

JULY 7, 2020
Track: MINI SD #2
JASPER, FLORIDA

REGULAR SESSION

The Board of County Commissioners, Hamilton County, Florida, met in regular session on Tuesday, July 7, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in the Court Room (due to the Coronavirus), 207 Northeast First Street, Jasper, Florida. Present were Commissioners Robert Brown, William Mitchell, Beth Burnam, Josh Smith and Randy Ogburn a full Board being present. Also present was County Coordinator Louie Goodin and County Attorney Cliff Adams.

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

CORONAVIRUS 2019 – UPDATE AND STATUS REPORT

Tom Moffses, with the Department of Health, provided the Board with a summary of the Covid-19 effects on Hamilton County. Mr. Moffses also presented the Board with a Champions Community plaque.

Motion by Commissioner Burnam to approve the continuation of Resolution 2020 – 01 Declaration of a Local State of Emergency due to Covid-19. Second was made by Commissioner Ogburn, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

MERIDIAN BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE – ANNUAL REPORT
PRESENTATION – DON SAVOIE, PRESIDENT / CEO

Alan Paulin, Senior Vice President for Clinical Community Services, presented the Board with the Annual Report for Meridian Behavioral Healthcare. Latifa Ranganadan, Vice President of Out Patient Services North, explained the services being provided by tele- health providers due to the concerns of Covid-19. Mr. Paulin then discussed with the Board the financial aspect of Meridian and the local match requirements.

SOUTHLAND WOOD RECYCLING, LLC – LUSCIOUS MOORE

Jerry Gunner, General Manager for Southland Wood Recycling, explained the economic impact that Southland Wood Recycling will have on the county and stated that the initial investment will be \$5 million. Mr. Gunner explained the delays in the project and requested assistance with the building permit in regards to fire suppression. Mr. Gunner stated that without assistance the project will be delayed. Luscious Moore, owner of

Southland Wood Recycling LLC, also explained the issues with the need for assistance with the fire suppression which will cause a financial hardship and delay the project. Commissioner Ogburn briefly discussed the issue and requested that Building Official John Auer provide information on the fire suppression. Mr. Auer stated that he is working with the fire inspector regarding the interpretation of the code on fire suppression for this type of building. After a lengthy discussion, the Board agreed to hold a meeting on Wednesday, July 8th at 2:00 p.m. with Commissioner Ogburn, Building Official John Auer, Mr. Moore and the Fire Inspector to seek a solution to the issues. County Coordinator Louie Goodin discussed with the Board the water tap issue and stated that he will expedite the process of obtaining the proper sized tap for the water supply.

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT – PRESENTATION OF 2020 PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES – HUGH THOMAS AND BEN GLASS

Ben Glass, Legislative Government Affairs Director for the SRWMD, provided the Board with an update on the districts projects and also their involvement with the Withlacoochee River testing. Mr. Glass then presented the Board with a check for the 2020 Payment In Lieu of Taxes.

FREEDOM HEALTH & WELLNESS – JENNIFER GOOLSBY WATSON – PROPOSAL FOR HEALTHCARE CLINIC

Jennifer Watson and Misty Herndon discussed with the Board a proposal for Freedom Health & Wellness of Jasper. Ms. Watson and Ms. Herndon explained the proposal and requests for the opening of their medical facility in Hamilton County.

Motion by Commissioner Smith to extend a contract to Freedom Health & Fitness for the use of the clinic facility previously occupied by Hamilton Primary Care. Second was made by Commissioner Mitchell, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

ROAD PAVING PROJECTS – STATUS REPORT

County Engineer Greg Bailey gave the Board a status report on the current road projects.

CR-137 – Mr. Bailey advised the Board that his firm received the wetlands exemption permit from the SRWMD and comments from FDOT for the CR-137 paving project. Mr. Bailey also stated that the CEI Services for the CR-137 paving project can be provided through the continuing services contract due to the contract amount. Mr. Bailey then stated that he is waiting on approval from FDOT to let bids for the project.

OAK STREET – Mr. Bailey stated that the revised plans have been completed to allow the roadway to be shifted and he is waiting on the Boards decision.

SW 90TH BLVD. – Mr. Bailey discussed the alternatives for the SW 90th Blvd. paving project due to issues with property owners with the Board agreeing to allow the speed limit to be changed to move the project forward.

