

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA
AGRICULTURE FACILITY WORKSHOP
MAY 25, 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: None presented

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by Chairwoman Cossey. John Lake led the invocation and Chairwoman Cossey led the pledge.

2. AGRICULTURE FACILITY DISCUSSION

Commissioner Tallman thanked everyone for their attendance. He spoke of being supportive of this facility from the beginning. Commissioner Tallman spoke of the 4-H program and it's successfulness due to heavy involvement and participation from the community. He explained how this building was originally planned for multi-use with children in mind. He also mentioned the inclusion of a kitchen. Commissioner Tallman made it very clear that this purpose must be kept in mind throughout the entire project of this facility.

Chairwoman Cossey referenced the SREC building in comparison, which was built for \$330,000 seven years ago at 4,646 square feet. She suggested a 20 feet extension on the kitchen and conference room portion, and using remaining money for an open pavilion on the agriculture facility. She also spoke of inmate labor that was used at the SREC building. Mr. Nistler mentioned the SREC building being 46x101, with the pavilion portion being 40x60.

Commissioner Tallman spoke about the location of the building. He mentioned it being located at the ballfields immediately to the left when coming in the entrance off of State Road 121. Placing this building here would allow for it to be centrally located in the county and it would also be a building the Pop Warner and Babe Ruth organizations could utilize. It was also stated that this would allow for visibility from the highway. Clerk Connell questioned a possible location behind the horse arena. Commissioner Tallman stated that the drainage is not favorable and DOT has concerns for lack of traffic control and access.

Kevin Graham spoke in reference to the high number of members in FFA and each team individually. Due to such high numbers, the youth could take definite advantage of this facility, and overall it could save money for all involved, eliminating travel expenses and such. Mr. Graham also spoke of the potential for revenue, to this County and the 4-H program.

Colan Coody spoke about placing the building on the right side of the complex, located near the road department. Mr. Coody explained placing the facility at this location will give room for growth. Commissioner Tallman discussed viewing a topographical map to look at the aforementioned pieces of land.

Danny Thomas discussed application of Phase II of the grant. In response, Chairwoman Cossey explained that Phase II had already been received, for a total grant of \$480,000, and the building must be turnkey. Commissioner Tallman discussed a \$75,000 grant that is currently underway for playground equipment. He also spoke of someone from the community who had interest in constructing a handicap playground. Chairwoman Cossey reminded everyone the completion date of Phase I, \$200,000, is December 2016. Mr. Nistler discussed the availability of extension on the grant due to a two-piece grant for one project.

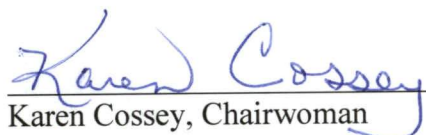
Commissioner Tallman wished to support local businesses. Clerk Connell inquired as to what will be available to be housed under the pavilion, such as animals, bleachers for seating, and a showing arena. Commissioner Tallman spoke of flooring and septic possibilities for the unenclosed portion.

The Board discussed agreeing on a size in order to request bids. Initially, a steel structure with an open air facility that measures no less than 60x100, 60x120 or 60x180, was agreed upon. Chairwoman Cossey questioned height of the pavilion. In response, Commissioner Tallman stated 18 feet, being the higher the building, the more air flow. Chairwoman Cossey questioned lighting in the facility in which Commissioner Tallman advised to not mention lighting in the bid. The Board agreed to follow up with another workshop in the near future with a resolution to the Board at the June meeting.


3. **ADJORNMENT**

Chairwoman Cossey adjourned the meeting at 10:01 AM.

APPROVED:


Karen Cossey, Chairwoman

ATTEST:


Kellie H. Connell, Clerk of Courts