

FEBRUARY 16, 2021
Track: 52
JASPER, FLORIDA

REGULAR SESSION

The Board of County Commissioners, Hamilton County, Florida, met in regular session on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room, 207 Northeast First Street, Jasper, Florida. Present were Commissioners Robert Brown, Josh Smith, Randy Ogburn, Jimmy Murphy and Richie McCoy, a full Board being present. Also present was County Coordinator Louie Goodin and County Attorney Cliff Adams.

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

Chairman Ogburn announced that the Board would be adding to the agenda a Resolution for the Hamilton County School District per their attorney Megan Logan

SHIP / CDBG PROGRAM – STATUS REPORT

Ship Administrator Spencer Nabors provided the Board a brief update on the current Ship, CDBG and Ship Coronavirus Relief funds. Mr. Nabors stated that all of the CDBG / Ship projects have been completed except the last three (3) which will be complete in the next few days. Mr. Nabors reminded the Board that the CDBG-CV public hearing will be held on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. and provided the Board with cost estimates for the potential projects.

COVID – 19 (CORONAVIRUS 2019) UPDATE AND STATUS REPORT

Tom Moffses, with the Health Department, presented the Board with a summary of the Covid-19 effects on Hamilton County. The Board thanked Mr. Moffses and his staff for their work with the Covid-19 testing and vaccines.

- Motion by Commissioner Smith to approve Resolution 2021-07 as a continuation of 2020-01 for an additional seven (7) days. Second was made by Commissioner Brown, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Mr. Moffses also stated that the positive Covid-19 cases in Hamilton County have declined and that approximately 44% of the county has been vaccinated. Mr. Moffses then discussed the elevated readings from the testing of the Withlacoochee River with alerts being issued and rescinded. The Board discussed the need to get SRWMD and FDEP involved due to their lack of participation in testing and reporting. The Board stated that they will address the legislature regarding the issue.

NUTRIEN-WHITE SPRINGS – MIKE WILLIAMS, GOVERNMENT & INDUSTRY AFFAIRS MANAGER

Mike Williams, with Nutrien, introduced Rachel Garland as his replacement due to his retirement in ten (10) to twelve (12) weeks. Ms. Garland addressed the Board requesting approval of Nutrien’s #5 dragline to cross SE 120th Ave. during the week of March 1st and March 15th.

- Motion by Commissioner McCoy to allow the #5 dragline to cross SE 120th Ave. during the week of March 1st and March 15th as requested with Nutrien to provide a by-pass road and signage. Second was made by Commissioner Smith, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

The Board announced that the Technical Working Group meeting will be on Thursday, February 25th at 1:00 p.m. with more than one (1) Commissioner possibly present.

ROAD PAVING PROJECTS – STATUS REPORT

County Engineer Greg Bailey gave the Board a status report on the current road projects.

BASIN LAKE LOOP / SW 107th AVE. – Mr. Bailey provided the Board with a brief update regarding the Basin Lake Loop project.

- Motion by Commissioner Brown to approve and accept the Right-of-way deed for parcel #14 (Philips) and #10 (Gorchess). Second was made by Commissioner McCoy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

SW 90TH BLVD. – Mr. Bailey advised the Board that his staff is still working on the wetland analysis for the SW 90th Blvd. paving project. After a brief discussion, the Board agreed to fund the wetland mitigation credits for both the SW 90th Blvd. and Basin Lake Loop paving projects.

CR-137 – Mr. Bailey stated that staff met with Anderson Columbia on the 25th with construction to begin soon.

NW 3rd WAY (LIMITED MAINTENANCE REQUEST) – County Engineer Greg Bailey discussed with the Board the work that would be required to be able to accept a Limited Maintenance Agreement for NW 3rd Way. After a brief discussion, Mr. Goodin stated that the Road Department will make repairs to the concerned area of the road and if that does not correct the issue, Mr. Bird will re-agenda the request for a Limited Maintenance Agreement. Commissioner Murphy agreed with the suggestion.

PRIORITY LIST FOR MILLING OF COUNTY ROADS – The Board reviewed the 5-year milling plan as presented by County Coordinator Louie Goodin. After reviewing the list, each Board member will prioritize a road from their district and contact Mr. Goodin.

HAMILTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT – REFERENDUM

Megan Logan, Attorney for the School District, requested that the Board approve a referendum to be held on April 27, 2021 to continue the .25 milage received by the District. Ms. Logan explained that the Resolution attached would be the ballot language.

- Motion by Commissioner Brown to declare an emergency due to the timeline for the referendum and approve the Resolution and date for the Referendum as presented and recommended by the Hamilton County School District. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES – INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH MUNICIPALITIES

County Coordinator Louie Goodin presented the Board with a draft Interlocal Agreement for the Municipalities for Animal Control. The Board approved the language of the Agreement and approved for the Agreement to be forwarded to each Municipality.

LEGAL SERVICES – REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

The Board reviewed the draft for Request for Qualifications for legal services. After discussing the qualifications, the Board agreed to review the applicants and approved for the advertisement to be sent to the following news outlets: Lake City Reporter, River Bend News, Florida Bar News and Florida Association of County Attorneys.

RENOVATION OF OLD DOCTORS CLINIC

County Coordinator Louie Goodin advised the Board that staff has met with Watson's Healthcare to discuss a request to occupy the old Doctors Clinic building. Mr. Goodin advised that staff is working on the documentation and plans for the renovations with Building Official John Auer to review the plans before being let for bids.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

LIST OF PENDING PROJECTS

County Coordinator Louie Goodin provided the Board with a list of pending projects. The Board discussed the need to get an appraisal of the Newsome and Railroad property with County Attorney Cliff Adams to contact the Kenny Newsome to determine his asking price for the property.

APPROVE BILLS

- Motion by Commissioner Brown to approve the bills (vouchers 146677 – 146953 and checks 064701-064805). Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

LEAVE PAYOUT

- Motion by Commissioner McCoy to declare an emergency and approve the leave payout for David Prueter. Second was made by Commissioner Brown, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- County Coordinator Louie Goodin discussed with the Board the Land Use Department and the need for a better response to phone calls and inquiries.
- Commissioner McCoy requested contact information for Ronald Ratliff and requested staff to check with Code Enforcement regarding the empty warehouse.
- Commissioner McCoy also advised the Board that a resident has placed a fence post in the road right-of-way in the Forest Town Subdivision. After a brief discussion, the Board directed County Attorney Cliff Adams to assist Commissioner McCoy with getting the post removed.
- Commissioner Smith discussed with the Board the economic development incentive from Southland Wood and stated that Green Point Research is continuing to install equipment. The Board also discussed with staff the removal of the chairs from the Jai-Alia facility.
- Commissioner Smith also discussed the staff position at the Building Department and the possibility of moving the ARC to the Senior Center.
- County Attorney Cliff Adams discussed with the Board the Code Enforcement position and the need for additional hours.

There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

