

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA  
REGULAR MEETING  
FEBRUARY 20, 2017**

*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: Jimmy Tallman, Chairman

RECORDING: Savannah Chastain, Finance Officer

ATTENDING: Commissioner Willie Croft; Commissioner Woody Kitler; Commissioner Karen Cossey; Commissioner Tommy Nettles; Dianne Hannon, Board Secretary; Kellie Connell, Clerk of Courts; Russ Wade, County Attorney

MEDIA: None present

**1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chairman Tallman.

**2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

Commissioner Croft delivered the invocation and Chairman Tallman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Carol Pitmon came before the Board regarding an issue of a County easement to a pond on his property that is being used by the public. Mr. Pitmon has called the Union County Sheriff's Office, and no action has been taken by the power of the Sheriff's Office. He was concerned about his liability if an accident were to occur. Attorney Wade agreed to draft a letter from the County to clarify with the Union County Sheriff's Office that the pond is not available for public use.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Cossey moved to approve the January 17, 2017 Mining Areas Map Workshop Minutes and the January 17, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Kitler seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**5. FINANCE REPORT**

Commissioner Kitler moved to approve the bills as presented. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**6. COURTHOUSE SECURITY AND MEMORANDUM FROM CHIEF JUDGE MONACO**

Chief Judge Toby Monaco delivered information to the Board regarding prioritizing Courthouse safety and security. He requested appointing a committee to study the safety of the Union County Courthouse. Commissioner Cossey moved to appoint Judge Bo Bayer, the four constitutional officers with offices in the courthouse, as well as Chief Judge Monaco as the Courthouse Security Committee. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

7. **COMMUNITY CHAMPION HEALTH STATUS CERTIFICATE**

Joy Johnson presented the Healthy Weight Community Champion Certificate for 2017 to Union County.

8. **FORTNER PROPERTY**

Attorney Wade explained an issue regarding the Fortner Property. The family is wanting to divide the property, as well as add a mobile home to the property. The family is questioning if subdivision codes apply to this circumstance. Attorney Wade explained that subdivision codes do not apply. Mrs. Hannon agreed to inform the family of the agreement of the Board and will refer them to Attorney Wade for any further legal questions.

9. **HVAC BIDS**

Touchstone Heating and Air's bid and proposal was discussed amongst the Board, along with that of W.W. Gay, Climate Control and Bill Williams Air Conditioning. Clerk Connell reminded the Board the unexpected expense is not in the budget, and asked for the pleasure of the Board as to pay for the unit with existing fund balance or a loan. Commissioner Kitler requested Clerk Connell gather information on potential loan rates for the unit, as well as consequences if fund balance were used. **Commissioner Cossey moved to schedule a special meeting to have the potential companies do a presentation on the proposals. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

10. **UPCOMING SOLID WASTE VACANCY**

Director Beasley explained to the Board that he retires March 10, 2017. He presented Kenny Snyder as a personal recommendation to the Board for the position. Chairman Tallman stated that the application process would be handled formally. The Board agreed to receive the job description and advertise for the vacancy.

11. **REPORT FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS**

**Solid Waste Department – J. Beasley**

Director Beasley had nothing to report at this time.

**Road Department – S. Arnold, Jr.**

Director Arnold requested the Board allow the Road Department to put a sign in place at the pond on Mr. Carol Pitmon's property that states "No trespassing by order of Union County Road Department." The Board granted Director Arnold permission to do so.

**Commissioner Kitler moved to permit Attorney Wade to present the Union County Sheriff's Office with a letter of no trespassing, excluding adjacent landowners that own underlying land. Commissioner Cossey seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Public Library – M. Brown**

Director Brown was absent. Mrs. Hannon presented to the Board a request from Director Brown to place Amazon on the preapproved list of monthly bills. **Commissioner Cossey moved to add Amazon on the preapproved list of monthly bills. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

### **EMS & Volunteer Fire Department – M. Andrews**

Director Andrews was absent. Clerk Connell presented to the Board a request from Director Andrews regarding the lack of security in computers and technology in the ambulances and buildings. Director Andrews requested Board approval to accept a new security contract with Brady Clark, New River Technologies. He can absorb half of the expense, which is \$3,500, in the EMS Budget and would need \$3,500. Clerk Connell stated that the money is available in contingencies and stated a Budget amendment is necessary. **Commissioner Cossey moved to grant Director Andrews permission to accept a new security contract with Brady Clark, New River Technologies, and a Budget amendment to cover the remaining expense. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

### **Emergency Management – J. Walker**

Director Walker was absent. Chairman Tallman stated that there was a storm recently that caused physical damage to a dispatcher's car. Attorney Wade advised the Board file the incident as a claim through the County's general liability insurance. Mrs. Woodington stated she would pursue the issue with the County's general liability insurance and would inform the employee of the decision of the Board and the progress of the incident.

### **County Extension Office – D. Nistler**

Mr. Nistler reminded the Board of the upcoming fair week as well as record books being due.

## **12. REPORT FROM KELLIE HENDRICKS CONNELL, CLERK OF COURTS**

Clerk Connell stated that in result of a report from Director Walker, the Courthouse cameras are performing well; however, the DVR that captures the recording is failing and needs to be replaced to ensure proper security. This recording system can be replaced for \$3,500. Director Walker can absorb \$1,500 in the EMG budget; however, the remaining \$2,000 would need to be paid from contingencies. **Commissioner Kitler moved to amend the budget \$2,000 from contingencies to emergency maintenance for Courthouse security. Commissioner Cossey seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

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

Attorney Wade had nothing to report at this time.

## **14. REPORT FROM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

### **District 1 – Karen Cossey**

Chairwoman Cossey updated the Board on a recent DOT meeting regarding additional funding granted for District 2.

### **District 2 – Woody Kitler**

Commissioner Kitler had nothing to report at this time.

### **District 3 – Jimmy Tallman**

Commissioner Tallman updated the Board on the Agriculture Facility. SVM and Jones Edmunds will be proceeding with architecture and engineering. He also informed the Board on May 15<sup>th</sup> the Alachua County Commissioners would like to meet with the Union County Commissioners

during the Regular Meeting. Chairman Tallman also spoke on a recent public records request regarding the County and the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council.

**District 4 – Tommy Nettles**

Commissioner Nettles requested an update on the previously discussed issue regarding a private road that was maintained by the County. Commissioner Kitler requested the Board clarify and resolve the issue due to the longevity of the issue. Commissioner Nettles agreed to speak with the new land owner, explain the situation and gather his feelings on the issue.

**District 5 – Willie Croft**

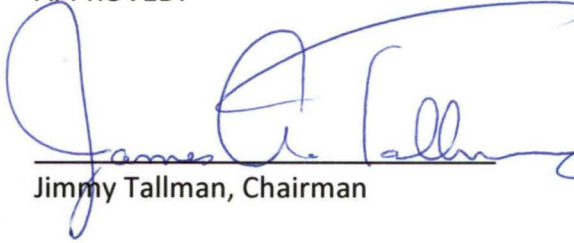
Commissioner Croft had nothing to report at this time.

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Tallman adjourned the meeting at 7:21 PM.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

  
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Jimmy Tallman, Chairman

  
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Kellie H. Connell, Clerk of Courts