

**DECEMBER 5, 2023
JASPER, FLORIDA**

REGULAR SESSION

The Board of County Commissioners, Hamilton County, Florida, met in regular session on Tuesday, December 5, 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, 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 McCoy and led in prayer by Commissioner McCoy with the Pledge of Allegiance being led by Chairman McCoy.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

**HAMILTON COUNTY ALCOHOL & OTHER DRUG PREVENTION COALITION
– PRESENTATION OF DATA – EMILY LUMPKIN**

Emily Lumpkin, the Executive Director of the Hamilton County Alcohol & Other Drug Prevention Coalition, introduced the staff members present and provided the Board with a presentation of the county profile and different events and services being provided to keep our young people off the streets and give them an alternative to drugs and alcohol. Ms. Lumpkin also stated that gang activity in the county continues to increase.

**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, provided the Board with a status report for the American Rescue Plan grant expenditures and the future projects. Ms. Bechtel provided legal staff with an updated purchase agreement for the Mobile Health Unit that is in compliance with the grant rules and regulations. Ms. Bechtel also discussed the Broadband project and stated that she is still waiting on approved deliverables from Windstream.

STORM RELATED ISSUES – DISCUSSION AND REQUESTS

County Coordinator Gary Godwin provided the Board with an update on the storm debris removal and reminded the Board of the meeting on Wednesday, December 6th at the EOC for farm assistance. Mr. Godwin stated that the Landfill is open ten (10) hours a day seven (7) days a week until the hauling of the mulch is complete.

- Motion by Commissioner Roberson to continue the Local State of Emergency. Second was made by Commissioner Erixton, 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 discussed the demolition of the Selph structure due to the asbestos and will make a final determination by the next Board meeting. Later in the meeting, Mr. Nabors advised the Board that FDEP stated that a controlled burn of the structure would not cause an environmental risk as long as the water is applied during demolition.

- Motion by Commissioner Roberson to proceed with the demolition of the structure contingent upon Mr. Decker's approval of the FDEP response. Second was made by Commissioner Erixton, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Mr. Nabors also presented the Board with a signature authorization request for the County Coordinator or the Clerk of Court to be allowed to sign all emergency documentation or approved change orders.

- Motion by Commissioner Erixton to approve the signature authorization as requested by Mr. Nabors. Second was made by Commissioner Brown, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Regarding the CDBG grant, Mr. Nabors advised the Board that he is starting phase three (3) of the site specifics for the grant. Mr. Nabors also stated that he is gathering the necessary documentation for the CDBG-CV grant.

Mr. Nabors announced that the Board will receive the Hurricane Housing Recovery Program grant in the amount of \$1,487,000 to assist with storm related issues. Mr. Nabors explained that the grant can be administered through Ship and that he will advertise for qualified applicants. The grant construction must be completed by June 30, 2026. Mr. Nabors discussed with the Board the administration of the grant which allows for 10%, which is the same as Ship and recommended that the Board approve an amendment to the Ship contract.

- Motion by Commissioner Roberson to approve for the current Ship contract to be amended allowing ITC to administer the HHRP program for the ten (10) percent admin fee contingent upon the approval of County Attorney Andy Decker. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS – STATUS REPORT AND REQUESTS

Economic Development Director Chadd Mathis provided the Board with an update on the current development projects. Mr. Mathis presented the Board with survey data for the Busy Bee expansion. County Attorney Andy Decker then presented the Board with a deed, transferring the property described in the survey back to the Development Authority

and recommended that the Board approve and accept the deed.

- Motion by Commissioner Brown to approve the execution of the deed, transferring the property previously discussed back to the Development Authority.

The Board also discussed the proposed location of the Lift Station to be located on property along CR-158 and SR 129. Mr. Decker provided the Board with the recommended location of the Lift Station as provided by NFPS and advised that he would draft a legal description for the property and then a deed for the property owner to sign and execute.

- Motion by Commissioner Roberson to approve the proposed location and allow County Attorney Andy Decker to draft the legal description and deed for the property. Second was made by Commissioner Erixton, 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 that the Lake Baisden Loop paving project is progressing according to schedule and that the contractor is now constructing the box culvert. The Board also considered a request from contractor Curt’s Construction for a forty-five (45) day weather extension. After a brief discussion with staff the Board took the following action:

- Motion by Commissioner Erixton to approve the forty-five (45) day extension as requested by Curt’s Construction for the Lake Baisden Loop paving project. Second was made by Commissioner Erixton, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

CROSSROADS FIRE STATION – Mr. Bailey stated that his staff is still working on the storm water design for the project and should be ready to let bids after the first of the year.

JOBS GROWTH GRANT – Mr. Bailey advised the Board that he is continuing to work on the wetlands delineation and will also make the adjustment to the site plan per the recent Busy Bee expansion.

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. The Board considered a task order from Locklear for the CEI Services for the CR 25A paving project.

- Motion by Commissioner Brown to approve the task order from Locklear and Associates for the CR 25A CEI services. Second was made by Commissioner Erixton, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

WHITE SPRINGS – CHURCH WALK-WAY – Mr. Bailey advised the Board that a crosswalk with signage could be constructed by the Road Department for the First Baptist Church in White Springs. The Board discussed the situation and agreed to review the situation prior to making a final decision.

LIMITED MAINTENANCE – SE 140TH COURT – Mr. Bailey provided the Board with a report as to the Limited Maintenance for SE 140th Court. Mr. Bailey advised the Board that only a portion of the road would be acceptable for limited maintenance. County Attorney Andy Decker presented the Board with an agreement and recommended approval contingent upon a letter from Mr. Bailey.

- Motion by Commissioner Brown to approve the Limited Maintenance agreement for the portion of SE 140th Court with Mr. Bailey to provide a letter for the portion of road being considered. Second was made by Commissioner Erixton, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

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

FIVE YEAR ROAD PLAN – The Board discussed the Five-Year Road Plan and agreed to make the final determination as to the FDOT submittals at the next Board meeting.

DUKE ENERGY INVOICES FOR SERVICES PERFORMED AT 1846 HAMILTON AVE. LODGE JENNINGS

County Attorney Andy Decker provided the Board with an update as to the negotiations with PRG for the damage to the Duke Energy transformers. Mr. Decker stated that PRG has offered to settle for \$29,000. Mr. Decker recommended that the Board decline the settlement offer and continue to negotiate. The Board agreed by unanimous consent.

APPROVE BILLS

- Motion by Commissioner Brown to approve the bills (vouchers 164133 – 164317 and checks 072356 - 072435). Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- County Coordinator Gary Godwin advised the Board that he is in the process of hiring a new Animal Control Officer. The Board thanked Mr. Godwin for handling the situation with Animal Control.

- The Board thanked Commissioner Brown for his role as Chairman of the Board through the storm and other issues during the last fiscal year.
- Chairman McCoy questioned staff as to the CR 6 East repair for the damage caused by Nutrien's dragline. Mr. Godwin stated that he is waiting on the work plan to be submitted by Nutrien for the repair.
- Commissioner Murphy discussed with the Board the need to address the issues with campers and trash being thrown on the road right of way. The Board requested the Clerk to place Amnesty Days on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.
- The Board announced that they will be participating in the Christmas parades in White Springs on Friday, December 15th and Jasper on Saturday, December 16th.

There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 10:42 a.m.

RICHIE MCCOY, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

GREG GODWIN, EX-OFFICIO CLERK

