

AGENDA
MERIWETHER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MARCH 24, 2026
6:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR CELL PHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES.

II. INVOCATION

III. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

IV. ADOPT AGENDA

The Agenda was Amended with the following Amendments: *Under Public Hearing - Agenda was amended to change the period in 4.144 feet of Dobson Road to a comma to read 4,144 feet of Dobson Road. Under New Business- Add #13 – Discussion of Property Taxes, and Under New Business – #14 – Lake Meriwether Baseball Field*

V. PRESENTATIONS

1. Meriwether County Transit Development Plan 2026 Update — Stephanie Wagner, Three Rivers Regional Commission

VI. FINANCE REPORT

VII. DEPARTMENT HEADS

VIII. CITIZEN COMMENT

Speakers must contact the County Clerk at a.stephens@meriwethercountyga.gov or 706-672-3460 on or before the dates and times listed below in order to be placed on the Agenda to speak. Speakers must provide their name, address, and topic they wish to discuss.

- For the 2nd Monday of the month 6:00 p.m. meeting – Speakers must e-mail or call before 5:00 p.m. on the day of the scheduled meeting.
- For the 4th Tuesday of the month 6:00 p.m. meeting – Speakers must e-mail or call before 5:00 p.m. on the day of the scheduled meeting.

Speakers must direct their remarks to the Board and not to individual Commissioners or to the audience. Personal disagreements with individual Commissioners or County employees are not a matter of public concern and personal attacks will not be tolerated.

Speakers will be allotted three minutes to speak on their chosen topics as they relate to matters pertinent to the jurisdiction of the Board of Commissioners. No questions will be asked by any of the Commissioners during Citizen Comments. Outbursts from the audience will not be tolerated. Common courtesy and civility are expected at all times during the meeting. No speaker will be permitted to speak more than three minutes or more than once unless the Board votes to suspend this rule.

IX. MINUTES

1. Minutes, March 9, 2026, Work Session at 4:00 p.m.
2. Minutes, March 9, 2026, Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

X. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Case #PC26-004 - Request from Robert Williams to close approximately 4,144 feet of

Dobson Road, beginning at the southern corner of 2171 Dobson Road and extending north to the corner of 969 Dobson Road – *Agenda was amended to change the period in 4.144 feet of Dobson Road to a comma to read 4,144 feet of Dobson Road.*

XI. APPOINTMENTS

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Approval of SmartCop Contract with Revised Language and \$1.6 million Liability Coverage
2. Approval of Grant Writing Proposal from Ms. Tara Coe — *This was tabled at the March 9, 2026, Regular Meeting.*
3. Consideration and Approval of Change Order #3 or #4 — Annex Roof — Courthouse Roof Project - *This was Tabled at the March 9, 2026, Regular Meeting.*

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Request from Airport Authority for Local Match for Airport Apron Rehabilitation
2. Discussion and Consideration to Increase the Contingency Amount for the Courthouse Roof and Exterior Project
3. Approval of Courthouse Change Order #8 — Recaulking Exterior Windows
4. Approval of Courthouse Change Order #11 — Replacement of Bricks on North and West Elevations
5. Approval of Section 5311 Public Transportation Service Agreement for the Operations of the Three Rivers Regional Transit System — FY26
6. Discussion of Hoss Bowden Road
7. Elections Building - Approval of ADA Compliance Handrails along Concrete Steps
8. Approval of Inmate Housing Contractual Agreement between Meriwether County and the City of Manchester
9. Approval of Contract with Tri-Color for Microsoft Licenses
10. Consideration to set a Work Session date with the Water & Sewerage Authority
11. 2026 Contact Form - ACCG Interlocal Risk Management Agency (ACCG-IRMA) Property and Liability Program, and allow the Chair/Vice Chair to sign
12. Surplus Vehicles — Various Departments
13. *Agenda was Amended to Add – Discussion of Property Taxes*
14. *Agenda was Amended to Add – Lake Meriwether Baseball Field*

XIV. REPORT FROM ACCG LEGISLATIVE COORDINATOR

XV. REPORT FROM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

XVI. REPORT FROM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

XVII. REPORT FROM COUNTY ATTORNEY

XVIII. FUTURE MEETINGS & NOTICES

1. Monday, April 13, 2026, Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

2. Tuesday, April 28, 2026, Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
3. Monday, May 11, 2026, Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
4. Closed in Observance of Memorial Day on Monday, May 25, 2026

XIX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Litigation
2. Personnel
3. Real Estate
4. Tax Matters

XX. ADJOURNMENT

Meriwether County BOC is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Meriwether County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting

Time: Mar 24, 2026 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)


Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82254621939?pwd=aHpp59OTOpLHhXyyTzDoe82vAOuTdZ.1>

Meeting ID: 822 5462 1939

Passcode: 658186

To: Board of Commissioners

From: Allyson Stephens, County Clerk 

Subject: Meriwether County Transit Development Plan 2026 Update — Stephanie Wagner,
Three Rivers Regional Commission

Date: 03/20/26

Commissioners,

The Board of Commissioners will receive a presentation from Stephanie Wagner, Regional Planner with the Three Rivers Regional Commission, regarding the Meriwether County Transit Development Plan (TDP) 2026 Update.

The Transit Development Plan is required to be updated every five years in accordance with GDOT requirements and is intended to analyze current transit conditions, identify needs, and guide planning for the next 20 years.

The Three Rivers Regional Commission is assisting the County with this update through a 5304 grant and will lead the planning process, which includes stakeholder involvement, public outreach, and development of short- and long-term transit goals.

This presentation will serve as an introduction to the planning process and timeline.

