

**APRIL 19, 2022  
JASPER, FLORIDA**

**REGULAR SESSION**

The Board of County Commissioners, Hamilton County, Florida, met in regular session on Tuesday, April 19, 2022, at 6:00 p.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 Brown with the Pledge of Allegiance being led by Chairman Smith.

**ALCOHOL & DRUG PREVENTION COALITION –  
REQUEST FOR FUNDING FOR SUMMER BASKETBALL  
PROGRAM – EMILY LUMPKIN**

Emily Lumpkin, with the Alcohol & Drug Prevention Coalition, discussed with the Board their summer programs being planned. Ms. Lumpkin stated that the program would take place at the JRE Lee Complex from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. and discussed the accounting for the programs and the Board agreed to the following:

- Motion by Commissioner McCoy to approve the request of \$10,000 for the Alcohol & Drug Prevention Coalition with the amount to be divided by 33% with the first funding to be released on June 1<sup>st</sup> provided that an accounting of the programs are submitted. Second was made by Commissioner Brown, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

**JRE LEE COMMUNITY COMPLEX SUMMER PROGRAM –  
REQUEST FOR FUNDING FOR SUMMER YOUTH  
PROGRAM – KAREN BRISTOL**

Karen Bristol, with the JRE Lee Community Complex Summer Program, requested that the Board provide financial assistance for their planned summer program that will begin on June 6<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Bristol requested \$2,000 for the program to assist with utility bills and stated that they anticipate having 55-60 young people participate with the program to provide educational assistance as well as recreation.

- Motion by Commissioner Brown, to approve the request in the amount of \$2,000 as presented by Ms. Bristol with the programs to begin on June 6<sup>th</sup>.

**NUTRIEN-WHITE SPRINGS – REQUEST DATE CHANGE  
FOR DRAGLINE #5 CROSSING OF COUNTY ROAD 6 –  
RACHEL GARLAND, GOVERNMENT & INDUSTRY  
AFFAIRS MANAGER**

Rachel Garland, with Nutrien-White Springs, addressed the Board and requested to change the date for the #5 Dragline to cross CR 6 from April 23<sup>rd</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup>.

- Motion by Commissioner Ogburn to approve the request per Ms. Garland. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

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

Economic Development Director Chadd Mathis provided the Board with an update on the current economic development projects. Mr. Mathis also provided the Board with a quick claim deed for the

Jennings House right-of-way for signature and reminded the Board of the Development Forum that will be held on April 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the Jasper Civic Center. The Board also discussed the Jobs Growth Grant fund with staff advising that a contract for the grant should be forthcoming.

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

Steve Stevens, with Thomas Howell Ferguson P.A, provided the Board with a status report for the American Rescue Plan. Mr. Stevens stated that a response was received from County Auditor Ken Daniels in response to the recommendation approved by the Board at the previous meeting to adopt the standard allowance, regarding the SLFRF funding in accordance with the Final Rule, with the funds to be recorded in the General Fund, to be utilized according to Final Rule Guidance. Mr. Stevens also requested the Board to consider the project plan and reporting templates.

- Moton by Commissioner Ogburn to approve the recommendation by Thomas Howell Ferguson P.A. for the project plan and reporting templates. Second was made by Commissioner Brown, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

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

Ship Coordinator Spencer Nabors provided the Board with an update regarding the current Ship and CDBG-CV. Mr. Nabors presented the Board with an updated list of the current Ship projects and stated that the round #4 Rehab approvals will be forthcoming. Regarding the CDBG-CV, Mr. Nabors stated that he is continuing to work with DEO to provide the documents needed to complete the CDBG-CV site visit.

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

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

**BAISDEN LAKE LOOP / SW 107<sup>th</sup> AVE.** – Mr. Bailey advised that his staff is still working with FDOT for the final approval of the plans. The Board agreed to allow staff to issue a letter to FDOT District 2 Secretary Greg Evans as to the issues and delays of projects.

**GIBSON PARK** – Mr. Bailey stated that the SRWMD is being reviewed.

**NW 63<sup>RD</sup> AVE.** – Mr. Bailey provided the Board with an overview of the NW 63<sup>rd</sup> Ave. paving project. After a brief discussion as to whether additional right-of-way will be required, the Board agreed to allow Mr. Bailey to continue to seek direction from FDOT as to the right-of-way being requested. The Board also discussed the need for a weight limit Ordinance for certain roads due to heavy truck traffic. The Board agree to allow County Attorney Cliff Adams to draft an Ordinance as discussed.

**SW 90<sup>TH</sup> BLVD.** – Chairman Smith requested direction from the Board as to paving the existing right-of-way from Hwy. 41 to Friendship Cemetery. Mr. Bailey stated that the contract price for the paving project would be approximately \$880,000 and if the county agreed to utilize the Road Department the price estimate would be \$440,000.