BAISDEN LAKE LOOP / SW 107th AVE. – Mr. Bailey provided the Board with a brief update regarding the Basin Lake Loop project.

Motion by Commissioner Burnam to approve and accept the Right-of-way deed for parcel #37 (Klepper). Second was made by Commissioner Smith, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

RIGHT OF WAY PERMITS – County Coordinator Louie Goodin explained the details of the Right of Way permits with the addition of boring. After a brief discussion, the Board requested that Mr. Bailey review the current permitting requirements and fees and report back to the Board at the next meeting.

CR-249 LIGHTING – The Board directed staff to proceed with the lighting of the portion of CR-249 and to proceed with lighting for the Loves truck bypass.

SHIP / CDBG PROGRAM – STATUS REPORT

Ship Administrator Spencer Nabors gave the Board a status report of the current Ship and CDBG grants. Mr. Nabors stated that there was nothing new to report.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Ogburn to approve the Consent Agenda. Second was made by Commissioner Burnam, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

MOTOR GRADER BID AWARD

Clerk of Court Greg Godwin reviewed the Motor Grader bids with the Board. After reviewing the bid proposals the Board took the following action:

Motion by Commissioner Ogburn to award the bid for two (2) Motor Graders to Beard Equipment Company in the amount of \$262,200.00 as the low bid with the lease being 5 years / 8,000 hours. Second was made by Commissioner Smith, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Steve Carter with Beard Equipment agreed that the warranty work would be provided at no cost to the county. Mr. Carter also stated that he could have the graders delivered prior to October 1st.

The Board then addressed the issue as to the current two (2) graders that are about to exceed the 7500 hours.

Motion by Commissioner Ogburn to continue to operate the Motor Graders that will exceed the 7500 hours until the new Graders are delivered. Second was made by Commissioner Burnam, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Motion by Commissioner Ogburn to pay the entire lease for the two (2) Motor Graders being purchased. Second was made by Commissioner Burnam, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR CONTINUED WELL TESTING BY HAMILTON HEALTH DEPARTMENT

County Coordinator Louie Goodin advised the Board that additional funding would be required to continue the testing of wells due to the Withlacoochee River contamination. Mr. Goodin stated that approximately \$5,000 would allow the Health Department to continue the testing through the end of the fiscal year.

Motion by Commissioner Burnam to approve an additional \$5,000 to allow the Health Department to continue the well testing through the end of the fiscal year. Second was made by Commissioner Mitchell, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

AVAILABILITY OF CARES ACT FUNDING FOR COUNTY – DISCUSSION

Emergency Management Director Henry Land discussed with the Board the Cares Act Funding. Mr. Land and Assistant Director Pam Allen explained the rules and regulations required for the administration of the funds. Mr. Land and Ms. Allen also stated that the Board would be responsible for the expenditure of the funds. Spencer Nabors discussed with the Board the potential uses of the funds and how the criteria would need to be established. After a lengthy discussion, the Board agreed to hold a special meeting on Wednesday, July 8th at 12:00 p.m. to discuss how to allocate the funds in accordance with the rules and regulations.

LOCAL OPTION FUEL TAX

County Attorney Cliff Adams advised the Board that the documentation for the Local Option Fuel Tax has been disseminated to each Municipality for approval. Mr. Adams discussed the need to have each Commissioner of the district within the Municipality to attend the City Council meeting for the approval of the percentages. Mr. Adams stated that once he has approval from each Municipality he will provide the Board with the final approval and execution of the Local Option Fuel Tax.

2019 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT AND 2020 ESTIMATES – WHITE SPRINGS AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS INC. D/B/A PCS PHOSPHATE – WHITE SPRINGS (INDIRECT SUBSIDIARY OF NUTRIEN, LTD) – APPROVE

County Attorney Cliff Adams advised the Board that Environmental Attorney Scott Shirley recommended for the Board to approve the 2019 Annual Report. Commissioner Ogburn questioned Mike Williams and Don Brown from Nutrien as to the potential mining of the area off of Hwy. 129 where there are Indian mounds. Mr. Brown stated that the area

where the Indian mounds are located is outside of the reclamation / mining plan and that Nutrien will do a cultural resource assessment prior to mining in the area.

