

JULY 19, 2022
JASPER, FLORIDA

REGULAR SESSION

The Board of County Commissioners, Hamilton County, Florida, met in regular session on Tuesday, July 19, 2022, at 6:00 p.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 Brown with the Pledge of Allegiance being led by Chairman Smith.

DRUG FREE WORKPLACE POLICY

County Attorney Cliff Adams presented the Board with a revision to the Drug Free Workplace Policy for approval and explained the changes to the policy.

- Motion by Ogburn to adopt the Resolution revising the Drug Free Workplace Policy as recommended by County Attorney Cliff Adams. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

SHIP / CDBG PROGRAM / CDBG-CV – STATUS REPORT

Ship Administrator Spencer Nabors provided an update regarding the current Ship, CDBG and CDBG-CV projects. Mr. Nabors also provided the Board with a status report for the Ship projects and stated that the new Ship funds will be allocated during the month of August. Mr. Nabors stated that he is still waiting on DEO regarding the CDBG-CV grant and as for the 2022 CDBG Grant, the application will be submitted on July 21st for a Housing Grant.

- Motion by Commissioner Ogburn to approve for the 2022 CDBG Application to be for a Housing Grant. Second was made by Commissioner Brown, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS – STATUS REPORT AND REQUESTS

Economic Development Director Chadd Mathis was unable to be in attendance for the meeting; therefore, County Coordinator Louie Goodin provided the Board with an update and status report on the current projects. Mr. Goodin stated that the Scope of Work Agreement for the Jobs Growth Grant has been received and reviewed by legal staff. County Attorney Cliff Adams shared concerns with the ownership of the property and the need for an interlocal agreement to be drafted to establish the parameters of the project between the Development Authority and Board. After a brief discussion, Chairman Smith stated that he would contact Nathaniel Combass, the Chairman of the Development Authority Board, to discuss the drafting of the agreement. The Board stated that all entities need to work together to make the project a success for Hamilton County. Mr. Goodin stated that the closing for the old Holiday Inn property is still set for August 1st and Mr. Adams presented the Board with an Interlocal Agreement for the project costs to be split 50/50 with the Development Authority.

- Motion by Commissioner Ogburn to approve the Interlocal Agreement as presented for the old Holiday Inn property between the Development Authority and Board of County Commissioners. Second was made by Commissioner McCoy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Mr. Goodin also advised the Board that Mr. Mathis has made offers on the three (3) properties adjacent to the Holiday Inn property.

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 Curt’s Construction Company has agreed to pave approximately 1.2 miles of the Baisden Lake Loop project as awarded at the July 5th meeting.

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.

GREEN POINT LIFT STATION – Mr. Bailey stated that after evaluating the lift station at Green Point there are problems with the elevation due to the shallowness of the lift station and will possibly need a private lift station constructed. Mr. Bailey provided the Board with available funding options and costs associated with a private lift station.

TRAIL PROJECT – Mr. Bailey advised the Board that he has discussed the Trail project with Rachel Garland, with Nutrien. Ms. Garland will discuss the project concept with Nutrien’s administration and provide feedback. Mr. Bailey also stated that the economic impact from the project would be substantial for the county.

HAMILTON COUNTY JAIL – A/C UNIT REPLACEMENT

County Coordinator Louie Goodin advised the Board that the Sheriff’s Department is still awaiting a quote from W.W. Gay for the chillers.

RESOLUTION – MEMBERSHIP OF TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Chairman Smith read the Resolution for the Tourist Development Council membership renewal. County Attorney Cliff Adams discovered several errors in the Resolution and requested that the Board table the matter until the next meeting to allow for corrections to be made.

ROAD DEPARTMENT OFFICE BUILDING – BID AWARD

The Board discussed the bid received from Plumb Level Construction for the Road Department Office building in the amount of \$489,263.00. Per staff, the design could be changed to make the building more affordable.

