

**NOVEMBER 1, 2022
JASPER, FLORIDA**

REGULAR SESSION

The Board of County Commissioners, Hamilton County, Florida, met in regular session on Tuesday, November 1, 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 Andy Decker.

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

Chairman Smith thanked those in attendance especially the candidates for the District 4 Commission seat.

RESOLUTION – SWILLEY ROAD CLOSURE

Chairman Smith read the resolution as presented for the road closure.

- Motion by Commissioner Murphy, to approve the Resolution for the Swilley Road Closure. Second was made by Commissioner McCoy, 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 UPDATE

The Thomas Howell Ferguson P.A. firm provided a status report which stated that the amendment to the original contract with Windstream is still being drafted.

DISCUSSION OF ACL STATE PROPERTY NEAR RAILROAD

County Coordinator Louie Goodin explained the lease documentation received from the company. County Attorney Andy Decker also discussed the lease request and recommended that the Board offer a counter proposal. After a brief discussion of the property and the potential uses the Board agreed to allow staff to make a counter proposal of a nominal fee / lease to keep the property clean.

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 Hamilton County has been awarded a site visit for the CDBG grant and that the documents have been uploaded to DEO and that himself and County Coordinator Louie Goodin will have a tele conference meeting with DEO today at 1:00 p.m.

Mr. Goodin stated that Sid Bigham has re-filed the appeal for the CDBG-CV grant from DEO. Mr. Goodin advised the Board that according to Mr. Bigham that the county had a strong case for the appeal. The Board then discussed the amount that will be obligated on the appeal once it is recognized by DEO.

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 then provided the Board with a special warranty deed for property in the CR-137 Industrial Park as approved by the Development Authority.

- Motion by Commissioner Brown to accept the deed as presented from the Development Authority. Second was made by Commissioner McCoy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Mr. Mathis discussed the Jennings project and advised that the two (2) properties that have been acquired can now be demolished and cleared. Mr. Mathis also stated that the survey has been completed to eliminate additional retention areas with the asbestos survey to be considered at the next Board meeting. The Board also discussed the property owned by American Freedom Ent. LLC as to what can be done to make contact to buy the property, Mr. Mathis stated that he would try sending a certified letter. Mr. Mathis stated that he is confident in the development of the property and provided the Board with email responses from Buckeyes and Busy Bee declining to develop. Mr. Mathis also advised the Board that they have recently taken back the forty-five (45) acre parcel on the outside city limits of Jasper due to the property not being developed in the within the time of the Development Agreement.

The Board stated that the engineering / administration proposals for the Jobs Growth Grant have been received and will be ranked at a future meeting.

Lobbyist Patrick Bell was present for the meeting and provided the Board with a Legislative update and timeline for new projects to be submitted. Mr. Bell also stated that he has worked with other small counties as to the State's assistance with Fire Services.

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 construction contract for the Lake Baisden Loop paving project with Curt's Construction has been signed and mailed.

GIBSON PARK – Mr. Bailey stated that his staff has answered all questions from the SRWMD and is still waiting on the final documentation due to a required variance.

I-75 JENNINGS INTERCHANGE – Mr. Bailey advised the Board that he met with FDOT to discuss the expansion and planning for the I-75 interchange at Jennings. Mr. Bailey stated that funds for the interchange are available.

FDOT 5 YEAR WORK PLAN – The Board discussed the current list of roads that have been previously submitted for consideration by FDOT and several other possible additions to the list. After a lengthy discussion, the Board agreed to submit the following road projects for consideration: NW 13th Drive (from north of deep creek to CR-152), CR-148 (resurface), NW 86th Blvd. (Hwy. 41 to end of pavement), CR-141 (West Bridge to SR-6) and CR-751 (Nobles Ferry Bridge to SR-6). Commissioner Smith reminded the Board of the SW 90th Blvd. paving project and the NW 63rd Ave. project that were to be done by the Road Department. The Board also requested Mr. Bailey to check with FDOT to see if there are any funding opportunities for bridge replacement. The Board also agreed to send the letter of appreciation to Kim Evans for her assistance with road projects and always helping to obtain additional funding for the paving projects when needed.

MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS – The Board discussed several other ongoing as well as new projects with staff.

