

OCTOBER 4, 2022
JASPER, FLORIDA

REGULAR SESSION

The Board of County Commissioners, Hamilton County, Florida, met in regular session on Tuesday, October 4, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. in the Board Room, 207 Northeast First Street, Jasper, Florida. Present were Commissioners Randy Ogburn, Jimmy Murphy, Robert Brown, Josh Smith and Richie McCoy, a full Board being present. Also present were County Coordinator Louie Goodin and County Attorney Cliff Adams.

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

County Attorney Cliff Adams presented the Board with a letter for the Riding Club in relation to the rules and regulations for the newly purchased tractor.

PUBLIC HEARING – ROAD CLOSURE – CERTAIN STREET KNOWN AS THE END OF NW 9TH DRIVE (SOMETIMES REFERRED TO AS SWILLEY ROAD) THAT RUNS THROUGH GA FRACTIONAL LOT 224, TOWNSHIP 3 NORTH, RANGE 12 EAST AND LIES EAST OF THE ALAPAHOCHEE RIVER FROM THE PROPERTY LINE OF SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT’S HOLDING TO THE ALAPAHOCHEE RIVER IN FLORIDA

Chairman Smith recessed the Board meeting and called the public hearing to order at 9:05 a.m. Chairman Smith read the heading as stated on the agenda outlining the petition to close a portion of NW 9th Drive. Brad Shaffner, one of the petitioners, explained the purpose of the petition to close a portion of NW 9th Drive and agreed to allow for the current utility easements to remain in place. Gerald Beaty also addressed the Board and expressed his approval for the road closure. The Board discussed the issue with the road not being posted; however, the road closure was properly advertised in the River Bend Newspaper. Following a brief discussion, the Board agreed to continue the public hearing to allow staff to properly post the road.

- Motion by Commissioner Brown to continue the public hearing until October 18, 2022, at 6:15 p.m. Second was made by Commissioner Ogburn, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

CORONAVIRUS STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUND PROGRAM (AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN) – THOMAS HOWELL FURGUSON P,A, - STATUTE REPORT AND UPDATES

The update from Thomas Howell Furguson was filed with the Board.

SHIP / CDBG PROGRAM / CDBG-CV – STATUS REPORT

Ship Administrator Spencer Nabors provided an update regarding the current Ship, CDBG and CDBG-CV projects. Mr. Nabors reviewed the current Ship projects with the Board and answered questions as to the completion dates. Mr. Nabors stated that he is still waiting on DEO regarding the release of the final list for the CDBG-CV grant that has been delayed due to Hurricane Ian. Mr. Nabors also advised the Board that the CDBG-CV application was not funded and recommended that the Board appeal the decision from DEO and provided the Board with dates and times of the information that was provided for the CDBG-CV application.

- Motion by Commissioner McCoy to file an appeal and request an administrative hearing regarding the DEO denial of the CDBG-CV application.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS – STATUS REPORT AND REQUESTS

Economic Development Director Chadd Mathis was not able to be present for the meeting. County Lobbyist Patrick Bell was present and provided the Board with an update for the coming legislative agenda. Mr. Bell stated that he would need to get a copy of the resolution that was filed by the Board regarding the proposed bill to reinstate the Hamilton County Development Authority. Mr. Bell also stated that he would provide staff with a confirmation that the supplemental funding for the Crossroads Fire Station has been approved. The Board also discussed the need for the Governor’s appointments to be made for the Development Authority. Finally, Mr. Bell stated that the Board needs to decide on their legislative priorities for the coming legislative session.

David Hasenauer, with Green Point Research, provided the Board with an update to their business and encouraged the Board to stop by and take a look at their progress.

The Board also discussed the timeline for the old Holiday Inn demolition. County Coordinator Louie Goodin stated that Mr. Mathis is waiting on the asbestos survey and the cost of the mitigation plan. Mr. Goodin also stated that he has talked with the individual representing the Jasper Diner project and that the project is on hold due to a family issue.

County Attorney Cliff Adams presented the Board with a completed/executed copy of the deed from the Development Authority for the Jobs Growth Grant property.

