

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA  
REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 20, 2019

NOTE: If any person decides to appeal any decision made with respect to any matter considered at this meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record for the proceedings and may need to insure that a verbatim record is made.

PRESIDING: Karen Cossey, Chair

RECORDING: Pam Woodington, Finance Director, Clerk of Courts

ATTENDING: Commissioner Lacey Cannon; Commissioner Willie Croft; Commissioner Channing Dobbs; Commissioner Jimmy Tallman; Dianne Hannon, Board Secretary; Russ Wade, County Attorney

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Chair Cossey called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

Commissioner Tallman offered the invocation and led Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

The minutes were presented from the March 18, 2019 Board of Adjustments Special Meeting. **Commissioner Tallman moved to accept all minutes as presented. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

**CHRIS TOWNE, KIMLEY-HORN**

Mr. Towne updated the Board regarding upcoming road projects. He reminded the Board that Florida Department of Transportation had requested a speed study report for SW 63<sup>rd</sup> Drive. The study had been completed and approved by FDOT, and the speed limit of 50 MPH was approved. SE 8<sup>th</sup> AVE has been approved by FDOT and Kimley-Horn is in the process of preparing bid documents. Preparation for review of bid documents for both SE 8<sup>th</sup> AVE and SW 63<sup>rd</sup> Drive. Regarding SW 150<sup>th</sup> Loop, Mr. Towne relayed his understanding that the southern property owners are willing to discuss with the County right of way issues so he is proceeding in that direction. CR238 North design exception has been reviewed and approved by North Florida Professional Services, and is moving forward with that design. The exception was due to the lane width. A survey is scheduled for the end of February May 2019 for NE 149th Street.

**FINANCE REPORT**

**Commissioner Tallman moved to pay the invoices presented by the Finance Department and Commissioner Dobbs provided a second. The motion passed without opposition.**

A representative from Meridian Health Care provided information on services, and expressed appreciation for Union County resident, Deborah Gordon, who is the Chair of the Board of Directors for Meridian. She is a strong advocate for the services Meridian Health provides. Meridian strives to see referrals within 5 to 10 days. Meridian has enhanced their access to care services. Services provided are increased from last year at this time by 19%. Services are provided at an office in Lake Butler and at the schools. Meridian tries to obtain funding

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from other sources such as private insurance, Medicare and Medicaid, however, insurance providers do not always cover the services that are really needed. Meridian is required to have matching funds from local governments. The request of funding is for the amount of \$37,500 for the Fiscal Year 2020. Chair Cossey stated that we are in the process of budgeting at this time and the board would take the request into consideration.

#### **RESOLUTION 2019-04, FDOT TRAFFIC SIGNAL MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT**

Chair Cossey presented the agreement and Resolution, reminded the Board that this is an annual contract, and called for Board action. **Commissioner Tallman moved to accept agreement and approve Resolution 2019-04. Commissioner Croft provided a second. The motion passed without opposition.**

#### **INTERIM EXTENSION DIRECTOR**

Chair Cossey updated the Board regarding the Interim Extension Director position. Dr. Simone, with The University of Florida, has appointed Luke Harlow as Interim Extension Director. Advertisement would be made to fill the position permanently. Mr. Harlow's official start date as Interim Director is May 28, 2019. **Commissioner Tallman moved to accept Mr. Harlow as Interim Extension Director. Commissioner Dobbs provided second. The motion passed without opposition.**

#### **REPORT FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS**

Mary Brown, Public Library Director informed the Board that she and Tennille Brannen attended Annual Library Conference. She also presented two invoices to ask for payment of the invoices for Hotel Accommodations of \$435.00 and purchases from Walmart from local donations of \$491.86. **Commissioner Tallman moved to pay invoices as stated. Commissioner Croft provided second. Motion passes unanimously.**

Mark Hughes, Volunteer Fire Chief stated a couple of trucks have had ongoing maintenance issues. Structure fires are up to 11 for the year, with an average of 18 annually. Chief Hughes is reaching out to the community to increase awareness of how to avoid structure fires. Chief Hughes has received of a grant from FEMA for \$31,000. It has been delivered to the State. He is currently working on a grant proposal for a propane generator for Station One.

#### **REPORT FROM RUSSELL A. WADE, III, COUNTY ATTORNEY**

Attorney Wade relayed that Clerk Connell asked for clarification regarding the Interim Extension Director's start date and salary. The start date of May 28 was set earlier in the meeting. Additionally, because of Mr. James Williams' start date being in June, he is not eligible for insurance until August, but a waiver of the 60-day waiting period can be requested by the Board because the County Coordinator is considered a "key hire". **Commissioner Dobbs moved to request a waiver of the 60 day waiting period for Mr. Williams' health insurance to be effective July 1. Commissioner Cannon provided second, and it passed unanimously.**

Chair Cossey answered regarding the Interim Extension Director. She relayed that Dr. Simone asked that we budget \$25,000. **Commissioner Tallman moved to budget \$25,000 for the Interim Extension Director position. Commissioner Dobbs provided second. Motion carries without opposition.**

Mr. Wade stated a hearing date has been set for the Motion to Dismiss on the Bert Harris Case. He will keep board informed as the court case progresses.

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**REPORT FROM COMMISSIONERS**

Chair Cossey has received a notice to proceed with advertising for CR229 North. Because of the large amount of the project, it must be bid separately from any continuing service contracts the Board has in place. Action by the board is needed to advertise for engineer. **Commissioner Dobbs provided motion to proceed with advertisement for engineer. Commissioner Croft provided second, and the motion passed without opposition.**

Chair Cossey adjourned the meeting at 6:23 pm.

ADOPTED ON AUGUST 19, 2019