

**MARCH 21, 2023
JASPER, FLORIDA**

REGULAR SESSION

The Board of County Commissioners, Hamilton County, Florida, met in regular session on Tuesday, March 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 McCoy with the Pledge of Allegiance being led by Chairman Brown.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

FIVE HOLES BOAT RAMP

County Attorney Andy Decker advised the Board that after researching the official records regarding the Five Holes boat ramp property that the plat indicates that the property was dedicated as public property and would therefore not require a quiet title action. Mr. Decker also presented the Board with a letter explaining the title issue and the applicable Florida Statutes.

**PETITION TO CLOSE A PUBLIC ROAD – NW 34TH TRAIL –
JASON WILLIAM JONES, LARRY CRAIG NEWSOME, AMBER
L. NEWSOME, JONATHAN JONES, MAUREEN FOSTER AND
JAMES D. HARKINS**

County Attorney Andy Decker advised the Board that he finds the petition to close NW 34th Trail to be in order and recommended that the petition be advertised, and a public hearing scheduled for the road closure.

- Motion by Commissioner McCoy to direct staff to advertise the petition to close NW 34th Trail and to establish a date for the public hearing. Second was made by Commissioner Roberson, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

SHIP / CDBG PROGRAM / CDBG-CV – STATUS REPORT

Ship Administrator Spencer Nabors was unable to be present for the meeting; therefor, County Coordinator Louie Goodin provided the Board with a brief update regarding the current Ship, CDBG and CDBG-CV projects. Mr. Goodin advised the Board that the 2021/022 CDBG Grant Administration is being advertised.

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

**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. Mr. Land stated that he hasn't received any information from the municipalities as to their assistance with fire services and also advised that the County Fire Department is now responding 24/7. Mr. Land recommended approval of the City of Jasper's fire services bill for February in the amount of \$12,032.68. Mr. Land also stated that the Safer grant has been submitted.

- Motion by Commissioner McCoy to approve the February fire services bill for the City of Jasper in the amount of \$12,035.68. Second was made by Commissioner Roberson, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

REQUEST TO INCREASE FIXED ASSET THRESHOLD FOR BUILDINGS, ROADS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO \$50,000

Clerk of Court Greg Godwin explained the reason for the request to increase the fixed asset threshold for buildings, roads, and improvements to \$50,000.

- Motion by Commissioner Erixton to approve the request to increase the fixed asset threshold for buildings, roads and improvements to \$50,000. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF COUNTY'S SIX MONTH RE-HIRE POLICY TO BE WAIVED TO ALLOW POSSIBLE HIRE BY HAMILTON COUNTY FIRE – STEPHANIE LANG

Stephanie Lang, a previous EMS employee, addressed the Board and requested the Board to waive 9.02(D) of the Personnel Rules and Regulations. This section states that an employee that resigns from the employment of the Board will not be eligible for consideration for re-employment with the Board for six (6) months following their date of resignation. Ms. Lang explained her request and shared her educational and certification qualifications. Several Board members encouraged Ms. Lang to apply for employment after the six (6) month period if not approved by the Board.

- Motion by Commissioner Erixton to deny the request for a waiver of 9.02(D) of the Board's Personnel Rules and Regulations. Second was made by Commissioner McCoy, motion carried with a four (4) to one (1) vote. Voting against the motion was Commissioner Murphy.

DISCUSSION OF EXTENSION TO CURRENT RV PERMIT/MORATORIUM FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCE

Land Use Administrator Mia Mauldin provided the Board with copy of the RV's (Camper Trailers) Ordinance adopted by the Board on December 21, 2021, which addresses RV's as permanent residences. Ms. Mauldin explained the issues with RV's (Camper Trailers) that are being set up as temporary but become permanent residences in the county and suggested that the Board consider allowing an extension of time to allow for those that are unaware of the Ordinance to file the proper paperwork and be grandfathered in under the RV permitting process. Code Enforcement Officer Paul Quintana also addressed the Board and shared similar experiences that he has dealt with in the county. Fire Coordinator and 911 Mapping Coordinator Henry Land briefly discussed with the Board the need to have a workshop to discuss the addressing of these structures. Ms. Mauldin compared some of the Ordinance language with that of the surrounding counties and recommended that the Board approve a sixty (60) to ninety (90) day extension to allow for advertising and public awareness of the Ordinance. Michael Summer requested that the Board consider Ms. Mauldin's recommendation to help other hunters that utilize RV's only during hunting season. Jack Daughtery shared his experience as a hunter in the county and also encouraged the Board to approve the extension. Pat Feagle thanked the Board for allowing him and his family to hunt and camp in Hamilton County and encouraged the Board to approve the extension. Zachery White discussed the importance of camping and hunting with his family and stated that he would like to continue to utilize their hunting camp in the county. County Attorney Andy Decker suggested that the Board consider approving a six (6) month extension to allow for the advertising and public notification and to give the Board additional time to further discuss their concerns with the Ordinance.

