

**FEBRUARY 21, 2023
JASPER, FLORIDA**

REGULAR SESSION

The Board of County Commissioners, Hamilton County, Florida, met in regular session on Tuesday, February 21, 2023, 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 Coordinator Louie Goodin and County Attorney Andy Decker.

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

**COUNTY FIRE SERVICE AND MUNICIPAL FIRE SERVICE
CONTRACTS**

Fire Coordinator Henry Land provided the Board with a brief update as to the county fire services. The Board addressed the Fire Services invoice received from the Town of Jennings for fire services from October 2022 to December 2022 in the amount of \$21,642.40. The Board advised that a Fire Services Agreement with the Town of Jennings needs to be submitted by the Town Council and also discussed the need for a landing zone for a medical emergency. After discussing the issues, County Attorney Andy Decker recommended that the Board defer the payment for the Town of Jennings Fire Services invoice until a proposed Fire Services Agreement is presented by the Town Council and approved by the Board. Mr. Land discussed the ISO rating for Hamilton County and stated that the current rating is at a ten (10) and advised the Board that the only way to bring the rating down would be for all entities to work together. Mr. Land stated that each department would be required to have a minimum of four (4) certified firefighters to reduce the ISO rating.

SHIP / CDBG PROGRAM / CDBG-CV – STATUS REPORT

Ship Administrator Spencer Nabors provided an update regarding the current Ship, CDBG and CDBG-CV projects.

Mr. Nabors stated that he is still waiting on final approval from DEO for the CDBG grant.

County Attorney Andy Decker discussed the CDBG-CV application with the Board and advised that according to Mr. Bingham all CDBG-CV grant qualifications have been met with the funding approved. Mr. Decker stated that the county will receive the grant funding and should be receiving an award letter soon.

County Coordinator Louie Goodin explained how the Ship and CDBG application process works and is ranked with the list to be approved in chronological order rather than someone being placed near the top or removed.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS – STATUS REPORT AND REQUESTS

Economic Development Director Chadd Mathis was unable to be present for the meeting; therefore, County Coordinator Louie Goodin provided the Board with an update on the current projects. Mr. Goodin stated that the deeds for the Well Site and the Water Tower have been reviewed by County Attorney Andy Decker who recommended acceptance by the Board.

- Motion by Commissioner Roberson to accept the deeds from the Development Authority as recommended by legal counsel for the Water Tower and Well Site. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

The Board also discussed the grant execution in the amount of \$65,000 from the Development Authority for the Jennings Bluff Restrooms.

- Motion by Commissioner McCoy to approve the grant agreement from the Development Authority in the amount of \$65,000 for the Jennings Bluff Restrooms project. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

ROAD PAVING PROJECTS – STATUS REPORT

Greg Bailey, with North Florida Professional Services, was not able to be present for the meeting; therefore, County Coordinator Louie Goodin provided the Board with a status report on the current road projects.

LAKE BAISDEN LOOP – Mr. Goodin discussed with the Board an invoice from Curt’s Construction Company in the amount of \$457,506.49 for the Lake Baisden Loop paving project as approved and recommended by Locklear & Associates.

- Motion by Commissioner McCoy to declare an emergency and to approve the payment for the Lake Baisden Loop paving project as recommended by Locklear and Associates in the amount of \$457,506.49. Second was made by Commissioner Erixton, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

SW 90TH BLVD. EXTENSION – Mr. Goodin stated that the cost to extend the paving of SW 90th Blvd. approximately 1,300 ft. will be \$31,680.00. The Board discussed the request and also whether or not the two (2) businesses was in opposition to the original paving of the road. Commissioner Roberson stated that most of the property owners on the road were in opposition due to the right-of-way required for the project.

- Motion by Commissioner Roberson to approve to extension of the SW 90th Blvd. paving project approximately 1,300 ft. at an estimated cost of \$31,680.00. Second was made by Commissioner McCoy, motion carried with a three (3) to two (2) vote. Voting against the

motion were Commissioners Erixton and Murphy.

CONTINUATION OF COUNTY FIRE SERVICE AND MUNICIPAL FIRE SERVICE CONTRACTS

Fire Coordinator Henry Land requested that the Board allow him additional time to review the January Fire Services invoice from the City of Jasper.

- Motion by Commissioner Roberson to approve the January Fire Services invoice for the City of Jasper pending the review and approval from Fire Coordinator Henry Land. Second was made by Commissioner McCoy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Mr. Land advised the Board that he has an individual that is interested in working for Hamilton County; however, is under contract with another employer who has paid for his fire certification. Mr. Land suggested that the Board consider reimbursing that entity approximately \$4,600 with the employ to agree to work with Hamilton County for a minimum of one (1) year. The Board also discussed the need to draft an employment contract for future fire employees. The Board encouraged Mr. Land to hire local employees where possible.

- Motion by Commissioner Roberson to approve the reimbursement as recommended by Fire Coordinator Henry Land. Second was made by Commissioner Erixton, motion carried with a unanimous vote.
- Motion by Commissioner Erixton to follow the recommendation of County Attorney Andy Decker and to defer the payment of the Fire Services invoice from the Town of Jennings until further review and until a Fire Services Agreement is approved. Second was made by Commissioner Roberson, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

RESOLUTION – SUPPORT TO CONTINUE THE DESIGNATION OF RURAL AREA OF OPPORTUNITY FOR THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGION

- Motion by Commissioner McCoy to approve the Resolution in support of the continuation of the Rural Area of Opportunity for the North Central Florida Region. Second was made by Commissioner Erixton, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

BID AWARD – RECREATION DEPARTMENT – EXHAUST HOOD AND BASEBALL/SOFTBALL FENCING

The Board announced the following bid proposals for the Recreation Department exhaust hood:

1. G. Davis Enterprises - \$19,040.56
2. Complete Comfort - \$18,826.00
3. Schrader’s Smoke Service - \$16,664.27

- Motion by Commissioner Roberson to accept the bid proposal from Schrader’s Smoke Service in the amount of \$16,664.27 as the low bid. Second was made by Commissioner McCoy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

The Board announced that there were not bid proposals received for the baseball/softball fencing and will look to have the Road Department install the fence.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

APPROVE BILLS

- Motion by Commissioner McCoy to approve the bills (vouchers 158776 – 159115 and checks 070208-070330). Second was made by Commissioner Roberson, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- County Coordinator Louie Goodin advised the Board that Green Point Research would like to invite the Board to their facility on February 28th, Mr. Goodin stated that he would get the time and have the meeting noticed.
- Mr. Goodin stated that he received one application for the Water/Sewer operators' position and discussed the need to hire a full-time employee rather than a contract employee.
- Mr. Goodin also stated that he received four applications for the Animal Control Officer; however, none with experience with the interviews to take place tomorrow.
- Commissioner Erixton questioned staff as to the asbestos removal at the old Holiday Inn, Mr. Goodin advised that things are progressing according to schedule. Commissioner Erixton also questioned staff as to the School District property adjacent to the Annex and advised that the complaint regarding the mud bog area has been resolved.
- Commissioner Murphy announced that he along with staff will be holding a public meeting on Thursday, February 23rd at 6:00 p.m. at the Bellville Fire Department to discuss the 13th Drive paving project and proposed right of way.

- Mr. Goodin stated that he and Building Official Jon Auer are working on the proposal for the new Road Department office building.

There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

ROBERT BROWN, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

GREG GODWIN, EX-OFFICIO CLERK

