

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 21, 2020

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, Chair

RECORDING: Kellie Hendricks Connell, Clerk of Courts

ATTENDING: Commissioner Lacey Cannon; Commissioner Channing Dobbs; Commissioner Jimmy Tallman; James Williams, County Coordinator; Dianne Hannon, Board Secretary; Russ Wade, County Attorney

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chair Cossey called the hearing to order. Commissioner Cannon offered the invocation and led Pledge of Allegiance. Chair Cossey indicated Commissioner Croft would not be able to make the meeting because his company vehicle had broken down.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Cossey called for public comments, and hearing none, closed the floor to public comments.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Cossey welcomed the public to the meeting and called for Board action regarding the Consent Agenda, which included minutes from the December 16, 2019 Board of Adjustments Meeting, December 16, 2019 Regular Meeting and Budget Amendment 2020-01. **Commissioner Tallman moved to approve the consent agenda, and Commissioner Dobbs seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.**

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Chair Cossey called Public Library Director Mary Brown to recognize Renee Crews as Employee of the Month. Mrs. Brown told the Board that Ms. Crews is responsible for the Children's Program at the library. She said she consistently produced new ideas for crafts and activities, and also manages the children's literature. Ms. Crews is also able to fill in wherever she is needed at the library.

Chair Cossey asked Volunteer Fire Chief Mark Hughes to recognize two volunteer fire fighters. First, he recognized Buddy Broughton for over 20 years of service as a Volunteer Fire Fighter. He has worked with the Division of Forestry Services and Starke Fire Department, and has always been a valuable resource for Union County. Mr. Hughes also recognized Mickey Foster as Local Volunteer Fire Fighter of the year. He stated this is voted on by his peers in the volunteer fire department, and he is well-respected among them.

FLORIDA CROWN WORKFORCE

Chair Cossey recognized Eugene Dukes, the Vice Chair for the Board of Directors for the Florida Crown Workforce. Mr. Dukes introduced Robert Jones, who provided the Board an overview of the services provided by Florida Crown, including training opportunities, job placement and assistance with gas to help people get to work. Mr. Dukes added that Florida Crown adds a great level of service to the adult program that he runs for Union County Schools. He added that approximately 90% of his students are paid by Florida Crown, and that there are a lot of untapped resources. Mr. Williams offered to work with Mr. Dukes to make sure that the services are known about and accessible to those who may need them.

Chair Cossey turned the floor over to Attorney Wade, who indicated there was some confusion and unfinished business in the previous two meetings, and recommended the Chair recess this meeting, and reopen the previous two. Chair Cossey recessed the Regular Meeting.

CONSIDERATION TO ADD ENGINEERS TO CONTINUING SERVICES AGREEMENTS

Clerk Connell provided a summary of the score sheets received, and companies scored very high, and very close. **Commissioner Cannon moved to add all four companies to the County's continuing services agreement. Commissioner Dobbs seconded the motion, and it passed by unanimous consent.**

CONSIDERATION FOR TASK ORDER FOR DESIGN ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR SE 186TH PLACE

Commissioner Tallman moved, and Commissioner Cannon seconded, to engage with North Florida Professional Services for design engineering services for SE 186th Place. All commissioners voted for the motion.

RESOLUTION 20-01: ESTABLISH THE UNION COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Commissioner Tallman moved to adopt Resolution 20-01, establishing the Union County Economic Development Committee. Commissioner Dobbs seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

UNION COUNTY RECREATION BOARD, LYNDA PETTIT

Mrs. Pettit informed the Board that they were able to submit an additional FRDP Grant Application, which was opened with a very tight turn-around time. She also indicated they have received a \$15,000 Grant from Clay Electric, which all sports will benefit from and they can reapply for every year. She added that Mr. Williams has attended their meetings and has assisted with some lighting problems; and that they have moved their meetings to Mondays at the boy's concession stand. They are in the process of installing better locks and timers to continue to reduce expenses. Mrs. Pettit also added that they have been established as a Florida entity, and Aaron Dukes has volunteered to complete the paperwork to establish the Rec Board as a 501(c)(3). She added that the Rec Board is optimistic that they can bring in enough revenues to afford a staff person to maintain the facilities.

Commissioner Tallman wished to recognize Dianna Mobley for her time and service on the Rec Board, and asked that the Board agree to present her with some type of recognition. The Board consented. He also added that Sal Perez had previously expressed a great interest in starting a soccer program, and Mrs. Pettit agreed that there was a lot of interest for soccer in the County, and that they are working on it. Commissioner Cannon asked about Pop Warner not returning, and Mr. Williams answered that a new league has been established in the area called "Unlimited" and they are looking to switching to that league. He confirmed that we would have a football program, it just may not be in the Pop Warner league.

Commissioner Tallman moved to order a plaque of appreciation for Dianna Mobley. Commissioner Dobbs seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

REPORT FROM COUNTY COORDINATOR AND DEPARTMENT HEADS

Mr. Williams provided an update on upcoming road projects. He also stated he needed letters of support for turn lanes to be added on CR-231 at SR-121. He added that they because of right-of-way issues, they are looking at redesigning SW 150th Loop to close off the end loop and install a cul-de-sac. He added that the building is nearing completion, the grant paperwork has been closed out, and he would like to schedule a ribbon-cutting. He also relayed appreciation from Representative Payne's office for the County's participation in Rural County Day, and added that over 1,200 catfish dinners and strawberry shortcake was served.

Mary Brown, Library Director, invited everyone to a program celebrating Patrick Smith's book *A Land Remembered*. Mr. Smith has passed away, and his son will be at the library on February 25 at 6 pm.

Wayne Clemons, EMS Director, stated that he had two grants prepared for application. Mr. Clemons also thanked Chair Cossey and Mr. Williams for inviting the REDI program, as that has shown some promising opportunities.

January 21, 2020
Regular Meeting

Tim Allen, Emergency Management Director, informed the board that his department is currently working on submitting a five-year review of the Emergency Operations Plan.

REPORT FROM KELLIE HENDRICKS CONNELL, CLERK AND COMPTROLLER

Clerk Connell informed the Board that the County's appropriations request is moving through the House & Senate, and that the funding needed to implement courthouse security screenings looks favorable.

REPORT FROM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Cannon asked Kim Hayes about a recycling program, as he had had citizens ask him. Commissioner Tallman interjected that they had researched it before, with New River Solid Waste, and that it was not cost effective. He added that recycling would be a large financial burden for NRSW and the County.

Commissioner Cannon stated he would like to see the County pursue establishing Union County Fire-Rescue, instead of EMS only. He asked Janet Booth, Mark Hughes, Jimmy Williams and Wayne Clemons work together to present information to the Board.

Clerk Connell added that the auditors are currently working, and are accessible if any Board member would like to ask them any questions.

With no further business, Chair Cossey adjourned the meeting.

Adopted by vote of the Board of County Commissioners on February 17, 2020.