

**OCTOBER 3, 2023
JASPER, FLORIDA**

REGULAR SESSION

The Board of County Commissioners, Hamilton County, Florida, met in regular session on Tuesday, October 3, 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 and Robbie Roberson. Commissioner Richie McCoy was absent for the meeting. 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 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.

**NATIONAL 4-H WEEK PROCLAMATION AND PROGRAM PRESENTATION –
BETH KERR, 4-H AGENT**

Hamilton County 4-H Agent Beth Kerr provided the Board with a brief overview of the request for the Board to recognize October 1st through October 7th as National 4-H Week. Ms. Kerr introduced Isabelle Terry, Burk Foster and Carlos Lawrence as speakers representing the Hamilton County 4-H. Ms. Terry provided the Board with her experience as a 4-H member and Mr. Foster explained his experience as an Executive 4-H Board Member and the opportunity to serve as a liaison during the last Florida Legislative Session. Mr. Foster also discussed his involvement with 4-H plans statewide. Carlos Lawrence, representing Oak Grove Academy, discussed with the Board the opportunity to learn life skills and job-related skills through the 4-H.

- Motion by Commissioner Roberson to approve the proclamation declaring October 1st through October 7th as National 4-H Week. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, 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 and stated that their firm is continuing to work with Windstream to establish milestones for the Broadband project.

REQUEST TO HAVE OFFICE EXTERIOR RE-PAINTED – DR. SMITDTAS

Lina Smidtas addressed the Board and thanked them for all the past assistance with the Dr's. Clinic building. Ms. Smidtas requested assistance with making the facility look more presentable. County Coordinator Gary Godwin explained the situation and provided pictures of the building and after a brief discussion, the Board agreed to allow the necessary repairs.

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 requested approval of the contract for the grant.

- Motion by Commissioner Erixton to approve the contract for the CDBG-CV grant. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

PUBLIC HEARING – CPA 23-01 APPLICATION BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO AMEND THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN BY ADDING A TENTH PLAN AMENDMENT - PROPERTY RIGHTS ELEMENT

Chairman Brown recessed the regular meeting and called the public hearing (CPA 23-01) to order at 9:30 a.m. County Attorney Andy Decker explained the action before the Board as an application to amend the Comprehensive Plan by adding a Tenth Plan Amendment (Property Rights Element). Mr. Decker stated that the Planning and Zoning Board recommended approval of the application.

There being no further comments from the Board or public, Chairman Brown closed the public hearing and reconvened the public hearing at 9:34 a.m.

- Motion by Commissioner Roberson to approve CPA 23-01. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

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. Jered Lizotte, with Locklear and Associates, provided the Board with an update on the paving project.

- Motion by Commissioner Murphy to approve pay request #10 for Curt's Construction in the amount of \$162,578.05 as recommended by Locklear and Associates. Second was made by Commissioner Erixton, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

CROSSROADS FIRE STATION – Mr. Bailey advised that the permit request for the project is under review by the SRWMD and that his staff are working on the grading plan for the property to maximize its usage.

SR6 WATER AND SEWER FACILITY – Mr. Bailey stated that he is evaluating treatment options for the SR6 / I-75 Water and Sewer facility. Mr. Bailey also advised the Board that the plans and design are complete for the SR-129 lift station.

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 let for bids.

HISTORICAL GRANT – Mr. Bailey advised that the Historical Grant is proceeding according to schedule.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS – STATUS REPORT AND REQUESTS

Economic Development Director Chadd Mathis provided the Board with an update on the current economic development projects. Mr. Mathis advised the Board that the Development Authority has made an offer on the “Fireworks” building adjacent to the Old Holiday Inn property and forwarded the current appraisal to the owner. Mr. Mathis stated that he is working with a business owner at the SR6 / I-75 interchange and provided the Board with a postmining economic development analysis of the county.

CLARIFICATION OF COUNTY ABANDONMENT AND RELOCATION OF SE 62ND DRIVE (BLACKSTILL ROAD) BEGINNING AT THE INTERSECTION OF SOUTHEAST 50TH LANE – DAVID HOGAN

Chairman Brown announced that this agenda item has been resolved per David Hogan.

REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF A DRAGLINE CROSSING AT 78TH STREET AND 8-MILE STILL ROAD ON OCTOBER 23, 2023 – NUTRIEN-WHITE SPRINGS – RACHEL MORGAN GARLAND, GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY AFFAIRS MANAGER

Rachel Garland, with Nutrien, requested approval of two (2) dragline crossings (78th Street and the 8-Mile Still) which will occur on October 23, 2023. Ms. Garland advised the Board that all the advertising and signage will be taken care of by Nutrien as in the past.

- Motion by Commissioner Erixton to approve for the dragline to cross 78th Street and the 8-Mile Still Road on October 23, 2023. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

STORM RELATED ISSUES – DISCUSSION AND REQUESTS

The Board announced that according to FEMA all debris will need to be placed on the road right of way by October 16, 2023.

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

The Board discussed the purchase of a mulching head for the Skid Steer and after a brief discussion, agreed to all County Coordinator Gary Godwin to provide additional information at the next meeting. Mr. Godwin also advised the Board of a State Mission to clear the Suwannee River of storm debris. The Board agreed by unanimous consent to support the mission with the boat ramps in Hamilton County remaining open to the public.

DISCUSSION OF TDC ADMINISTRATOR POSITION

Tourist Development Council board member Chuck Burnett provided the Board with a written request from the TDC Board for assistance with the salary for their Administrator position. The request would be a split the salary between the TDC and the Board.

- Motion by Commissioner Murphy to approve the TDC board request and approve to split the salary for the TDC Administrator's position. Second was made by Commissioner Roberson, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

APPROVE BILLS

- Motion by Commissioner Erixton to approve the bills (vouchers 162859 – 163169 and checks 071805-071922). Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- County Coordinator Gary Godwin discussed the need to determine the liability of the Duke Energy transformers that were removed and destroyed at the direction of a county employee. The Board discussed the issue and County Attorney Andy Decker stated he will further discuss the issue with Duke Energy personnel. Mr. Godwin discussed with the Board the current record keeping regarding roads by the Road Department. Mr. Godwin advised the Board that Economic Development Director Chadd Mathis is working on getting the satellite dishes located on the old Holiday Inn property removed.
- The Board briefly discussed the need to formalize a Limited Maintenance Agreement for SE 140th Court and will place the road on the agenda for the next meeting.

- Mr. Godwin stated that the NW 13th Drive paving project is ready to be constructed.

There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

ROBERT BROWN, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

GREG GODWIN, EX-OFFICIO CLERK