To: Board of Commissioners

From: Allyson Stephens, County Clerk 

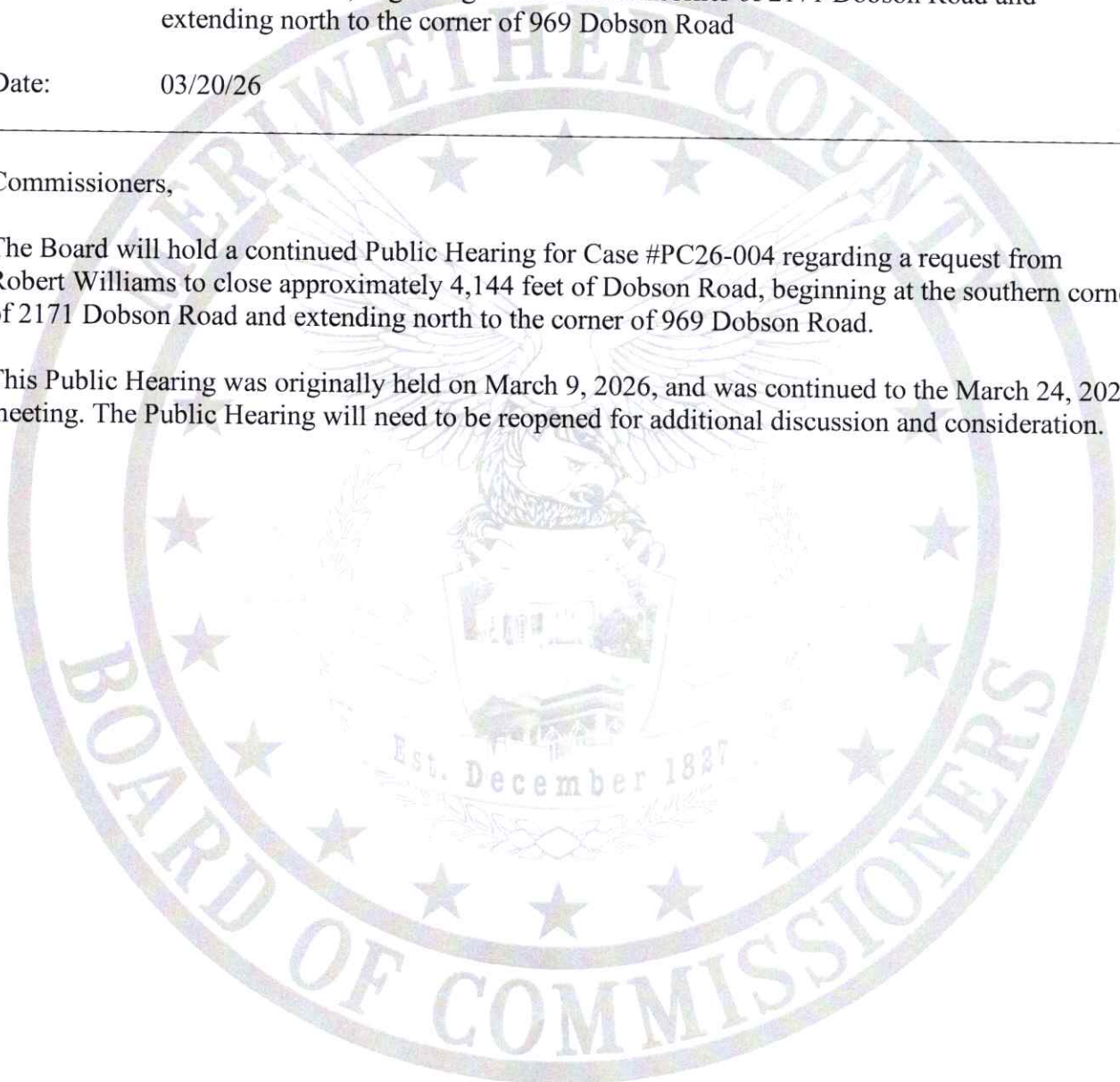
Subject: Case #PC26-004 – Request from Robert Williams to close approximately 4,144 feet of Dobson Road, beginning at the southern corner of 2171 Dobson Road and extending north to the corner of 969 Dobson Road

Date: 03/20/26


Commissioners,

The Board will hold a continued Public Hearing for Case #PC26-004 regarding a request from Robert Williams to close approximately 4,144 feet of Dobson Road, beginning at the southern corner of 2171 Dobson Road and extending north to the corner of 969 Dobson Road.

This Public Hearing was originally held on March 9, 2026, and was continued to the March 24, 2026 meeting. The Public Hearing will need to be reopened for additional discussion and consideration.



To: Board of Commissioners

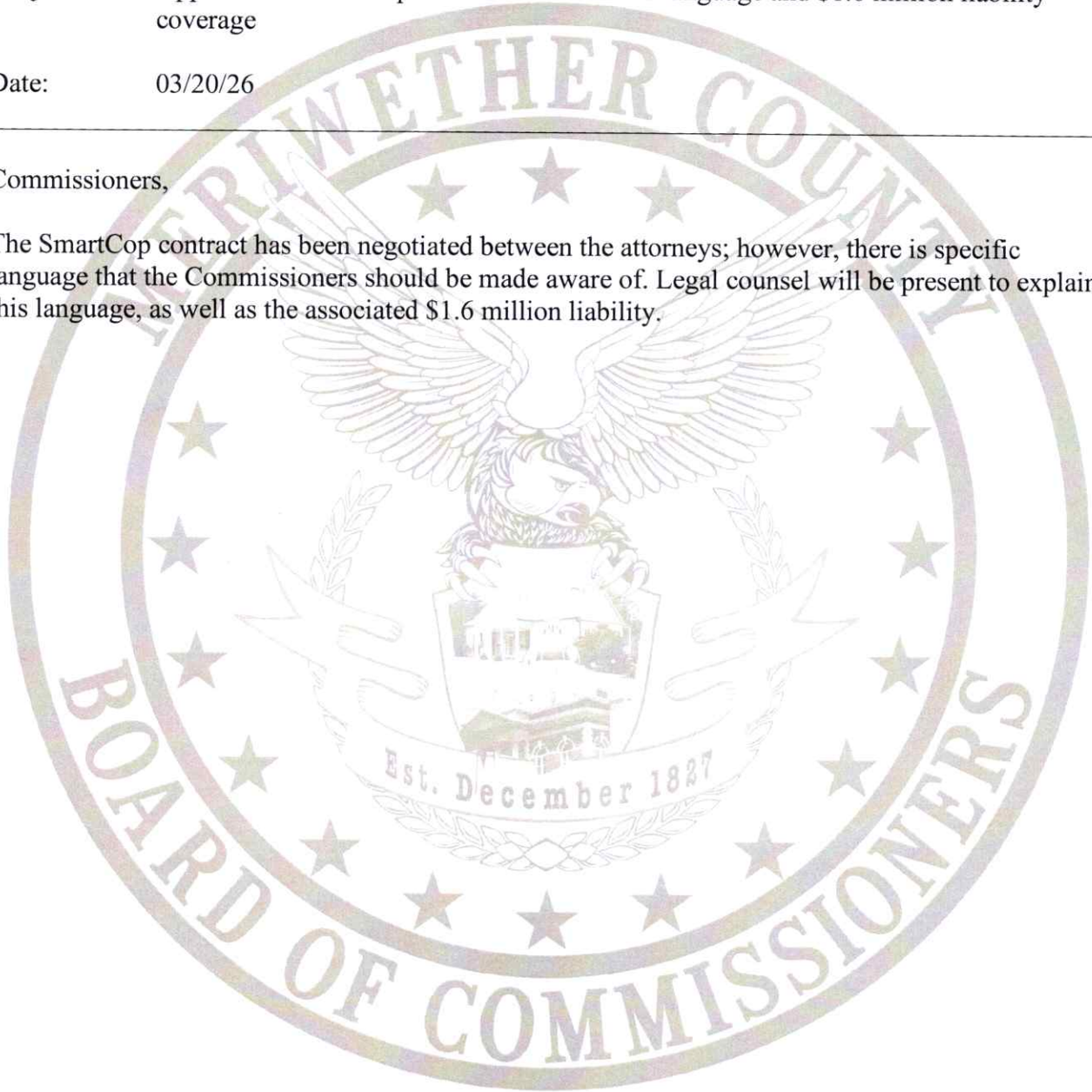
From: 
John Gorton, County Administrator


