

**MARCH 5, 2024  
JASPER, FLORIDA**

**REGULAR SESSION**

The Board of County Commissioners, Hamilton County, Florida, met in regular session on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in the Board Room, 207 Northeast First Street, Jasper, Florida. Present were Commissioners Travis Erixton, Jimmy Murphy, Robbie Roberson, Richie McCoy and Robert Brown, 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 Erixton with the Pledge of Allegiance being led by Chairman McCoy.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

**RECREATION CENTER LIGHTING**

Recreation Director Chuck Burnett discussed with the Board the need to replace the current Recreation Center lighting with incandescent led lights due to the longevity and cost savings over time. Mr. Burnett advised the Board that the current led lighting replacement cost per light would be approximately \$1,400 compared to \$800.

- Motion by Commissioner Brown to allow the replacement of the Recreation field lighting as needed and for all future lighting as presented. Second was made by Commissioner Roberson, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

The Board publicly thanked Suwannee Valley Electric for resetting poles that were damaged by Hurricane Idalia.

**CORONAVIRUS STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUND PROGRAM  
(AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN) - THOMAS HOWELL FERGUSON P.A. – STATUS  
REPORT AND UPDATES**

John Hill, with Thomas Howell Ferguson, provided the Board with a status report for the American Rescue Plan. Mr. Hill advised the Board that they are in discussion with Windstream as to the broadband deliverables and requested a complete copy of the Mobile Health Unit contract.

**REQUEST THAT THE BOARD CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE #3 DRAGLINE CROSSING OF BLACK STILL ROAD (SE 62<sup>ND</sup> DRIVE) DURING THE WEEK OF MARCH 18 – NUTRIEN WHITE SPRINGS – RACHEL GARLAND, MANAGER GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY AFFAIRS**

Rachel Garland, with Nutrien, requested that the Board allow Dragline #3 to cross SW 62<sup>nd</sup> Drive during the week of March 18th. Ms. Garland stated that Nutrien would provide all signage and traffic control as in the past.

- Motion by Commissioner Erixton to approve the request as presented to allow Dragline #3 to cross SW 62<sup>nd</sup> Drive. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

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

Ship Administrator Spencer Nabors provided the Board with a status report for the Ship, CDBG, CDBG-CV and HHRP grants. Mr. Nabors also provided an update of the CDBG-CV program.

Mr. Nabors reviewed the bid results for the grants with the Board as follows:

1. Anderson – Certified - \$120,985
2. Burrows – Powell Const. - \$119,150
3. Cole - Certified - \$124,585
4. Herring – Powell Const. - \$114,400
5. Lamb - Certified - \$119,585
6. Mallet – Powell Const. - \$117,900
7. Marshall – Perkins - \$139,820
8. McClellan – Powell - \$118,050
9. Mikell – Perkins - \$117,639
10. Riley – Powell - \$140,000
11. Amerson – Perkins - \$116,619
12. Armstead – Certified - \$118,985
13. Newsome – Powell - \$114,400
14. Palmer – Powell - \$113,900
15. Robinson – Certified - \$117,985
16. Spencer - Certified - \$117,985

- Motion by Commissioner Roberson to approve the bids as presented by ITC. Seconded by Commissioner Erixton, motion carried with a unanimous vote.
- Motion by Commissioner Roberson to approve the CDBG-CV engineering contract with North Florida Professional Services in the amount of \$186,500. Second was made by Commissioner Erixton, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

## **SUWANNEE VALLEY UTILITIES GROUP – ROCKY FORD**

Rocky Ford and Commissioner Harris from Suwannee County discussed the Suwannee Valley Utilities proposal along with the services and benefits to the participating counties. Mr. Ford stated that the group would control the county or municipal utilities which would create savings for the participating entities. The Board thanked Mr. Ford and Commissioner Harris for their attendance and for explaining the services and stated that they would further discuss the issue and make a decision at a later date.

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

Chairman McCoy read a list of Legislative Appropriations that will be awarded to Hamilton County once approved by Governor DeSantis.

## **ROAD PAVING PROJECTS – STATUS EREPORT**

Greg Bailey, with North Florida Professional Services, provided the Board with a written status report on the current road projects.

**LAKE BAISDEN LOOP** – Jerod Lizotte, with Locklear, stated that the project is nearing completion with a punch list to be created by the end of the month. The Board agreed to the CEI's recommendation for the change order to make a necessary ditch repair. Mr. Bailey also stated that the as built documents for the box culvert has been forwarded to FDOT for review.

**CR 25A** – Mr. Bailey advised that his staff have received the final comments from FDOT and requested approval from the Board to let bids for the resurfacing project.

- Motion by Commissioner Roberson to allow NFPS to proceed with bidding the CR 25A resurfacing project. Second was made by Commissioner Erixton, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

**GIBSON PARK BOAT RAMP** – Mr. Bailey advised the Board that the plans for the Gibson Park Boat Ramp have been approved by FWC.

- Motion by Commissioner Roberson to approve the bid package as submitted and recommended by NFPS. Second was made by Commissioner Brown, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

**JOBS GROWTH GRANT** – Mr. Bailey discussed the Jobs Growth Grant project and reminded the Board that the County will be responsible for the dirt work and clearing as an in-kind match to the grant. Mr. Godwin advised that he will get with the Road Department and see what will be involved. Mr. Bailey advised that once construction begins, it will need to be completed in sixty (60) days.

