

**APRIL 4, 2023  
JASPER, FLORIDA**

**REGULAR SESSION**

The Board of County Commissioners, Hamilton County, Florida, met in regular session on Tuesday, April 4, 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 Commissioner Brown 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 Roberson, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

**FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE**

County Coordinator Louie Goodin discussed the benefits to attending the FAC Annual Conference, the Board advised that they will attend if possible. Mr. Goodin also reminded the Board that the Rural County Days in Tallahassee will be April 25<sup>th</sup> through April 26<sup>th</sup>.

**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. Mr. Stephens advised the Board that his firm is currently working on the annual reporting requirements that will be submitted through the State portal which opened April 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Stephens also stated that the Board should receive an invoice from Windstream for the Broadband installation soon.

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

Ship Administrator Spencer Nabors provided the Board with a status report for Ship and CDBG. Mr. Nabors stated that the Ship projects are under construction and will be completed in a timely manner. Mr. Nabors also advised the Board that the CDBG Administration is being advertised for proposals and will be due back on April 14<sup>th</sup> for the Board to review and rank.

County Attorney Andy Decker advised the Board that according to Mr. Bingham, DEO is in the process of sending an award letter due to the appeal being successful for the CDBG-CV grant. Mr. Decker stated that the total grant award will be \$971,000. The Board briefly discussed requesting attorney fees; however, Mr. Bingham felt that the Board should move forward with the grant acceptance before requesting to be reimbursed the attorney fees.

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

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 with the demolition to begin next week. Greg Bailey, with North Florida Professional Services, presented the Board with a task order for the Economic Development Consultant's position.

- Motion by Commissioner Erixton to approve the task order from NFPS for the Economic Development Consultant’s position. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

**HAMILTON COUNTY ALCOHOL & OTHER DRUG PREVENTION COALITION – REQUEST FOR FUNDING – EMILY LUMPKIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Executive Director Emily Lumpkin addressed the Board and requested \$4,000 for the Friday Night Lights youth event. The Board briefly questioned Ms. Lumpkin and requested that she request the funding through the budget process for the next fiscal year.

- Motion by Commissioner McCoy to approve the request from the Hamilton County Alcohol & Other Drug Prevention Coalition for the Friday Night Lights event in the amount of \$4,000. Second was made by Commissioner Roberson, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

**FLORIDA GEORGIA PUMP & UTILITY LLC**

Donnie Jacobs, with Florida Georgia Pump & Utility LLC, addressed the Board and requested that the county consider constructing a dump station in Hamilton County to handle the wastewater from his and other septic pumping businesses. Mr. Jacobs explained his business model and stated that he has to travel to Madison Florida to empty his tanks a couple of times a day and would rather utilize the county’s sewer system. The Board directed staff to check with FDEP as to the requirements for the construction of a dump station.

**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 advised the Board that the Lake Baisden Loop paving project is progressing according to schedule.

- Motion by Commissioner Erixton to approve invoice no. (393-22-3) from Locklear for CEI services in the amount of \$12,692.31. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

**GIBSON PARK** – Mr. Bailey advised that his staff is working on the final plans for the boat ramp project and that he met with FWC and their consultant to discuss the dynamics of the previous plans and will need to make minor changes before submittal. Mr. Bailey stated that the changes are due to ADA requirements.

**5 HOLE BOAT RAMP** – Mr. Bailey advised the Board that the site plans and layout for the boat ramp project are complete and that will be meeting with Commissioner Roberson to review the plans.

**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. Mr. Bailey also stated that he is working on which planning grant would best fit the Jennings I-75 interchange.

**CR 25A** – Mr. Bailey advised that the survey of the CR 25A paving project is underway.

**SCRAP AND SCOP FDOT PROGRAMS** – Mr. Bailey recommended that the Board members contact Representative Shoaf and Senator Simon to request that the SCRAP and SCOP paving programs be fully funded for the next fiscal year.

## **HAMILTON COUNTY JAIL – A/C UNIT**

- Motion by Commissioner Erixton to approve for the Jail A/C unit to be replaced due to the age of the unit and the availability of parts. Second was made by Commissioner McCoy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

## **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 the Town of Jennings has presented the Board with a proposal for Fire Services. County Attorney Andy Decker explained the proposal and stated that he advised the attorney from the Town of Jennings that the agreement will not be needed due to the county having a full-time fire department; however, the Board expressed a willingness to discuss the agreement and suggested that the Town utilize a per call fee for calls that are outside of the city limits. After a lengthy discussion, the Board agreed to allow staff to set up a joint workshop with the Town of Jennings to discuss fire services. Mr. Land also stated that the new county fire department will be doing fire inspections for the county and municipality.

## **DISCUSSION OF HAMILTON COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM WHEELCHAIR RAMP AND REPAIRS**

Commissioner McCoy discussed with the Board the need to replace the wheelchair ramp at the Historical Museum building and pour a concrete walkway connecting the ramp to the side of the building. County Coordinator Louie Goodin stated that the Maintenance Department will get a cost estimate for the replacement ramp and connecting sidewalk. The Board also discussed the need to possibly seek a historical grant to make additional repairs to the building.

## **APPROVE BILLS**

- Motion by Commissioner McCoy to approve the bills (vouchers 159649 – 159820 and checks 070530-070609). Second was made by Commissioner Erixton, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

## **CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- County Coordinator Louie Goodin advised the Board of the need to hold a workshop regarding RV usage as residential and recreational.
- Commissioner McCoy advised the Board that he is working on getting a key for the old bank building to allow it to be shown for a potential business.
- Commissioner McCoy questioned staff as to the swings at the Veterans Memorial Park, Mr. Goodin stated that one has been replaced with the others being ordered. The Board also discussed the building that is left on the old Holiday Inn property and what action can be taken if the property owner refuses to cooperate. Commissioner McCoy also discussed the need for the Road Department to remove the grass shoulders on roads that are causing water to stand during heavy rain.
- The Board agreed to hold a insurance workshop to allow Acentria to make a presentation on the current health and ancillary insurance.
- Commissioner Roberson questioned staff as to the Mainstreet Coalition and the need to join in order to receive grant funding. The Board also discussed the Rodeo parking with Mr. Goodin advising that SVTA will be providing a shuttle from the JRE Lee facility to the arena.

- Commissioner Murphy questioned staff as to the Road Department office. Mr. Goodin stated that the project has been let for bids with a contractor walk-thru to be held on Thursday @ 1:00 p.m.
- County Attorney Andy Decker discussed with the Board the criteria for the utilization of the Opioid Settlement Litigation funds.

There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 10:53 a.m.

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ROBERT BROWN, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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GREG GODWIN, EX-OFFICIO CLERK







