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# UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION

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## MINUTES REGULAR MEETING OCTOBER 21, 2013 7:00 PM

*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.*

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chairman Tallman called the meeting to order.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Chairman Tallman delivered the invocation and led the pledge.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Emma Jenkins informed the Board that she applied and was denied for the CDBG Grant because her mobile home had burned prior to her submitting an application. She was told that because the mobile home was no longer there, it would be a replacement home, which is not covered by the grant. Chairman Tallman will contact Scott Koons, Grant Administrator with NCFRPC, to see if they can help Mrs. Jenkins receive the CDBG Grant.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

August 15, 2013 9:00 a.m., September 16, 2013 6:30 p.m., September 16 2013 7:00 p.m. and September 27, 2013 5:30 p.m.

*Commissioner Smith moved, seconded by Commissioner Cossey, to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.*

5. FINANCE REPORT

Consideration For Approval To Pay The Bills

*Commissioner Smith moved, seconded by Commissioner Cossey, to approve paying the bills. The motion passed unanimously.*

W.W. Gay Contract

Mr. Stankiewicz presented a contract renewal proposed by W.W. Gay. The contract was a maintenance agreement and he informed the Board that there have been no problems with their work performance. *Commissioner Smith moved, seconded by Commissioner Cossey, to approve the renewing of the W.W. Gay Contract. The motion passed unanimously.*

Budget Amendments

*Commissioner Cossey moved, seconded by Commissioner Dobbs, to approve Budget Amendments 13-007 and 14-001. The motion passed unanimously.*

6. CORE CONTRACT, UNION COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Joe Pietrangelo and Kyle Roberts

Joe Pietrangelo and Kyle Roberts were present from the Union County Health Department. Mr. Pietrangelo presented the annual Core Contract between the Health Department and Union County.

*Commissioner Cossey moved, seconded by Commissioner Croft, to approve the Contract between Union County and the Union County Health Department. The motion passed unanimously.*

7. SOLID WASTE RATE FEE SCHEDULE

Chief Financial Officer, Justin Stankiewicz informed the Board that an Ordinance that Commissioner Smith made reference to was in fact never recorded or adopted. He further stated that the County's rate schedule is inconsistent. Mr. Stankiewicz stated that Randy Gaskins, owner of Bradford Garbage Service, who provides commercial pulls in various counties, charges \$175 for a 20 yard container and \$25 more for each additional 10 yard increment. He further stated that R&E charges a minimum of \$300 per pull. The County's current rates vary from \$85 - \$175. Mr. Stankiewicz suggested the Board adopt a rate fee schedule, and suggested \$170 per pull. Chairman Tallman verified that it had been many years since there has been an increase. Commissioner Smith disagreed with the suggested rate of \$170 and suggested \$100. Commissioner Cossey stated that she thought it should not be less than \$140. Commissioner Smith stated that he wanted it to be \$125 to ensure citizens in unincorporated areas are treated the same as city residents. *Commissioner Smith moved, seconded by Commissioner Cossey, to charge \$125 across the board and to meet with the City of Lake Butler prior to June 1<sup>st</sup> to renegotiate the rate per pull stated in the Interlocal Agreement between the County and the City of Lake Butler.*

Chairman Tallman verified that there was only one container that was pulled for the City and that it used to be pulled three to four times per month, but now is being pulled only once a month. Commissioner Smith stated that at this time last year, the City Manager stated that there were 26 pulls for the City last year at \$65 per pull and no tipping fees were paid. Commissioner Smith restated his motion for a rate of \$125. Commissioner Cossey asked how this change would affect the budget. Chairman Tallman stated this was actually a decrease from the current rate. He stated the rate of \$125 would be undercutting local businesses, and expressed that a rate of \$150 was fair and would allow the County to generate a little more revenue. ***Commissioner Cossey rescinded her second.*** Commissioner Dobbs expressed concern that the public would not want an increase right now. Mr. Stankiewicz stated that he was not asking the Board for an increase or any specific amount, but simply for consistency. ***Commissioner Dobbs seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-1 with Chairman Tallman voting against and Commissioner Croft abstained from voting.***

