

JUNE 7, 2022
JASPER, FLORIDA

REGULAR SESSION

The Board of County Commissioners, Hamilton County, Florida, met in regular session on Tuesday, June 7, 2022, at 9:00 a.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 Ogburn with the Pledge of Allegiance being led by Chairman Smith.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Motion by Commissioner Ogburn to approve the consent agenda pulling item (d. NFPS Task Order Jennings Bluff). 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 approval process is underway. Regarding the CDBG-CV, Mr. Nabors stated that he is continuing to wait on DEO to provide the documents needed to complete the final review for the CDBG-CV grant. Mr. Nabors also provided the Board with an update on the 2022 CDBG application process and advised the Board that the first public hearing will be held on June 21, 2022. Mr. Nabors also stated that he is working with the Citizen Advisory Task Force as to the application process which will be submitted prior to July 21, 2022.

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

Steve Stevens, with Thomas Howell Ferguson, provided the Board with an update regarding the American Rescue Plan.

MONITOR COMPLIANCE OF WINDSTREAM BROADBAND CONTRACT

County Attorney Cliff Adams discussed the Windstream Broadband contract with the Board as to the compliance and monitoring of the project. Mr. Stevens, with Thomas Howell Ferguson, advised the Board that his contract with the Board allows for the monitoring of the Windstream contract.

PRESENTATION OF THE 2022 PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES – SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT - HUGH THOMAS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Chairman Smith explained the procedure as to payment in lieu of taxes from the SRWMD; however, not one from the district was present.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS – STATUS REPORT AND REQUESTS

Economic Development Director Chadd Mathis provided the Board a status report of the ongoing economic development projects in the county. Mr. Mathis advised that the deed for the right-of-way for the entrance of the Jennings House property will be executed by the Development Authority at their next meeting and also stated that the Development Authority has given Worth Construction permission to use the Jennings House property as a storage area for their construction material during the current CDBG Neighborhood Revitalization Grant. Mr. Mathis than advised that Worth Construction Co. has agreed to assist with the running of water from Campground property to the Jennings House property. Other projects discussed were Gap Roofing, Motel 6 property, Budget Inn property and the property in the City of Jasper owned by Margie Geddes.

Landowner / Developer Georgia Wolfe presented the Board with a written request for economic development assistance with the construction of the Jasper Diner project. Ms. Wolfe's letter outlined the project and explained the need for a lift station to construct the Diner. After discussing the request, staff advised the Board that the legislative request for the lift station was not approved. The Board directed Mr. Mathis and Mr. Goodin to work on the project together with Ms. Wolfe and provide direction to the Board.

REQUEST FOR FUNDING ASSISTANCE FOR SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY – GREENWOOD VILLAGES LLC – JAMES R. DANIELS

James Daniels presented and discussed with the Board a site plan and articles of incorporation for the Greenwood Village development project. After a lengthy discussion, the Board agreed to hold a special meeting on June 21, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. to further discuss the request from Mr. Daniels.

PUBLIC HEARING – TO CONSIDER ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCE IMPOSING A SIX (6) CENT LOCAL OPTION FUEL TAX

Chairman Smith recessed the regular Board meeting and called the public hearing (Local Option Fuel Tax Ordinance) to order at 10:13 a.m.

County Attorney Cliff Adams read the Ordinance for the benefit of the public and Board. Mr. Adams explained reviewed the procedure for the renewal of the local option fuel tax and stated that the six (6) cent fuel tax has been in place for years and that there are not a proposed increase to the tax.

There being no further comments from the public or Board, Chairman Smith closed the public hearing at 10:15 a.m.

- Motion by Commissioner Brown, to approve and enact the Ordinance for the renewal of the Local Option Fuel Tax (six (6) cents). Second was made by Commissioner Ogburn, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

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 107th AVE. – Mr. Bailey advised the Board that the bids for the Baisden Lake Loop paving project will be returned on Monday, June 20, 2022.

GIBSON PARK – Mr. Bailey stated that his staff is still working on obtaining the SRWMD permit for the Gibson Park construction project.

COURTHOUSE PARKING LOT – Mr. Bailey provided the Board with another site plan for the Courthouse parking area for review and stated that the maximum parking space will be achieved by constructing 90-degree parking spaces. After reviewing the plans, the Board took the following action:

- Motion by Commissioner McCoy to approve the site plan for 90-degree parking spaces to maximize the number of available parking spaces and to allow the Road Department to do the construction. Second was made by Commissioner Brown, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

DOCTORS CLINIC PARKING LOT – The Board agreed to proceed with the Doctors Clinic parking lot.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM D – NFPS TASK ORDER FOR JENNINGS BLUFF PROJECT

The Board requested that this item be pulled from the consent agenda to allow for further discussion. County Engineer Greg Bailey explained the work involved for the project and specifically what is required to obtain a permit from the SRWMD. Commissioner Ogburn stated his concern with the task order being \$7,500.00; however, after Mr. Bailey’s explanation, the Board took the following action:

- Motion by Commissioner Ogburn to approve the task order from NFPS for the Jennings Bluff project in the amount of \$7,500.00. Second as made by Commissioner Brown, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Mr. Bailey suggested that the Board contact the Governor’s Office regarding the issues with SRWMD as have Suwannee and Columbia counties.

