

**NOVEMBER 4, 2024
JASPER, FLORIDA**

REGULAR SESSION

The Board of County Commissioners, Hamilton County, Florida, met in regular session on Tuesday, November 4, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in the Board Room, 207 Northeast First Street, Jasper, Florida. Present were Commissioners Travis Erixton, Jimmy Murphy, Robbie Roberson, Richie McCoy and Robert Brown, 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 McCoy and led in prayer by Commissioner Brown with the Pledge of Allegiance being led by Chairman McCoy.

Chairman McCoy thanked Commissioner Brown for his twelve (12) years of service as a commissioner.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

**DISCUSSION OF WHEELCHAIR AVAILABILITY FOR
COURTHOUSE**

Chairman McCoy discussed the need for a wheelchair to be purchased and be available for individuals in the Courthouse that needs assistance.

- Motion by Commissioner Erixton to allow the purchase of a wheelchair for use in the Courthouse. Second was made by Commissioner Brown, 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

John Beall, with Thomas Howell Ferguson, provided the Board with a status report for the American Rescue Plan. The Board requested a map from Windstream showing the WIFI coverage area.

ROAD GRADER SPECIFICATIONS

- Motion by Commissioner Murphy to approve the Motor Grader bid specifications and allow for bid proposals to be advertised. Second was made by Commissioner Erixton, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

SUWANNEE VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE – FIBER UPDATE - MIKE MCWATERS, CEO

Mike McWaters, CEO of the Suwannee Valley Electric Cooperative, provided the Board with a status report regarding fiber installation in Hamilton County. Mr. McWaters advised the Board that fiber would be made available to all SVEC customers. Mr. McWaters then introduced Katlyn Barrington as the new external affairs contact. The Board then discussed the post Hurricane Helene work provided by SVEC.

SUWANNEE RIVER HEIGHTS / SUWANNEE RIVER OAKS SUBDIVISIONS – TOM TEBOW – LIMITED MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT

Tom Tebow, resident of White Springs, discussed with the Board the need for road repairs in the Suwannee River Heights and Suwannee River Oaks subdivisions. Mr. Tebow requested that the Board consider accepting the roads under a “Limited Maintenance Agreement” for assistance. Mr. Tebow shared the history of the roads with the Board and those in attendance. County Attorney Andy Decker discussed the Board’s concern as to legal access to the property due to property being owned by the Suwannee River Water Management District. Mr. Decker advised that once the issue with SRWMD could be resolved that accepting the roads as Limited Maintenance would be at the discretion of the Board. Commissioner Erixton discussed the condition of the roads and the need for safe access to the property. After a lengthy discussion, the Board agreed to allow County Attorney Andy Decker to

investigate the SRWMD ownership and the right of access.

SHIP / CDBG PROGRAM / CDBG-CV – STATUS REPORT

Ship Administrator Spencer Nabors was unable to be in attendance for the meeting; therefore, County Coordinator Gary Godwin provided the Board with a brief report of the Ship, CDBG, CDBG-CV and HHRP programs.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS – STATUS REPORT AND REQUESTS

Economic Development Director Chadd Mathis provided the Board with a status report on the current economic development projects. County Attorney Andy Decker discussed with the Board the remaining option for the removal of the fireworks building. Mr. Decker provided the Board with the legal process of filing an eminent domain case and suggested that a certified letter be sent to the property owner prior to taking legal action. The Board agreed by unanimous consent to allow Mr. Decker to issue a letter to owner. County Coordinator Gary Godwin provided the Board with a status report on other economic development projects.

Mr. Decker provided the Board with a Development / Operating Agreement for the Watson Healthcare project. Mr. Decker discussed the details of the agreement with the Board and recommended approval.

- Motion by Commissioner Roberson to approve the Development / Operating Agreement for the Watson Healthcare project as recommended by County Attorney Andy Decker. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

ROAD PAVING PROJECTS – STATUS EREPORT

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

COURTHOUSE ANNEX AUDITORIUM A/C UNIT – BID AWARD

The Board opened the only bid received for the Courthouse Annex Auditorium A/C unit from Paul's Heating and Air in the amount of \$49,400.

- Motion by Commissioner Roberson to award the bid for the A/C Unit to Paul's Heating and Air in the amount of \$49,400. Second was made by Commissioner Erixton, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

INVOICES FROM L & G GENERAL SERVICES

- Motion by Commissioner Erixton to approve the following invoices from L & G General Services invoice no. 957515 in the amount of \$5,850.00 (Genoa Septic Tank) and invoice no. 957516 in the amount of \$2,200.00 (Grinder Pump Road Department). Second was made by Commissioner Brown, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

APPROVE BILLS

- Motion by Commissioner Roberson to approve the bills (vouchers 169256 – 169542 and checks 074530 - 074630). Second was made by Commissioner Erixton, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

STORM MITIGATION – SYNERGY

County Coordinator Gary Godwin advised the Board that the Synergy Group which is available through the county's insurance will provide the mitigation work for the Recreation Office, Health Department and Emergency Operations Center if approved by the Board.

- Motion by Commissioner Roberson to allow the Synergy Group to perform the mitigation work for the previously noted projects. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- County Coordinator Gary Godwin advised the Board that an individual has been hired to continue the road sign repair and replacement.
- The Board thanked Commissioner Brown for his twelve (12) years of service and the Board each commented on Commissioner Brown's service.

- Clerk of Court Greg Godwin provided each Board member with an annual typical travel voucher.

There being no further business before the Board, Chairman McCoy adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

RICHIE MCCOY, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

GREG GODWIN, EX-OFFICIO CLERK