Subject: Approval of SmartCop Contract with revised language and \$1.6 million liability coverage

Date: 03/20/26

Commissioners,

The SmartCop contract has been negotiated between the attorneys; however, there is specific language that the Commissioners should be made aware of. Legal counsel will be present to explain this language, as well as the associated \$1.6 million liability.

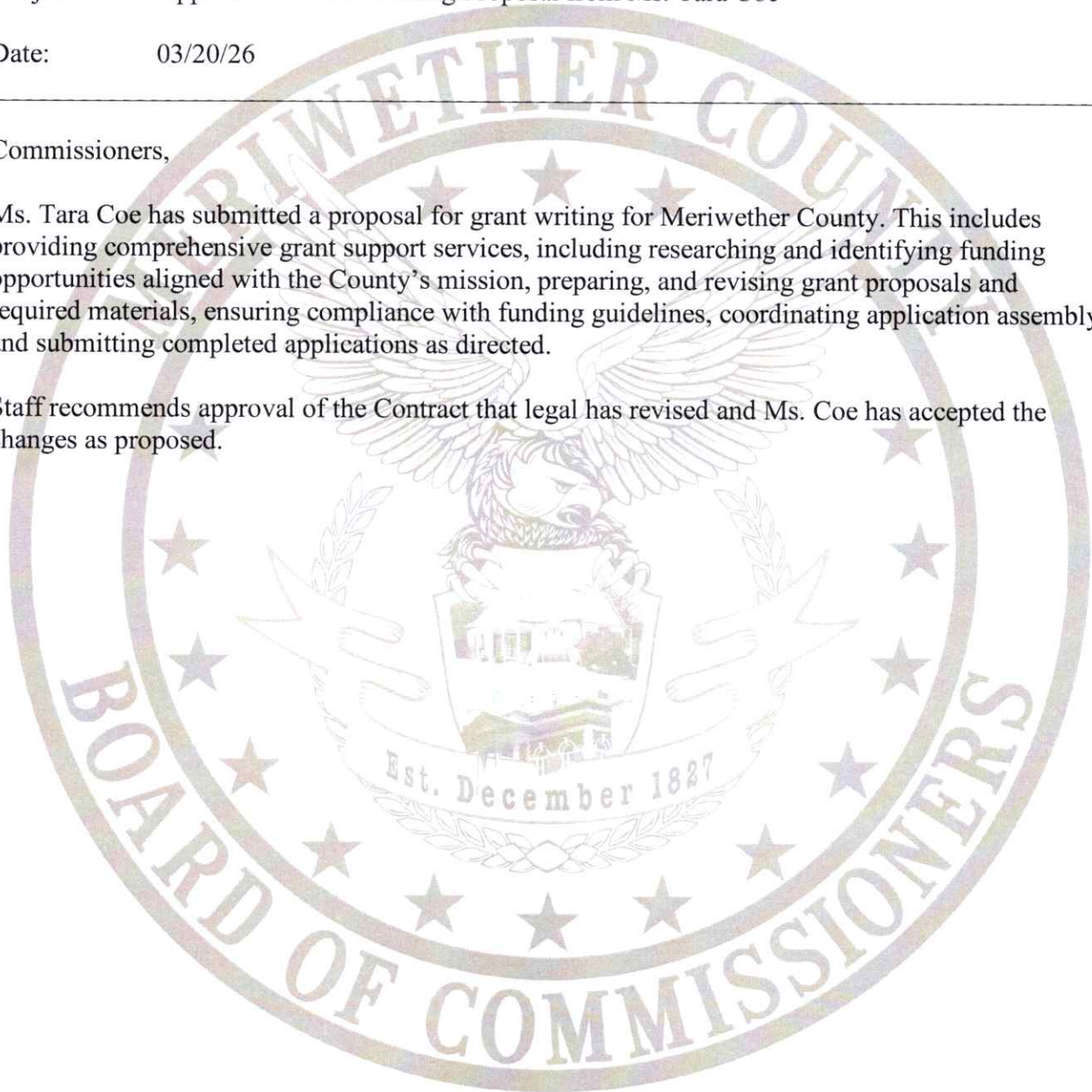


To: Board of Commissioners
From: 
John Gorton, County Administrator
Subject: Approval of Grant Writing Proposal from Ms. Tara Coe
Date: 03/20/26

Commissioners,

Ms. Tara Coe has submitted a proposal for grant writing for Meriwether County. This includes providing comprehensive grant support services, including researching and identifying funding opportunities aligned with the County's mission, preparing, and revising grant proposals and required materials, ensuring compliance with funding guidelines, coordinating application assembly, and submitting completed applications as directed.

Staff recommends approval of the Contract that legal has revised and Ms. Coe has accepted the changes as proposed.