**JENNINGS I-75 INTERCHANGE PLANNING SITE PLAN** – Mr. Bailey provided the Board with a site plan for the strategic plan for the Jennings I-75 interchange and discussed the different parcels that are ready for development.

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

**5 HOLE BOAT RAMP** – Mr. Bailey discussed the 5 Hole Boat Ramp project and stated that will need a completed copy of the archeological survey contract with Search Inc. to get the survey completed for the Army Corp. of Engineers due to grave sites being present.

### **WATSON HEALTH CARE PROJECT PROPOSAL**

Jennifer Watson and Cassie Morgan, with Watson Health Care, provided the Board with a Health Center Proposal. Ms. Watson explained the challenges with imaging and proposed a State-of-the-Art building and imaging center. Ms. Watson answered questions for the proposal and stated that they will make the current office space an Urgent Care Center. Ms. Watson explained the monetary request and the services that will be provided. The Board thanked Ms. Watson and Ms. Morgan and stated that they would consider the proposal and discuss the available options within the next couple of weeks.

### **OPIOD SETTLEMENT FUNDS**

Erin Whitaker-Houck, representing LSF Health Systems, provided the Board with a presentation on the Opiod Settlement Funding Allocation that is available to Hamilton County. Ms. Whitaker-Houck explained the funding dates and outlined the potential uses of the funds per the agreement. The Board advised Ms. Whitaker-Houck that they would allow legal staff to review the information and then make a final determination.

### **TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON RV/TRAVEL TRAILERS**

Land Use Administrator Mathew Morgan was present to discuss a possible moratorium on RV/Travel trailers. The Board agreed after a brief discussion to hold a special meeting to review the Land Development Regulations and current Ordinance prior to taking any action.

### **AMNESTY DAYS – HAMILTON COUNTY LANDFILL**

The Board discussed having Amnesty days for the county to help with the removal of garbage, tires and debris. After a lengthy discussion, the Board stated that the days being discussed would not be inclusive of commercial waste and took the following action:

- Motion by Commissioner Erixton to have Amnesty days for two (2) consecutive months then on the second Saturday quarterly with the first dates to be April 13<sup>th</sup> and May 11<sup>th</sup>. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Jennifer Gissoni was present and thanked the Board for having the Amnesty days and also suggested that the days be for two (2) consecutive months then quarterly. Ms. Gissoni also announced the “Be Hamco” days during the month of March. The Board discussed the need to assist with the “Be Hamco” days financially.

### **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 and FEMA assistance.

### **JASPER PUBLIC LIBRARY GUTTER REPLACEMENT**

County Coordinator Gary Godwin discussed with the Board the need to replace the gutter on the Jasper Public Library. Mr. Godwin advised the Board that the Maintenance Department has tried to get quotes for the gutter replacement; however, no contractor is interested in replacing the commercial style gutter system. According to Mr. Godwin, the only quote received is from Plumb Level Construction in the amount of \$6,332.00.

- Motion by Commissioner Roberson to approve the sole source quote from Plumb Level Construction for the gutter replacement in the amount of \$6,332.00. Second was made by Commissioner Brown, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

### **APPROVE BILLS**

- Motion by Commissioner Roberson to approve the bills (vouchers 165657 – 165819 and checks 072944 - 073022) excluding the McCoy Land Services invoices and to include Little and Williams invoice. Second was made by Commissioner Brown, motion carried with a unanimous vote.
- Motion by Commissioner Roberson to approve the McCoy Land Services invoices. Second was made by Commissioner Erixton, motion carried with a unanimous vote. Chairman McCoy abstained from the vote due to being related.

### **MOTOR GRADER BUYBACK AGREEMENTS**

Clerk of Court Greg Godwin discussed with the Board the proposed buyback agreements for the two (2) graders returned to Beard Equipment Company.

- Motion by Commissioner Erixton to accept the buyback agreements for the two (2) graders as recommended by Beard Equipment Company. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

## **LEAVE PAYOUT**

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

## **CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- County Coordinator Gary Godwin announced the Faith Community meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup>. The Board stated that they will be in attendance.
- Emily Lumpkin, with the Alcohol, Drug Prevention Coalition, advised the Board that the Opioid funds previously discussed could be used by their organization as well as 4H for Opioid prevention. Ms. Lumpkin also announced the Unity in the Community event that will be held on July 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Commissioner Brown questioned staff as to the ownership of the fence between the Recreation Department and Evergreen Cemetery. Mr. Burnett advised the Board that the fence belongs to the City of Jasper. The Board discussed the possibility of constructing a privacy fence which would help with the cemetery.
- Commissioner Murphy questioned staff as to the Fireworks building in Jennings. The Board discussed that Code Enforcement is involved and will be filing a report. The Board also discussed the need to purchase Municode and a website marketing firm.
- The Board discussed the need to have the gate at the old Holiday Inn property installed to keep individuals from accessing the property.
- Recreation Director Chuck Burnett discussed the gymnasium with the Board and advised that he will be obtaining quotes for a fence to keep individuals from being able to drive on the property.
- The Board announced that the special meeting to discuss the RV/Travel Trailer Ordinance and the Land Development Regulations will be on March 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.
- The Board talked with Hamilton County Health Department interim director Diane Deque and agreed by unanimous consent to request that she be appointed to the position full-time.

There being no further business before the Board, Chairman McCoy adjourned the meeting at 12:27 p.m.

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RICHIE MCCOY, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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GREG GODWIN, EX-OFFICIO CLERK





