

**JULY 7, 2022
JASPER, FLORIDA**

REGULAR SESSION

The Board of County Commissioners, Hamilton County, Florida, met in regular session on Tuesday, July 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.

**NUTRIEN-WHITE SPRINGS AGRICULTURAL CHEMICAL INC. –
REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL FOR
DRAGLINE #3 TO CROSS SE 62ND DRIVE THE WEEK OF AUGUST 14
– RACHEL M. GARLAND, MANAGER, GOVERNMENT AND
INDUSTRY AFFAIRS**

Rachel Garland, with Nutrien, presented the Board with a map and documentation for a request to allow the #3 Dragline to cross SE 62nd Drive during the week of August 14. Ms. Garland stated that Nutrien will provide the advertisement and signage for the crossing as in the past.

- Motion by Commissioner McCoy to allow the #3 Dragline to cross SE 62nd Drive as requested during the week of August 14. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

**WHITE SPRINGS AGRICULTURAL CHEMICAL INC. D/B/A PCS
PHOSPHATE – WHITE SPRINGS – 2021 ANNUAL PROGRESS
REPORT AND 2022 ESTIMATES FOR YEARS 2021 AND 2022**

Commissioner Ogburn advised the Board of the letter that was drafted by Environmental Attorney Scott Shirley recommending that the 2021 Annual Report be approved.

- Motion by Commissioner Ogburn to approve the 2021 Nutrien Annual Report as recommended by Environmental Attorney Scott Shirley. Second was made by Commissioner Brown, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Ms. Garland stated that the Technical Working Group meeting will be held on July 28, 2022, at 1:00 p.m.

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

Brittany Bechtel, with Thomas Howell Ferguson P.A., provided the Board with an update on the American Rescue Plan. County Coordinator Louie Goodin discussed the Doctor’s Clinic renovation project and the requirements to have the project funded through the American Rescue Plan.

HAMILTON COUNTY JAIL – A/C UNIT REPLACEMENT

The Board reviewed a quote from Green’s Sales & Services for the replacement of the a/c units on the Jail. After a brief discussion, the Board agreed to wait until a quote for “chillers” can be obtained prior to making a final determination.

SHIP / CDBG PROGRAM / CDBG-CV – STATUS REPORT

County Coordinator Louie Goodin provided an update regarding the current Ship and CDBG-CV projects in absence of Ship Coordinator Spencer Nabors. The Board requested that Mr. Goodin email the written report from Mr. Nabors with any necessary action to be taken care of at Tuesday’s Fire meeting.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS – STATUS REPORT AND REQUESTS

Economic Development Director Chadd Mathis provided the Board with an update and status report on the current projects. Mr. Mathis advised the Board that the closing for the Holiday Inn property is planned for August 1st with the details for the final closing cost to be determined. Mr. Mathis also stated Worth Construction, who is the contractor for the Jennings CDBG

project, has agreed to extend the water and sewer to the Jennings House property. Mr. Mathis discussed the Motel 8 property with the owner (White Diamond LLC) providing a counteroffer. After a brief discussion, the Board agreed to honor the previous agreed upon amount and provide the demolition. Development Authority Attorney Rhett Bullard explained the situation with the recent legislative action regarding Senate Bill 4-C that was signed into law abolishing special districts created prior to 1968 with the Hamilton County Development Authority being one of those districts. The Board discussed the need for local control of the board due to continuously having issues with vacant seats being appointed by the Governor's office. After a lengthy discussion, the Board agreed to contact the Legislative Delegation and seek local control for all Development Authority members.

- Motion by Commissioner Ogburn to adopt the resolution for the continuation of the Development Authority with the future appointments to be handled by the Board of County Commissioners. Second was made by Commissioner McCoy, 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 two (2) bids for the Baisden Lake Loop paving project have been received: Anderson Columbia - \$5,537,750.46 and Curt's Construction - \$5,203,391.19. Mr. Bailey stated that the FDOT contract amount is \$2,394,741.25 leaving a significant shortfall for the project. County Coordinator Louie Goodin advised that he has contacted FDOT for additional funding if available. Mr. Bailey also stated that the bid for the box culvert from Curt's Construction was \$455,602.76. The Board discussed the bids and agreed to construct as much of the project as possible utilizing the FDOT funds.

- Motion by Commissioner Brown to award the bid for the Lake Baisden Loop Road project to Curt's Construction Co. in the amount of \$2,394,741.25 (paving project) and \$455,602.76 (box culvert). Second was made by Commissioner Ogburn, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

GIBSON PARK – Mr. Bailey stated that his staff is still working on obtaining the SRWMD permit for the Gibson Park construction project and will be meeting with SRWMD on August 3rd to discuss the permits for Gibson Park and the Jennings Bluff Campground project.

CR 6 JACK AND BORE – NUTRIEN – Mr. Bailey advised that he has reviewed the plans for the jack and bore site as provided by Nutrien and made the necessary corrections.

GREEN POINT LIFT STATION – Mr. Bailey stated that he is currently evaluating the lift station at Green Point and will also be working on the FDOT boring permit.

DOCTORS CLINIC PARKING LOT – Mr. Bailey provided the Board with a site plan (layout) for the Doctors Clinic parking area for review.

