

**JUNE 6, 2023
JASPER, FLORIDA**

REGULAR SESSION

The Board of County Commissioners, Hamilton County, Florida, met in regular session on Tuesday, June 6, 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 McCoy with the Pledge of Allegiance being led by Chairman Brown.

SHIP / CDBG PROGRAM / CDBG-CV – STATUS REPORT

Ship Administrator Spencer Nabors provided the Board with a status report for Ship and CDBG grants. Mr. Nabors provided the Board with a copy of the CDBG Administration contract for the CDBG grant (23HB-H11) between In Touch Consulting Group, Inc., and the Board. Mr. Nabors stated that the procurement process has been approved by DEO.

- Moton by Commissioner Roberson to approve and execute the CDBG Administration contract (23HB-H11) as presented between In Touch Consulting Group, Inc. and the Board. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

County Coordinator Louie Goodin and County Attorney Andy Decker provided the Board with an update regarding the CDBG-CV grant and advised that a grant award letter has been received from DEO on June 5, 2023, for the grant amount of \$933,390.47. Mr. Decker advised that the DEO appeal will be dismissed and stated that the appeal for attorney fees would be a long and expensive process and recommended that the Board

proceed with the dismissal of the appeal and forego the request for attorney fees. After a brief discussion, the Board agreed by unanimous consent to allow Mr. Decker to proceed with the dismissal of the appeal.

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

County Coordinator Louie Goodin provided the Board with a brief update of the American Rescue Plan.

**SUWANNEE VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE – UPDATE
ON FIBER BUILD OUT – JON LITTLE, DIRECTOR OF
COMMUNICATIONS**

Mike McWaters, with Suwannee Valley Electric Cooperative, provided an update for the benefit of the public and Board for their fiber build-out. Mr. McWaters answered questions from the Board and stated that SVEC does not intend to charge a hook-up fee with the following to be the monthly consumer fee: \$55.00 for 100 MGB and \$105.00 for 200GB. Also present was SVEC board member Mike Adams.

**HAMILTON COUNTY ALCOHOL & OTHER DRUG
PREVENTION COALITION – REQUEST FOR FUNDING FOR
SUMMER PROGRAM AND PRESENTATION OF COUNTY
STATISTICS – EMILY LUMPKIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Emily Lumpkin, with the Hamilton County Alcohol & Other Drug Prevention Coalition, discussed with the Board the county statistics regarding alcohol and other drug related deaths since January 2023. Ms. Lumpkin stated that they currently have narcans and medicine disposal bags available. Ms. Lumpkin also requested assistance in the amount of \$4,000 for their Summer Camp and explained the details of the camp.

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS – STATUS REPORT AND REQUESTS

The County's Legislative Lobbyist Patrick Bell provided the Board with a legislative update. Mr. Bell advised that the Governor has yet to sign the State budget; however, Hamilton County will receive funds for the following projects: Lift Station - \$750,000 and Fairgrounds - \$300,000. Mr. Bell also advised that HB 1169 (Hamilton County Development Authority) was signed by the Governor on May 30th.

Economic Development Director Chadd Mathis provided the Board with an update on the current economic development projects. Mr. Mathis stated that the appraisal is being done for the Fire Works property in Jennings. The Board discussed the request from Lucas Waring, owner of Busy Bee, to purchase property adjacent to his current business at SR6 / I-75 interchange. Mr. Goodin advised the Board that the Development Authority's property has been deeded to the County due to the Job's Growth Grant. County Engineer Greg Bailey discussed several issues with the property that would have to be considered before the property could be sold. Commissioner Roberson and other Board members stated that the issues need to be resolved immediately, Mr. Bailey suggested getting all interested parties together to provide a solution and move forward with the request. The Board directed Mr. Goodin to put together a meeting with Mr. Waring, Mr. Bailey, and the Board this week prior to resolve the issues prior to a decision being made by the Development Authority.

Mr. Goodin discussed with the Board a request from Placer.AI to do a presentation for the Board to discuss their services. Mr. Goodin stated that he would forward a video of the services provided by Placer.AI to the Board and discuss the services provided at the next meeting.

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. Mr. Bailey also stated that the five (5) driveway culverts are being constructed as approved by the Board.

- Motion by Commissioner McCoy to approve a change order #2 for five (5) driveway culverts to be installed on the Lake Baisden Loop paving project in the amount of \$29,259.60, to approve change order #3, to remove existing 48” pipe and replace with a 48” RCP in the amount of \$26,194.80 and allow eight (8) days for the construction to be performed. Second was made by Commissioner Erixton, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

GIBSON PARK – Mr. Bailey advised that the final documents have been resubmitted to FWC for approval.

CROSSROADS FIRE STATION – Mr. Bailey stated that he has reviewed the plans for the Crossroads Fire Station with Fire Coordinator Henry Land. Mr. Land explained that the reason for requesting a second story would be for future growth; however, Mr. Bailey stated that the addition would not be feasible. After a lengthy discussion, the Board agreed to allow the original plans for the building to remain without the second story addition.

5 HOLE BOAT RAMP – Mr. Bailey advised the Board that the 5 Hole boat ramp project is proceeding with permit requests having been submitted to the State Agencies.

CR-25A – Mr. Bailey advised that the surveying for the CR-25A paving project is nearing completion.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY BUILDING – Mr. Bailey stated that the application for the Historical Grant is almost complete with the submittal date being Friday, June 16th.

SE 54TH DRIVE – The Board presented the Board with the speed limit analysis and letter for SE 54th Drive and stated that the only remaining action by the Board will be to approve a Resolution.

