

**JANUARY 16, 2024  
JASPER, FLORIDA**

**REGULAR SESSION**

The Board of County Commissioners, Hamilton County, Florida, met in regular session on Tuesday, January 16, 2024, at 6:00 p.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 Roberson with the Pledge of Allegiance being led by Chairman McCoy.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

**STORM RELATED ISSUES – DISCUSSION AND REQUESTS**

County Coordinator Gary Godwin provided the Board with a status report on the continued storm debris removal from Hurricane Idalia. Mr. Godwin also announced that a FEMA meeting will be held at 11:00 a.m. on January 17<sup>th</sup> at the Emergency Operations Center. Mr. Godwin also advised the Board that a Warming Station will be open to the public through Saturday due to the extreme cold conditions with compensation to be provided through SERT.

**PETITION TO CLOSE A PUBLIC ROAD 41<sup>ST</sup> TERR. (372.86') – WARD DANIELS**

Commissioner Brown discussed the petition by Ward Daniels to close 41<sup>st</sup> Terrace. Mr. Brown stated that Mr. Daniels owns both sides of the road; however, the road is in the Meadowbrook Subdivision to which the county would have no jurisdiction to close the road. Mr. Daniels was not present for

the meeting.

**PUBLIC HEARING – SE 23-03 – PETITION BY JAMES KYLE DORAN REQUESTING A SPECIAL EXCEPTION BE GRANTED AS PROVIDED FOR IN SECTION 4.5.5.9 OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS TO ALLOW FOR A DIRT TRACK RACING FACILITY IN AN AGRICULTURE - 4 (AG – 4) ZONING DISTRICT ON PROPERTY LOCATED IN HAMILTON COUNTY, FLORIDA.**

Land Use Administrator Matthew Morgan advised the Board that Mr. Doran’s petition was continued by the Planning and Zoning Board and will be brought back to the Board for consideration at a future date.

**APPROVE BILLS**

- Motion by Commissioner Brown to approve the McCoy Land Clearing Services invoices. Second was made by Commissioner Roberson, motion carried with a unanimous vote. Chairman McCoy abstained from the vote due to being related.
  
- Motion by Commissioner Brown to approve the bills (vouchers 164797 – 164845 and checks 072616 - 072700) with the exclusion of the bills from McCoy Land Clearing Services with the addition of pay request no. 13 (Curt’s Construction) in the amount of \$291,549.78 and Thomas Howell Ferguson in the amount of \$3,311.00. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

**PUBLIC HEARING – SP 23-02 A PETITION BY CHIP FLOWERS AS AGENT FOR TILLMAN INFRASTRUCTURE REQUESTING A SPECIAL PERMIT FOR ESSENTIAL SERVICES BE GRANTED AS PROVIDED FOR IN SECTION 14.11 OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS TO ALLOW FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW TELECOMMUNICATIONS TOWER IN AN AGRICULTURAL – 4 (AG-4) ZONING DISTRICT ON PROPERTY LOCATED IN HAMILTON COUNTY, FLORIDA**

Chairman McCoy recessed the regular Board meeting and called the public hearing (SP 23-02) to order at 6:15 p.m.

Land Use Administrator Matthew Morgan explained the action before the Board as a petition by Chip Flowers for the construction of a Telecommunications Tower. Mr. Morgan also stated that the petition was recommended by the Planning and Zoning Board. Graham Owens, representing the petitioner, was present for the meeting to answer questions from the Board and public.

There being no further questions from the Board or public, Chairman McCoy closed the public hearing and reconvened the Board meeting at 6:20 p.m.

- Motion by Commissioner Erixton to approve SP 23-02 as presented. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

### **GRANTS AND APPROPRIATIONS – STATUS REPORT AND REQUESTS – MATT MORGAN, LAND USE ADMINISTRATOR**

Land Use Administrator and Grants Coordinator Matthew Morgan provided the Board with a status report for all county grants and appropriations. The Board also agreed to allow Mr. Morgan to send a letter requesting direct payment options for all grants.

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

Ship Administrator Spencer Nabors was not able to be in attendance for the meeting due to a family illness. County Coordinator Gary Godwin provided the Board with a status report for the Ship, CDBG, CDBG-CV and HHRP grants.

