

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 18, 2022

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: James Tallman, Chair

RECORDING: Kellie Hendricks Rhoades, Clerk of Courts & Comptroller

ATTENDING: Commissioner Lacey Cannon; Commissioner Willie Croft; Commissioner Channing Dobbs; Commissioner Ryan Perez; Dianne Hannon, Board Secretary; Russ Wade, County Attorney; Jimmy Williams, County Coordinator

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chair Tallman called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm. Commissioner Dobbs offered the invocation and led Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Tallman welcomed the public and called for public comments, and there were none.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Cannon moved to approve the consent agenda presented by Clerk Rhoades, which included the Finance Report. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

ORDINANCE 22-01

Commissioner Cannon moved, and Commissioner Dobbs seconded, to adopt Ordinance 22-01, as recommended by the Planning & Zoning Board. The motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION 22-01, INCREASE LHAP AMOUNTS

Chair Tallman asked Mr. Williams to explain the item. Mr. Williams answered that the Suwannee River Economic Council has recommended increasing amounts for new home purchase assistance for Very Low, Low and Moderate income levels to \$35,000, \$30,000 and \$25,000, respectively, and to also increase the maximum appraised value to \$225,000. **Commissioner Dobbs moved, and Commissioner Perez seconded, to adopt Resolution 22-01, as recommended by SREC. The motion passed unanimously.**

JONES EDMUNDS WORK ORDER NUMBER 26

Commissioner Dobbs moved to accept Work Order No. 26 from Jones Edmunds as presented. Commissioner Perez seconded the motion. All commissioners voted for the motion.

RESOLUTION 22-02, JOHNSTOWN COMMUNITY SIGNAGE

Charles Fish approached the Board, and provided some history of Johnstown, which is part of his family history. The original settlement was started by his ancestor, John Coffin, and originally had a post office and other major businesses for the time. He asked that signage be placed on SR-121 to indicate the area of the settlement that is still known as Johnstown. **Commissioner Dobbs moved to adopt Resolution 22-02 in support of signage being placed at Johnstown, and Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.**

REPORT FROM COUNTY COORDINATOR

Mr. Williams reported that a homeowner is requesting a variance on a house that was built inside the required setback areas, and that a meeting needs to be held to address the issue. The board members agreed to meet on February 7 at 5:45.

Mr. Williams reminded the Board that Rural County Days is being held in Tallahassee on January 26 and 27. Meetings are scheduled with the Small County Coalition and Florida Association of Counties during the week. He also advised that the SCC and FAC are being very helpful in getting the Supplemental Distribution fully funded,

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which will result in an additional \$216,000 in revenue for the County if successful. This is an item that has not been fully funded from legislative budget appropriations since it was implemented approximately 20 years ago.

Mr. Williams reported that he has negotiated with UF IFAS to employ the agent and 4-H Program Assistant to be employed by UF, with a contribution from the County directly to UF. The current offer would bring savings of approximately \$38,000 to the County, and he is asking to continue to negotiate the agreement to ensure that the County has control of hiring the 4-H Program Assistant. The Board agreed by general consensus for him to do so.

Mr. Williams advised that the ARPA Spending Plan will be presented at the next board meeting.

Commissioner Perez asked Kim Hayes, Mosquito Control Director, what the status is for obtaining chemicals. She answered that she is expecting them in February. Chair Tallman asked her about putting fish in the retention pond to control mosquito larvae, and she agreed to look into the matter.

Toby Witt, EMS Director, provided a report to the commissioners including the number of calls received and noted that mutual aid was requested only four times during the month of December. He added that he held a staff meeting, and will begin holding them monthly. He also said that approximately \$150,000 has been collected this fiscal year through December, and that it will increase with transports now being taken from Lake Butler Hospital.

Tim Allen, 911 Director, told the Board there will a transition to digital 911 equipment on January 19.

REPORT FROM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Cannon was happy to report that the land has been cleared for the new Providence Fire Station.

The meeting adjourned by general consent at 6:39 pm.

Adopted by vote of the Board of County Commissioners on February 21, 2022.