

**JULY 18, 2023
JASPER, FLORIDA**

REGULAR SESSION

The Board of County Commissioners, Hamilton County, Florida, met in regular session on Tuesday, July 18, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room, 207 Northeast First Street, Jasper, Florida. Present were Commissioners Travis Erixton, Jimmy Murphy, Robert Brown, Robbie Roberson and Richie McCoy, a full Board being present. Also present were County Coordinator Louie Goodin and County Attorney Andy Decker.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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

WHITE SPRINGS FIRE SERVICE AGREEMENT

County Attorney Andy Decker advised the Board that the draft Fire Services Agreement with the Town of White Springs is based on the same terms as the Agreement with the Town of Jennings. Mr. Decker stated that he forwarded the attorney for the Town of White Springs the agreement as a draft model. Town of White Springs Fire Chief Steve Stith addressed the Board as to the Agreement and advised the Board that the Town of White Springs was much different than the Town of Jennings and will be requesting \$26,000 plus the per call based on the FEMA rates. Commissioner Erixton explained his conversation with Mr. Stith regarding the Agreement and Mr. Decker discussed the financial outline of the Agreement. The Board questioned Mr. Stith as to the Town's responses to calls upon being dispatched and Fire Coordinator Henry Land provided an update as to the number of calls responded to. After a lengthy discussion, the Board took the following action:

- Motion by Commissioner McCoy to table the Fire Services Agreement until the Town of White Springs makes a formal proposal. Second was made by Commissioner Roberson, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

SHIP / CDBG PROGRAM / CDBG-CV – STATUS REPORT

Ship Administrator Spencer Nabors provided the Board with a status report for Ship and CDBG grants. Mr. Nabors stated that he is currently doing site visits for round #2 Ship projects and is currently performing the environmental review process for the CDBG grant and presented the CDBG contract for signature. As to the CDBG-CV, Mr. Nabors advised the Board that he is performing the environmental review and has received the contract for the grant (22CV546).

**HAMILTON COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT – SHERIFF HARRELL REID
AND MAJ. JOHN DAVIS – FUNDING REALLOCATION**

Major John Davis, with the Sheriff’s Department, requested that the Board allow the Sheriff’s Department to reallocate funds that were previously approved by the Board to purchase an armored vehicle (Bear Cat). Major Davis stated that the Sheriff’s Department has been unable to acquire the vehicle and would like to put the funds towards making the necessary repairs to an older model of the armored vehicle and allow the purchase of two (2) new vehicles. Major Davis advised the Board that if the request is approved that \$80,000 from their proposed 2023/2024 budget could be removed. John Koche questioned the reallocation of funds with staff explained the previous action of the Board.

- Motion by Commissioner Roberson to approve the request by the Sheriff’s Department and to reallocate the funds as requested, allow the purchase of two (2) new vehicles and to remove the \$80,000 from the 2023-2024 proposed Sheriff’s budget. Second was made by Commissioner Erixton, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS – STATUS REPORT AND REQUESTS

County Coordinator Louie Goodin provided the Board with an update as to the acquisition of the property for the lift station at the SR 129 I-75 interchange and stated that the property owner is in agreement for the purchase of the property. Mr. Goodin also stated that staff will be meeting with the City of Jasper tomorrow morning to discuss the details of the system.

County Engineer Greg Bailey provided the Board with a conceptual layout for the SR 6 Industrial Development property. Mr. Bailey discussed the layout and the mitigation of the wetland areas. The Board requested that Mr. Goodin contact the adjacent property owner to determine if they would be interested in selling their property. After a brief discussion, the Board took the following action:

- Motion by Commissioner Erixton to approve the conceptual layout for the SR 6 Industrial Development property as presented. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

ROAD PAVING PROJECTS – STATUS EREPORT

Greg Bailey, with North Florida Professional Services, provided the Board with a status report on the current road projects.

5 HOLE BOAT RAMP – Mr. Bailey the design and planning for the project is proceeding.

CR-25A – Mr. Bailey advised that the survey for the CR-25A paving project is complete and that he currently working on the plans for the resurfacing project.

LAKE BAISDEN LOOP – Jared, with Locklear, provided the Board with an update for the Lake Baisden Loop paving project and advised that the project is progressing according to schedule.

- Motion by Commissioner Erixton to approve pay request six (6) and seven (7) for Curt's Construction as recommended by Locklear. Second was made by Commissioner McCoy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

FDOT PLANNING MEETING – Mr. Bailey stated that the FDOT Web Conference for the Jennings I-75 interchange planning meeting was successful and very encouraging. Mr. Bailey also discussed the possibility of a FDEP grant to assist the county with the replacement of bridges. The Board directed staff to obtain an inventory of the bridges in order to establish a priority list.

HISTORICAL GRANT – Mr. Bailey advised the Board that only one (1) historical grant can be applied for per cycle with the Board needing to establish a priority as to which grant to apply for. After a brief discussion, the Board agreed to apply for a grant for the Historical Museum and seek a grant for the old Jail during the next grant cycle.

LIFT STATION – The Board requested Mr. Bailey to survey the area needed for the lift station to allow Mr. Decker to draft a deed to obtain the property.

SR6 JOBS GROWTH GRANT – The Board discussed the need to proceed with the project, Mr. Bailey discussed with the Board a concern with the language of the legislative grant agreement and will get with staff to review the grant agreement and report back to the Board.

REQUEST THAT BOARD CONSIDER AND APPROVE A DRAGLINE CROSSING OF CR 6 DURING THE WEEK OF AUGUST 24, 2023 – NUTRIEN-WHITE SPRINGS – RACHEL GARLAND, GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRIAL AFFAIRS MANAGER

Rachel Garland, with Nutrien, requested that the Board approve a dragline crossing of CR 6 during the week of August 24, 2023. Ms. Garland stated that Nutrien would provide the necessary signage and advertising for the crossing as in times past.

