

**MARCH 7, 2023  
JASPER, FLORIDA**

**REGULAR SESSION**

The Board of County Commissioners, Hamilton County, Florida, met in regular session on Tuesday, March 7, 2023, at 9:00 a.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 Chairman Brown 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. Chairman Brown read a letter from the City of Jasper advising that at the current time the City of Jasper Fire Department will not be able to assist Hamilton County with fire services. The letter stated that the issue is due to a lack of staffing and when the City of Jasper Fire Department is fully staffed they will resume fire services support. Mr. Land advised that he currently has five (5) employees and is operating modified shifts with the ability to ensure twenty-four (24) hour fire coverage as of Monday, March 13th. Mr. Land also stated that he is reviewing the February invoice from the City of Jasper.

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW WARDEN – HAMILTON  
CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION**

There was no one present for the agenda item.

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

Steve Stephens, with Thomas Howell Ferguson P.A., provided the Board with an update of the American Rescue Plan.

**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 advised the Board that the Ship projects are in the final stages of completion. Mr. Nabors also stated that he has received the award letter from DEO for the 2021-2022 CDBG grant.

- Motion by Commissioner McCoy to allow staff to send out request for proposals for the 2021-2022 CDBG Grant Administration. Second was made by Commissioner Erixton, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

County Attorney Andy Decker advised the Board that there have been no changes since the last meeting regarding the CDBG-CV grant.

County Coordinator Louie Goodin advised the Board that the State has available funds for migrant housing through the SAIL program.

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

Economic Development Director Chadd Mathis provided the Board with an update on the current projects. Mr. Mathis provided the Board with a proposal / offer for parcel 7341-000 which is located adjacent to the property that was recently purchased at the I-75 interchange in Jennings. Mr. Mathis also provided the Board with a potential site for a new Dollar Store in Jennings.

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

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

**LAKE BAISDEN LOOP** – Mr. Bailey stated that the Lake Baisden Loop paving project is progressing according to schedule and that once the retention ponds are complete the contractor will begin the construction of the box culvert.

- Motion by Commissioner Erixton to approve the NFPS Task Order for certain parcels of right of way for the Lake Baisden Loop paving project to be re-staked. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

**GIBSON PARK** – Mr. Bailey advised that his staff is working through the final plans for the boat ramp project.

**SR 6 – JOBS GROWTH PROJECT** - Mr. Bailey stated that he needs a copy of the contract to be able to proceed, Mr. Goodin stated that he would provide a copy of the contract.

**5 HOLE BOAT RAMP** – Mr. Bailey stated that he is revising the plans for the project after meeting with SRWMD.

**CR 25A PAVING PROJECT** – Mr. Bailey stated that his staff is currently working on the design for the CR 25A paving project.

**SW 13<sup>TH</sup> DRIVE** – Commissioner Murphy and staff held a public meeting with constituents along SW 13<sup>th</sup> Drive to discuss right of way acquisition in the event that the Board were to submit the road as a potential SCOP or SCRAP FDOT paving project. During the discussion, Commissioner Murphy requested staff to prepare a cost estimate for the Road Department to possibly pave the road.

## **REQUESTS FROM CITY OF JASPER FOR ASSISTANCE –**

The Board discussed the request for paving assistance for 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. SE from Martin Luther King to 5<sup>th</sup> Street SE with the City of Jasper to provide the materials and for the County to provide labor and equipment.

- Motion by Commissioner McCoy to approve the request for paving assistance as presented with the County to only provide labor and equipment. Second was made by Commissioner Roberson, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

The Board then discussed the second request from the City of Jasper to construct a bridge at the end of the walk on Central Ave. After a brief discussion, the Board requested staff to provide additional information before making a decision.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

## **DISCUSSION OF LEAVE TIME FOR TRANSFERRED EMPLOYEE**

Chairman Brown announced that the item will be tabled until the next meeting to allow staff additional time to discuss the issue.

## **APPROVE BILLS**

- Motion by Commissioner McCoy to approve the bills (vouchers 159116 – 159315 and checks 070331-070416). Second was made by Commissioner Roberson, motion carried with a unanimous vote.
- Motion by Commissioner Roberson to include with the bills invoice # 130218 (Scott Shirley) in the amount of \$1,587.50. Second was made by Commissioner Erixton, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

## **BUILDING OFFICIAL COMPENSATION**

County Coordinator Louie Goodin provided the Board with Building Official compensation from the surrounding counties and recommended that the Board consider raising the salary of the Building Official to \$70,000 and to consider during the next budget cycle.

- Motion by Commissioner McCoy to declare an emergency and to approve the recommendation of County Coordinator Louie Goodin and adjust the salary of the Building Official to \$70,000. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

## **BOAT RAMPS**

Commissioner McCoy discussed the ownership of several boat ramps in the county, particularly the 5 Hole ramp. After a lengthy discussion the Board took the following action:

- Motion by Commissioner Erixton to authorize County Attorney Andy Decker to proceed with a Quiet Title Suit and to acquire a survey to establish the legal description for the 5 Hole boat ramp property. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

## **CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- County Coordinator Louie Goodin advised the Board that Lobbyist Patrick Bell couldn't be present for the meeting due to the Legislative Session.

- Commissioner McCoy discussed with the Board the need to clean-up and utilize the Heritage Village area, the Board agreed to meet at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup> to look at the area and determine how to best utilize the property.
- Commissioner Roberson questioned staff as to whether the Board offers scholarships for high school students. The Board stated that they have donated to activities but not as a scholarship.
- Commissioner Erixton questioned staff as to caution light at the CR-137 intersection, Mr. Goodin stated that the Road Department was checking into getting it repaired. Commissioner Erixton also asked about the timeline for the completion of the asbestos removal of the old Holiday Inn property. Mr. Goodin advised the Board that the asbestos removal will be complete by Friday with a third-party inspector to then inspect. The Board would then send in the information to FDOT for the ten (10) day request.
- Commissioner Murphy requested staff to get a cost estimate for the “in house” paving of NW 13<sup>th</sup> Ave.
- County Attorney Andy Decker expressed his appreciation and gratitude for Cathy Hall as his secretary due to her intention to retire on March 14<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Decker discussed the position with the Board and stated that at the current time he would not fill the position and will use Ms. Hall on an as needed basis. The Board stated that they would be presenting Ms. Hall with a plaque at the next Board meeting for her dedicated service to Hamilton County.

There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

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ROBERT BROWN, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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GREG GODWIN, EX-OFFICIO CLERK