To: Board of Commissioners
From: *Jms*
John Gorton, County Administrator
Subject: Consideration and Approval of Change Order #3 or #4 – Annex Roof -Courthouse
Roof Project
Date: 03/20/26

Commissioners,

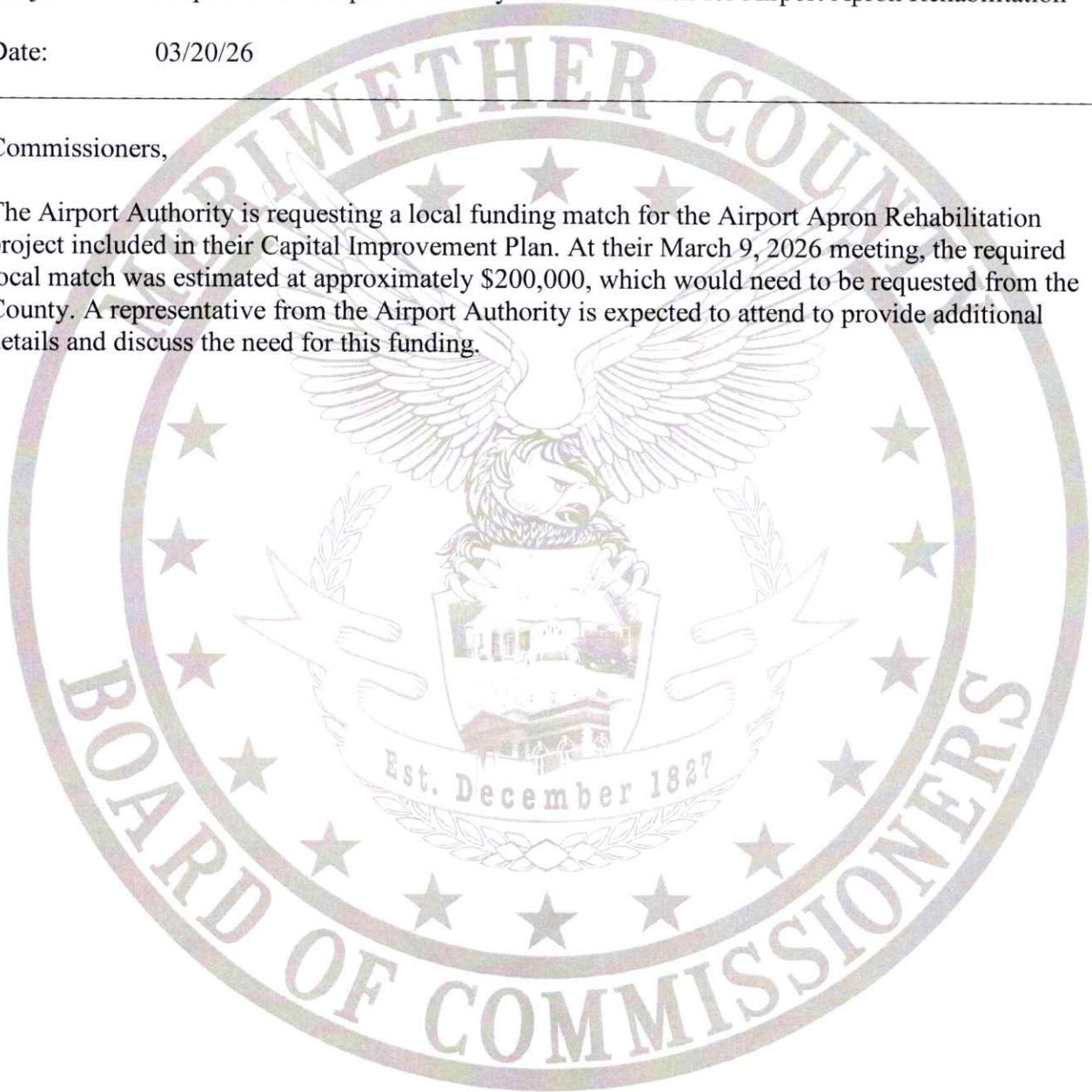
River City Contracting, Inc. has submitted two change order options for the Annex roof at the Courthouse. Change Order No. 3 proposes removing the existing roof and replacing it with a Fabral standing seam roof at a cost of \$27,720. Change Order No. 4 proposes removing the existing roof and replacing it with a 16 oz standing seam copper roof at a cost of \$45,045.

These options are mutually exclusive. Alternatively, the County may choose to keep the existing annex roof as is and revisit the project closer to completion, depending on the remaining balance in the contingency fund.

To: Board of Commissioners
From: 
John Gorton, County Administrator
Subject: Request from Airport Authority for Local Match for Airport Apron Rehabilitation
Date: 03/20/26

Commissioners,

The Airport Authority is requesting a local funding match for the Airport Apron Rehabilitation project included in their Capital Improvement Plan. At their March 9, 2026 meeting, the required local match was estimated at approximately \$200,000, which would need to be requested from the County. A representative from the Airport Authority is expected to attend to provide additional details and discuss the need for this funding.



To: Board of Commissioners
JG

From: John Gorton, County Administrator


Subject: Discussion and Consideration to Increase the Contingency Amount for the Courthouse Roof & Exterior Project

Date: 03/20/26

Commissioners,

Due to the recently approved change orders, the contingency fund for the Courthouse project has been reduced to a negative balance. To avoid additional contractor markup, staff is requesting a discussion and consideration to increase the project contingency by \$150,000. This amount would be added to the overall project cost, and any unused funds would be returned to the County.

