

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 21, 2016**

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, Chairwoman

RECORDING: Jean Shuford, Finance Officer

ATTENDING: Commissioner Willie Croft; Commissioner Woody Kitler; Commissioner Jimmy Tallman; Dianne Hannon, Board Secretary; Kellie Connell, Clerk of Courts; Russ Wade, County Attorney

PRESS: Tracy Tate, Union County Times; various other radio and TV stations represented

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chairwoman Cossey.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Mr. John Lake delivered the invocation and Chairwoman Cossey led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairwoman Cossey announced that the public comments related to the moratorium will be moved further down the agenda tonight, however if there are any public comments not related to the reading of the moratorium, we will hear them now. There were no other public comments at this time.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Kitler made a motion to approve the February 15, 2016 Regular Meeting minutes as submitted, with a second from Commissioner Croft. The motion carried with none opposed.

5. FINANCE REPORT

Commissioner Kitler made a motion to approve to pay the bills as presented, with a second by Commissioner Croft. The motion passed unanimously.

6. **DEBBIE THOMAS, COOK AND ASSOCIATES**

Debbie Thomas, along with Larry Cook, of Cook and Associates, told the Board that the renewal quotes are in and she needs direction on how to present it to them. **Commissioner Kitler made a motion to hold a special meeting to hear insurance quotes. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion, with the motion passing unanimously.**

Ms. Thomas then introduced Julie from Benicomp and Deandra from Avmed who announced that Union County has won an award from the American Heart Association related to incentives for employees to be well. In 2015, we saved \$150,000.00 directly related to improvements in lifestyle related changes. They presented health screening data that documented the savings and the confidential coaching feature available from nurses to employees concerning risks. Deandra from Avmed explained the insurance workshop which allows them to look at claims and look at rates, present them to the group and enables the Board to decide what they want made available to employees in the coming year.

7. **CONSIDERATION OF AN APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE #16-001 ON SETBACK REQUIREMENTS OF FIFTEEN FOOT ON SIDE OF PROPERTY**

Commissioner Croft made a motion to approve the application for Variance #16-001, with a second by Commissioner Tallman. The motion carries unanimously.

8. **PLUMBING PERMIT WAIVER REQUEST FROM UNION COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY**

Susan Christophel, Executive Director explained to the Board that they are replacing existing gas water heaters with electric water heaters. They will be using the existing plumbing and ask that the plumbing permit requirement be waived, they also understand that electrical permits must be pulled and request to pull one permit per building which will cover all apartments in that particular building. They are replacing units in 122 apartments in 67 buildings. **Commissioner Croft made a motion to approve the Union County Housing Authority's requests, with a second by Commissioner Kitler. The motion carries with none opposed.**

9. **REQUEST TO APPOINT JOE PIETRANGELO TO THE WELL FLORIDA COUNCIL**

Commissioner Tallman made a motion to approve to appoint Joe Pietrangelo to the Well Florida Council. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

10. **SEALED BIDS FOR BUSHHOG MOWER**

Chairwoman Cossey announced that there was one bid received and opened the sealed bid. The bid was from Spencer Jones in the amount of \$801.00. **Commissioner Kitler made a motion to accept and award the bid by Spencer Jones in the amount of \$801.00, with a second made by Commissioner Croft. The motion carried unanimously.**

11. **RESOLUTION 2016-03 ADOPTING THE LOCAL MITIGATION STRATEGY (LMS)**

Commissioner Tallman made a motion to adopt Resolution 2016-03. Commissioner Kitler seconded the motion. The motion carries with none opposed.

12. **RESOLUTION 2016-04 UNION COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN (CEMP)**

Commissioner Tallman made a motion to adopt Resolution 2016-04, with a second by Commissioner Croft. The motion carries unanimously.

13. **RESOLUTION 2016-05 REVISION TO COUNTY PURCHASING POLICY**

Commissioner Croft made a motion to adopt Resolution 2016-05, with a second by Commissioner Kitler. The motion carries with none opposed.

14. **SPY GLASS AUDIT**

Clerk Connell spoke to the Board about the completed phone bill audit, Spy Glass found charges of \$139.73 each month, and require one year of savings paid for their services, we will see the benefit of these savings after 1 year. **Commissioner Kitler made a motion to pay Spy Glass for the findings, with a second by Commissioner Croft. The motion carries unanimously.**

The Board inquired of Clerk Connell regarding the Extension Office Director position. She stated that she spoke with Dr. Simone, and the ratio had changed with previous directors, and the percentage that the Board pays with a new hire will be 40%. The Board will have the opportunity to decline any hire if the salary is higher than the Board would like to pay. Chairwoman Cossey stated that the interviews are this month and a candidate will hopefully be presented to the Board for approval at the next regular monthly meeting.

15. **INCORPORATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM MARCH 7, 2016 PLANNING AND ZONING MEETING INTO RECORD**

Attorney Wade spoke to the Board about action to incorporate the public comments from the March 7, 2016 Planning and Zoning Meeting into the record for tonight's meeting. **Commissioner Tallman made a motion to approve the incorporation of public**

comments from the March 7, 2016 Planning and Zoning meeting into the record, with a second by Commissioner Croft. The motion passed with none opposed.

