

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA  
REGULAR MEETING  
JULY 15, 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: Kellie Hendricks Connell, Clerk of Courts

ATTENDING: Commissioner Lacey Cannon; Commissioner Channing Dobbs; Commissioner Jimmy Tallman; James Williams, County Coordinator; 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 Dobbs offered the invocation and led Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Dave Mecusker, Union County Historical Society, addressed the Board regarding the contribution to the historical society. He reminded them that with their contribution combined with the City's, they were able to staff the museum to keep it open two afternoons per week. He requested that the Board fund continue their funding for \$5,000 for fiscal year 2019-2020, and that they continue the contribution in future years. **Commissioner Tallman moved to approve continuous funding of \$5,000 per year and Commissioner Dobbs seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.**

**AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

Chair Cossey recognized the following employees for their years of service of employment to the County: Shelton Arnold, Jr. Mary Brown and Lorraine Andrews, each with 25 years and presented them with a clock as a token of the Board's appreciation. Wayne Clemons, 15 years, and Wayne Andrews, 5 years of service, were each presented with a pin.

**APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

Clerk Connell presented the consent agenda which included minutes from the May 1, 2019 Regular Meeting and both the Regular Meeting and the Special Meeting on June 17, 2019. She also indicated there was a list of additional invoices received after the finance package was compiled and sought approval for payment. **Commissioner Tallman moved to adopt the consent agenda, adding the approval for the late bill submittals. Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion and it passed without opposition.**

**CHRIS TOWNE, KIMLEY-HORN**

Chris Towne provided the Board with an update of ongoing road projects. Advertising documents for bids are being prepared SE 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 63<sup>rd</sup> Drive and planned to run next week. Right of way issues are still being worked on for 150<sup>th</sup> Loop, and Commissioner Tallman is going to talk to property owners regarding granting the necessary right of way. CR 238 North and 149<sup>th</sup> are advancing through the planning stages.

**4-H YOUTH UPDATE**

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Kristi McAllister, 4-H Program Director, introduced two 4-H students, Tara Holtzendorf and Kendal Stalnaker. They each addressed the Board to inform them of the opportunities that 4-H has provided to them, and the activities that they participate in.

Jason Stalnaker also addressed the Board regarding his plan to start a Union County Livestock Association, which would host a livestock show and sale at the Agriculture Education Building. He stated he has commitments for donations amounting to \$45,000 to build a second barn to house animals. He asked for an agreement with the County to use the building for multiple uses. Commissioner Cannon asked where he intended to put the new barn, and Mr. Stalnaker answered that it would be 10 feet behind the current building, and would run parallel with it. Mr. Williams raised concerns with the planned location of the well, and stated he would address that issue.

#### **BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD HEALTH INSURANCE**

Chair Cossey informed the Board that health insurance rates were issued with no change, and asked for Board action to accept the plan. **Commissioner Tallman moved to accept the rates as presented, and Commissioner Dobbs seconded the motion. It passed without opposition.** Clerk Connell advised the Board that she was planning to put a 4-5% increase to be paid into the insurance fund in the event that a large increase is seen in future years.

#### **RESOLUTION 2019-05, PURCHASING POLICY ADDENDUM**

Chair Cossey asked the pleasure of the Board regarding Resolution 2019-05, an addendum to the purchasing policy to require pre-approval from the County Coordinator for purchases of items over \$1,000. **Commissioner Tallman moved to approve Resolution 2019-05 and Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion. All commissioners voted in the affirmative.**

#### **ADDENDUM TO EMPLOYEE POLICY**

Chair Cossey called for action regarding the proposed addendum to the Employee Policy regarding leave time for an employee's introductory period. **Commissioner Cannon moved to approve the addendum to the employee policy. Commissioner Dobbs provided a second and it passed without opposition.**

#### **RESOLUTION 2019-06, TRANSFER & MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT WITH FLORIDA DOT**

Attorney Wade informed the Board that this is an agreement with FDOT allowing them to obtain right of way to replace the bridge on CR 231 over New River. FDOT will build the bridge and then turn it back over to the County. He advised that this must be accepted for FDOT to continue with replacing the bridge. Mr. Williams added that new bridges are now being constructed with an expected life of 100 years. **Commissioner Cannon moved to adopt Resolution 2019-06. Commissioner Dobbs provided a second and it passed without opposition.**

#### **REPORT FROM COUNTY COORDINATOR AND DEPARTMENT HEADS**

Mr. Williams advised the Board that he is seeking quotes for maintenance for the courthouse chiller, and also that 2 CPR training classes have been held for County employees. He said that the Agriculture Education Building is nearing completion. He also stated that he has worked with FWC to reach an agreement for them to maintain all public boat ramps in the County. They started repairs today to the boat ramp at Palestine Lake, and will work on the one in Worthington Springs next. Additionally, FWC is planning to assist with obtaining a grant for a new ramp at Dowling Lake.

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Mrs. Kim Hayes, Solid Waste Director, presented the Board with the mosquito control grant request for next year, based on the current year's budget, and asked for the Board's approval to submit it to the state. She advised that we were granted \$50,000 this year, and the request is for the same amount, but anticipates it being around \$30,000. **Commissioner Tallman moved to approve the grant for mosquito control as presented. Commissioner Dobbs seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

**REPORT FROM RUSS WADE, COUNTY ATTORNEY**

Attorney Wade advised the Board regarding the Bert Harris Claim, stating that proposed orders will be filed soon. He also advised regarding a letter received from Carl Clemons regarding his termination.

**REPORT FROM COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Cannon expressed appreciation to Mr. Arnold for his quick response to road issues that had been raised by a citizen. He also applauded Mr. Williams for writing and obtaining a \$10,000 marketing grant with very little notice. Mr. Williams added that the marketing grant will be used to update the County's website and market the 100<sup>th</sup> year celebration of Union County, which is October 1, 2021. Commissioner Cannon further noted that Mr. Williams identified and corrected problem with the HVAC at the Clerk's storage building, and thanked him for the agreement he has reached with FWC regarding County boat ramps.

No other commissioners had additional information to report.

Chair Cossey adjourned the meeting.

ADOPTED ON AUGUST 19, 2019