

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SERVING AS THE PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD
UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA
PUBLIC HEARING
MARCH 7, 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; Representatives from WUFT Radio and Internet News, Gainesville Sun, Channel 20 News and Fox Channel 30

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

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

2. PUBLIC WELCOMED

Chairwoman Cossey welcomed the public to the meeting and asked Mr. David B to deliver the invocation, then Chairwoman Cossey led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

3. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NUMBER PZ/LPA M 16-01

County Attorney R. Wade read aloud Resolution Number PZ/LPA M 16-01 and turned the meeting back over to Chairwoman Cossey.

4. HPS II

Jon Pritchett, Timothy Riley – Hopping, Green and Sams, Ed Murawski – Permitting Consultant Kleinfelder, Jack Schmedmen – Project Manager, and Phillip Pritchett representative of HPS II gave a presentation and spoke about the technology and positive impact phosphate mining will have on the community. The public participated in a lengthy question and answer session directed to this group following the presentation. HPS II stated that a moratorium was not necessary and requested that the Board not recommend the approval at this time.

Chairwoman Cossey called a five (5) minute recess.

5. CITIZENS AGAINST PHOSPHATE MINING

Eric Thomas, 2003 Union County High School Graduate, B.S. Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, M.S. Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences. Mr. Thomas also stated that he was a former Fisheries Biologist for Wyoming Game and Fish and Florida FWC. He is representing the group Citizens Against Phosphate Mining in Union and Bradford Counties and gave a presentation illustrating the negative effects that would occur if phosphate mining is allowed in the County.

Mr. Thomas also gave a presentation for Sydney Bacchus, Ph.D., who was unable to attend while recovering from an injury. The presentation included environmental impacts, explanation of fracture lines, sink holes, water loss and damage to property.

The public participated in a lengthy question and answer session directed to Mr. Thomas following the presentations. Mr. Thomas explained the petition, Facebook page and efforts sponsored by the group to stop phosphate mining in the County and requested that the Board recommend the approval of the moratorium.

6. OUR SANTA FE RIVER

Pam Smith, President of Our Santa Fe River, explained the advocacy and stewardship responsibilities of the organization. She spoke about the environmental impact of the springs, rivers and aquifer. She stated that Our Santa Fe River is totally in favor of the moratorium.

Merrilee Malwitz-Jipson, Policy Director of Our Santa Fe River, spoke about legislation, basic management of resources and environmental impacts of phosphate mining. She also requested that the moratorium be supported.

Chairwoman Cossey called a ten (10) minute recess.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairwoman Cossey opened the floor to public comments by calling on citizens who submitted a speaker form.

Trina Craig spoke in favor of the moratorium.

Marihelen Wheeler spoke in favor of the moratorium.

John Lake spoke in favor of the moratorium.

Tammy Lake spoke in favor of the moratorium.

Mark Lyons spoke in favor of the moratorium.

Zeb Howard spoke against the moratorium.

Jimmy Bielling spoke against the moratorium.

Daniel Raulerson spoke against the moratorium.

Thomas Riherd, II spoke against the moratorium.
Ed Emery spoke in favor of the moratorium.
Karen Chadwick spoke in favor of the moratorium.
Whitey Markle spoke in favor of the moratorium.
Julian Hazen spoke against the moratorium.
Kathy Johnson spoke in favor of the moratorium.
Avery Roberts spoke against the moratorium.
Courtney Snyder spoke in favor of the moratorium.
Kenneth Stenen spoke in favor of the moratorium.
Frieda Kassetas spoke in favor of the moratorium.
Patrick Miller spoke in favor of the moratorium.
Marilee Malwitz-Jipson spoke in favor of the moratorium.

8. **CLOSED TO PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chairwoman Cossey closed the floor to public comments.

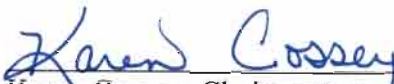
9. **ACTION BY THE BOARD**

Attorney Wade explained that the Planning and Zoning Board are asked for a recommendation to submit to the Board of County Commissioners. Mr. Wade once again read the Resolution. Chairwoman called for action of the Board. Commissioner Tallman spoke about the discussions and concerns that were presented during the meeting tonight. It was discussed that the moratorium could be retroactive to the original discussion date of February 15, 2016. Mr. Wade responded and is researching the specific date that the moratorium would be in effect once final approval and he believed that it would indeed go back to the February 15th date. **Commissioner Tallman expressed the desire to gather more information before a decision is made, and moved to recommend to adopt Resolution Number PZ/LPA M 16-01; recommending to the Board of County Commissioners of Union County Florida to approve an ordinance 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; repealing all resolutions in conflict; and providing an effective date. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion with the motion passing unanimously.**

10. **ADJORNMENT**

Commissioner Kitler moved to adjourn the meeting. Chairwoman Cossey adjourned the meeting at 10:14 PM.

APPROVED:



Karen Cossey, Chairwoman

ATTEST:



Kellie H. Connell, Clerk of Courts