16. **ORDINANCE 2016-01 FIRST READING ONLY**

Attorney Wade presented the first reading of Ordinance Number 2016-01, *An Ordinance of Union County, Florida declaring a moratorium on the acceptance of applications and processing of applications for mining special permit approval and issuance of mining special permits for a period of one year; providing for prohibition; providing for conflicts; providing severability; repealing all ordinances in conflict; and providing an effective date and an expiration date.*

17. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chairwoman Cossey opened the floor to public comments concerning Ordinance 2016-01.

Jim Tatum, Historian Our Santa Fe River spoke in favor of the moratorium.

John Lake spoke in favor of the moratorium and suggested a citizen advisory board be created.

Timothy Riley, HPSII stated that the moratorium is unnecessary and that all involved would work with attorneys and be cooperative. He spoke against the moratorium.

Patrick Miller, Senior at Union County High School and Florida Gateway College spoke in favor of the moratorium.

Mary Helen Wheeler, public school teacher and a member of Santa Fe Lake Dwellers Melrose Bradford County, spoke in favor of the moratorium.

Merillee Jipson, Policy Director Our Santa Fe River, spoke about wetland violations and critical habitat, and in favor of the moratorium.

Pete Cameron, Worthington Springs, spoke in favor of the moratorium.

Nancy Griffis, President of the Teacher's Union, spoke in favor of the moratorium.

Jen Clemons, spoke about her father working for Mosaic and living on reclaimed lands. She spoke against the moratorium.

Terry Phelan spoke about the Santa Fe River and his concern about phosphate dust, he spoke in favor of the moratorium.

Jane Lair spoke in favor of the moratorium stating the unknowns are huge.

Chris Stanley, resident for 21 years here, spoke in favor of the moratorium.

Michael Stephens, field of environmental engineering, FWC Botanist, worked for Jones Edmonds spoke about community effects and in favor of the moratorium.

Becky Parker spoke about violations and in favor of the moratorium.

Tim Roberts, Realtor, spoke in favor of the moratorium.

Whitey Markel, Sierra Club, spoke in favor of the moratorium.

Kenneth Stennan spoke in favor of the moratorium.

Barbara Wiggins spoke in favor of the moratorium.

Ed Emery, Candidate for Congress District 3 spoke in favor of the moratorium.

Debbie Davy, 20 years in the area, spoke in favor of the moratorium.

Courtney Snyder, Worthington Springs, spoke in favor of the moratorium.

Chairwoman Cossey called for any other comments. No other comments spoken. Chairwoman closed the floor to public comments.

Attorney Wade spoke to the Board concerning the legal parameters and reminded them that at this time it is not quasi-legislative in nature and that there is no gag order. He also informed the Board that Planning and Zoning Board approval is not binding and merely a recommendation to the Board in this matter. If the First Reading of the Ordinance passes tonight it must then go on to a Second Reading and action.

Commissioner Kitler made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2016-01 First Reading, with a second by Commissioner Croft. The motion carries unanimously.

18. REPORT FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS

Solid Waste Department – J. Beasley

Absent

Road Department – S. Arnold, Jr.

Director Arnold had nothing to report at this time.

Public Library – M. Brown

Director Brown asked the Board to consider payment of bills received after the Board Bill submission date and expressed a need to pay them now, not waiting for the long period until the next meeting. The two invoices received were to Walmart for supplies in the amount of \$195.31 and VanGuard for library cards in the amount of \$1,100.64. **Commissioner Tallman made a motion to pay the invoices presented, with a second by Commissioner Croft. The motion carries with none opposed.**

Director Brown asked for permission to move part time staff Susan Brown to full time status due to a full time employee looking for another position, but will remain as a call time status employee with occasional hours under 20 hours a pay period. She would like to see the change for Susan Brown to be effective with the next payroll. **Commissioner Kitler made a motion to change Susan Brown from a part time to a full time Library employee. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Director Brown informed the Board that the American Library Association is coming to Florida this summer and is a great training opportunity for staff. She asked permission to close the Library on June 25, 2016 so that the employees may attend. She will need a budget amendment to increase travel in the amount of \$2,500.00, decreasing budgeted ending fund balance, and expressed that this is a very unique opportunity for her and her staff. **Commissioner Kitler made a motion to approve the closing of the Library with sufficient notice to the public and to approve the preparation of a budget amendment to accommodate the travel expenses. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion, with the motion passing unanimously.**

EMS & Volunteer Fire Department - M. Andrews

Director Andrews had nothing to report at this time.

Emergency Management – J. Walker

Absent

County Extension Office – Vacant

19. **REPORT FROM KELLIE HENDRICKS CONNELL, CLERK OF COURTS**

Clerk Connell has nothing to report at this time.

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

Attorney Wade has nothing to report at this time.

21. **REPORT FROM THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

District 1 – K. Cossey

Chairwoman Cossey has nothing to report at this time.

District 2 – W. Kitler

Commissioner Kitler has nothing to report at this time.

District 3 – J. Tallman

Commissioner Tallman has nothing to report at this time.

District 4 – Vacant

No report at this time.

District 5 – W. Croft


Commissioner Croft has nothing to report at this time.

22. **ADJORNMENT**

Commissioner Kitler moved to adjourn the meeting. Chairwoman Cossey adjourned the meeting at 7:55 PM.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:



Karen Cossey, Chairwoman



Kellie H. Connell, Clerk of Courts