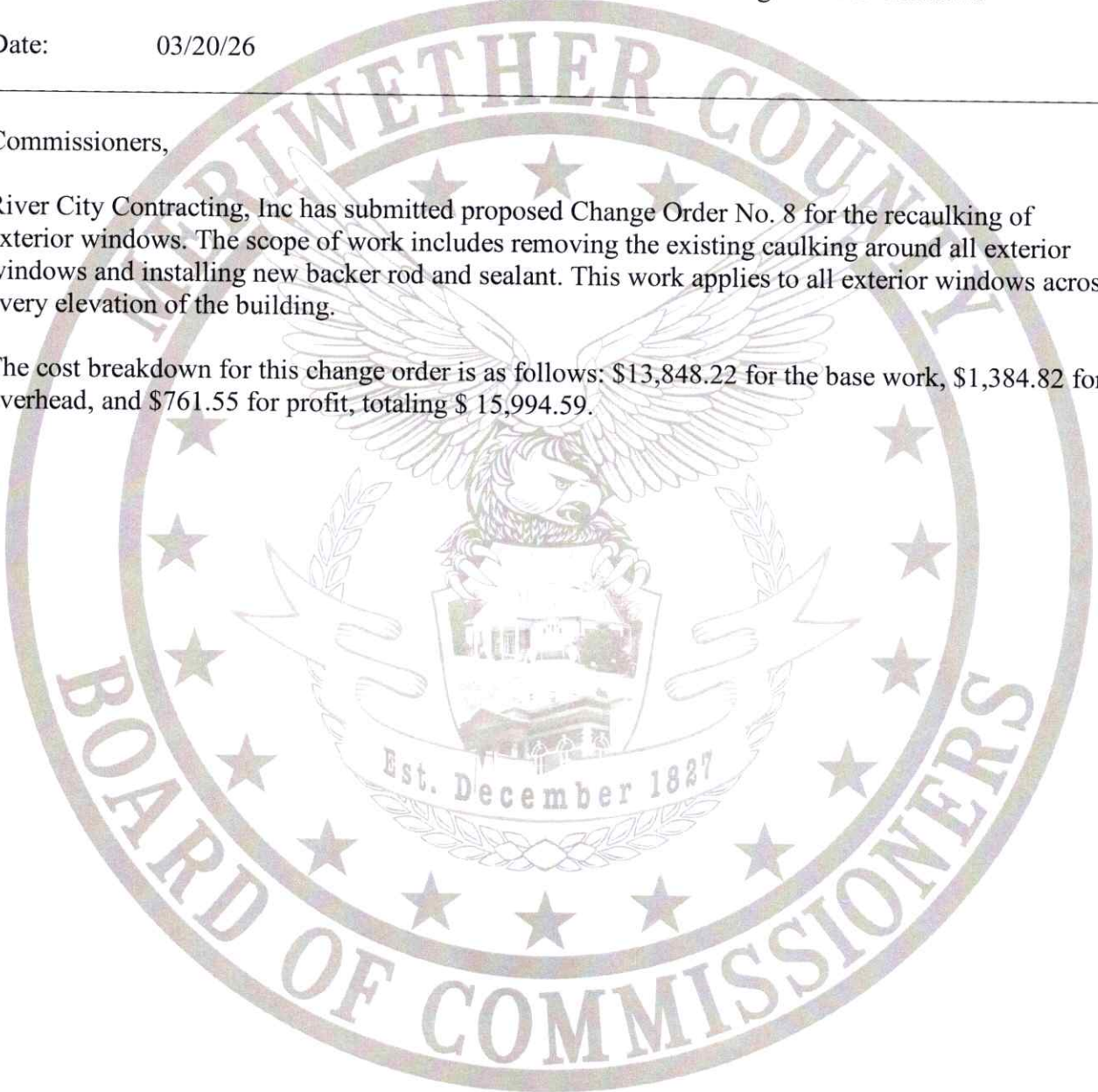
Travis from River City will be present to address and explain an error identified after the previous meeting regarding the contingency balance following the last set of approved change orders.

To: Board of Commissioners
From: 
John Gorton, County Administrator
Subject: Approval of Courthouse Change Order #8- Recaulking Exterior Windows
Date: 03/20/26

Commissioners,

River City Contracting, Inc has submitted proposed Change Order No. 8 for the recaulking of exterior windows. The scope of work includes removing the existing caulking around all exterior windows and installing new backer rod and sealant. This work applies to all exterior windows across every elevation of the building.

The cost breakdown for this change order is as follows: \$13,848.22 for the base work, \$1,384.82 for overhead, and \$761.55 for profit, totaling \$ 15,994.59.




To: Board of Commissioners
From: *Jms*
John Gorton, County Administrator
Subject: Approval of Courthouse Change Order #11- Replacement of Bricks on the North and West Elevations
Date: 03/20/26

Commissioners,

River City Contracting, Inc has submitted proposed Change Order No. 11 for the replacement of additional bricks on the North and West elevations. The masonry contractor has identified 42 bricks in these areas that are recommended for replacement, at a cost of \$52.00 per brick. It is anticipated that additional brick replacement may be required on the South and East elevations once scaffolding is installed on those sides.

The cost breakdown for this change order is as follows: \$2,184.00 for the base work, \$218.40 for overhead, and \$120.12 for profit, resulting in a total cost of \$2,522.52.


To: Board of Commissioners
From: 
John Gorton, County Administrator
Subject: Approval of Section 5311 Public Transportation Service Agreement for the
Operations of the Three Rivers Regional Transit System-FY26
Date: 03/20/26

Commissioners,

This agreement outlines a partnership between Meriwether County and the Three Rivers Regional Commission (TRRC) to operate a Section 5311 rural public transportation program for the fiscal year July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. Under the agreement, TRRC will manage daily transit operations, including scheduling, compliance, staffing, and maintenance, while the County provides funding and vehicles. The service offers demand-response transportation for residents, typically requiring 24-hour notice, and operates at least five days per week to support public and human services transportation needs.

The total cost of the agreement is \$25,900, which covers operating and administrative expenses for the transit program, with no additional vehicle matching funds required. This amount represents the County's maximum financial obligation for the contract term. This was the same amount that was approved last year.

To: Board of Commissioners

From: Allyson Stephens, County Clerk 

Subject: Discussion of Hoss Bowden Road

Date: 03/20/26

Commissioners,

Information provided by Building and Zoning indicates that Hoss Bowden Road is believed to have been a county-maintained road at one time but has not been maintained in many years.

Records within their department reflect addresses associated with Hoss Bowden Road, including 29, 33, 251, 299, and 561 Hoss Bowden Road, with the bridge location identified at or near 299 Hoss Bowden Road.

Public Works Director Brian Griffith advised that during state bridge inspections, the bridge located on this road was identified and access was difficult due to the condition of the roadway. He stated the road has not been maintained over the years, appears to be a power company easement, and was not included in the County's maintained road mileage during assessments.

He further noted that no information on this road has been found by Public Works, there are no visible mailboxes, and he observed only an overgrown area with what appeared to be a leaning structure. The State has requested the Board consider abandonment of the road.

Historical records reflect that the Board of Commissioners approved the petition to change the name of the road from Pony Farm Road to Hoss Bowden Road on February 24, 1999.