8. SELECTION OF AUDIT FIRM

Chairman Tallman stated that an Audit Committee had been formed to select a new auditor since DDF CPA Group had declined to audit future years. Mr. Stankiewicz stated that the Audit Committee's final rankings and recommendation was James, Moore & Company, followed by Powell & Jones, followed by Carr, Riggs & Ingram. *Commissioner Smith moved, seconded by Commissioner Cossey, to approve the recommendation from the Audit Committee and hire James, Moore & Company to perform audit services for fiscal years ending September 30, 2013, 2014 and 2015. The motion passed unanimously.*

9. WORKERS COMP RENEWAL

Commissioner Smith asked if this was the same cost as last year. Mr. Stankiewicz stated it actually decreased from last year. *Commissioner Smith moved, seconded by Commissioner Croft, to approve the worker's comp renewal. The motion passed unanimously.*

10. BUILDING AND PROPERTY INSURANCE RENEWAL

Commissioner Smith questioned why bids were not solicited for this. Mr. Stankiewicz stated he could not answer that, but this was a renewal for the Board to review with George Roberts Insurance for the year beginning October 1<sup>st</sup>. *Commissioner Smith moved, seconded by Commissioner Cossey, to approve the renewal of the building and property insurance. The motion passed unanimously.*

11. HOLIDAY SCHEDULE FOR 2013-2014

Clerk of Courts, Kellie Hendricks Connell brought to the Board's attention that Good Friday (April

18<sup>th</sup>) was added to the proposed holiday schedule since the County has been unable to give raises, in an effort to extend goodwill to employees. *Commissioner Cossey moved, seconded by Commissioner Croft, to approve the Holiday Schedule for 2013-14, including Good Friday. The motion passed unanimously.*

12. REPORT FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS

**Jimmy Beasley, Solid Waste Department**

Mr. Beasley asked for direction for closing collection centers for the Thanksgiving holidays. *Commissioner Cossey moved, seconded by Commissioner Croft, to close the collection centers on Thursday and Friday for Thanksgiving. The motion passed unanimously.*

**Shelton Arnold, Jr., Road Department**

Mr. Arnold reported to the Board that an employee had quit and he has advertised this position internally. He stated that an employee that is already D.O.C. certified applied and he requested the Board's permission to hire him. *Commissioner Smith moved, seconded by Commissioner Cossey, to allow Mr. Arnold to fill this vacancy with the employee of his choice. The motion passed unanimously.*

Mr. Arnold also requested Benny Snyder be allowed to return to work while completing his rehabilitation treatment. He is scheduled for treatment for one hour per week for 12 weeks. Commissioner Cossey asked how many weeks he had completed, and Mr. Snyder answered that he would begin treatment this week. *Commissioner Smith moved, that he return to work and take one hour per week to attend his class and when he returns to work that 12 weeks would serve as his probationary period.* Chairman Tallman suggested having Mr. Snyder reevaluated; expressing legal concern that the policy states he must be cleared. Mr. Arnold expressed that he needed Mr. Snyder to return to work. Chairman Tallman restated that the Board must follow the Personnel Policy. Clerk Connell stated that the policy requires "successful completion" of a rehabilitation program. Commissioner Smith stated that the Board can amend or override the policy. He suggested that he be allowed to return to work, and if he acts strange to have him drug tested. Attorney Wade expressed concern of liability if an accident occurred. Chairman Tallman asked Mr. Snyder to come by the Board Office so that they could call Meridian together because without certification of successful completion, he would not be able to return to work. Mr. Arnold questioned who in the County will decide when an employee should be drug tested. Chairman Tallman and Commissioner Smith stated that it would be the responsibility of the supervisor. Chairman Tallman stated that any reports of drug use should be reported to the Director of the Department. **Commissioner Smith's motion died for a lack of second.**

**Mary Brown, Public Library**

Mrs. Brown thanked Clerk Connell and Commissioner Cossey for attending the Viva la Florida Celebration on October 1<sup>st</sup> at the Union County Public Library.

**Chris Drum, EMS**

Nothing to report.

**John Walker, Emergency Management**

Absent.

**Mitch Andrews, Volunteer Fire Department**

Absent due to being on an EMS call.

**Basil Bactawar, Extension Office**

Nothing to report.