FIRE SERVICE AGREEMENTS WITH THE MUNICIPALITIES AND COUNTY FIRE SERVICE

Chairman Smith discussed with the Board a partial Fire Services payment request from the City of Jasper for the month of October and the need to have an agreement in place. After discussing several concerns regarding the Fire Services, the Board agreed to the following:

- Motion by Commissioner Brown to approve the payment request from the City of Jasper for Fire Services in the amount of \$4,652.50. Second was made by Commissioner Ogburn, motion carried with a four (4) to one (1) vote. Voting against the motion was Commissioner Smith.

Commissioner Ogburn stated that the Board needs to allow staff to discuss Fire Services with the City of Jasper and develop an agreement as to the services being provided. Fire Coordinator Henry Land provided the Board with a breakdown of the Fire Services and potential fees for the county. Mr. Land also discussed the Fire Service Agreements for the municipalities and shared concerns as to the limited number of volunteers and the lack of response to calls from all municipalities and provided the Board with details as to the Safer Grant. County Attorney Andy Decker discussed with the Board the Fire Services Agreements per the conversation between the municipalities and the Board during the workshop and stated concerns that the current language may

not be workable. Mr. Land and the Board further discussed the Fire Services for the county and also the budget consideration for the Board to hire six (6) full-time firefighters to guarantee a response to all calls. After a brief recess, Clerk of Court Greg Godwin presented the Board with the difference in the current fire budget and the budget to hire six (6) full time firefighters and make each municipality \$30,000. After a lengthy discussion, the Board took the following action:

- Motion by Commissioner Brown to approve the hiring of six (6) full-time firefighters and to increase the Fire budget to \$774,399. Second was made by Commissioner McCoy, motion carried with a four (4) to one (1) vote. Voting against the motion was Chairman Smith.

The Board directed staff to put together an agenda and bullet points for the meeting with the municipalities for November 14, 2022, at 4:30 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH MIH FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR RURAL EMS - \$50,000 GRANT

- Motion by Commissioner Ogburn to approve for EMS to apply for the Department of Health MIH Grant in the amount of \$50,000. Second was made by Commissioner Brown, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

X-RAY MACHINE

County Coordinator Louie Goodin advised the Board that Dr. Smidtas is working with the State to allow the x-ray machine to be shared with Watson's Healthcare.

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENTS – JENNINGS GAS STATIONS – 1850 & 1832 HAMILTON AVE. JENNINGS FL

- Motion by Commissioner Ogburn to approve the Interlocal Agreements with the Development Authority for the purchase of the parcels (1850 & 1832) in Jennings. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

ACCEPTANCE OF SPECIAL WARRANTY DEED – DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY – GENOA INDUSTRIAL PARK

Chairman Smith stated that this item was approved during the Economic Development portion of the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

APPROVE BILLS

- Motion by Commissioner McCoy to approve the bills (vouchers 156977 – 157223 and checks 069316-069436). Second was made by Commissioner Brown, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY PLAN

- Motion by Commissioner McCoy to approve the Equal Employment Opportunity Plan. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

ROAD DEPARTMENT – PURCHASE OF TRACTOR

Mr. Goodin explained the situation with one of the John Deere tractors having engine problems. After a brief discussion, the Board took the following action:

- Motion by Commissioner Brown to declare an emergency and to allow staff to purchase a new tractor from the Sheriff's State bid list. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Commissioner McCoy questioned staff as to issues between the Sheriff's Department and the county Animal Control officer. Mr. Goodin advised that he and Commissioner McCoy would meet with the parties involved to resolve the issue.
- Commissioner Ogburn stated that Nutrien is still working on the deed for the Project Bark property and that he will be meeting with Jeff Joyce from Nutrien to further discuss the property.
- Commissioner Ogburn provided the Board with an update on the Project Bark property per Nutrien with the possibility of a five (5) year deal.
- Clerk of Court Greg Godwin invited the Board to attend the retirement for Myra Kannady on Friday, November 4th at 2:00 p.m.

There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Smith adjourned the meeting at 12:25 p.m.

JOSH SMITH, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

GREG GODWIN, EX-OFFICIO CLERK