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 32-7-2 and Chapter 22, Article VII of the Meriwether County Code of Ordinances, the Board must determine whether the road serves a public purpose. If the Board elects to proceed with abandonment, the process will require advertisement and a Public Hearing prior to final action.

To: Board of Commissioners
JG

From: John Gorton, County Administrator

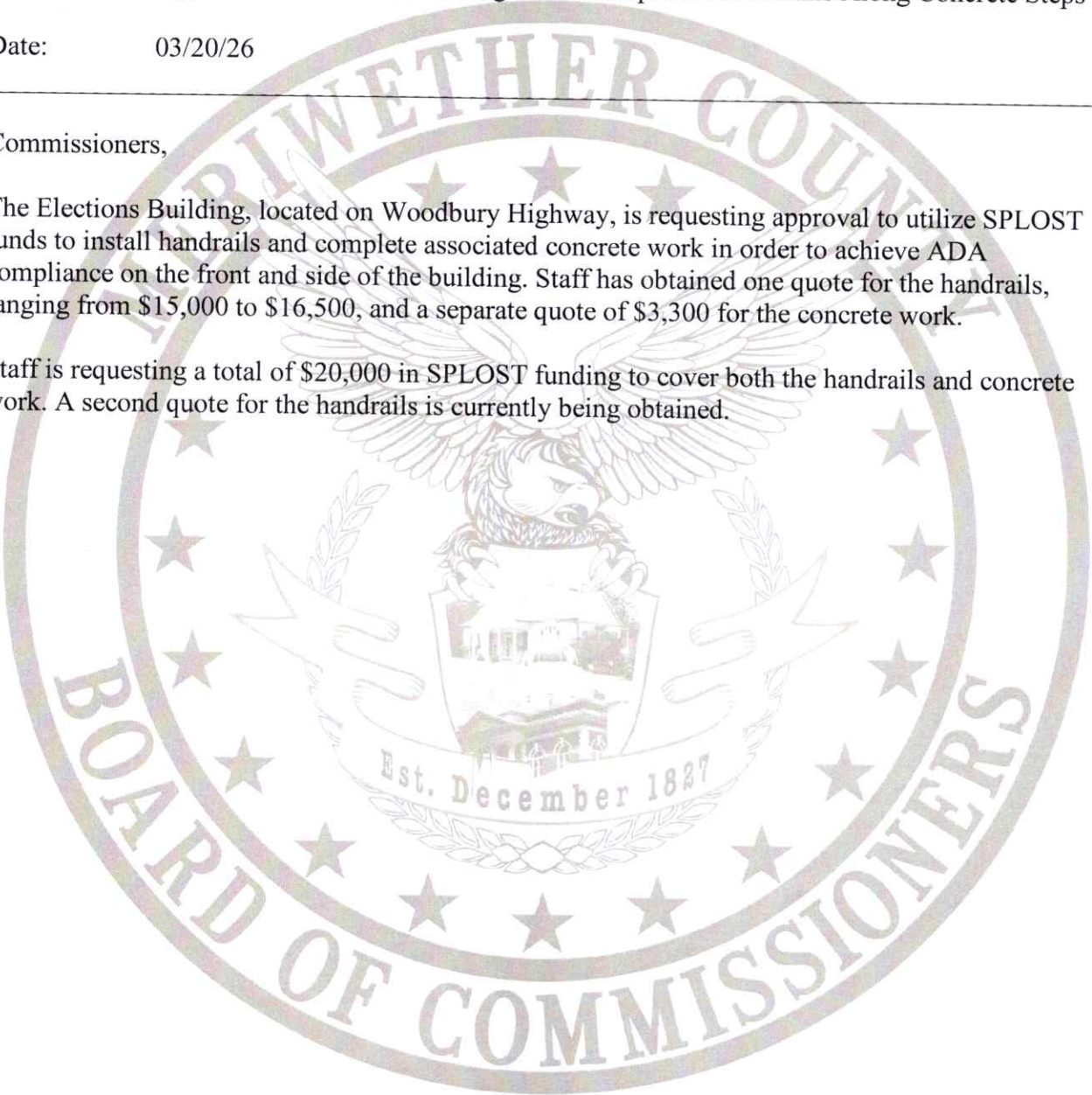
Subject: Approval of Elections Building-ADA Compliance Handrails Along Concrete Steps

Date: 03/20/26

Commissioners,

The Elections Building, located on Woodbury Highway, is requesting approval to utilize SPLOST funds to install handrails and complete associated concrete work in order to achieve ADA compliance on the front and side of the building. Staff has obtained one quote for the handrails, ranging from \$15,000 to \$16,500, and a separate quote of \$3,300 for the concrete work.

