

**AUGUST 1, 2023
JASPER, FLORIDA**

REGULAR SESSION

The Board of County Commissioners, Hamilton County, Florida, met in regular session on Tuesday, August 1, 2023, at 9:00 a.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 Chairman Brown with the Pledge of Allegiance being led by Chairman Brown.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

**SOUTHEAST LITTLE BRITCHES RODEO ASSOCIATION INC. –
REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF FEES FOR ONSITE EMERGENCY
MEDICAL SERVICE AT EVENTS**

The Board considered a request from the Southeast Little Britches Rodeo Assoc. Inc. to waive the Emergency Medical Services fees for four (4) rodeo events to be held in Hamilton County.

- Motion by Commissioner Roberson to approve the request to waive the EMS fees for the four (4) Rodeo events to be held in Hamilton County. Second was made by Commissioner McCoy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

**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 a brief update of the American Rescue Plan. Ms. Bechtel also stated that their team will continue to work on the purchase of a mobile health unit.

**JASPER POLICE DEPARTMENT – REQUEST FOR IRC FUNDS –
LEYON KIRKLAND, INTERIM CHIEF**

Interim Police Chief Leyon Kirkland and Officer Dan Bennett presented the Board with a request to utilize IRC funds to purchase needed equipment for the Jasper Police Dept. in the amount of \$35,000. Mr. Kirkland explained his request and stated that the department was planning to return to a 24-hour 7 day a week department. The Board advised Mr. Kirkland and Mr. Bennett that the IRC fund balance is currently \$23,000. After a brief discussion, the Board took the following action:

- Motion by Commissioner McCoy, to allow the expenditure request from the Jasper Police Department in the amount of \$20,000 from the IRC fund. Second was made by Commissioner Roberson, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

**JRE LEE COMMUNITY CENTER – REQUEST FOR FUNDING
FOR FIRE PREVENTION AND DETECTION AT THE
COMMUNITY CENTER – BO BEAUCHEMIN**

Karen Bristol, with the JRE Lee Community Center, addressed the Board and requested assistance in the amount of \$9,100.33 for unexpected expenses due to a safety inspection by the current insurance carrier. Ms. Bristol explained the issues and stated that the Community Center doesn't have the funds for the expenses.

- Motion by Commissioner McCoy to approve the request from the JRE Lee Community Center in the amount of \$9,100.33. Second was made by Commissioner Roberson, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – CAPITOL SOLUTIONS INC. – PATRICK BELL

Patrick Bell, with Capitol Solutions Inc., provided the Board with a legislative update. Mr. Bell advised the Board that he will need a list of projects for the coming session by the end of August. After a brief discussion, the Board agreed to hold a workshop at 4:00 p.m. on August 15th to determine the priority projects.

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 advised that he is currently working with contractors on round two (2) and three (3) for Ship and that the Ship funds for this fiscal year have been received. Mr. Nabors stated that the environmental review exemption has been approved by DEO for the CDBG project. As to the CDBG-CV, Mr. Nabors advised the Board that the environmental review exemption has been approved and that the environmental assessment is underway.

- Motion by Commissioner McCoy to approve Marvin Selph (new construction) and Tim Carrol (purchase assistance) for round 3 of Ship projects. Second was made by Commissioner Erixton, motion carried with a unanimous vote.
- Motion by Commissioner Roberson to approve the lien satisfaction for Jackie Harris. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS – STATUS REPORT AND REQUESTS

Economic Development Director Chadd Mathis provided the Board with a status report on the current economic development projects. Mr. Mathis advised the Board that the appraisal for the Fireworks building in Jennings is almost complete. The Board questioned Mr. Mathis as to the survey for the Busy Bee project, Mr. Mathis stated that he is waiting on the survey from Mr. Waring and that as soon as it has been completed that the deed for the property will be taken care of. Mr. Mathis also discussed with the Board the property in the CR-137 Industrial Park and the need for infrastructure. The Board also discussed the Brownsfield designation and the need to remove it prior to having issues with developers. County Attorney Andy Decker will review the designation and advise the Board of the next steps. Mr. Mathis provided the Board with a site plan for the forty-five (45) acre development site just outside of the Jasper City Limits. Lastly, Mr. Mathis advised the Board that he will need a representative from District 3 for the Development Authority Board.