ROAD PAVING PROJECTS – STATUS REPORT

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

LAKE BAISDEN LOOP / SW 107th AVE. – Mr. Bailey advised the Board that FDOT has approved the additional funding for the Lake Baisden Loop paving project. Mr. Bailey stated that his staff would prepare the contracts for the paving project and the box culvert.

- Motion by Commissioner Brown to approve the FDOT supplemental agreement for the Lake Baisden Loop paving project. Second was made by Commissioner McCoy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Mr. Bailey also advised the Board to be seeking the next roads to be submitted for SCRAP and SCOP funding through FDOT which will be due in January.

GIBSON PARK – Mr. Bailey stated that his staff will be meeting with the SRWMD to finalize the permit approval for the project.

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS – Mr. Bailey discussed several development projects with the Board and the possibility of Nutrien to partner in the development of different projects.

COUNTY ATTORNEY POSITION

County Attorney Cliff Adams explained the selection process for the new County Attorney's position due to his retirement. Chairman Smith stated that he disagreed with the selection process and felt that the proposals should have been ranked. The Board discussed the two (2) individuals that applied for the position and took the following action:

- Motion by Commissioner McCoy to hire Megan Logan as the new County Attorney. After a brief discussion, the motion died for a lack of a second.
- Motion by Commissioner Brown to hire Andrew Decker as the new County Attorney effective immediately to allow Mr. Decker to spend as much time as possible with County Attorney Cliff Adams. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a four (4) to one (1) vote.

Mr. Adams recommended, and the Board agreed that Cathy Hall would remain employed as the assistant to the County Attorney.

X-RAY MACHINE

Chairman Smith updated the Board as to the issue with the X-Ray machine. County Coordinator Louie Goodin explained the history of the machine and the recommended process as making the unit surplus; however, the Board shared concerns with making the unit surplus and Commissioner McCoy provided the Board with a written response from Watson's Healthcare as to the future intentions for the unit. After a lengthy discussion, the Board directed Mr. Goodin to contact both parties with the Board to further discuss the issue at the next regular Board meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Motion by Commissioner McCoy to approve the consent agenda, pulling item f (NCFRPC Hazardous Waste Invoice). Second was made by Commissioner Brown, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

APPROVE BILLS

- Motion by Commissioner Brown to approve the bills (vouchers 156435 – 156688 and checks 069065-069194). Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

COUNTY FIRE SERVICE

Fire Coordinator Henry Land provided the Board with an update as to the Fire Services in the county. County Attorney Cliff Adams stated that he is in the process of getting the cost and associated timelines from a legal firm for a potential Fire Assessment. The Board discussed the next steps with each municipality and after a lengthy discussion, agreed to allow staff to set up a meeting with all three (3) municipalities to discuss the Fire Services.

JENNINGS BLUFF PROJECT

Commissioner Ogburn discussed the Jennings Bluff project and the need to settle the right of way issue with Kenny Newsome. The Board discussed the current offer from Mr. Newsome in the amount of \$18,000 and the alternative to file a condemnation suite which was not recommended by County Attorney Cliff Adams.

- Motion by Commissioner Ogburn to declare an emergency and to approve the payment of \$18,000 to Kenny Newsome for the electrical right of way with the payment to be made after January 1st. Second was made by Commissioner Brown, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Commissioner Ogburn, the current Chairman of the TDC, stated that a Board member will need to replace him after the November meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- County Coordinator Louie Goodin advised that he would be attending the FACT conference on October 6th and 7th.
- Chairman Smith questioned staff as to the availability of asphalt for the SW 90th Blvd. paving project.
- The Board also discussed the property between the newly paving parking lot and the walking path. After a discussion, the Board directed that the property be placed on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.
- Clerk of Court Greg Godwin presented the Board with a Ship Satisfaction for Linda Weatherington.
- Motion by Commissioner McCoy to declare an emergency and to approve the Ship Satisfaction for Ms. Weatherington. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Smith adjourned the meeting at 11:38 a.m.

JOSH SMITH, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

GREG GODWIN, EX-OFFICIO CLERK