- Motion by Commissioner McCoy to approve the dragline crossing request as presented. Second was made by Commissioner Erixton, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

The Board questioned Ms. Garland as to the approval of the G-Land permits for future mining. Ms. Garland stated that Nutrien is in the process of securing additional reserves which will extend the life of the mine. The Board also requested Ms. Garland to check and see if Nutrien could assist the Board with wetland mitigation credits.

CROSSROADS FIRE STATION SITE PLAN

Mr. Bailey provided the Board with a site plan for the Crossroads fire station and reviewed the planned layout with the Board. The Board also directed staff to check the well for the Fire Station to determine its capacity.

- Motion by Commissioner Roberson to approve the site plan for the Crossroads Fire Station as presented by County Engineer Greg Bailey. Second was made by Commissioner Erixton, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

DISCUSSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ONE (1) CENT SALES TAX FOR FIRE SERVICES

County Attorney Andy Decker provided the Board with a draft ordinance for a one (1) cent discretionary sales tax for Fire Services with an estimated revenue of \$1.5 million. Mr. Decker explained the logistics and response issues as the need for the tax and provided staff with the advertisement for the implementation of the ordinance.

- Motion by Commissioner McCoy to allow County Attorney Andy Decker to proceed with the advertising of the Ordinance. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

BOARD APPOINTMENT = HAMILTON COUNTY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

County Coordinator Louie Goodin advised the Board that he has received two (2) applications for the Board appointments to the Development Authority. Chuck Burnett and Brandon McCoy were the applicants.

- Motion by Commissioner Roberson to approve the applications and appoint Chuck Burnett and Brandon McCoy to the Development Authority. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

COUNTY ANCILLARY GROUP INSURANCE PROPOSALS – AWARD

Clerk of Court Greg Godwin discussed with the Board the recommendations from the Insurance Committee for the Ancillary Group Insurance proposals. Daniel Tillman, with Acentria was present and provided the Board with an explanation of the bid proposals. The Board took the following action for dental coverage:

- Motion by Commissioner McCoy to accept the Humana Option 2 (high and low) plans for coverage as recommended by the Insurance Committee. Second was made by Commissioner Erixton, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

The Board took the following action for vision coverage:

- Motion by Commissioner Erixton to accept the Humana Option 2 plan for vision coverage as recommended by the Insurance Committee. Second was made by Commissioner Erixton, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

The Board took the following action for the Life, Short- Term Disability and Long-Term Disability insurance coverage:

- Motion by Commissioner McCoy to approve the Standard 2 Option for the Life, Short-Term Disability and Long-Term Disability insurance coverage as recommended by the Insurance Committee. Second was made by Commissioner Erixton, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

COUNTY GROUP MEDICAL INSURANCE PROPOSALS – AWARD

Mr. Tillman reviewed the bid proposals for the Medical Insurance with the Board. After a brief discussion, the Board took the following action:

- Motion by Commissioner McCoy to accept the proposals from PRM and to offer the following Blue Cross Blue Shield insurance plans as recommended by the Insurance Committee. (3748, 5904 and 5172/73). Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Mr. Tillman also provided the Board with an update on the Property Insurance market in the State of Florida.

DISCUSSION OF ANIMAL CONTROL FACILITIES

County Coordinator Louie Goodin provided the Board with an update as to the condition of the current animal control facilities. Mr. Goodin discussed the issues and requested that the Board possibly consider moving to another facility in the county. After a brief discussion, the Board agreed to allow staff to check the condition of the other facility and report back to the Board at the next meeting.

DISCUSSION OF SECURITY SERVICE AT THE COURTHOUSE ANNEX

Mr. Goodin discussed with the Board security issues with the current security company for the Courthouse Annex and requested that the Board allow him to get quotes from other security companies. The Board agreed by unanimous consent to allow for Mr. Goodin to obtain quotes for the security system.

APPROVE BILLS

- Motion by Commissioner McCoy to approve the bills (vouchers 161630 – 161895 and checks 071295-071402). Second was made by Commissioner Erixton, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

LEAVE PAY OUT

- Motion by Commissioner Roberson to declare an emergency and approve the leave pay out for Bruce Alderson as requested. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- County Coordinator Louie Goodin announced that State Senator Corey Simon will be in Hamilton County on July 27th and 28th and would like to meet with the elected officials.
- Commissioner McCoy discussed with the Board a complaint regarding a major drainage ditch in the Chanbridge Subdivision. Commissioner McCoy also discussed the need to revitalize the Chamber of Commerce.
- Commissioner McCoy requested that the Road Superintendent be present during the day meetings to provide a report to the Board.
- Commissioner Roberson questioned Mr. Goodin as to the progress of the sewer dump station. Commissioner Roberson also discussed the rental of the Annex and the rates being charged.
- Commissioner Erixton questioned staff as to the progress of the Jennings Bluff Campground to which Mr. Goodin stated that the current delay is being caused by Suwannee Valley Electric. Commissioner Erixton requested that the site be mowed and cleaned.
- Commissioner Murphy questioned Mr. Goodin as to the progress of the new Road Department Office. Mr. Goodin advised that once the property lines have been established the project will proceed. Commissioner Murphy also questioned staff as to the Jennings Holiday Inn project and the firecracker stand removal. The Board discussed the different options for the removal of the building to include eminent domain. County Attorney Andy Decker provided the Board with a brief explanation of and eminent domain case.

- Clerk of Court Greg Godwin provided the Board with the 2023-2024 budget and gave a brief overview of the budget.

There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 9:20 a.m.

ROBERT BROWN, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

GREG GODWIN, EX-OFFICIO CLERK

