

**SEPTEMBER 19, 2023  
JASPER, FLORIDA**

**REGULAR SESSION**

The Board of County Commissioners, Hamilton County, Florida, met in regular session on Tuesday, September 19, 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 Attorney Andy Decker and County Coordinator Gary Godwin.

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

**FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR PRESENTATION – GREG HICKS, HAMILTON COUNTY EXTENSION DIRECTOR**

Hamilton County Extension Director Greg Hicks presented the Zach Deas family as the 2023 Farm Family of the Year. Mr. Hicks provided the history of the Deas family and the years of farming in the community. The Board thanked the Deas family and presented them with a plaque recognizing them as the 2023 Farm Family of the Year.

**PUBLIC HEARING – PETITION FOR ROAD CLOSURE UNDER SECTION 336.09, FLORIDA STATUTES, AS TO THAT CERTAIN COUNTY (PUBLIC) GRADED ROAD CALLED CENTRAL AVENUE SE, BEING IN THAT PART OF SECTION 8, TOWNSHIP 1 NORTH, RANGE 14 EAST, LYING WEST OF US HIGHWAY 41 SOUTH AT THE SOUTHERN JASPER CITY LIMITS IN HAMILTON COUNTY.**

Chairman Brown recessed the regular Board meeting and called the public hearing to order at 6:07 p.m. County Attorney Andy Decker briefly explained the petition before the Board to close a portion of Central Avenue SE. Several Commissioners discussed the speed of vehicles as well as individuals being in the area late at night.

There being no comments from the public or Board, Chairman Brown closed the public hearing and reconvened the public hearing at 6:09 p.m.

- Motion by Commissioner McCoy to grant the petition to close a portion of Central Avenue SE. 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 the Ship, CDBG and CDBG-CV grants. Mr. Nabors advised that Hurricane Idalia has caused delays with the current Ship rehab projects. Mr. Nabors also advised the Board that he has requested a “Release of Funds” for the CDBG grant program.

Regarding the CDBG-CV grant, Mr. Nabors advised that only one (1) bid was received for the Engineering Services.

- Motion by Commissioner Roberson to award the bid to North Florida Professional Services for the engineering services for the CDBG-CV grant based on approval from DEO due to there being only one (1) bid proposal. Second was made by Commissioner Erixton, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Mr. Nabors stated that he would file the proper paperwork with DEO to request permission to proceed with the grant due to only receiving one (1) bid proposal.

## **HAMILTON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT – 2023-2024 CONTRACT – TOM MOFFSES**

Tom Moffses, with the Department of Health, provided the Board with a brief review of the services being provided by the Hamilton County Health Department for the last fiscal year.

- Motion by Commissioner Murphy to approve the 2023-2024 contract with the Hamilton County Health Department. Second was made by Commissioner Roberson, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS – STATUS REPORT AND REQUESTS**

County Engineer Greg Bailey advised the Board that the Workforce Survey is almost complete. Mr. Bailey provided the Board with a brief overview of the data being collected for the survey.

## **ROAD PAVING PROJECTS – STATUS EREPORT**

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

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

**CROSSROADS FIRE STATION** – Mr. Bailey advised that the permit request for the project is under review by the SRWMD.

**SR6 / I-75 JOBS GROWTH GRANT** – Mr. Bailey provided a brief update and advised the Board that the project is currently in the design phase.

**5 HOLE BOATRAMP** – Mr. Bailey advised the Board that the permit for the project has been submitted to SRWMD. Mr. Bailey advised Commissioner Erixton that he is still looking at areas on the Suwannee River for a boat ramp.

**CR-25A** – Mr. Bailey advised that the final plans have been approved for the CR 25A resurfacing project and the project is ready to be bid.

**SR6 WATER AND SEWER FACILITY** – Mr. Bailey stated that the legislative appropriation can't be changed unless approved by the State, Mr. Bailey then discussed the options available in search of acceptable water. Mr. Bailey recommended that the Board request that the legislature change the appropriation from the drilling of two (2) wells to a new treatment system. After a brief discussion, the Board agreed to allow Mr. Bailey to provide a cost estimate for the treatment system.

**ONE (1) FINISH MOTOR GRADER BID AWARD** – Clerk of Court Greg Godwin provided the Board with bids from Ring Power and Beard Equipment Company for one (1) Finish Motor Grader. Todd Sandlin, representing Ring Power, was present and reviewed their bid proposal. Mr. Sandlin stated that if awarded the bid that Ring Power could deliver the grader by November.