ROAD PAVING PROJECTS – STATUS EREPORT

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

Mr. Bailey presented the Board with a conceptual site plan for the future Equestrian Center and discussed several grant options for the project. Mr. Bailey also stated that the Equestrian Center's intent would not be to replace the current Arena and it's activities.

Mr. Bailey discussed with the Board the need for an employment study to show the availability of employment for Hamilton County and the surrounding areas. Mr. Bailey stated that documenting the employment base would be a benefit to the county for economic development opportunities.

Assistant Road Superintendent Louis Johnson provided the Board with a Road Department progress report. Commissioner McCoy requested

that in the future that all accidents and concerns be placed in the report. Mr. Johnson requested that the Board consider using the work order system for their requests to allow the report to reflect all the Road Department projects. Mr. Johnson discussed the quote from Beard Equipment for the replacement of the fuel injection pump and fuel rail for the 670G Grader.

- Motion by Commissioner Erixton to approve the purchase of the fuel injection pump and rail in the amount of \$4,684.75. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

CR-25A – Mr. Bailey advised that the geotechnical survey and the testing of the pavement cores for the CR-25A paving project is underway.

LAKE BAISDEN LOOP – Mr. Bailey advised the Lake Baisden Loop paving project is progressing according to schedule.

HISTORICAL GRANT – Mr. Bailey also advised the Board that the historical grant has been revised as to the priority and is being processed.

CROSSROADS FIRE STATION – Mr. Bailey stated that the geotechnical design has been ordered for the Crossroads Fire Station.

SR6 JOBS GROWTH GRANT – Mr. Bailey presented the Board with a revised conceptual layout of the SR 6 Industrial Park and discussed the revisions with the Board. The Board briefly discussed the issues with the Jobs Growth Grant Agreement with DEO. The Board agreed by unanimous consent to accept the revised conceptual layout of the park and agreed to allow Mr. Bailey to proceed with permitting the site without delineating the wetlands.

**SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT –
LEROY MARSHALL – PRESENTATION OF ALAPAHA
WATERSHED PRELIMINARY REVISED DFIRM COMMUNITY
COORDINATION AND OPEN HOUSE MEETING**

Leroy Marshall, with the Suwannee River Water Management District, provided the Board with a presentation outlining the FEMA maps for the Alapaha Watershed. Following the presentation, Mr. Marshall advised the Board that the maps are only preliminary at this point and that each of the affected landowners have been notified by letter of the proposed map changes. Mr. Marshall announced that the meeting for all elected officials will be on August 17th at 2:00 p.m. at the Jasper Civic Center with a public meeting to occur at 6:00 p.m. The Board thanked Mr. Marshall for the presentation.

HAMILTON COUNTY JAIL – A/C UNIT REPLACEMENT

Major John Davis provided the Board with a contract agreement from Green's Sales and Services for a new twenty (20) ton Carrier A/C unit for the Jail in the amount of \$98,000.

- Motion by Commissioner McCoy to approve the contract agreement with Green's Sales and Services in the amount of \$98,000. Second was made by Commissioner Roberson, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

APPROVE BILLS

- Motion by Commissioner McCoy to approve the bills (vouchers 161896 – 162051 and checks 071403-071485). Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- County Coordinator Louie Goodin advised the Board that a leak occurred at the Senior Center with Serv Pro being called in to clean-up the damage. Mr. Goodin also stated that the Maintenance Department to replace the items damaged.
- Mr. Goodin advised the Board that August 29, 2023, would be last day of employment with the county.
- Commissioner McCoy stated that the electrical for the Jennings Bluff Campground has been approved with the project to proceed.
- Commissioner Erixton thanked staff for having the Jennings Bluff Campground mowed and cleaned.
- Commissioner Murphy questioned Mr. Goodin as to the progress of sewer dump station. Mr. Goodin advised that he is still waiting on a quote for the construction and information from FDEP.
- Fire Coordinator Henry Land addressed the Board regarding the need for protocols from Emergency Medical Services for the Fire Department to be able to assist with being a First Responder and providing medical attention. After a brief discussion, Mr. Land advised the Board that he must cease the response from First Responders until the issue can be resolved. Mr. Goodin advised that the situation will be resolved by the end of the week.

There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

ROBERT BROWN, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

GREG GODWIN, EX-OFFICIO CLERK

