

**REGULAR SESSION**

The Board of County Commissioners, Hamilton County, Florida, met in regular session on Tuesday, February 19, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Meeting Room, 207 Northeast First Street, Jasper, Florida. Present were Commissioners Robert Brown, Beth Burnam, Josh Smith, William Mitchell and Randy Ogburn, a full Board being present. Also present was County Coordinator Louie Goodin, County Attorney Cliff Adams was absent.

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- Motion by Commissioner Brown to approve the Consent Agenda. Second was made by Commissioner Burnam, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

**HAMILTON COUNTY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY – STATUS REPORT**

Hamilton County Economic Development Director Susan Ramsey gave the Board a status report of the current economic development projects and events. Ms. Ramsey provided the Board with a copy of the application for the Beautification Grant currently being offered by the Development Authority. The Board directed staff to make application for the grant for the Doctor’s Clinic building and others.

**SHIP / CDBG PROGRAM – STATUS REPORT**

Ship Administrator Spencer Nabors gave the Board a status report of the current Ship and CDBG grants. Mr. Nabor’s advised the Board that the CDBG Sub Grant Agreement was received on February 18<sup>th</sup> and will need to be signed and executed by Chairman Smith.

- Motion by Commissioner Ogburn to approve for the Chairman to sign and execute the CDBG Sub Grant Agreement. Second was made by Commissioner Brown, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

The Board discussed the CDBG procurement policy and after a brief discussion, agreed to leave the policy as is.

Mr. Nabor’s then presented the Board with round #3 Ship approvals for consideration by the Board: Larry J. Parker – rehabilitation, Leola Ash Whetstone – rehabilitation, Johnathan Lee – rehabilitation and Eric Tyler Law – rehabilitation.

- Motion by Commissioner Ogburn to approve round #3 Ship projects as recommended by Mr. Nabor's with ITC. Second was made by Commissioner Burnam, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Mr. Nabor's reminded the Board that with round #3 projects that all of the available Ship funds have been expended and that the remaining portion is for the CDBG match of \$50,000. County Attorney Cliff Adams discussed with the Board an issue with a Ship mortgage belonging to a resident in White Springs. Mr. Adams explained that a citizen had complained that individuals have taken up residence in the home and that the owner is deceased with no apparent heirs. After the discussion the Board agreed to allow the Town of White Springs handle the issue due to there being no legal issue with the Ship deferred payment loan until the ownership changes.

### **ROAD PAVING PROJECTS – STATUS REPORT**

Seth Cohen, with NFPS, gave the Board a status report on the current road projects.

**CR-137** – Mr. Cohen advised the Board that the CR-137 construction project is complete and staff is waiting on the contractor to address a culvert issue.

**SE 141<sup>st</sup> BLVD.** – Mr. Cohen stated that the construction for the SE 141<sup>st</sup> Blvd. is proceeding according to schedule.

**NW 104<sup>TH</sup> AVE., CHANBRIDGE DRIVE, NW 35<sup>TH</sup> DRIVE** – Mr. Cohen advised the Board that the contractor has stated that he is working on a start date for the paving project.

**OAK STREET** – Mr. Cohen advised the Board that the contractor has successfully acquired the Railroad permit and will begin construction on February 25<sup>th</sup>.

**SW 55<sup>TH</sup> DRIVE** – Mr. Cohen stated that construction for the SW 55<sup>th</sup> Drive paving project is proceeding according to schedule.

**SW 90<sup>th</sup> BLVD.** – Mr. Cohen presented the Board with a contract with North Florida Professional Services for the design, construction and CEI engineering services for SW 90<sup>th</sup> Blvd. to be placed on the agenda for the next Board meeting. Chairman Smith discussed with the Board the possibility of only paving a portion of the road due to possible right-of-way issues as well as the expense of changing the road design. After a lengthy discussion, the Board directed staff to establish a cost estimate for the road issues and further discuss the issue at the next Board meeting.

