

JUNE 9, 2022
JASPER, FLORIDA

SPECIAL SESSION

The Board of County Commissioners, Hamilton County, Florida, met in special session on Thursday, June 9, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. in the EOC (Emergency Management), located as part of the Hamilton County Courthouse Annex at 553 Chanbridge Dr., 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 Smith.

Chairman Smith explained that the purpose of the workshop was to discuss the fire services in the county. Fire Coordinator Henry Land discussed the current situation with the City of Jasper's noncompliance with their contract agreement for fire services and the issues with recruiting and retaining volunteers. Mr. Land's proposal would be to hire multi-purpose fire fighters / EMT / Paramedics to provide a full-time fire service for the county and still utilize the volunteers. Mr. Land discussed the advantages of hiring dual certified personnel and presented the Board with a proposed budget for review. The Board also discussed the need for the Road Department to be called out to remove trees and debris; however, Mr. Land advised that when powerlines are down that a fire department should be on scene to handle the issue. The Board had a lengthy discussion of the budget, response times, call volume and equipment for each department as well as the municipalities. The Board then discussed the requirements for a fire assessment and after the discussion requested County Attorney Cliff Adams to research the requirements of an assessment. The Board discussed the possibility of incentivizing the volunteers and municipalities when they provide a response to a fire call and stated that each municipality should be encouraged to have their own departments. The Board requested that Mr. Land look at the different options discussed and provide a revised budget proposal for the Board's

consideration.

There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Smith adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

JOSH SMITH, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

GREG GODWIN, EX-OFFICIO CLERK

