

**JANUARY 3, 2024  
JASPER, FLORIDA**

**REGULAR SESSION**

The Board of County Commissioners, Hamilton County, Florida, met in regular session on Tuesday, January 3, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in the Board Room, 207 Northeast First Street, Jasper, Florida. Present were Commissioners Travis Erixton, Jimmy Murphy, Robert Brown, Robbie Roberson and Richie McCoy, a full Board being present. Also present were County Attorney Andy Decker and County Coordinator Gary Godwin.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman McCoy and led in prayer by Commissioner Brown with the Pledge of Allegiance being led by Chairman McCoy.

**CORONAVIRUS STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUND PROGRAM (AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN) – THOMAS HOWELL FERGUSON P.A. – STATUS REPORT AND UPDATES**

Clerk of Court Greg Godwin advised the Board that representatives from Thomas Howell Ferguson were not able to attend the meeting and requested to be rescheduled for the next Board meeting.

**PUBLIC HEARING – BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT – VAR 23-01 – PETITION BY DIVONIA CHURCH REQUESTING A VARIANCE BE GRANTED AS PROVIDED FOR IN SECTION 12.3 OF HAMILTON COUNTY LAND USE DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS TO ALLOW FOR A WAIVER OF SETBACK REQUIREMENTS IN AG – 4 ZONING DISTRICT ON LANDS LOCATED IN HAMILTON COUNTY, FLORIDA.**

Chairman McCoy recessed the Board meeting and called the public hearing (Var 23-01) to order at 9:10 a.m.

Land Use Administrator Mathew Morgan explained the action before the Board as a petition by Divonia Baptist Church requesting a variance as provided in section 12.3 of the Hamilton County Land Development Regulations. Bill Mitchell, representing Divonia, provided the Board with a brief explanation as to the reason for the variance request.

There being no further comments or questions from the Board or public, Chairman McCoy closed the public hearing and called the Board meeting back to order at 9:12 a.m.

- Motion by Commissioner Erixton to approve the petition for Variance 23-01 as requested by Divonia Baptist Church. Second was made by Commissioner Roberson, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- Motion by Commissioner Brown to approve the consent agenda. Second was made by Commissioner Erixton, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

### **STORM RELATED ISSUES – DISCUSSION AND REQUESTS**

County Coordinator Gary Godwin provided the Board with an update on the storm debris removal. Mr. Godwin announced that the new deadline for debris removal is December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

- Motion by Commissioner Erixton to extend the Local State of Emergency from Hurricane Idalia. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

The Board discussed the storm response and Emergency Management and agreed to meet with the new Emergency Management Director and Sheriff Reid at a later date.

## **SHIP / CDBG PROGRAM / CDBG-CV – STATUS REPORT**

Ship Administrator Spencer Nabors provided the Board with a status report for the Ship, CDBG, CDBG-CV and HHRP grants. Mr. Nabors advised that he is currently signing contracts with homeowners for Ship projects and will be walking each project on Friday. The Board also discussed with Mr. Nabors a homeowner complaint regarding income issues that due to changes have disqualified the applicant. Mr. Nabors stated that Florida Housing is reviewing the issue.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS – STATUS REPORT AND REQUESTS**

The Board stated that there was nothing new to report.

## **JUDGES OFFICE ACCESS**

Clerk of Court Greg Godwin discussed a proposal from Sonitrol, the current security company, in the amount of \$3,625.02 to allow key fob access to both Judges' offices. Mr. Godwin explained that individuals often enter the offices without permission and could be a potential problem.

- Motion by Commissioner Brown to approve the proposal and allow the access change to the Judges' offices for their protection. Second was made by Commissioner Erixton, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

## **ROAD PAVING PROJECTS – STATUS EREPORT**

Greg Bailey, with North Florida Professional Services, provided the Board with a status report on the current road projects.

**LAKE BAISDEN LOOP** – Mr. Bailey stated that the Lake Baisden Loop paving project is close to being completed. Mr. Bailey advised the Board of a property issue that is causing erosion and stated that the issue is being addressed.

**SR 129 LIFTSTATION** – County Attorney Andy Decker discussed the legal description drafted for Ms. Wolfe for her desired location of the lift station. Mr. Bailey advised the Board that he would take care of any issues with Ms. Wolfe and the placement of the lift station.

## **APPROVE BILLS**

- Motion by Commissioner Roberson to approve the bills (vouchers 164658 – 164796 and checks 072545 - 072615) with the exclusion of the bills from McCoy Land Clearing Services. Second was made by Commissioner Brown, motion carried with a unanimous vote.
- Motion by Commissioner Bronw to approve the McCoy Land Clearing Services invoices. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote. Chairman McCoy abstained from the vote due to being related.

## **CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- County Coordinator Gary Godwin discussed with the Board the purchase of shirts for the Board. Mr. Godwin also discussed the need to have the Road Department work overtime to catch up. The Board agreed to allow Mr. Godwin to make the decision as to when the Road Department needs to work overtime and asked as to why the Road Department is behind. Mr. Godwin discussed the fact that Building Official Jon Auer has had recent health issues and may be out for a short period of time. The Board agreed to allow Mr. Godwin to contact the surrounding counties for assistance or NFPS if needed.
- Mr. Godwin also advised the Board that the Landfill had to rent a bulldozer due to mechanical issues with the current bulldozer.
- Commissioner Brown wished everyone a Happy New Year.
- County Attorney Andy Decker advised the Board that he has received the Interlocal Agreement from the City of Jasper for the Discretionary Sales Tax and is still waiting on Jennings and the Town of White Springs. Mr. Decker also stated that he is still looking at the Green Point Development Agreement.

- Commissioner Murphy questioned staff as to the Fireworks building adjacent to the old Holiday Inn property. Mr. Decker advised that Code Enforcement is still in need of a complaint; however, Mr. Quintana is working on a possible avenue that wouldn't require a complaint.
  
- Chairman McCoy discussed with the Board a request from Mama Burgers to waive permit fees for their construction. After a brief discussion, the Board stated that they would discuss the request with the Development Authority. Chairman McCoy also requested a copy of the current grants for the Board.

There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

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RICHIE MCCOY, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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GREG GODWIN, EX-OFFICIO CLERK



