. Chairman Abbott stated each chairman of each board sets the meeting and workshop times. Commissioner Adkins recommended to leave setting of the times to each chairman of each committee. Call for a roll call vote. 11 voting aye. Chairman Abbott, Commissioner Adkins, Commissioner Blansett and Commissioner Thompson voting no. Chairman Abbott stated the "no" votes were to leave it up to each chairman to set meeting times. Chairman Abbott announced a free community meal and bingo is provided at Victory Baptist Church the last Friday of each month at 6pm. More citizens gathered from Brown Trace Road area concerning the equity of the water distribution and asked if there are any additional grants for the future. Commissioner Morrison stated that this is not a county-owned water system. The water systems are owned by the municipalities in the county. Commissioner Blansett suggested citizens to contact Keith Garth of the water company in South Pittsburg. Mack Reeves also approached the commission expressing his thoughts and asked that workshops and meetings be more transparent with more knowledge being made publicly. Sheriff Burnett asked for the approval for a sale of surplus and/or forfeited cars on

March 18, 2023. Commissioner Schafer made motion to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Blansett. 15 voting Aye. Sherriff Burnett is to provide an attachment of the vehicles being sold.

28)Adjournment – Commissioner Rollins made motion to adjourn seconded by Commissioner Morrison 15 voting aye

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joanie Spangler". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Respectfully Submitted,
David Abbott, Chairman
Joanie Spangler, County Clerk