Motion by Commissioner Burnam to approve the 2019 Annual Progress Report and 2020 Estimates as recommended by attorney Scott Shirley. Second was made by Commissioner Mitchell, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Commissioner Ogburn discussed with Mr. Williams the water quality issues along CR-137. Mr. Williams stated that Nutrien has contacted FDEP to perform an analysis of the area in order to determine the issue. Mr. Williams also stated that Nutrien hasn't reported nor do they have knowledge of the release of harmful materials. Commissioner Ogburn requested that he be allowed to attend the testing by FDEP. The Board and Mr. Williams agreed to hold the next Technical Working Group meeting after a day Board meeting to allow Commissioners to attend.

DISCUSSION OF REPLACEMENT OF DAMAGED COMMUNICATIONS TOWER AT CROSSROADS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

County Coordinator Louie Goodin provided the Board with a cost estimate for the construction of a monolithic tower to replace the damaged tower at Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department.

Motion by Commissioner Mitchell to allow staff to let bid proposals for a monolithic tower. Second was made by Commissioner Smith, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

AT&T TOWER LEASE

County Attorney Cliff Adams recommended that the item be continued until the next meeting.

COVID-19 – CORONAVIRUS DISEASE – STATUS REPORT AND DISCUSSION

Assistant Emergency Management Director Pam Allen provided the Board with a status report on the Covid-19 virus pandemic and the local effects. Board staff also stated that the Withlacoochee River advisory that was put in place on June 9th has been lifted and the River Task Force will be meeting in July.

Motion by Commissioner Mitchell to approve the continuation of Resolution 2020 – 01 Declaration of a Local State of Emergency due to Covid-19. Second was made by Commissioner Burnam, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

The Board also discussed the issue regarding migrant workers being tested for Covid-19 and announced that the special meeting for the continuation of the Local State of Emergency will be on June 24, 2020 at 12:00 p.m.

USE OF EMPLOYEE'S ACCRUED LEAVE FOR WORKER'S COMP REQUIRED PHYSICAL THERAPY

Commissioner Smith discussed with the Board the issue of employees who were on Workers' Compensation and have returned to work having to use their sick leave to attend physical therapy. After a brief discussion, the Board agreed to leave the issue as is.

COURTROOM RENOVATIONS

There was nothing to report regarding the renovations to the Courtroom.

APPROVE BILLS

Motion by Commissioner Mitchell to approve the bills (vouchers 142961 – 143025 and checks 062875-062996). Second was made by Commissioner Ogburn, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

CHANGE OF BOARD MEETING DUE TO AUGUST 18, 2020 PRIMARY ELECTION

Motion by Commissioner Ogburn to declare an emergency and to move the August 18, 2020 Board meeting to August 20, 2020 due to the Primary Election. Second was made by Commissioner Smith, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

County Coordinator Louie Goodin corrected a previous comment regarding a letter to Governor Desantis seeking information about the escalating number of Covid-19 positive tests in Hamilton Correctional Institute.

Mr. Goodin advised the Board that the Jasper News has contacted the Historical Society for the storage of all newspapers due to their closing. The Board agreed to allow the storage in the Annex. Mr. Goodin also discussed the possibility of being able to advertise for certain services on the county website.

Commissioner Ogburn advised the Board that Nutrien has reduced their employment by fifty (50) individuals. Commissioner Ogburn also stated that he may not be able to attend the special meeting tomorrow due to the health of his mother.

Commissioner Smith discussed with the Board the need to assist Southland Wood Recycling in order to ensure the completion of his project and the employment of local individuals.

Mr. Goodin explained the auction process of the North Florida Inn.

County Attorney Cliff Adams discussed with the Board the Covid-19 testing of migrant workers.

Mr. Adams also discussed the Code Enforcement notice issued for unpermitted migrant housing as well as the water tap provided for the structures. Mr. Adams stated that a lawsuit may be a suggestion if Code Enforcement isn't successful.

Clerk of Court Greg Godwin discussed with the Board the memo outlining the changes to open enrollment.

The Board also agreed to continue utilizing EMS personnel for the Health Screening at the Courthouse.

There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 1:05 p.m.

ROBERT BROWN, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

GREG GODWIN, EX-OFFICIO CLERK

