

**MARCH 1, 2022
JASPER, FLORIDA**

REGULAR SESSION

The Board of County Commissioners, Hamilton County, Florida, met in regular session on Tuesday, March 1, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. in the Board Room, 207 Northeast First Street, Jasper, Florida. Present were Commissioners Randy Ogburn, Robert Brown, Richie McCoy, Josh Smith and Jimmy Muphy, a full Board being present. Also present were County Coordinator Louie Goodin and County Attorney Cliff Adams.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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

SHIP / CDBG PROGRAM – STATUS REPORT

Ship Coordinator Spencer Nabors provided the Board with an update regarding the current Ship, CDBG-CV, and American Rescue Plan. Mr. Nabors presented the Board with a list of bid awards as recommended by ITC: Francis - \$21,900 (Powell), Westberry - \$99,550 (Powell), Hill - \$25,250 (L&G), Folsom - \$25,600 (Powell), Burkett - \$18,925 (L&G), Johnson - \$15,500 (Powell) and Rozier - \$18,000 (L&G).

- Motion by Commissioner Ogburn to award Ship bids as recommended by Mr. Nabors. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Mr. Nabors also stated that the emergency Ship projects (Burgess and Griffis) are still awaiting bids. Mr. Nabors also advised the Board that he is still waiting on notification from the CDBG-CV application.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS – STATUS REPORT AND REQUESTS

Economic Development Director Chadd Mathis presented the Board with a survey of the right-of-way from the Development Authority for NW 15th Street showing the new intersection with CR-143. County Attorney Cliff Adams explained the history of the new right-of-way and stated that this would also clear-up the title issues and property boundary. Mr. Adams recommended that the Board quick claim deed the property to the Development Authority then once the process is complete the right-of-way will be quick claim deeded back to the county.

- Motion by Commissioner McCoy to approve the recommendation of County Attorney Cliff Adams as previously stated. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Mr. Mathis then presented the Board with a letter that was presented to Ms. Geddes regarding the possible purchase of the properties that she owns in the City of Jasper. Mr. Mathis also stated that the Development Authority has increased the Beautification Grants to \$2,500. Mr. Mathis presented the Board with a map of the CR-137 Industrial Park property and stated that he may have a company interested in purchasing the three (3) available lots. Mr. Mathis announced that the Development Authority as of April will

meet on the first Thursday of the month at 12:00 p.m. and that the Leadership Forum / Dinner has been tentatively scheduled for April 26th or April 28th at Beinville Plantation with the final details to be forthcoming.

Mr. Mathis advised the Board that the Motel 8 property at SR6 and I-75 has been listed for sale at \$225,000.

- Motion by Commissioner Ogburn to approve an offer of \$200,000 in conjunction with the Development Authority with the Board's commitment to be \$100,000. Second was made by Brown, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

ROAD PAVING PROJECTS – STATUS REPORT

Greg Bailey, with North Florida Professional Services, provided the Board with a status report on the current road projects. Mr. Bailey also stated that he has a client that is interested in placing a business at the Jennings I-75 interchange.

CR-249 REPAIR – Chairman Smith announced that the action to make the necessary repairs to CR-249 was taken by the Board at the previous meeting.

BAISDEN LAKE LOOP / SW 107th AVE. – Mr. Bailey advised the Board his staff has received comments back from FDOT and has adjusted the plans as requested with the next step to be to let the project for bids.

GIBSON PARK – Mr. Bailey stated that his staff are working on the design and permitting for the project and will be meeting with SRWMD in the next week.

OAK STREET – The Board stated that the project is progressing.

PROJECTS WORKSHOP – Mr. Bailey discussed briefly with the Board the projects that were discussed during a recent workshop and available funding opportunities. Mr. Bailey also discussed new stormwater permit rules being required from the SRWMD and the inequality of them as they apply to different geographical areas. The Board agreed to address the issues as stated.

CR 137 PAVING PROJECT – Mr. Bailey stated that Anderson Columbia has completed the punch list from FDOT and a representative from Locklear was present and confirmed that all issues have been addressed and the that the project is complete with a letter forthcoming to request the release of the retainage.

SW 69th DRIVE – Mr. Adams advised the Board that the deed for the right-of-way has been signed and needs to be accepted by the Board.

- Motion by Commissioner Murphy to accept the right-of-way deed from Rodney Tire for the SW 69th Drive project as recommended by County Attorney Cliff Adams. Second was made by Commissioner McCoy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

DR. SMIDTAS OFFICE RENOVATIONS – REVIEW AND APPROVE RFQ FOR PROJECT

County Coordinator Louie Goodin discussed the request for bids with the Board and advised that the specifications have been advertised. The Board discussed the issue with the contractor being able to do the renovations and the possible price due to Dr. Smidtas not wanting to relocate for a short period of time. After a brief discussion, the Board stated that they would wait and see the bids before making further comments.

APPROVE BILLS

- Motion by Commissioner Brown to approve the bills (vouchers 152845 – 153012 and checks 067501-067580). Second was made by Commissioner McCoy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN – RANKING AND SELECTION OF PLAN ADMINISTRATOR

Chairman Smith explained the procedure for the selection of an administrator for the American Rescue Plan. The two (2) firms submitting proposals were Thomas Howell Ferguson and In Touch Consulting Group, Inc. The Board interviewed each firm and ranked them according to the ranking process with the following totals: Thomas Howell Ferguson – 418 and In Touch Consulting Group, Inc. – 416. The Board then negotiated with the Thomas Howell Ferguson firm with Mr. Stevens agreeing to a fee not to exceed \$250,000 with no charge for travel time or mileage.

- Motion by Commissioner McCoy to award the administration for the American Rescue Plan to Thomas Howell Ferguson contingent upon an engagement letter outlining the issues previously discussed with the fee not to exceed \$250,000. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

LEAVE PAYOUT

- Motion by Commissioner Brown to approve the leave payout for Shane Pittman. Second was made by Commissioner Ogburn, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Commissioner Brown questioned staff as to the issue that was brought to the Board regarding sexual offenders locating in the county. Mr. Adams stated that the issue has been turned over to law enforcement.
- Commissioner McCoy advised the Board that he toured the Animal Control facility and discussed several issues that need to be repaired. Mr. Goodin stated he would take care of the issues.
- County Coordinator Louie Goodin advised the Board that Building Official John Auer is recovering from surgery and is doing well. Mr. Goodin also discussed with the Board the need to adjust the lighting at the Youth detention facility near the Jail. Mr. Goodin announced the upcoming North Florida Economic Development meeting.
- Commissioner Murphy discussed the old Holiday Inn property at the Jennings I-75 interchange. After a lengthy discussion, the Board agreed to allow staff to get involved and negotiate the sale of the property.
- Chairman Smith discussed a gaming site wanting to open at SR6 / I-75 and then close after the 120-day time period; however, according to the recently passed Ordinance new gaming facilities will not be allowed to open in the unincorporated areas of the county. The Sheriff's Department will enforce the ordinance and ensure that it doesn't open.
- The Board reviewed and updated the list of pending projects.

- Commissioner McCoy also questioned staff as to the road sign printer being taken to the Road Department and left

There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Ogburn adjourned the meeting at 12:35 p.m.

JOSH SMITH, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

GREG GODWIN, EX-OFFICIO CLERK