- Motion by Commissioner Ogburn to reject the bid from Plumb Level Construction in the amount of \$489,263.00 based on staff’s recommendation and to allow staff to re-design the plans. Second was made by Commissioner Brown, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

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 McCoy to approve the bills (vouchers 155243 – 155477 and checks 068525-068619). Second was made by Commissioner Brown, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

ADDITIONAL BILLS

- Motion by Commissioner Ogburn to declare an emergency and approve the bills from Dr. Pennock (redistricting) in the amount of \$3,000 and Stidham (Well Appropriation) in the amount of \$6,450. Second was made by Commissioner Brown, motion carried with a unanimous vote.
- Motion by Commissioner Ogburn to declare an emergency and approve the leave payout for Lisa Harris as presented. Second was made by Commissioner McCoy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- County Coordinator Louie Goodin announced that the Nutrien Technical Working Group meeting will be on Thursday, July 28th at 1:00 p.m.
- Mr. Goodin advised that he has hired James Hampton as the Code Enforcement Officer and Tiphonie Daniels as the EMS Director.
- Mr. Goodin also advised the Board that he would be on vacation Monday, July 25th and Tuesday, July 26th.

- Commissioner Brown stated that he planned to attend the SVEC Fiber meeting, and that Commissioner Murphy will attend that Canvassing Board meeting.
- Commissioner Ogburn advised the Board that he met with Nutrien's General Manager who is willing to assist the county with future development projects and will be meeting with consultants next week. Commissioner Ogburn also stated that the Board needs to consider hiring its own Economic Development Director.
- Clerk of Court Greg Godwin provided the Board with a copy of the 2022-2023 Budget. The Board announced that they will hold the first budget workshop on Thursday, July 28th at 3:00 p.m.
- Chairman Smith requested staff to expedite the tree removal on SW 90th Blvd. and proceed with the paving project.
- Chairman Smith requested an update from Mr. Goodin on the number of positions currently at the Road Department.
- Chairman Smith questioned staff as to the removal of the buildings on the Crossroads Fire Department property, to which Mr. Goodin stated that the individuals previously interested plan to remove the buildings. Mr. Goodin also stated that he applied for an additional \$400,000 appropriations request for the Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department through a special Legislative Session.
- Mr. Goodin stated that the Doctors Office (Smidtas) renovations will be close to being complete by the end of the week. Mr. Goodin also stated that the Dr's. Clinic Building is mostly complete with the parking lot to be paved and the addition of the Watson's equipment.

**COUNTY FIRE SERVICE AND MUNICIPAL FIRE SERVICE
CONTRACTS**

Fire Coordinator Henry Land provided the Board with an update from the meetings that staff held with the Municipalities as to Fire Services. Mr. Land stated that the City of Jasper discussed two (2) options: 1) County pays \$160,000 annually, 80% maintenance for a one (1) year period with a response with one (1) fulltime Fire Fighter and one (1) volunteer. 2) Allow the county to lease or utilize the equipment with no cost to the City and cover the Jasper fire district and the City of Jasper for fire protection. Mr. Land stated that the condition of the City of Jasper's fire equipment would need to be addressed. The Town of Jennings requested \$60,000 with a guaranteed response with one (1) full time Fire Fighter, county will provide 50% of the maintenance for the certified equipment or an additional \$40,000 for two (2) full time Fire Fighters to be prorated based on performance. Staff will meet with the Town of White Springs on Thursday, July 21st at 2:00 p.m. The Board then discussed the number of full-time Fire Fighters that would be required to provide a guaranteed 24-hour, 7 day a week response and the compensation for the positions. After a lengthy discussion, the Board stated that they would continue to discuss the Fire Services during the upcoming budget workshops. The Board also requested that Mr. Bailey look at the Genoa Fire Station and determine what would be required to provide living accommodations.

There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Smith adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

JOSH SMITH, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

GREG GODWIN, EX-OFFICIO CLERK

