

**SPECIAL SESSION**

The Board of County Commissioners, Hamilton County, Florida, met in special session (COVID - 19) on Wednesday, August 12, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. in the Court Room due to social distancing from the Covid-19, 207 Northeast First Street, Jasper, Florida. Present were Commissioners Robert Brown, Beth Burnam, Randy Ogburn, William Mitchell and Josh Smith, a full Board being present. Also present was County Coordinator Louie Goodin.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Brown.

Chairman Brown read the title for Resolution 2020-28 which is the continuation of Resolution 2020-01 the Declaration of a Local State of Emergency due to COVID-19.

Motion by Commissioner Smith to approve Resolution 2020-23 as a continuation of 2020-01 for an additional seven (7) days August 12<sup>th</sup> thru August 19<sup>th</sup>. Second was made by Commissioner Burnam, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

**CARES ACT FUNDING**

Commissioner Smith requested that the Board consider compensating Assistant Emergency Management Director Pam Allen for her work in writing the Cares Act Funding Plan. Commissioner Smith stated that he has discussed the issue with County Attorney Cliff Adams and that the hours for writing the plan would have to be documented. Commissioner Smith then suggested \$4,000 cap for each phase of the grant with the funds to be funded through the administration portion of the grant. County Auditor Ken Daniels stated that the time worked on the Cares Act Grant would have to be documented and done separate from her regular duties. After a lengthy discussion, the Board took the following action:

Motion by Commissioner Smith to set the hourly rate for administration funding for the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of the Cares Act Funding Program at \$30.00 not to exceed \$4,000. Second was made by Commissioner Burnam, motion carried with a four (4) to one (1) vote. Voting against the motion was Commissioner Ogburn.

Ms. Allen gave the Board with an update from the advisory committee meeting. Ms. Allen stated that she is developing a youtube video to help with awareness of the program and have made several attempts to meet with each municipality but to no avail. The Board recommended sending another email stating “second and final notice” to each. Commissioner Burnam stated that she would contact the Town of Jennings. The Board agreed to make alternate committee member Martha Ard a permanent member due to a committee member being unable to serve. The committee members will be as follows: Chadd Mathis, Robert Brown, Josh Altman and Martha Ard.

## **2020–2021 BUDGET REVIEW**

Major John Davis, with the Sheriff's Office, reviewed the changes to the Sheriff's budget with the Board and stated that the budget has been reduced by \$131,000 from last fiscal year's budget. Mr. Davis stated that the \$10,000 for body cams remain in the budget proposal. The Board explained the situation with the budget and stated that the Sheriff's budget would need to be reduced by \$400,000 from the original amount. After a brief discussion, the Board agreed to further discuss the budget with the Sheriff's Department on Thursday, August 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. Finance Director Sheri Davis discussed the position requested by the Property Appraiser's office and stated that the position is due to a couple of employees retiring and that the position would only be moving a part-time employee to full-time. After a brief discussion the Board agreed to remove the position from the budget. County Auditor Ken Daniels discussed with the Board the funding for the Suwannee Valley Nursing Center and that it could be significantly reduced if the other entities are willing to provide funding. Mr. Goodin requested that the Board exempt the Road Department from the hiring freeze.

Motion by Commissioner Smith to approve the budget reductions as provided by Finance Director Sheri Davis and County Coordinator Louie Goodin in the amount of \$41,811 (Custodial Position) and \$36,170 (General Fund) for a total of \$77,981. Second was made by Commissioner Ogburn, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

## **SW 49<sup>TH</sup> STREET REPAIRS – CITY OF JASPER**

Chairman Brown discussed with the Board the need to make repairs to SW 49<sup>th</sup> Street that due to an easement would be the responsibility of the City of Jasper. After a brief discussion, the Board directed staff to get a request from the City of Jasper in order for the county to make the necessary repairs.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

County Coordinator Louie Goodin advised the Board that Green Point Research has agreed to purchase the Jai Ali facility and will be discussing their project with the Board in the near future.

There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 2:05 p.m.

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ROBERT BROWN, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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GREG GODWIN, EX-OFFICIO CLERK





