

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 17, 2023

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 ensure that a verbatim record is made.

PRESIDING: Ryan Perez, Chair

RECORDING: Kellie Hendricks Rhoades, Clerk of Courts & Comptroller

ATTENDING: Commissioner Willie Croft; Commissioner Channing Dobbs; Commissioner Mac Johns; Commissioner James A. Tallman; James Williams, County Coordinator; Dianne Hannon, Board Secretary; Russ Wade, County Attorney; Pamela Woodington, Finance Director

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Chair Perez called the meeting to order at 7:11 pm.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Hearing no requests to speak, Chair Perez closed the floor to public comments.

**AWARDS & RECOGNITION**

Commissioner Johns stated that he has involved himself to become familiar with the Volunteer Fire Department, and recognized that they are first responders that do not get paid, and that they selected a firefighter of the year amongst themselves, and recognized Mickey Foster to present the award. Mr. Foster recognized Rob Koch as the Volunteer Firefighter of the Year and gave the Board a summary of the services that the VFD provides.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**Commissioner Tallman moved to approve the consent agenda presented by Clerk Rhoades, which included the Finance Report with additional bills. Commissioner Johns seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.**

**RECONDITIONING AND REPAIRS TO BOCC OFFICE**

Mr. Williams addressed the Board with minor repairs in improvements he would like to make to the BOCC Office, including texturing walls, replacing flooring and patching. Commissioner Dobbs asked about the cost, and Mr. Williams indicated that he was not sure at this point. Commissioner Tallman said that ARPA money could be used.

**Commissioner Croft moved to make minor cosmetic repairs only.** Commissioner Johns asked if the finance office had been repaired. Mr. Williams answered that he needs to get two quotes for duct cleaning, and other repairs should be getting done. He added that the courthouse needs roof repairs made as well. Commissioner Johns said he's all for the improvements, but instructed Mr. Williams to not drop the ball on the AC Unit in the Finance office.

**Commissioner Johns seconded the motion made by Commissioner Croft. All voted for the motion.**

**SCOPE OF SERVICES, PPM/BROWNFIELD ASSESSMENT GRANT**

**Commissioner Dobbs moved for Mr. Williams to sign the Scope of Services PPM for the Brownfields Grant, which included \$24,000 for County grant administration plus five percent for travel costs. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

**VEHICLE PURCHASES**

Mr. Williams indicated that he has met with directors and gave a list of vehicles that are needed in the County. Chairman Perez indicated that he would rather the vehicle that Mr. Williams proposed for the BOCC Admin to go to another department. Megan Daniel, from the Extension Office, indicated that she really needed a van to transport 4H participants. Commissioner Johns said that Tommy Mobley needs a van to transport inmates to work on other county parks, and that he realizes that the road department needs vehicles now. Commissioner Tallman understood the need for vehicles, and asked Mr. Williams to get prices and report back to the Board.

**SCOPE OF SERVICES, NORTH FLORIDA PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, FIRE STATION LAND SURVEY**

January 17, 2023  
Regular Meeting

**Commissioner Dobbs moved to approve the scope of services for \$4,600 for a survey of the fire station property. Commissioner Johns seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Rebekah Elixson approached the Board on behalf of Rotary regarding the \$4,000 contribution for the Fourth of July fireworks. She stated that this year, the celebration will be on Saturday, which is saving about \$10,000 for the fireworks. Clerk Rhoades responded that the money is included in the budget, and if she'll get an invoice to the Finance Department, a check would be issued.

Mr. Williams introduced Jim DeValerio as the only recommendation made by IFAS for an extension agent, and Mr. Valerio gave the Board his background. **Commissioner Dobbs moved to accept the recommendation and hire Mr. DeValerio as the Extension Agent. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion and it passes unanimously.**

Attorney Wade proposed a new Interlocal Agreement with the City of Lake Butler, stating it was the same as what has been in place except for the dates. Upon the recommendation by Attorney Wade, **Commissioner Dobbs moved to accept the Interlocal Agreement with the City of Lake Butler. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

**Commissioner Johns moved to accept the contract for construction management. Commissioner Dobbs seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.** Pamela Woodington clarified that the fees was estimated, but would not go over the grant amount.

Mr. Williams gave an update of the road projects. He also asked for clarity on the Board action to spend money on playground equipment, but would like to use the money for fencing or other improvements. Commissioner Tallman confirmed that he would like all of the funds designated in District 3 to be spent on playground equipment. Mr. Williams asked that the Board set a date for the workshop with Ginger Delegal, and it was set for March 1 at 5:00 pm.

Mr. Williams proposed a project for \$54,983 for a company to put in part of the courthouse security system. Clerk Rhoades indicated that a purchase of that size would need to be made by sealed bids. Commissioner Johns indicated he would like to hear from the Sheriff and the Judge on the matter.

Mr. Williams said construction is moving forward with the Ag Building addition, and two fire grants are being applied for.

Commissioner Dobbs asked Kim Hayes, Solid Waste Director, about the state of some equipment, and she provided the update. Commissioner Croft asked Mrs. Hayes about collection attendants working on Easter. Other commissioners indicated that employees shouldn't be made to work on Easter without holiday compensation. Clerk Rhoades indicated that the personnel policy recognized Good Friday as a holiday, and that holidays are observed on the closest normal workday to the holiday. She indicated that the problem is that Good Friday falls during the normal work week, and Easter does not, it is logical for admin employees, but not employees whose normal job works on the weekend. She suggested that the employee policy be amended to reflect "Good Friday/Easter Sunday". **Commissioner Dobbs moved to change the employee policy to recognize Good Friday or Easter Sunday as a County holiday. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

Chairman Perez adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm.

*Adopted by vote of the Board, February 20, 2023 regular meeting*