

**JANUARY 9, 2023
JASPER, FLORIDA**

SPECIAL SESSION

The Board of County Commissioners, Hamilton County, Florida, met in special session on Thursday, January 9, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. in the Board Room, 207 Northeast First Street, Jasper, Florida. Present were Commissioners Travis Erixton, Robert Brown, Richie McCoy, Jimmy Muphy and Robbie Roberson, a full Board being present. Also present were County Coordinator Louie Goodin, County Attorney Andy Decker and Fire Coordinator Henry Land.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Brown.

County Coordinator Louie Goodin explained the purpose of the meeting and provided the Board with an update on the status of Fire Services with the municipalities. County Attorney Andy Decker discussed the situation with the City of Jasper's refusal to sign the Fire Services Agreement. The Board then discussed the need to have the legal firm to perform the needs study for a fire assessment in order to be able to make a decision in the future. Mr. Land advised the Board that an individual named Bonnie Kelly is willing to write and administer the Safer Grant for \$5,000. The Board discussed the three (3) portions of the Safer Grant as the following: hiring of seven (7) full time Fire Fighters, detailed fire budget and the retention plan for Fire Services at the end of the grant. Mr. Land stated that Ms. Kelly would write the Safer Grant and provide the administration and reporting for the three (3) year period. Mr. Land also discussed the AFG grant and the possibility of seeking funding through the grant for equipment.

- Motion by Commissioner Roberson to approve for Bonnie Kelly to write the Safer Grant and provide the administration and reporting for the three (3) year period of the grant. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

- Motion by Commissioner McCoy to approve the three (3) portions of the Safer Grant as previously discussed. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

- Motion by Commissioner Mccoy to direct legal staff to proceed with the fire assessment needs study with the law firm utilized by other counties. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Mr. Land discussed the possibility of stepping down as Emergency Management Director and working as the Fire Coordinator and 911 Mapping Coordinator. Mr. Land explained that he can't continue to do all of the jobs he is being asked to perform. The Board discussed the situation and agreed to allow staff to discuss the potential job change for Mr. Land with the Sheriff as a courtesy before taking any action. The Board also discussed the accrual and certifications for the Fire Fighters position and will allow staff to provide additional information at the next meeting.

There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 3:17 p.m.

ROBERT BROWN, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

GREG GODWIN, EX-OFFICIO CLERK