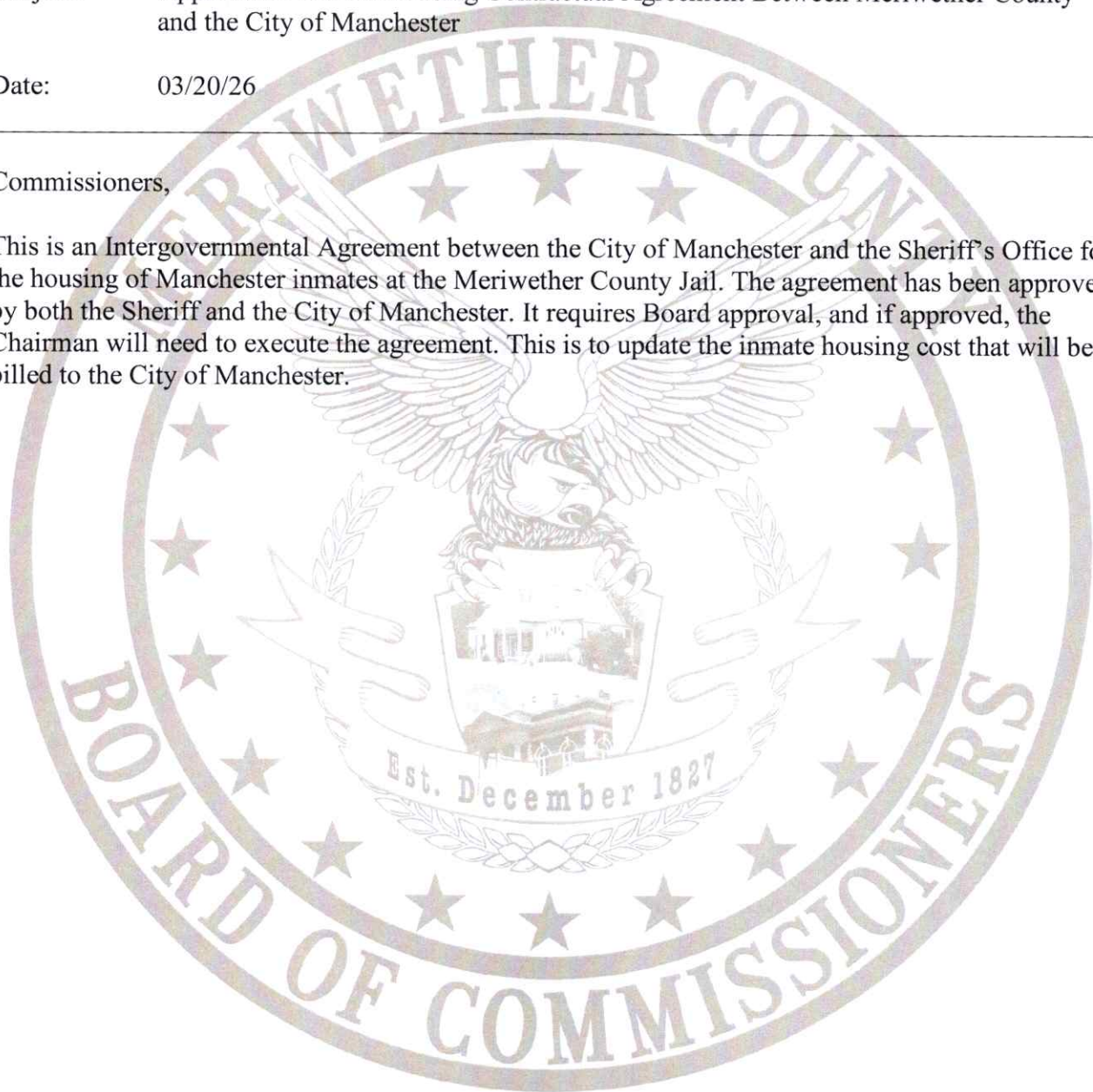
Staff is requesting a total of \$20,000 in SPLOST funding to cover both the handrails and concrete work. A second quote for the handrails is currently being obtained.



To: Board of Commissioners
From: *JG*
John Gorton, County Administrator
Subject: Approval of Inmate Housing Contractual Agreement Between Meriwether County
and the City of Manchester
Date: 03/20/26

Commissioners,

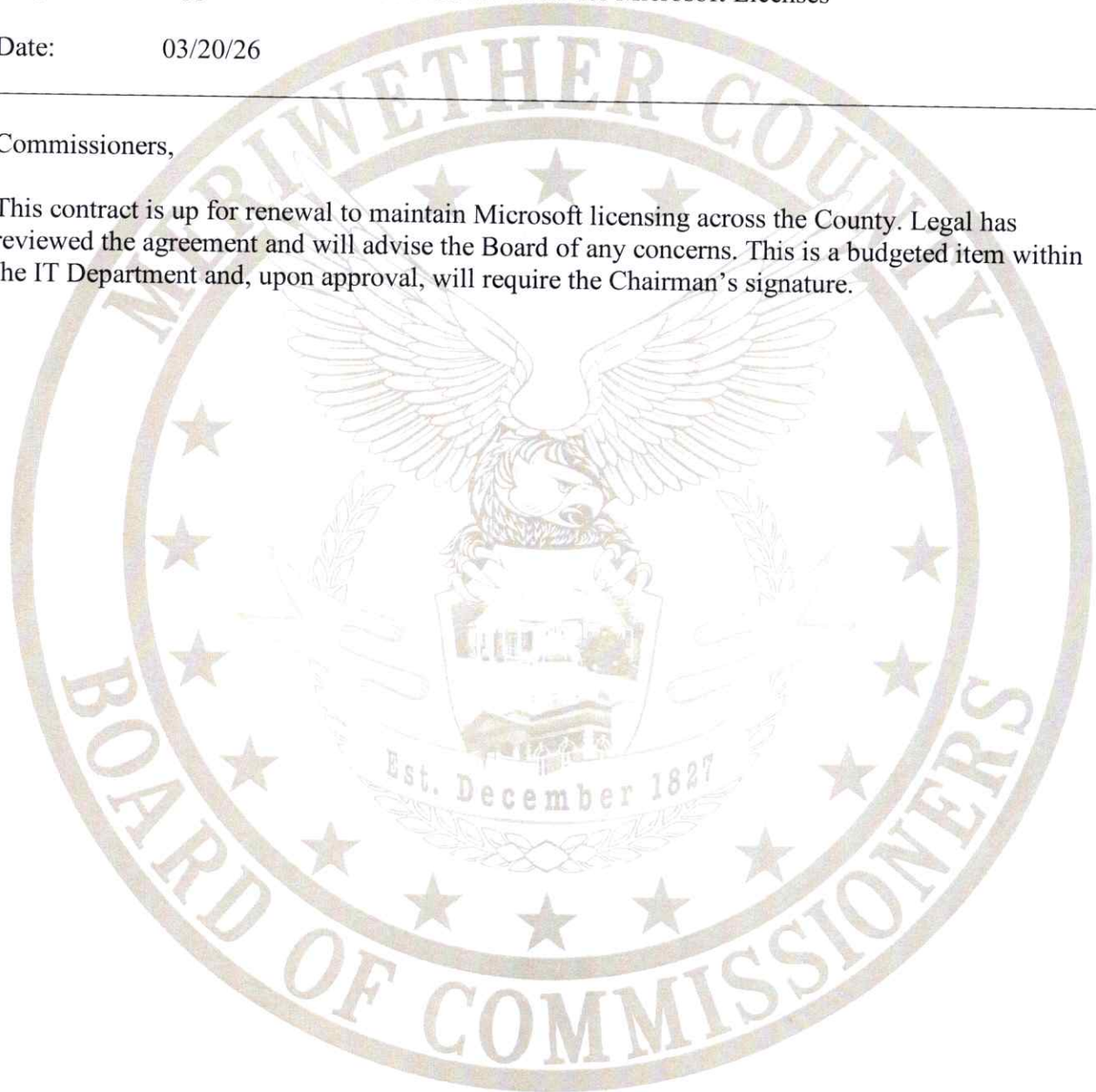
This is an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Manchester and the Sheriff's Office for the housing of Manchester inmates at the Meriwether County Jail. The agreement has been approved by both the Sheriff and the City of Manchester. It requires Board approval, and if approved, the Chairman will need to execute the agreement. This is to update the inmate housing cost that will be billed to the City of Manchester.



