

REGULAR SESSION

The Board of County Commissioners, Hamilton County, Florida, met in regular session on Tuesday, August 4, 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 Ogburn with the Pledge of Allegiance being led by Chairman Brown.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Burnam to approve the Consent Agenda pulling item f (Courthouse Annex Auditorium). Second was made by Commissioner Ogburn, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

CORONAVIRUS 2019 – UPDATE AND STATUS REPORT

Tom Moffses, with the Department of Health, was unable to be present for the meeting; however, County Coordinator Louie Goodin provided the Board with a summary of the Covid-19 effects on Hamilton County.

The Board also discussed the Cares Act Funding Plan and complimented the writing of the plan. Pam Allen, assistant Emergency Management Director, was present to answer questions regarding the expenditure of the Cares Act Funds.

Motion by Commissioner Smith to approve the Cares Act Funding Plan as presented including a first come, first served for all qualified applicants to be included and for the Chairman to sign and execute the plan. Second was made by Commissioner Burnam, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

The Board then discussed the possibility of hiring two (2) individuals to assist with the review of the applications for funding, staff advised that the individuals may be SERT volunteers. The Board agreed to allow the applications to be received at the County Coordinator's office and be distributed to the appropriate staff.

Motion by Commissioner Smith to allow staff to hire two (2) individuals to handle the review of the Cares Act Funding applications. Second was made by Commissioner Ogburn, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Motion by Commissioner Burnam to set the rate of pay for the individuals at \$15.00 per hour. Second was made by Commissioner Ogburn, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

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

SHIP / CDBG PROGRAM – STATUS REPORT

Ship Administrator Spencer Nabors gave the Board a status report of the current Ship, CDBG and Ship Covid-19 grants. Mr. Nabors discussed the Ship Covid applications and advised the Board that all applications will be filed at the County Coordinator’s office and some may be received by email. Mr. Nabors stated that he will begin advertising the availability of funds as soon as possible and reviewed the process with the Board.

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 FDOT has approved for the CR-137 paving project to be let for bids; however, FDOT needs to know who will provide CEI services for the project prior to final approval.

Motion by Commissioner Ogburn to allow Locklear & Associates Inc. to provide the CEI services for the CR-137 paving project due to having a continuing services contract with the county. Second was made by Commissioner Burnam, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

SW 90TH BLVD. – Mr. Bailey discussed the SW 90th Blvd. paving project with the Board.

SCHOOL SAFETY LIGHT – The Board questioned the timeline for having the caution light installed at the school entrance. Mr. Bailey and Mr. Goodin stated that they would check with FDOT as to their plans for installation.

GIBSON PARK – Mr. Bailey advised the Board that the county will receive the grant funding for Gibson Park in the near future.

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

Motion by Commissioner Ogburn to approve and accept the Right-of-way deeds for parcel #28 and #31 (Clayton) and #15 (Earl and Kyrilyn Stanbridge). Second was made by Commissioner Burnam, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

County Attorney Cliff Adams discussed with the Board the remaining properties that have been settled with the deed being mailed for signature and the parcels that have been appraised and are ready to be negotiated with the land owners. Mr. Adams advised the Board

of the amounts being requested by the land owners for parcels 29, 34 and 27. After a brief discussion, the Board agreed to take the following action:

Motion by Commissioner Smith to approve for legal counsel to offer \$6,000 for parcels 29 and 34 and to offer \$2,000 for parcel 27. Second was made by Commissioner Mitchell, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

RIGHT OF WAY PERMITS – Mr. Bailey stated that he would have a schedule of permits and fees for the Board to review by the next Board meeting.

SUBDIVISION ROAD (OAK WOODLANDS) – Commissioner Burnam discussed with the Board the need to repair a road used by the public and will ask staff to review the issue in the near future.

ROAD MATERIAL – Commissioner Ogburn questioned staff as to the road material offered by Nutrien. Mr. Bailey stated that the material is being tested by the lab to determine the correct mix. Commissioner Ogburn advised the Board that Nutrien is offering the material to the county at no cost.