**ROBIN AVE.** – Mr. Bailey provided the Board with an estimate of \$50,000 to resurface the existing pavement.

**SRWMD** – Mr. Bailey gave the Board a brief update regarding the meeting held to discuss changes to the SRWMD's storm water

policies to ensure fair and equitable practices for all counties.

**NE 38<sup>TH</sup> STREET** – Commissioner McCoy explained the issues that he is having with culverts being stopped up due to Beavers etc. Mr. Bailey stated that a concrete box culvert would need to be installed due to the erosion of the pipes. After a brief discussion, the Board agree to continue trying to clean out the debris.

### **DR. SMIDTAS OFFICE RENOVATIONS – BID AWARD**

Chairman Smith explained that the Board only received one (1) bid proposal for the Dr. Smidtas’s office renovation project. The bid was from Plumb Level Construction in the amount of \$245,954.00. The Board discussed the proposal and the need to have an engineer or Building Official determine if the estimate is a reasonable bid. Lina Smidtas addressed the Board as to the need for the renovation and explained their reasoning for not being able to relocate temporarily.

- Motion by Commissioner Ogburn to approve the bid from Plumb Level Construction in the amount of \$245,954.00 based on the determination from Building Official John Auer as to the reasonableness of the bid and to consider the unique situation.

The Board stated that if the bid was deemed reasonable to begin the renovation project immediately.

### **LOCAL OPTION FUEL TAX**

County Attorney Cliff Adams presented the Board with Interlocal Agreements from the Town of Jennings and White Springs for signature and stated that Commissioner Brown and himself will be meeting with the City of Jasper this week to discuss their agreement prior to being able to proceed.

## **OPIOD LITIGATION**

County Attorney Cliff Adams advised the Board that he has received a notice of settlement for the Opiod litigation and explained how the funds will be appropriated in accordance with the settlement agreement. Mr. Adams recommended that the Board approve the notice.

- Motion by Commissioner McCoy to approve the notice of settlement for the Opiod litigation as recommended by County Attorney Cliff Adams. Second was made by Commissioner Brown, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

## **ROAD DEPARTMENT OFFICE REPLACEMENT**

County Coordinator Louie Goodin presented the Board with a floor plan for the new Road Department office complex. After discussing the escalation in construction material costs, the Board agreed to close in the questionable part of the building and directed staff to proceed with the RFP.

## **INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT FOR THE LEASE OF GIBSON PARK – AMENDMENT AND RENEWAL**

County Attorney Cliff Adams explained the Interlocal Agreement for the lease of the Roline, Turner Bridge and the property at Gibson Park and recommended approval.

- Motion by Commissioner Ogburn to approve the Interlocal Agreement with the SRWMD for the boat ramp leases and Gibson Park property as recommended by County Attorney Cliff Adams. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- Motion by Commissioner Brown to approve the consent agenda, pulling item I (NW 63<sup>rd</sup> Ave. FDOT). Second was made by Commissioner McCoy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

## **JENNINGS BLUFF CAMPGROUND RESTROOM / SHOWER BUILDING – BID AWARD**

The Board discussed the bid proposal received from Plumb Level Construction in the amount of \$129,110.00 for the Jennings Bluff Campground project. Commissioner Ogburn, Chairman of the Tourist Development Council, advised the Board that their board was unable to make a recommendation on the bid proposal due to not having a quorum at their last meeting; however, they intend to hold a special meeting and will have a recommendation prior to the May 3<sup>rd</sup> Board meeting.

## **2<sup>ND</sup> QUARTER FINANCIAL REVIEW**

Clerk of Court Greg Godwin and Finance Director Sheri Davis reviewed the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter financials with the Board.

## **APPROVE BILLS**

- Motion by Commissioner Brown to approve the bills (vouchers 153599 – 153895 and checks 067816-067937). Second was made by Commissioner Ogburn, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

## **CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- County Coordinator Louie Goodin advised that the Hamilton County Health Department has requested custodial assistance, the Board agreed to assist if staffing is available.
- Mr. Goodin also discussed the legislative bill being discussed that will dissolve certain independent special districts that could potentially affect the Development Authority.
- County Attorney Cliff Adams advised the Board that Dr. Robert Pennock agreed to begin phase one of the redistricting with the cost to be shared between the Hamilton County School District and the Board of County Commissioners. Mr. Adams also advised the Board that he would look at potential boat ramp sites on the Suwannee River.
- Mr. Adams notified the Board that Environmental Attorney Scott Shirley will be closing his practice due to health conditions and that he intends to retire in November.
- Clerk of Court Greg Godwin discussed the need for additional lighting to be placed in the Courthouse parking lot, the Board agreed to allow staff to proceed with the request.

There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Smith adjourned the meeting at 9:10 p.m.



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JOSH SMITH, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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GREG GODWIN, EX-OFFICIO CLERK