To: Board of Commissioners
From: *JWS*
John Gorton, County Administrator
Subject: Approval of Contract with Tri-Color for Microsoft Licenses
Date: 03/20/26

Commissioners,

This contract is up for renewal to maintain Microsoft licensing across the County. Legal has reviewed the agreement and will advise the Board of any concerns. This is a budgeted item within the IT Department and, upon approval, will require the Chairman's signature.



To: Board of Commissioners

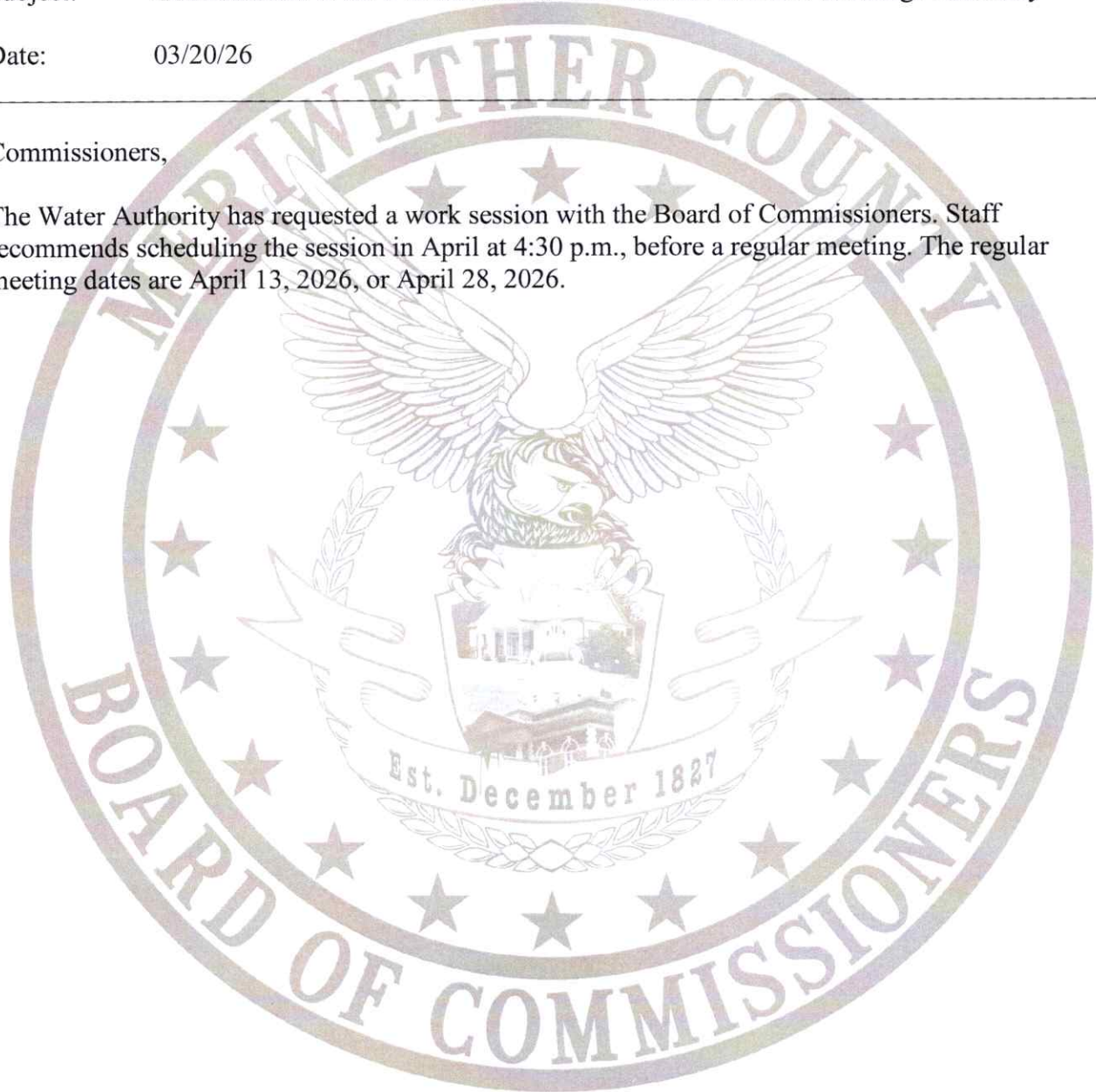
From: *JG*
John Gorton, County Administrator

Subject: Consideration to set a Work Session date with the Water & Sewerage Authority

Date: 03/20/26

Commissioners,

The Water Authority has requested a work session with the Board of Commissioners. Staff recommends scheduling the session in April at 4:30 p.m., before a regular meeting. The regular meeting dates are April 13, 2026, or April 28, 2026.



To: Board of Commissioners
JG

From: John Gorton, County Administrator

Subject: 2026 Contact Form - ACCG Interlocal Risk Management Agency (ACCG-IRMA)
Property and Liability Program

Date: 03/20/26


Commissioners,

Staff requests approval to update the 2026 ACCG contact form. This is an annual requirement used to designate the County's official contacts and is tied to the property insurance discount the County receives for providing this information.

The proposed contacts are as follows:

- Insurance and Claims Contact: County Clerk Allyson Stephens
- Safety Coordinator: County Administrator John Gorton
- HR Liaison: Human Resources Director Valerie Chambers

Staff recommends approval of these designations and authorization for the Chairman to sign the form.

To: Board of Commissioners
From: 
John Gorton, County Administrator
Subject: Surplus Vehicles-VariouS Departments
Date: 03/20/26

Commissioners,

Staff is requesting approval to declare certain vehicles as surplus and list them on GovDeals for public auction. A complete list of vehicles, including year, make, model, and VIN, will be provided at the March 24, 2026, meeting. The auction process will be conducted through GovDeals to ensure a fair and transparent bidding process.