- Motion by Commissioner McCoy to approve the site plan for the Doctor’s Office parking area as recommended by NFPS. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS – Mr. Bailey stated that he is in discussions with a developer that is interested in Jennings’s interchange. The Board also discussed the demolition of old Holiday Inn property and the need to leave a portion of the current parking area to allow for a survey which will reduce the required drainage area. County Attorney Cliff Adams also discussed the issues with the SRWMD and his discussion with director Hugh Thomas who stated that a review of the current District’s rules and regulations are under review.

ROAD DEPARTMENT OFFICE BUILDING – BID AWARD

The Board reviewed the bid received from Plumb Level Construction for the Road Department Office building in the amount of \$489,263.00. After a brief discussion, the Board agreed to table the bid to allow staff to review and determine if the bid is adequate for the bid specifications.

FDLE CRIMINAL JUSTICE GRANTS – LAW ENFORCEMENT SALARY ASSISTANCE OF FISCALLY CONSTRAINED COUNTIES – GRANT AWARD

Clerk of Court Greg Godwin explained the new Legislative FDLE grant for Law Enforcement salary assistance for the State’s fiscally constrained counties.

- Motion by Commissioner Ogburn to approve the contract with FDLE for the Law Enforcement salary assistance. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

SIGN SPECIALIST POSITION – DISCUSSION

The Board discussed the sign specialist position with staff as to how to fill the position and whether to create a fulltime or temporary position. After a lengthy discussion with staff and 911 mapping coordinator Henry Land, the Board directed staff to allow Road Superintendent to select an individual from his staff that would be willing to perform the duties of the position.

DRUG FREE WORKPLACE POLICY

Chairman Smith discussed with the Board the need for a revision to the current Drug Free Workplace policy making the revision be more specific in clarifying staff’s action. County Attorney Cliff Adams explained the issues with the current policy and stated that he would draft a revision with the assistance of the counties labor attorney with FACT. The Board stated that a zero-workforce drug policy and random testing should be clearly stated in the revision.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

APPROVE BILLS

- Motion by Commissioner Brown to approve the bills (vouchers 155045 – 155242 and checks 068424-068524). Second was made by Commissioner Ogburn, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

COUNTY FIRE SERVICE AND MUNICIPAL FIRE SERVICE CONTRACTS

The Board discussed the county fire services as well as the municipal fire services with Fire Coordinator Henry Land and the Fire Chiefs' that were present. The Board's discussion centered around the costs and infrastructure for a fulltime paid fire department due to the inactivity of the volunteers within all departments. The Board and staff also discussed the particulars of the Safer Fire Grant and agreed to allow staff to have meetings with the municipalities to determine their participation. The Board agreed to meet again to discuss the fire services on Tuesday, July 12th at 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Land discussed with the Board the preliminary plans for the Crossroads Fire Stations at an approximate cost of \$1.3 million which will be offset by the legislative appropriation in the amount of \$880,000.

- Motion by Commissioner Ogburn to approve the preliminary plans for the Crossroads Fire Station and to proceed with the bid process. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.
- Motion by Commissioner Ogburn to declare an emergency and to declare the building on the Crossroads Fire Station property surplus property and of no value to the county. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

RECREATION TEAMS ASSISTANCE

- Motion by Commissioner Ogburn to declare an emergency and to approve \$2,500 assistance for each of the two (2) teams that have advanced to the World Series. Second was made by Commissioner Brown, motion carried with a unanimous vote. Commissioner Murphy abstained from the vote due to being related to team members.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- County Coordinator Louie Goodin announced that a public health notice has been released due to the sewer spill in Lowndes County.
- Commissioner Ogburn requested that staff get involved in the Jasper Diner development project. The Board agreed by unanimous consent.
- Commissioner Ogburn also questioned staff as to ownership of the property at SR 6 in relation to the \$5.4 million dollar Jobs Growth Grant funding. Mr. Adams advised that the Development Authority is in the process of drafting a resolution for the project.
- County Attorney Cliff Adams advised the Board that the Nutrien 5 Year Permit Renewal process is underway and requested approval from the Board as to the engagement letter from Lampl Herbert who will contract with the county rather than with the Environmental Attorney Scott Shirley. Mr. Adams stated that the cost and scope of work are the same as previous reviews. The Board agreed to proceed.
- Mr. Adams also advised the Board that he would be out of town attending a County Attorneys conference next week.
- Chairman Smith thanked the Recreation Department staff for successful July 4th fireworks show and activities.

- Chairman Smith discussed with staff the number of approved positions at the Road Department. After a brief discussion, the Board directed staff to discuss the issue with Road Superintendent Jimmy Danies.
- Chairman Smith advised the Board of the migrant workers being at the Mustang Inn at SR 6 / I-75, staff advised that the issue will be investigated.
- The Board discussed the need to look at the economic development incentives that have currently been approved by the Board and stated that all requests should be vetted through the Development Authority.
- Chairman Smith also requested staff to look at the fence replacement that was done for Rodney Tyre and make the necessary corrections to the scope of work that was discussed with Mr. Tyre.

There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Smith adjourned the meeting at 11:56 a.m.

JOSH SMITH, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

GREG GODWIN, EX-OFFICIO CLERK