- Motion by Commissioner Erixton to approve the speed limit change for SE 54th Drive. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

SE 113TH CT. – The Board discussed the request for assistance on SE 113th Ct.

- Motion by Commissioner Erixton to allow the Road Department to perform a one-time repair to SE 113th Ct. Second was made by Commissioner Roberson, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

CONSIDERATION OF RFP FOR AS BUILT OF DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ANTICIPATED RENOVATIONS

County Coordinator Louie Goodin advised the Board that only one (1) request for proposals was received for the as built plans for the Hamilton Health Department renovations. The proposal was from TCCS, LLC in the amount of \$21,572.00 and after a brief discussion, agreed to an additional \$1,200 for an optional CCTV inspection of sanitary sewer lines.

- Motion by Commissioner Erixton to approve the request for proposal from TCCS, LLC in the amount of \$22,772.00. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

The Board then discussed that the Health Department has determined that a mobile health unit would better serve the entire community. Department of Health Director Tom Moffses was present and provided the Board with a design for the mobile health unit and explained the benefits of having the unit. Mr. Moffses suggested that the Board utilize the American Rescue Plan for the funding.

- Motion by Commissioner Roberson to allow staff to proceed with the request for proposals for the Mobile Health Unit. Second was made by Commissioner Erixton, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

COUNTY FIRE SERVICE AND MUNICIPAL FIRE SERVICE CONTRACTS

Fire Coordinator Henry Land provided the Board with an update of the County Fire Services. The Board discussed the Jennings Fire Services Agreement and stated that the Town of Jennings will be discussing the agreement at their next meeting. The Board also agreed to allow County Attorney Andy Decker to present the same Fire Services Agreement to the Town of White Springs and the City of Jasper. Chairman Brown stated that the City of Jasper has advised that they will try to respond as called due to them not having full-time Fire Fighters. Mr. Decker discussed with the Board the fire assessments and possible one (1) cent sales tax that would assist with the cost of fire. Mr. Land provided the Board with a list of issues that need to be discussed and suggested that the Board hold a workshop to address the issues. After a brief discussion, the Board agreed to hold a Fire Workshop on June 20th at 4:00 p.m. at the Emergency Operations Center. The Board also agreed by unanimous consent to allow Mr. Land to sign documentation as needed for the County Fire Services. Mr. Land discussed with the Board the need for a shelter at the EOC which could be constructed by the Fire Fighters at an estimated cost of

\$500.

- Motion by Commissioner McCoy to allow the construction of a shelter by the Fire Fighters at the EOC as requested. Second was made by Commissioner Roberson, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

The Board then discussed the possibility of applying for a grant for the purchase of AED's due to the current AED's being nonoperational. Mr. Land stated that the approximate cost of an AED is \$1,800 each and requested the Board consider purchasing two (2).

- Motion by Commissioner Erixton to allow the purchase of two (2) AED's in the amount of \$1,800 each as requested. Second was made by Commissioner McCoy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Mr. Land discussed with the Board the potential for a maze that would assist with Fire training search and rescue. Mr. Land advised that an individual from the county has requested space to erect a maze and will allow the County Fire Departments to use the maze for training at no cost. County Coordinator Louie Goodin stated he would review the insurance requirements prior to the construction of the maze.

- Motion by Commissioner Roberson to approve the construction of the maze pending the insurance requirements. Second was made by Commissioner Erixton, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW FROM PRM

County Attorney Andy Decker discussed the notice of intent to withdraw from PRM with the Board and stated that the notice is due to the PRM by-laws and the need to be in compliance when bidding the Health Insurance.

- Motion by Commissioner McCoy to declare an emergency and to approve the letter and resolution as the notice of intent to withdraw from PRM. Second was made by Commissioner Roberson, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

APPROVE BILLS

- Motion by Commissioner Erixton to approve the bills (vouchers 160871 – 161171 and checks 070964-071092). Second was made by Commissioner McCoy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- County Coordinator Louie Goodin introduced the new Animal Control officer Zoey Daniels and her volunteer to the Board. Mr. Goodin also reminded the Board that he would be on vacation next week.
- The Board discussed the Land Use Administrator position. Mr. Bailey stated that his firm has added Land Use back to their services and stated that he could offer the services with the same fee structure as before. Mr. Decker stated that the Board should consider holding a workshop to review the LDR's and make changes to the documentation that will make things clearer and easier to understand. Mr. Bailey also advised that they were currently reviewing Gilchrist's County's LDR's.
- Commissioner McCoy advised the Board that the Historical Museum wheelchair ramp is almost complete and discussed the need to have the pavilion at the Veterans Memorial Park sandblasted and painted. After a brief discussion, the Board request Mr. Bailey to see if there are available grants for the project.

- Commissioner Roberson questioned staff as to the progress of the Jennings Bluff Campground project. Mr. Goodin stated that there was a problem with the electrical but is being corrected. Commissioner Roberson also discussed the work at the intersection of SW 69th Drive, Mr. Goodin advised that the Road Department has started work on the project.
- Commissioner Murphy advised that the Holiday Inn building has been demolished with an appraisal and interlocal agreement to be forthcoming.
- Commissioner Roberson questioned Mr. Goodin as to the sewer dump station, to which Mr. Goodin stated that he is waiting on box to be constructed prior to the concrete work.
- Mr. Bailey discussed with the Board that he is working with five (5) counties regarding utilities to save costs on such things as plant operations. Mr. Bailey stated that the next meeting will be held in July and that another item of consideration will be County Landfills.
- County Attorney Andy Decker discussed with the Board the need to be provided information prior to the Board meetings rather than those that present their information during the meeting.

There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

ROBERT BROWN, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

GREG GODWIN, EX-OFFICIO CLERK