- Motion by Commissioner McCoy to award the bid for the Finish Motor Grader to Ring Power with the five (5) year / 8,000 hour option in the amount of \$209,134.00 and to pay the full lease amount rather than utilize the finance option. Second was made by Commissioner Roberson, motion carried with a four (4) to one (1) vote. Voting against the motion was Commissioner Murphy.

**TWO (2) TANDEM DRIVE MOTOR GRADERS BID AWARD** - Clerk of Court Greg Godwin provided the Board with bids from Ring Power and Beard Equipment Company for the two (2) Tandem Drive Motor Graders. Todd Sandlin, representing Ring Power, was present and reviewed the bid proposal. Mr. Sandlin stated that if awarded the bid, Ring Power could deliver the graders immediately due to having one (1) in stock and the other should be available by the end of October.

- Motion by Commissioner McCoy to award the bid for the Finish Motor Grader to Ring Power with the five (5) year / 8,000 hour option in the amount of \$217,362.00 each and to pay the full lease amount rather than utilize the finance option. Second was made by Commissioner Erixton, motion carried with a four (4) to one (1) vote. Voting against the motion was Commissioner Murphy.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

Mr. Bailey announced that the Utilities Working Group will be having a meeting on September 27<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. at the TDC Conf. room in Columbia County. The Board agreed for County Coordinator Gary Godwin and Commissioner Erixton to attend.

**APPROVAL OF DEED AGREEMENT FOR COUNTY OWNED PROPERTY IN TOWN OF JENNINGS**

County Attorney Andy Decker reviewed the deed proposal from the County to the Town of Jennings for the property.

- Motion by Commissioner Roberson to approve the deed agreement as presented between the Board and the Town of Jennings. Second was made by Commissioner Erixton, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

**DUKE ENERGY INVOICE FOR SERVICES PERFORMED AT 1846 HAMILTON AVENUE LODGE JENNINGS**

County Attorney Andy Decker discussed the requested repayment from PRG for Duke Energy's transformers that were removed from the old Holiday Inn site. Mr. Decker advised the Board that Mr. Collins, with Duke Energy, recommended not paying the invoices. Mr. Decker explained that whoever the new tenant /owner becomes will be eligible for credits in accordance with their power needs which will offset the invoice to remove the existing power structure. Mr. Decker also requested that County Coordinator Gary Godwin check into the transformer removal issue to determine who gave permission for them to be removed.

**LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATIONS**

Land Use Administrator and Grants Manager Mathew Morgan provided the Board with an update as to the legislative appropriations being filed for the coming legislative session. The Board also announced that the Delegation meeting with Representative Shoaf and Senator Simon will be on September 26<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. in the Board meeting room.

**STORM RELATED ISSUES – DISCUSSION AND REQUESTS**

The Board discussed the possible need to let bids in order to secure a contractor for the dissemination of the storm claims. Brittany Bechtel, with Thomas Howell Ferguson, advised the Board that the contractor for the State Mission that was submitted has yet to be named. After a lengthy discussion, the Board directed County Coordinator Gary Godwin to check with Sheriff Reid to determine a date for a meeting to discuss the latest storm events and possible need for assistance with the FEMA claims.

- Motion by Commissioner Roberson to extend the Local Declaration of a State of Emergency due to Hurricane Dalia. Second was made by Commissioner Erixton, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

**APPROVE BILLS**

- Motion by Commissioner McCoy to approve the bills (vouchers 162592 – 162858 and checks 071705-071804). Second was made by Commissioner Roberson, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

**CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Newly hired County Coordinator Gary Godwin thanked the Board for the employment opportunity.
- Commissioner McCoy requested that the satellite dishes on the old Holiday Inn property be removed if possible. Commissioner McCoy also requested to have the large pine tree stumps on NW 25<sup>th</sup> Drive removed.
- The Board requested staff to have the Road Department check SW 90<sup>th</sup> Blvd. and make the necessary repairs to preserve the paving project.
- Commissioner Erixton discussed with the Board the need to remove a tree that was on the county right of way and fell on an individual's fence.
- Commissioner Murphy discussed with the Board the debris removal on non-county maintained roads. After a brief discussion, County Attorney Andy Decker stated he would review the statutory authority of the Board.
- County Attorney Andy Decker provided the Board with an update as to the Fireworks building adjacent to the old Holiday Inn property.

There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

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ROBERT BROWN, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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GREG GODWIN, EX-OFFICIO CLERK





