

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA  
REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 16, 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

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

Commissioner Croft led the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chairwoman Cossey opened the floor for public comments.

Mr. Dan Schenk of Providence Village Subdivision spoke to the Board concerning urgent road issues. He spoke about the road needing repairs for quite some time now and asked the Board to do something to fix it. Chairwoman Cossey asked Mr. Arnold to get quotes, he told Mrs. Cossey that to pave it would cost anywhere from \$30,000.00 to \$45,000.00, and suggested a SCRAP or SCOP project. He stated that the road base is the problem, Mr. Schenk added that past patches do not last or even seem to make things worse. Commissioner Tallman said he has heard this for some years now and had asked that it be added to the DOT Five (5) Year Plan. **Commissioner Tallman made a motion to add the road to the DOT Five (5) Year Plan. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion with it passing unanimously.**

Mr. Carrol Pittmon spoke about issues with internet service in his area and asked if the Board could help with a solution to the problem. He also spoke about roads needing repair. Clerk Connell told the Board that North Florida Broadband was dismantled. UF is expected to develop a tower program in the future.

Chairwoman Cossey closed the floor to public comments.

4. **FINANCE REPORT**

**Commissioner Kitler made a motion to approve the bills for payment as presented, with a second by Commissioner Tallman. The motion passed with none opposed.**

Budget Amendment 2016-03 – Mary Brown stated to the Board that this budget amendment is for the Library, as a member of the community passed away and left funds for Capital Outlay or improvements. **Commissioner Kitler made a motion to approve Budget Amendment 2016-03, with a second made by Commissioner Tallman. The motion passed unanimously.**

5. **SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT, SURFACE WATER IMPROVEMENT MANAGEMENT (SWIM)**

Mr. Noah Valenstine gave a presentation and has been working with communities to list needs. Along with Mr. Tom Singleton explained the SWIM process. Commissioner Tallman asked about the health of New River, and monitoring regarding proposed mining operations. He asked for help from the SRWMD. Mr. Valenstine said that they would be part of the permit reviewing process and that all reviews will be held in public meetings. He also asked that the Commissioners think about the challenges Union County has and to let them know how they can help, as it relates to natural resources, land acquisition around waters, restoration projects, water efficiency, or uses related to quality and quantity of water.

6. **COUNTY HEALTH INSURANCE**

Debbie Thomas representing Cook and Associates presented the Board with the renewal rates and plans for the 2016-2017 year. Open Enrollment will be the first week of June. Clerk Connell discussed with the Board and Ms. Thomas that it is necessary for the Finance Department to have all the information in such a way that payroll deductions can be made in June for the July effective date. The County human resources and payroll has to have time to verify information and rates which then must be entered into the system in order for employee deductions to be correct.

The Board has asked that the renewal date and effective date be moved to October 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, but that we would need the rates in May or June in order to prepare our budget for the upcoming year. A letter has been received from Avmed stating that the Board's request will be accommodated beginning the 2016 year.

**Commissioner Tallman made a motion to renew the current Health benefit plans, including the Buy-Up plan with the County paying \$581.31 and employees will be**

responsible for the difference. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion, with it passing unanimously.

Commissioner Tallman made a motion to renew the current Dental and Life benefit plans, with a second by Commissioner Kitler. The motion passed unanimously.

7. TOBACCO FREE FLORIDA WEEK PROCLAMATION

Commissioner Tallman made a motion to accept the Tobacco Free Florida Week Proclamation. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion. The motion passed with none opposed.

8. REPORT FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS

**Solid Waste Department – J. Beasley**

Absent

**Road Department – S. Arnold, Jr.**

Director Arnold would like to declare the old Snapper mower surplus property and to accept sealed bids. **Commissioner Croft made a motion to declare the Snapper mower surplus property and to advertise accepting sealed bids, with Commissioner Kitler making a second. The motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Arnold also gave a brief update on Ms. Trish Benefield, and stated that she is stable at this time, but is facing surgery.

**Public Library – M. Brown**

Director Brown would like to amend the Code of Conduct to reflect the age of attended children while at the Library from 11 to 10 years of age. **Commissioner Tallman made a motion to amend the Code of Conduct to reflect the change, with a second made by Commissioner Croft. The motion passed unanimously.**

Ms. Brown also requested a Referendum hearing be set prior to the June meeting. The Referendum hearing was set for 5:50 PM on June 20, 2016.

Ms. Brown also thanked Mr. Pat Maxwell, Library Board supporter, for a donation to the Friends of the Library Scholarship Fund.

Ms. Brown requested a low balance credit card to open a Microsoft account in order for the Library to address issues with the app driven technology required to continue to teach the community computer skills and technology. The Board requested that Clerk Connell research P-Cards.

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

Director Andrews requested permission for Clerk Finance to pay the \$12,000.00 invoice when it is received for the radios. These were purchased under a grant agreement and 50% of the funds will be reimbursed, a total of \$6,000.00. **Commissioner Kitler made a motion to have the invoice paid upon receipt. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion. The motion passed with none opposed.**

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

Absent

### **County Extension Office – David Nistler**

Director Nistler gave an update on the new agriculture building moving forward. Next step will be engineering and architecture. Commissioner Tallman requested a workshop be scheduled at 9:00 AM on a Wednesday.

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

Clerk Connell is receiving budget requests, she asked if the Board wanted her to continue to be the budget preparer. Commissioner Tallman requested that she take requests and meet with Department Heads.

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

Attorney Wade has nothing to report at this time.

### **11. REPORT FROM THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

#### **District 1 – K. Cossey**

Chairwoman Cossey stated that 239 has been advertised for bids. She requested action by the Board to allow the demolition of the old Farmer's Market. **Commissioner Croft made a motion to push down the old Farmer's Market, with a second by Commissioner Tallman. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **District 2 – W. Kitler**

Commissioner Kitler asked what could be done to speed up road repairs for the DOT funded projects in Raiford. It was stated that both roads will be on the June agenda.

**District 3 – J. Tallman**

Commissioner Tallman thanked Director Brown of the Library and Director Nistler of the Extension Office for participating in the Third Grade Campout.

He stated he is receiving complaints about roads and Chairwoman Cossey responded. She said she is addressing the complaints.

Commissioner Tallman discussed that our moratorium will be over before we know it and that it is important that we move forward. He would like to ask other counties for resources and information to help with the revision of the LDR's and Comprehensive Plans.

**District 4 – Vacant**

No report at this time.

**District 5 – W. Croft**

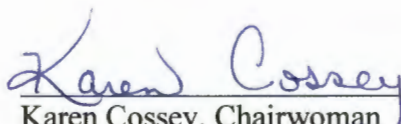
Commissioner Croft has nothing to report at this time.

Clerk Connell shared with the Board that Lacey Boatright has accepted a position with another county and that Pam Woodington will be working in her position moving forward.


**12. ADJORNMENT**

**Commissioner Kitler moved to adjourn the meeting. Chairwoman Cossey adjourned the meeting at 7:43 PM**

APPROVED:

  
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Karen Cossey, Chairwoman

ATTEST:

  
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Kellie H. Connell, Clerk of Courts