

**JULY 2, 2024  
JASPER, FLORIDA**

**REGULAR SESSION**

The Board of County Commissioners, Hamilton County, Florida, met in regular session on Tuesday, July 2, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in the Board Room, 207 Northeast First Street, Jasper, Florida. Present were Commissioners Travis Erixton, Jimmy Murphy, Robbie Roberson, Richie McCoy and Robert Brown, a full Board being present. Also present were County Attorney Andy Decker and County Coordinator Gary Godwin.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman McCoy and led in prayer by Commissioner Erixton with the Pledge of Allegiance being led by Chairman McCoy.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

**FIRST FEDERAL SAVINGS BANK PURCHASE LIMIT INCREASE**

- Motion by Commissioner Roberson to approve the First Federal Savings Bank purchase limit increase from \$20,000 to \$30,000. Second was made by Commissioner Brown, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

**PURPLE HEART DEDICATION FOR HAMILTON COUNTY –  
DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE  
HEART – OFFICER WILLIAM SMITH CSM (RET)**

The Honorable William Smith CSM addressed the Board and explained the designation of Hamilton County as the recipient of the Department of Florida Military Order of the Purple Heart. Mr. Smith stated that when the plaque commemorating the occasion is ready that he would come back for the presentation.

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

John Beall, with Thomas Howell Ferguson, provided the Board with a status report for the American Rescue Plan. Mr. Beall advised the Board that the first deliverable for the Broadband project has been approved and is in compliance with the federal rules and regulations. Mr. Beall also advised the Board that staff is still waiting on the timetable for a possible grant to offset the American Rescue grant.

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

Ship Administrator Spencer Nabors provided the Board with a status report for Ship, CDBG, CDBG-CV, HHRP and other ongoing projects.

**STATUS QUO OR A BRIGHT FUTURE – PERSPECTIVE FROM A RESIDENT – CINDY PEDICINI**

Hamilton County resident Cindy Pedicini addressed the Board and shared her concerns with the ongoing pollution of the Withlacoochee River due to an overflow of the sewer facility in Valdosta Ga. The Board explained the history of the issue and the lack of continued testing by FDEP and the SRWMD. Ms. Pedicini also stated concerns with the card room and future gambling at the Jennings I-75 interchange. Ms. Pedicini also stated that she supported and loved many of the changes in the county.

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

Kellan Bailey, with North Florida Professional Services, provided the Board with the bid tabulations for the SR 6 Logistics Park, the bids were as follows: Anderson Columbia - \$5,309,984.79 and Curt's Construction - \$4,370,506.29. Mr. Bailey advised the Board that the construction budget for the Jobs Growth Grant project is \$4,119,962.39.

- Motion by Commissioner Roberson to award the SR 6 Logistics Park bid to Curts Construction Company in the amount of \$4,370,506.29 and to approve the task order from Locklear and Associates for the CEI Services in the amount of \$210,000. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Economic Development Director Chadd Mathis provided the Board with a brief update as to the current economic development projects. Mr. Mathis stated that both Dollar General projects are under construction and announced that the Development Authority is offering downtown revitalization grants being made available by Duke Energy.

### **STATEWIDE MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT AND RESOLUTION – PAM ALLEN, HAMILTON COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR**

Emergency Management Director Pam Allen advised the Board that the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement needs to be renewed.

- Motion by Commissioner Erixton to renew the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement and to approve the Resolution. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Ms. Allen also presented the Board with a All-Hazards Guide that will be distributed to the residents of the county.

### **ROAD PAVING PROJECTS – STATUS EREPORT**

Kellan Bailey, with North Florida Professional Services, provided the Board with a written status report on the current road projects and reviewed each project.

**CR 25A** – Mr. Bailey advised the Board that the amendment to the contract and change order #1 needs to be approved by the Board.

- Motion by Commissioner Erixton to approve the contract amendment and change order #1 per the changes to the initial scope of work as recommended by NFPS. Second was made by Commissioner Brown, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

**5 HOLE BOAT RAMP** – The Board agreed to have the small cemetery near the 5 Hole Boat Ramp project fenced to provide protection of the graves.

Rachel Garland, with Nutrien, requested for the permit fee to be waived for the placement of a pipe under the 8 Mile Steel Road due to the road having been maintained by the company for years.

- Motion by Commissioner Erixton to approve for the waiver of a permit and fee for the placement of a pipe under the 8 Mile Steel Road. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

**FY 2022 – 2023 AUDIT PRESENTATION – KEN DANIELS, COUNTY AUDITOR**

County Auditor Ken Daniels presented the Board with the 2022 – 2023 County Audit. Mr. Daniels discussed the financial stability of the county and stated that there were no audit findings.

- Motion by Commissioner Roberson to accept the FY 2022 – 2023 audit as presented by County Auditor Ken Daniels. Second was made by Commissioner Erixton, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

**ROAD DEPARTMENT RADIO / REPEATER PURCHASE**

- Motion by Commissioner Brown to approve the quote from RCE of Valdosta in the amount of \$17,063.00 for the purchase of radios and a new repeater system. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

**OPIOD LITIGATION – STATUS REPORT AND POSSIBLE CLAIM AMENDMENT/RESOLUTION**

County Attorney Andy Decker discussed with the Board the Opiod Litigation amendment and resolution authorizing a claim for Hamilton County.

- Motion by Commissioner Roberson to approve / adopt the Resolution for Opioid Litigation as recommended by County Attorney Andy Decker. Second was made by Commissioner Erixton, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

### **APPROVE BILLS**

- Motion by Commissioner Roberson to approve the bills (vouchers 167493 – 167706 and checks 073804 - 073901) with the removal of the TDC invoice. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.
- Motion by Commissioner Erixton to approve the TDC invoice. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote. Chairman McCoy abstained from voting due to also being the Chairman of the TDC Council.

### **LEAVE PAYOUT**

- Motion by Commissioner Roberson to approve the leave payout for Vivian Wright. Second was made by Commissioner Brown, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

### **DISCUSSION OF JULY 5<sup>TH</sup> AS A HOLIDAY**

- Motion by Commissioner Roberson to allow the county employees to be off on Friday, July 5, 2024. Second was made by Commissioner Erixton, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

### **CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Chairman McCoy shared his concern with the expansion of solar farms in the North Florida area and specifically Hamilton County. The Board agreed to have a workshop to further discuss the issue.

- Commissioner Brown stated that he was excited to finally begin several of the development projects.
- County Attorney Andy Decker discussed with the Board the need to develop a policy for public comments and individuals seeking to record portions of the Board meetings.
- Emily Lumpkin, with the Hamilton County Alcohol & Other Drug Prevention Coalition announced “Unity in the Community” to be held at the Recreation Center on Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

There being no further business before the Board, Chairman McCoy adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

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RICHIE MCCOY, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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GREG GODWIN, EX-OFFICIO CLERK



