

**NOVEMBER 21, 2023
JASPER, FLORIDA**

REGULAR SESSION

The Board of County Commissioners, Hamilton County, Florida, met in regular session on Tuesday, November 21, 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 Brown with the Pledge of Allegiance being led by Chairman Brown.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN / VICE-CHAIRMAN

- Motion by Commissioner Erixton to elect Commissioner McCoy as the Chairman and Commissioner Roberson as the Vice-Chairman for the next fiscal year. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, 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 requested approval from the Board to proceed with a modified demolition of the Selph structure with a control burn training in conjunction with the County Fire Department with final clean-up from the Road Department.

- Motion by Commissioner Brown to approve the aforementioned modified demolition of the Selph structure as recommended by Mr. Nabors. Second was made by Commissioner Roberson, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

- Motion by Commissioner Roberson to approve the continued services contract with In Touch Consulting Group, Inc. for administration of the Ship program. Second was made by Commissioner Brown, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Mr. Nabors advised the Board that the CDBG ERR Phase two (2) has been reviewed and he is awaiting a response from Florida Commerce. Mr. Nabors also stated that he is waiting for the engineering procurement approval prior to moving forward with the CDBG-CV grant.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS – STATUS REPORT AND REQUESTS

County Engineer Greg Bailey provided the Board with an update as to the current economic development projects. Mr. Bailey stated that there is interest from several companies seeking to locate at the I-75 / 129 exit that would provide commercial and residential growth in the area. Mr. Bailey then discussed the right of way needed for the Lift Station and advised that the owner of the property is prepared to deed the County the property needed to locate the lift station and intends to sell the remaining property. Mr. Bailey also discussed the SR 6 / I-75 property and the need to confirm the use of the property due to debris being placed in a section that was designed for a roadway. After a lengthy discussion, the Board directed County Coordinator Gary Godwin to check on the situation with the debris and discuss the issue with Economic Development Director Chadd Mathis.

ROAD PAVING PROJECTS – STATUS EREPORT

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

GIBSON PARK BOAT RAMP – Mr. Bailey stated that FWC is still reviewing the project for final approval.

5 HOLE BOAT RAMP – Mr. Bailey advised the Board that the permit application for the 5 Hole boat ramp project has been submitted to SRWMD.

CR-25A – Mr. Bailey advised that the final plans are under review by FDOT with the project to be let for bids upon approval. Mr. Bailey also discussed the need for a proposal (task order) from Locklear for the CEI Services for the CR 25A paving project.

LAKE BAISDEN LOOP – Mr. Bailey advised that the Lake Baisden Loop paving project is progressing according to schedule and that the contractor is now also constructing the box culvert.

CR 6 EAST ROAD DAMAGE – The Board discussed the damage to a portion of CR 6 East due to the latest dragline crossing by Nutrien. After a lengthy discussion, a repair plan will be submitted for Board approval prior to the repair.

WASTEWATER FACILITY PERMIT – Mr. Bailey advised the Board that he will submit a task order for the Wastewater facility permit renewal which must be completed prior to June 2024. Mr. Bailey also advised the Board that Rural Infrastructure funds are available through the Legislature for the counties affected by Hurricane Idalia.

CR 137 CAUTION LIGHT – Commissioner Erixton advised the Board that the issue of replacing the caution light on CR 137 at the entrance into Suwannee River Chemical Plant needs to be relocated due to a new entrance being constructed. The Board asked Mr. Bailey to review the situation and make a recommendation to the Board.

WHITE SPRINGS – CHURCH WALK-WAY – The Board discussed the situation at the First Baptist Church in White Springs where a road crossing is needed to assist individuals with crossing the road for Church. Mr. Bailey stated he would review the situation and make a recommendation to the Board.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION – Bryan Beard addressed the Board and advised that the Small Business Administration has approximately \$3.4 million in available loans for Hamilton County. Through the conversation, Mr. Beard agreed for SBA to be present in the county for ½ days on Friday, December 1st and Wednesday, December 6th. The Board questioned Mr. Beard as to whether farmers would be eligible for the SBA loans. Mr. Beard advised that farmers are not eligible for the loans but have other resources such as the USDA. County Coordinator Gary Godwin stated that funds have been appropriated for farmers through the Legislature and will

contact lobbyist Patrick Bell for more information.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

RECREATION DEPARTMENT - FENCING BID AWARD

The Board reviewed the Recreation Department fencing bids which were as follows:

Carver LLC - \$70,040.00

All Around Fencing and Land Repairs - \$77,179.88

Suwannee Iron Works - \$81,179.88

North Florida Fence - \$74,221.00

- Motion by Commissioner Roberson to award the bid for the Recreation Department fencing to Carver LLC as the lowest bidder in the amount of \$70,040.00. Second was made by Commissioner Erixton, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

STORM RELATED ISSUES – DISCUSSION AND REQUESTS

County Coordinator Gary Godwin advised that the mulching of the storm debris is underway with the mulched debris to be taken to the Landfill. Mr. Godwin stated that he has requested that the Landfill be open ten (10) hours a day seven (7) days a week until the hauling of the mulch is complete. Mr. Godwin also stated that a consultant will not be needed due to a Landfill employee agreeing to work overtime and complete the necessary paperwork. Mr. Godwin announced that the date for debris to be placed on the road right of way has been extended to December 2nd.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE/REPAIR TRACKING SOFTWARE PURCHASE – County Coordinator Gary Godwin provided the Board with a description of the tracking software and explained the potential uses for the IWorks software.

- Motion by Commissioner Erixton to allow the purchase of the IWorks Software for the Road Department in the amount of \$5,000 for the initial setup and \$3,000 per year. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

APPROVE BILLS

- Motion by Commissioner Brown to approve the bills (vouchers 163830 – 164132 and checks 072196-072355). Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- County Coordinator Gary Godwin advised the Board that he along with Commissioner Roberson will be attending a conference in Orlando next Tuesday, November 29, 2023.
- County Attorney Andy Decker discussed with the Board the need for the Town of White Springs to execute the Interlocal Agreement for the additional sales tax which will be in effect as of January 2024. Mr. Decker stated that the Town of White Springs doesn't currently have an attorney but hopefully will approve the agreement in the near future. Mr. Decker reminded the Board that the additional sales tax revenue can only be used for Fire Protection with a prorated portion to be distributed to each municipality.
- Mr. Decker also discussed the Duke Energy transformers that were removed from the old Holiday Inn property and advised that the County may have been negligent but recommended allowing him to make a counteroffer of \$10,000 due to the age and obsolete nature of the transformers. The Board agreed to allow Mr. Decker to propose a \$10,000 settlement for the transformers.

- Commissioner McCoy discussed the funds paid to the Road Department for debris (scrap metal) that was removed from the demolition at the Jennings I-75 exit and taken to Suwannee Recycling. Mr. Decker advised that the funds have been submitted to the Clerk 's office and that he is waiting on additional paperwork regarding the incident and will report back to the Board.

There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

RICHIE MCCOY, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

GREG GODWIN, EX-OFFICIO CLERK