REDISTRICTING ISSUE

County Attorney Cliff Adams reviewed the redistricting issue with the Board per Dr. Pennock's review and recommendations. Mr. Adams stated that the only discrepancies were in Districts 2 & 3 but with only a 14% differentiation in the census data per district. Due to the information provided by Dr. Pennock, Mr. Adams recommended that the Board leave the districts as they are.

- Motion by Commissioner Ogburn to follow the County Attorney's recommendation to not redistrict based on Dr. Pennock's census data by district. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

APPROVE BILLS

- Motion by Commissioner Brown to approve the bills (vouchers 154486 – 154700 and checks 068190-068316). Second was made by Commissioner McCoy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE 2020 / 2021 COUNTY AUDIT

County Auditor Ken Daniels presented the Board with the 2020 / 2021 county audit. Mr. Daniels reviewed and discussed the financials for the Board and Constitutional Officers.

- Motion by Commissioner Ogburn to accept the 2020 / 2021 County Audit as presented by County Auditor Ken Daniels. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

DOCTORS CLINIC RENOVATION – SMIDTAS

Lina Smidtas, was present for the Board meeting and addressed the Board regarding renovation of their office. Ms. Smidtas suggested that the Board approach Watson Healthcare and request that they relocate into the newly renovated office to allow them to move into the space occupied by the Watson's due to issues with the construction. After a lengthy discussion, the

Board directed County Coordinator Louie Goodin to talk to the Watson's regarding the issue.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- County Coordinator Louie Goodin advised the Board that Fire Coordinator Henry Land has concerns regarding the fire coverage in the county and would like to have a workshop to discuss the issues. After a brief discussion, the Board agreed to hold a Fire Workshop on Thursday, June 9th at 4:00 p.m. at EOC.
- Commissioner McCoy questioned staff as to the Internet Café's closing due to the Ordinance enacted by the Board. Chairman Smith advised the Board that he would discuss the issue with the Sheriff's Department.
- Commissioner McCoy also advised the Board that the Road Department has been using an asphalt grinder in places which has been very successful and could save the county money in the future.
- Commissioner Brown reminded the Board that the Financial Disclosure forms are due by July 1st.
- Commissioner Ogburn discussed a garbage pile in his district, to which Mr. Goodin advised has been cleaned up and taken care of.
- Commissioner Ogburn questioned staff as to meeting with the county's new House of Representatives member Jason Shoaf. The Board directed Mr. Goodin to offer an invitation to Mr. Shoaf to come and meet with the Board.
- County Coordinator Louie Goodin advised the Board that he has received one response to the Code Enforcement position and discussed making the position a full-time position and suggested adding additional responsibilities to the position. The Board stated that they would discuss the issue further at the meeting Thursday.

- Chairman Smith discussed with the Board the condition of the Veterans Memorial Park and the need to have it cleaned, swings replaced, pavilion needs to be painted etc. the current condition is not a good reflection of the county.
- Chairman Smith also discussed the need for an aerator for the Recreation Department in the amount of \$3,450.00. After a brief discussion, the Board suggested that Mr. Burnett come before the Board to discuss the matter.
- The Board briefly discussed the difference in the truck prices for the trucks that were approved in January for the Sheriff's Department. The Board agreed to pay the amount previously agreed upon during the January meeting.
- Chairman Smith questioned staff as to 1st Street SE being paved rather than 1st Ave. SW. Mr. Goodin acknowledged that the issue was correct and has been corrected.
- Chairman Smith advised the Board that the City of Jasper has advertised for a certified Firefighter position.
- Chairman Smith questioned staff as to an incident with a Road Department employee having an accident with a Grader and failing a drug test. County Coordinator Louie Goodin advised that the incident did occur, and that the employee has been demoted with the situation still under investigation. Chairman Smith stated that someone from the Board should have been contacted as to the incident; however, no one was aware that the incident took place. The Board discussed the issue and possible action taken by Mr. Daniels and Mr. Goodin and suggested that the Personnel Rules and Regulations need to be checked to ensure that the situation was handled properly to keep from setting a precedent that would be an issue with future employees.

There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Smith adjourned the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

JOSH SMITH, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

GREG GODWIN, EX-OFFICIO CLERK