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

- A. Jack Levine, with Dimension Funding Corporation, presented the Board with a business development proposal. Mr. Levine discussed the phases for the project which will include residential housing and commercial businesses. Mr. Levine also provided the Board with a cost estimate for the project and requested assistance from the county. Mr. Levine advised the Board that for the project to be a success he would need county assistance. After a lengthy discussion, Mr. Levine stated that he would provide the Board with more detailed analysis and defined cost estimates for the project prior to the next Board meeting.
- B. County Attorney Andy Decker discussed the Development Agreement with Green Point Research with the Board. Mr. Decker stated that the original owners of the property are no longer a part of the company which would make the Development Agreement with Green Point no longer in compliance with the original negotiations. Mr. Decker recommended taking steps to cancel the agreement and suggested sending a letter to Green Point requesting that the Development Agreement be canceled.
- Motion by Commissioner Erixton to allow County Attorney Andy Decker to send a letter to Green Point Research requesting that the Development Agreement be dissolved. Second was made by Commissioner Brown, motion carried with a unanimous vote. Commissioner Murphy abstained from the vote due to previous involvement with Green Point Research.

## **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** – Jerod Lizotte, with Locklear and Associates, provided the Board with an update on the Lake Baisden Loop paving project. Mr. Lizotte stated that the project is nearing completion with a punch list to be created by the end of the month.

**GIBSON PARK BOAT RAMP** – Mr. Bailey advised the Board that he is still waiting for the final approval from FWC.

**CROSSROADS FIRE DEPARTMENT** – Mr. Bailey stated that the final plans have been submitted to staff for review and approval.

**JOBS GROWTH GRANT** – Mr. Bailey advised the Board that his staff is continuing to work on the project.

**5 HOLE BOAT RAMP** – Mr. Bailey stated that the permit for the 5 Hole Boat ramp project is approximately 75% complete due to waiting on the SRWMD and Army Corp. of Engineers.

**CR 25A** – Mr. Bailey advised that his staff are in the process of responding to final comments from FDOT and the resurfacing project will be advertised soon.

**FDOT SCRAP AND SCOP PROJECTS** – Mr. Bailey stated that the projects for the SCRAP and SCOP FDOT grant programs have been submitted.

**CR 6 EAST** – The Board discussed whether to submit the north end of the project for resurfacing prior to the south end. After a brief discussion, the Board agreed to resurface the south end first. The Board agreed by unanimous consent.

**SR 6/I-75 WATER AND SEWER PLANT** – The Board discussed the issues at the Water and Sewer plant and after a lengthy discussion, requested County Coordinator Gary Godwin to provide weekly updates. North Florida Professional Services is working to correct the problems.

**CR-132 TASK ORDER** – The Board reviewed the NFPS task order for the CR 132 resurfacing project.

- Motion by Commissioner Roberson to approve the task order as presented. Second was made by Commissioner Erixton, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

**CR 137 CAUTION LIGHT** – The Board discussed relocating the caution light located at the old entrance to the Suwannee River Chemical Plant on CR 137. County Coordinator Gary Godwin advised the Board that he will discuss the possibility of Nutrien covering the cost of relocating the light. Mr. Bailey stated that he would provide Mr. Godwin with a cost estimate for the relocation.

### **MOBILE HEALTH CLINIC PURCHASE AGREEMENT**

County attorney Andy Decker discussed with the Board the need to change the purchase agreement payment terms due to following the Federal Grant Guidelines.

- Motion by Commissioner Murphy to approve the recommendation from County Attorney Andy Decker for three (3) equal payments. Second was made by Commissioner Erixton, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

### **CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- County Coordinator Gary Godwin announced an Economic Development meeting on Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m. Mr. Godwin also announced the Legislative meeting at the Capital in Tallahassee on January 23<sup>rd</sup> through the 25<sup>th</sup>. Members of the Board will be in attendance for both meetings.
- Chairman McCoy discussed with the Board the Watson Healthcare Clinic roof. After a brief discussion, the Board stated to re-bid the roofing project if the contractor isn't going to do the project. Chairman McCoy also advised the Board that Jeannie Rickman, with Congresswoman's Kat Cammack office, would like to meet with each Commissioner and staff on January 31<sup>st</sup>.

There being no further business before the Board, Chairman McCoy adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

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RICHIE MCCOY, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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GREG GODWIN, EX-OFFICIO CLERK