- Motion by Commissioner McCoy to approve an extension for the RV Ordinance to December 31, 2023, to allow staff additional time to advertise and make the public aware of the process. Second was made by Commissioner Roberson, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS – STATUS REPORT AND REQUESTS

Economic Development Director Chadd Mathis was not in attendance for the meeting; therefore, County Coordinator Louie Goodin provided the Board with a brief update on the current projects. Mr. Goodin stated that the asbestos removal for the old Holiday Inn property has been completed with the report to be filed and then as soon as the ten (10) day waiting period has been completed for FDEP the demolition will begin.

ROAD PAVING PROJECTS – STATUS REPORT

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

GIBSON PARK – Mr. Bailey advised that his staff is working through the final plans for the boat ramp project and will be scheduling a final meeting for the grant to finalize the plans for the project.

SR 6 – JOBS GROWTH PROJECT - Mr. Bailey stated that the survey and wetlands delineation are being prepared with the plan to delineate all wetlands on the property if possible.

LAKE BAISDEN LOOP – Jared, with Locklear, stated that the Lake Baisden Loop paving project is progressing according to schedule.

- Motion by Commissioner Roberson to approve pay request #3 for Curt's Construction in the amount of \$699,955.20 for the Lake Baisden Loop paving project as recommended by Locklear and Assoc. Second was made by Commissioner Erixton, motion carried with a unanimous vote.
- Motion by Commissioner Roberson to approve an invoice from Locklear for CEI services in the amount of \$25,384.61. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

DISCUSSION OF LEAVE TIME FOR TRANSFERRED EMPLOYEE

- Motion by Commissioner Roberson to allow Fire Coordinator Henry Land to transfer “300” hours of annual leave from the Sheriff’s Department to the Board of County Commissioners as recommended by County Coordinator Louie Goodin. Second was made by Commissioner Erixton, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

APPROVE BILLS

- Motion by Commissioner Erixton to approve the bills (vouchers 159316 – 159648 and checks 070417-070529). Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT – FURDAP GRANT

County Coordinator Louie Goodin provided the Board with a quote for playground equipment for the Gibson Park FURDAP grant with the quote being approximately \$3,000 over the grant amount of \$50,000.

- Motion by Commissioner McCoy to declare an emergency and to allow the purchase as recommended by County Coordinator Louie Goodin for the playground equipment for the Gibson Park FURDAP grant. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- County Coordinator Louie Goodin advised the Board that the FURDAP grant for the ballfields will be completed prior to the deadline of June 30th.

- Mr. Goodin also stated that the Alcohol & Drug Coalition plans to request the Opioid Settlement funds. The Board requested County Attorney Andy Decker to review the protocol for the expenditure of the funds. Mr. Goodin also presented the Board with an anonymous letter regarding the County Fire Department.
- Commissioner Roberson provided the Board with an update on the Legislative Days and the time spent with lobbyist Patrick Bell.
- Commissioner also provided an update on the Legislative Days and reminded the Board that they would like for them to be present during the budget process. Commissioner McCoy also stated that the work performed by the Road Department at the Arena looks great. Mr. Goodin advised that Suwannee Valley Transit is planning to provide a shuttle bus for the Rodeo from the JRE Lee Complex if parking is approved. The Board also discussed several uses for the old Voting building.
- Commissioner Erixton discussed with the Board the numerous complaints that he has received regarding air cannons being used on a nearby blueberry farm. County Attorney Andy Decker discussed the current “Noise Ordinance” and the need to update the language due to time and changes. Mr. Decker explained that the current Ordinance is not applicable in this case; however, he will seek to obtain competitive information from the surrounding counties for the Board to review. Mr. Decker also stated that an individual could seek injunctive relief through the courts due to the excessive noise.
- Commissioner Murphy requested staff to obtain information as to what would be required from FDEP to allow for Septic Tank Pumpers to unload their waste in the county sewer system. Mr. Goodin advised that he will provide the Board with the State regulations.

- The Board briefly discussed the Heritage Village property and requested that NFPS assist with the development of a site plan for the property.
- The Board announced that will have an economic development workshop on Tuesday, March 28, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

ROBERT BROWN, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

GREG GODWIN, EX-OFFICIO CLERK

