

**DECEMBER 6, 2022
JASPER, FLORIDA**

REGULAR SESSION

The Board of County Commissioners, Hamilton County, Florida, met in regular session on Tuesday, December 6, 2022, 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 Coordinator Louie Goodin and County Attorney Andy Decker.

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

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

Clerk of Court Greg Godwin advised the Board that only a signature is needed for the Interlocal Agreements due being approved at the November 1, 2022, Board meeting.

**REQUEST TO DONATE PROPERTY TO COUNTY – LOT 16
HORSE COUNTRY I AT OAK WOODLANDS**

The Board discussed the location of the property and took the following action due to there being no value/need to the county.

- Motion by Commissioner McCoy to deny the request from (Harry Gray) to accept the property (Lot 16 Horse Country I at Oak Woodlands) due to there being no value/need to the county. Second was made by Commissioner Roberson, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

**CORONAVIRUS STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY
FUND PROGRAM (AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN) – THOMAS
HOWELL FERFUSON P.A. – STATUS REPORT AND UPDATES**

Steve Stevens, with Thomas Howell Ferguson P.A., presented the Board with a status report for the American Rescue Plan. Mr. Stevens stated that the recent conversation with Windstream to amend the previous build agreement to be in compliance with 2FR200 has been successful and he should have an executed amendment by the next Board meeting.

SHIP / CDBG PROGRAM / CDBG-CV – STATUS REPORT

Ship Administrator Spencer Nabors provided an update regarding the current Ship and CDBG projects. Mr. Nabors advised the Board that he is in the process of qualifying homeowners for a new round of Ship projects. Mr. Nabors stated that with the site visit for the CDBG grant with DEO completed, staff is waiting on the announcement for funding.

County Attorney Andy Decker advised the Board that the CDBG-CV appeal trial date has been set for February 28, 2023 thru March 2, 2023 and hopefully DEO will agree to settle the issue prior to having to go to trial. Mr. Decker also stated that he has received a proposal from ITC Consultants stating that the approximate cost for retaining the company as a witness for the trial would be \$3,750.

- Motion by Commissioner Roberson to retain ITC Consultants as a witness for the CDBG-CV appeal trial as recommended by Special Representative Sid Bigham in the amount of \$3,750. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT - STATUS REPORT
AND REQUESTS**

Lobbyist Patrick Bell was present and discussed the bill being proposed concerning the Development Authority which would allow for two (2) local appointments to the Board.

- Motion by Commissioner McCoy to accept the proposal for the bill for the Development Authority that will allow two (2) local appointments. Second was made by Commissioner Erixton, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

County Coordinator Louie Goodin advised the Board that Representative Shoaf and Senator Simon will be in Hamilton County to meet with individual Board members on Thursday, December 22nd at 11:00 a.m.

Mr. Goodin advised the Board that Economic Development Director Chadd Mathis was unable to be present for the meeting and that the demolition of the two properties adjacent to the Holiday Inn property is underway.

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 the notice to proceed was issued to Curt’s Construction Company with a total of 390 days to complete the paving project.

GIBSON PARK – Mr. Bailey stated that he is waiting on the SRWMD permit and that the requested variance has been approved for the Gibson Park Boat Ramp project.

SR-6 INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT – Mr. Bailey presented the Board with a conceptual layout for the property and the scope of work for the development.

- Motion by Commissioner McCoy to approve the scope of services for the Jobs Growth Grant and fee schedule for the Engineering and Administration from North Florida Professional Services. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Mr. Bailey also advised the Board that proposed legislation is again being considered by the legislature regarding septic tanks.

FIRE SERVICE AGREEMENTS WITH THE MUNICIPALITIES AND COUNTY FIRE SERVICE

Fire Coordinator Henry Land discussed with the Board an email response from the Town of Jennings stating that they will no longer provide fire protection outside of the Town of Jennings after January 1, 2023. Mr. Land stated that he has yet to receive a response from the Town of White Springs and provided the Board with a fee schedule for the City of Jasper Fire Services that was also approved by Fire Chief Chris Stat. Mr. Land stated that the fee structure is applicable to the services being provided by the City of Jasper.

- Motion by Commissioner McCoy to accept the fee schedule as presented and to allow legal staff to draft a Fire Services Agreement with the City of Jasper to be renewed annually. Second was made by Commissioner Erixton, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

The Board then discussed the previous invoice submitted by the City of Jasper for the Fire Services for the month of October.

- Motion by Commissioner Roberson to approve the remaining portion of the October Fire Services for the City of Jasper in the amount of \$5,445.25. Second was made by Commissioner Erixton, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Mr. Land also discussed with the Board the Fair Labor Standard Act regarding overtime for fulltime Fire Fighters.

- Motion by Commissioner Roberson to change the previously budgeted overtime figure for fulltime Fire Fighters to ensure compliance with the FLSA. Second was made by Commissioner Erixton, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

- Motion by Commissioner McCoy to duplicate the Road Department's call-out pay rule for fulltime Fire Fighters. Second was made by Commissioner Erixton, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

The Board agreed to hold a Fire Workshop on Monday, December 12th at 5:00 p.m.

DISCUSSION OF ARENA PARKING / KITCHEN AREA

The Board discussed the need to address the kitchen area and parking at the arena. After a lengthy discussion, the Board directed staff to get a cost estimate for the repairs and to allow Commissioner McCoy to get with Road Superintendent Jimmy Daniels to discuss the additional parking. The Board requested that Mr. Goodin contact the property owner of the property across the street for a potential parking area.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

The Board reviewed the current Board appointments list and agreed to further discuss the list at the next Board meeting.

DISCUSSION OF CHARTER SCHOOL REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

Tara Lowe-Phillips, representing Renaissance Academy, addressed the Board regarding the request for assistance that was made at the previous Board meeting. Chairman Brown read a letter drafted by staff commending the group's efforts and recommended that they pursue all available opportunities for a shared use agreement of facilities with the Hamilton County School District pursuant to Section 1013.101, F.S. Ms. Phillips briefly discussed the request for financial support. The Board by unanimous consent agreed to release the letter as read.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

APPROVE BILLS

- Motion by Commissioner McCoy to approve the bills (vouchers 157511 – 157833 and checks 069541-069710). Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- County Coordinator Louie Goodin advised the Board that Lobbyist Patrick Bell would be meeting with each new Commissioner following the meeting to discuss the legislative process and his work as a lobbyist.
- Mr. Goodin advised the Board that Commissioner McCoy, Commissioner Roberson and himself would be attending an economic development conference in St. Augustine from Wednesday, December 7th thru Friday, December 9th.
- Mr. Goodin also stated that the debris from the old Holiday Inn would be charged to the Road Department if approved by the Board, the Board agreed by unanimous consent.
- The Board announced that the Christmas Parade for the Town of White Springs will be on Friday, December 9th and the City of Jasper on Saturday, December 10th and that the Board would discuss the Commissioner cell phones at the next Board meeting.

- Commissioner McCoy reminded the Board of the need to participate in the “Rural County Days” in Tallahassee.
- Commissioner McCoy also stated that he would check on the road to Bee Haven Bay fishing area and have Nutrien to make the necessary repairs.
- Commissioner Murphy requested that the Board consider traveling to the Madison County Hospital and do a site visit of the facility.

There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 10:45 p.m.

ROBERT BROWN, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

GREG GODWIN, EX-OFFICIO CLERK