NW 63RD AVE. – Commissioner Smith discussed with the Board the widening of NW 63rd Ave. and the feasibility of the project. Commissioner Smith then requested that the Board stop the project due to the cost associated with widening the road. The Board agreed by unanimous consent to abandon the project.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM F (COURTHOUSE ANNEX AUDITORIUM USE)

Commissioner Burnam discussed with the Board the denial by TDC of the \$1,000 grant request for the ARC North Florida event. County Coordinator Louie Goodin advised the Board that the Department of Health has approved the social distancing plan as presented for the event.

Motion by Commissioner Smith to close the Courthouse Annex Auditorium to all public events due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Second was made by Commissioner Ogburn, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES

County Coordinator Louie Goodin discussed with the Board the offer from Columbia County Humane Society to handle animal control for Hamilton County. Mr. Goodin advised the Board that he is continuing to research the use of the Landfill as an Animal Control Shelter and also how Animal Control is being handled in other counties. The Board stated that there are approximately forty (40) days left in the agreement with the City of Jasper.

AT&T TOWER LEASE

County Attorney Cliff Adams advised the Board that he has received the signed tower

lease agreement with AT&T. Mr. Adams reviewed the terms of the lease with the Board with the lease to be for a five (5) year term @ \$1,500 per month with a 10% increase for every renewal. Mr. Adams stated that according to the agreement AT&T will begin paying the lease on January 1, 2021 whether it is utilizing the tower space or not.

Motion by Commissioner Burnam to approve for Chairman Brown to sign and execute the lease agreement with AT&T as recommended by County Attorney Cliff Adams. Second was made by Commissioner Mitchell, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

DISCUSSION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Economic Development Director Chadd Mathis explained the bid process for the North Florida Inn property at the Jennings I-75 interchange and requested that the Board consider the continuation of the \$200,000 offer for the property to allow him to negotiate with the successful bidder for the purchase of the property. Mr. Mathis also stated that he would anticipate the Development Authority to continue their offer as well. County Attorney Cliff Adams discussed a resolution to revitalize the interchange and to remove the migrant housing. Mr. Adams stated that the business owners at the Jennings interchange have agreed to not allow migrant housing at their facilities after the growing season ends as negotiated by the Code Enforcement Officer. Mr. Adams has prepared a letter to all migrant worker employers stating the removal of migrant housing at the interchange and encouraged the Board to proceed with the project.

Motion by Commissioner Smith to continue the \$200,000 through December 31, 2020 to be used only for the North Florida Inn project. Second was made by Commissioner Ogburn, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

APPROVE BILLS

Motion by Commissioner Ogburn to approve the bills (vouchers 143428 – 143696 and checks 063097-063284) and to approve the leave payout for Earl Claridy. Second was made by Commissioner Smith, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Chairman Brown recessed the Board meeting until the Budget Workshop at 1:00 p.m.

2021 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET WORKSHOP

County Auditor Ken Daniels discussed the 2021 fiscal year budget with the Board. Mr. Daniels discussed the issues with revenues being down due to Covid-19, public safety and Nutrien. The Board made the following changes to the budget:

- Remove \$40,000 – Recreation Department Employee
- Remove \$22,329 – Property Appraiser Employee
- Remove \$24,000 – IRC Sheriff Department
- Remove \$10,000 – Landfill Generator (unless required by FDEP)
- Remove \$7,000 – Recycling Container

Remove \$12,000 - Sheriff's Explorer's
Remove \$5,000 – Maintenance Camera
Remove \$3,000 – Recreation mower

The Board requested that the Sheriff's Office come to the meeting to discuss their budget.

Emergency Management Director Henry Land and Emergency Management Assistant Director Pam Allen presented the Board with the Cares Act Funding application for distribution with the acceptance beginning on August 11, 2020.

Chip Belote and John Davis, with the Sheriff's Office, discussed the Sheriff's budget proposal with the Board and agreed to review their budget and meet with the Board at the next budget workshop.

Commissioner Ogburn stated that the Road Department mowers are not keeping up with the mowing of the county roads. The Board agreed to allow the mowers to work on Fridays until further notice.

The Board agreed to hold the next budget workshop on Wednesday, August 12, 2020 at 12:00 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

County Coordinator Louie Goodin advised the Board of the consent order from FDEP and that the issue can be resolved by using a charcoal filter.

There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

ROBERT BROWN, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

GREG GODWIN, EX-OFFICIO CLERK