13. REPORT FROM KELLIE HENDRICKS CONNELL, CLERK OF COURTS

Clerk of Courts, Kellie Connell informed the Board that she has spoken with the finance department of the School Board and City Manager, Dave Mecusker, about the legal bills incurred by Bruce Dukes, Property Appraiser. She stated that it will be discussed at the next School Board Meeting. Mr. Mecusker said that they will pay one-third of the expense. She asked for the Board's permission to pay one-third of the legal bill which will be approximately \$413.

*Commissioner Cossey moved, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to have the County pay their one-third of the legal bill. The motion passed unanimously.*

14. REPORT FROM RUSSELL A. WADE III, COUNTY ATTORNEY

Mr. Wade informed the Board that he has worked with Mr. Rivers regarding the land he is donating for the fire station in Providence. He has the deed prepared and the survey has been completed. Mr. Rivers is waiting on an appraisal to sign the property over to the County.

15. REPORT FROM THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

**Karen Cossey, District 1**

Nothing to report.

**Morris Dobbs, District 2**

Nothing to report.

**Jimmy Tallman, District 3**

Chairman Tallman stated that there has been a lot of progress on CR-240E. The contractor is waiting on materials to install a box culvert and will lay the final layer of asphalt after it is in place.

Chairman Tallman reported that at the last meeting the Board approved the Interlocal Agreement to share Baker County's Building Administrator. Chairman Tallman stated that he was informed that the gentleman serving as the Building Administrator quit the next day. Chairman Tallman stated that the County is still using Leon Jones one day a week as a fill-in Building Administrator. Baker County has an employee trying to obtain a license as a Building Administrator, and when that happens, the Interlocal Agreement can be instated.

**M. Wayne Smith, District 4**

Commissioner Smith informed the Board that Attorney Wade is now serving as the attorney for the New River Solid Waste Association. He also informed the Board that he was able to get another \$100,000 from New River. He stated that he has a price on a building for a fire station in Providence. He informed the Board that Scott Rivers won't sign the deed to donate the land until he has a commitment from the Board that the fire station will be put there. He stated that he wanted to use the \$100,000 plus the \$25,800 the Board has already allocated to build the fire station in Providence. He stated that it would have to be bid out, but he has an estimate of \$120,000 for a 30x60 building. He requested that the Board allow him to use what he needed of that money for a fire station in Providence. Commissioner Croft stated that he thought the \$100,000 was to be split evenly between the fire stations in Providence and Palestine. Commissioner Smith responded that if the money was split, neither fire station would be built. Chairman Tallman verified with Mr. Stankiewicz that it was \$59,900 for a 20x60 building. Commissioner Smith confirmed that it was closed in. Commissioner Smith responded that if it can be built for that amount he wants it; but whatever it takes for a fire station in Providence. He stated that he would work towards getting additional money for the fire station in Palestine. Commissioner Smith declared that he and Commissioner Dobbs fought hard for this money and the people in Providence are expecting a fire station and that they need a fire station. *Commissioner Croft moved, to split the \$100,000 evenly. Commissioner Smith made a motion to table the motion. Both motions died for a lack of second.* Commissioner Smith said that the money is there, and two fire stations cannot be built. He reiterated that the people in Providence needed this fire station. Chairman Tallman expressed concern for the people in Palestine and the people in the rest of the County. Chairman Tallman stated that the money belongs to the people in this County. Chairman Tallman expressed that nothing Commissioner Smith said was for the betterment of the County, it was only for the betterment of Wayne Smith and his upcoming election. He stated that the quote Mr. Smith has is for \$127,000, and that he is still \$2,000 short. Commissioner Smith stated that Chairman Tallman doesn't know what he said. Commissioner Croft stated that he thought there was an agreement when the budget was created to split any additional money between the two fire stations. Commissioner Smith challenged Chairman Tallman to build two fire stations for \$155,000. Chairman Tallman accepted the challenge and volunteered to head this project up. Chairman Tallman stated that they will be sensible fire stations and would meet the needs.

Commissioner Smith walked out of the meeting. Chairman Tallman adjourned the meeting.

**Willie Croft, District 5**

Commissioner Croft was unable to report anything due to the abrupt ending of the meeting.