

**NOVEMBER 7, 2023
JASPER, FLORIDA**

REGULAR SESSION

The Board of County Commissioners, Hamilton County, Florida, met in regular session on Tuesday, November 7, 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 Brown and led in prayer by Commissioner Erixton with the Pledge of Allegiance being led by Chairman Brown.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

STORM RELATED ISSUES – DISCUSSION AND REQUESTS

- Motion by Commissioner Erixton to extend the Local Declaration of a State of Emergency due to Hurricane Dalia. Second was made by Commissioner Roberson, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

The Board discussed the debris removal being performed by the State, specifically the trees removal. County Coordinator Gary Godwin advised the Board that per the State only the portion of tree that is on the County or State ROW will be removed and fences will be the responsibility of the property owner. The Board stated that each Commissioner will need to contact the property owners in the areas where the work is being done to ensure that the fence is repaired or replaced. Mr. Godwin also stated that the date for debris to be placed on the road right of way has been extended to November 10th. The Board announced that the next weekly FEMA meeting will be held on November 8th at 11:00 a.m. at the Emergency Operations Center.

**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 P.A., provided the Board with a brief update of the American Rescue Plan and advised the Board that their firm will continue to monitor and request information from Windstream for the Broadband installation. The Board considered an Agreement for Purchase prepared by County Attorney Andy Decker with LifeLine for the Mobil Health Unit. Mr. Decker reviewed the details of the Agreement and recommended approval based on the review by Thomas Howell Ferguson P.A. to ensure

the compliance with the Federal Grant guidelines.

- Motion by Commissioner McCoy to approve the Agreement for Purchase between the County and LifeLine for the purchase of a Mobile Health Unit contingent upon the review and approval of Thomas Howell Ferguson P.A. Second was made by Commissioner Roberson, 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 with the Board bid results for the Ship projects and recommended the Board award the following: Selph (ME Perkins Construction \$142,200), Conwright (ME Perkins Construction \$105,996), Thornburry (ME Perkins Construction \$15,200), Newsome (L&G Construction \$22,000), Dennis (ME Perkins Construction \$21,200) and Dunaway (ME Perkins Construction \$24,800). Mr. Nabors advised the Board that he has discussed with Fire Coordinator Henry Land about doing a control burn on the Selph house due to the asbestos which if allowed would lower the demolition cost associated with the project.

- Motion by Commissioner McCoy to award the Ship bids as recommended by Mr. Nabors. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Regarding the CDBG grant, Mr. Nabors advised the Board that he is waiting on the Phase 2 Environmental Review to be approved through Florida Commerce and hopes to have the homeowner applications approved by the Board prior to the end of the year. Mr. Nabors also stated that he is waiting for the engineering procurement prior to moving forward with the CDBG-CV grant.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS – STATUS REPORT AND REQUESTS

Economic Development Director Chadd Mathis provided the Board with an update as to the current economic development projects. Mr. Mathis presented the Board with a map showing a conceptual layout for the utility extension being constructed by the Town of Jennings and that he has applied for a Rural Infrastructure Grant to have the utilities run to the Development Authority's property. Mr. Mathis provided an update as to the old Holiday Inn property and the adjacent Carter property. Mr. Mathis also stated that the Town of Jennings approved the Dollar General Market land use application. Mr. Mathis discussed the details of each of the projects and potential timelines.

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 working on the second half of the paving project and is also preparing to begin construction for the box culvert.

CROSSROADS FIRE STATION – Mr. Bailey stated that he is continuing to adjust the topography plans to provide better use of the entire property.

JOBS GROWTH GRANT – Mr. Bailey stated that he is continuing to work on the project and provided the Board with a conceptual drawing of the wetlands and requested clarification from the Board. The Board agreed with the delineation of the wetlands as proposed by NFPS.

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.

WATER AND SEWER FACILITY – Mr. Bailey advised the Board that NFPS is still evaluating the possible treatment options and discussed the needed repairs for the Water and Sewer facilities. After a lengthy discussion, Mr. Bailey advised the Board that he would set up a meeting with the proper State entity for the Board to request that the well appropriation be utilized for repairs to the facility and treatment of water. Mr. Bailey also stated that the Wastewater permit renewal application will be due in December with the current permit set to expire in June 2024 and will need a modification for the construction and permitting of a dump station. The Board discussed the need to establish the rules and regulations for the dump station.

LIMITED MAINTENANCE – SE 140TH COURT – Commissioner Erixton discussed the need for a Limited Maintenance Agreement for SE 140th Court. County Attorney Andy Decker explained the process and advised that he would prepare a resolution with Mr. Bailey agreeing to provide a letter referencing the road for approval at the next Board meeting.

ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES – DISCUSSION AND REQUESTS

County Coordinator Gary Godwin provided the Board with an update as to the Animal Control Services and suggested that if the Board decides to construct a new facility to consider placing it at the Department of Corrections, County Jail etc. to allow the Animal Control Officer to better concentrate on their job and allow inmates to take care the animals on a daily basis. The Board thanked Mr. Godwin for correcting the issues with Animal Control and advised that they would investigate the suggestion.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

EQUIPMENT PURCHASE – Mr. Godwin explained that the mulching head can be purchased under the State Contract from Ring Power and can be reimbursed by FEMA for the use of continuing to clear the right of ways.

- Motion by Commissioner Roberson to approve the purchase of a Diamond Mulching Head from the State Contract bid list. Second was made by Commissioner Erixton, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

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. After a lengthy discussion, the Board requested that the item be placed on the agenda for the next meeting to allow time to review the information provided before making a final decision.

GRADALL REPAIR – The Board discussed the need to replace the hydraulic pump on the current Gradall at an approximate cost of \$12,000.

- Motion by Commissioner Murphy to approve for the Gradall repair as discussed. Second was made by Commissioner McCoy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

APPROVE BILLS

- Motion by Commissioner Roberson to approve the bills (vouchers 163432 – 163829 and checks 072027-072195). Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- County Attorney Andy Decker discussed with the Board the damage claim from Duke Energy regarding transformers. Mr. Decker advised the Board that he is dealing with Duke Energy's claims adjuster and will continue to negotiate the amount be requested. The Board agreed by unanimous consent to allow Mr. Decker to take the necessary steps in dealing with the issue.
- County Coordinator Gary Godwin reminded the Board that the SCRAP and SCOP projects submittal is forthcoming and will send the Board a copy of the Five-Year Road Plan for review.
- Commissioner McCoy questioned staff as to the timeline for the CDBG-CV grant program.

- Commissioner Roberson discussed with the Board the trash being left on the roadways by the State debris removal contractors. The Board will address the issue with the individual responsible for the contractors.
- Commissioner Erixton questioned Mr. Bailey as to the CR-158 Lift Station. Mr. Bailey advised that his staff is working on the documentation for the permit and permission from the landowner.
- Chairman Brown read the thank you cards from the Murphy family.

There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

ROBERT BROWN, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

GREG GODWIN, EX-OFFICIO CLERK