**5 YEAR MILLING PLAN** – County Coordinator Louie Goodin presented the Board with a draft of the 5 Year Milling Plan for the Board to review and make appropriate changes.

## **COURTHOUSE RENOVATIONS / SECURITY**

Seth Cohen, with NFPS, advised the Board that the structural support is in place for the wall and that the framing should take place next week.

## **CODE ENFORCEMENT – DISCUSSION**

After reviewing the information provided by County Attorney Cliff Adams for Code Enforcement in Hamilton County, the Board chose to take no action at the current time.

## **BOARD APPOINTMENT – SUWANNEE RIVER ECONOMIC COUNCIL, INC.**

Chairman Smith apologized to the Board for his lack of commitment to the Suwannee River Economic Council.

- Motion by Commissioner Burnam to appoint Commissioner Ogburn as the Board's representative for the Suwannee River Economic Council. Second was made by Commissioner Brown, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

## **2012 COUNTY HELD TAX CERTIFICATES**

County Attorney Cliff Adams advised the Board that after review of the 2012 tax certificates to only apply for a tax deed on the parcels required by Florida Statute that are over \$5,000 in value.

- Motion by Commissioner Ogburn to only apply for a tax deed on the parcels required by Florida Statute that are over \$5,000 in value as recommended by County Attorney Cliff Adams. Second was made by Commissioner Brown, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

## **2017 COUNTY HELD TAX CERTIFICATES**

County Attorney Cliff Adams advised the Board to take no action regarding the 2017 County held tax certificates. The Board agreed by unanimous consent.

## **DOCTORS OFFICE BUILDINGS RENOVATION SPECIFICATIONS**

The Board agreed to continue this item due to staff being out of town. County Coordinator stated that the specifications would be available prior to the next Board meeting.

## **APPROVE BILLS**

- Motion by Commissioner Burnam to approve the bills (vouchers 134737– 135121 and checks 059368 – 059487). Second was made by Commissioner Brown, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

## **TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

Commissioner Burnam advised the Board that TDC Executive Director Mariella Garcia has requested to attend the Original Florida Advertisement Tourism event in Washington D.C. from March 14<sup>th</sup> – March 18<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Burnam stated that the expense will be reimbursed by the North Florida Regional Planning Council.

- Motion by Commissioner Burnam to declare an emergency and allow TDC Executive Director Mariella Garcia to attend the Original Florida Advertisement Tourism event in Washington D.C. from March 14<sup>th</sup> – March 18<sup>th</sup>. Second was made by Commissioner Mitchell, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

## **CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- County Coordinator Louie Goodin advised the Board that he will be out of the office from February 26<sup>th</sup> through February 28<sup>th</sup> attending a CDBG Workshop.
- Mr. Goodin also discussed the need for a 30 X 30 milled pad for EMS in Jennings. The Board agreed for Mr. Goodin to construct the pad.
- Mr. Goodin also gave the Board a brief overview of the Rural Economic Development Summit that he attended last week.
- Commissioner Mitchell questioned staff as to a timeline for the remodeling of the bathrooms at the Health Department. Mr. Goodin stated that the project is on the schedule.
- Commissioner Brown questioned staff as to the Board's response to an individual that was questioning the amount of housing assistance in Hamilton County.
- Commissioner Burnam also stated that the TDLC meeting will be held in Jasper.
- County Attorney Cliff Adams gave the Board an update on the Jennings I-75 interchange meeting. Mr. Adams stated that the meeting was a productive meeting with legal staff discussing the migrant housing issues and how it relates to the Town's Land Development Regulations and that all agencies appear to now be working toward a solution to the issue.

- Chairman Smith advised the Board that Senator Montford is sponsoring a bill that will allow State funding to assist with well testing due to the continuous sewer spill from Lowndes County.
- Chairman Smith also advised the Board that the Tankers are ready for delivery and that Fire Coordinator Henry Land will be traveling to Texas to check them before being delivered.

There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Smith adjourned the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

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JOSH SMITH, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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GREG GODWIN, EX-OFFICIO CLERK



