

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 15, 2021

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: Jimmy Tallman, Chair

RECORDING: Pamela H. Woodington, Finance Director

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

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chair Tallman called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Commissioner Cannon offered the invocation and led Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Tallman welcomed the public to the meeting and called for public comments.

With no public comments, Chair Tallman closed the floor to public comments.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Pamela Woodington presented the consent agenda, Mrs. Woodington added one other expenditure from Amazon for the Library Fund to be included. **Commissioner Cannon moved to approve the consent agenda with the additional item, and Commissioner Perez seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.**

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 21-05 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT ON CR-231

Mr. David Tyler, Representative from the Florida Department of Transportation presented a proposal to temporarily close CR231 to through traffic for completion of bridge construction. This action will increase safety, reduce offsite environmental impacts to local areas, and reduce overall construction cost. Approximately 95 calendar days is anticipated for the closure. Two alternate routes for traffic were also provided. FLDOT mailed a flyer to all residents affected by the bridge closure, to date there has not been any negative feedback. Commissioner Cannon stated that while meeting with the Warden at RMC the alternate routes were a discussion topic. The Warden appreciated the discussion and it will be a benefit for him to share with employees. Mr. Williams commented that Mr. Clemons, Director of EMS, has already begun a new route with emergency services. Mr. Tyler also notated that the alternate routes added minimal drive times. **Commissioner Cannon moved to approve Resolution 21-05, Bridge Replacement on CR-231, and Commissioner Dobbs seconded the motion. It passed unanimously**

CONSIDERATION OF PROCLAMATION 21-01 NATIONAL RED CROSS MONTH.

Chair Tallman invited Red Cross Representative Gerald Thomas, CEO of North Florida Region of The Red Cross to the podium. Mr. Thomas stated that March has been recognized as Red Cross month since President Franklin D. Roosevelt held office. Mr. Thomas was joined by Kim Ann who thanked the Board, Directors and Mr. Williams for introductions throughout the county for providing education and support. **Commissioner Cannon moved to adopt Proclamation 21-01 as National Red Cross Month and Commissioner Croft seconded. It passed unanimously.**

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 21-03 SW 150TH LOOP & SUPPLMENTAL AGREEMENT #2

Mr. Williams stated that at the February meeting the Board approved a letter requesting additional funding and time to complete the SW 150th Loop Project, to the Florida Department of Transportation. That request was approved, requiring Board Action by Resolution of the approved request. **Commissioner Cannon moved to adopt Resolution 21-03. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 21-04 BUILDING DEPARTMENT FEE SCHEDULE

Mr. Williams presented the proposal of an updated Fee Schedule for the Building Department. Data was gathered from similar size counties and types of permits that have been issued. With these updates, Union County is still the most economical county to build a home. **Commissioner Dobbs moved to adopt Resolution 21-04. Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.** Mr. JR Davis asked to address the Board, and he stated that several months ago he made a presentation to the Board regarding impact fees and the importance of these fees to the County. Mr. Davis stated that while he appreciates Mr. Williams' due diligence in the updated Building fee schedule, it doesn't address the importance of the need of revaluating impact fees. Chair Tallman suggested a workshop to discuss impact fee would be in the best interest of the county. Chair Tallman directed Mr. Williams to schedule an impact fee workshop.

CONSIDERATION OF CONSERVATION EASEMENT FOR SCHRETZMANN

Chair Tallman ask if a representative was in attendance for the Schretzmann Family. There was not a representative present. Chair Tallman stated an attorney for the Schretzmann family contacted the board office in reference to a conservation easement for the Schretzmann Family. Chair Tallman's recommendation to the Board was to table this consideration until a representative for the Schretzmann Family would be available to attend and discuss this request. **Commissioner Dobbs moved to table consideration until the next regular Board Meeting. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.** Chair Tallman requested Mr. Williams contact the Schretzmann family to request their attendance for discussion at the next meeting.

CONSIDERATION OF UPDATED EMPLOYEE POLICY MANUAL

Chair Tallman opened the floor for discussion, asking if the Board had an opportunity to review and had any questions. **Commissioner Perez moved to approve the Updated Employee Policy Manual. Commissioner Dobbs seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

REPORT FROM COUNTY COORDINATOR AND DEPARTMENT HEADS

Mr. James Williams, County Coordinator presented an update on road projects. CR 238N bid opening was held and the bid was awarded to Anderson Columbia. All other projects are on schedule. Mr. Williams asked that the Board refer to the County Road Projects submitted to FDOT for grant funding in their packets. FDOT requested that the projects be ranked in order of importance due to the uncertainty of available funding. The Board began discussion of the concerns of each project and ranking was decided: **1) SW 89th Ave 2) SW 47th Loop 3) SW 119th Loop 4) CR239A 5) CR18A.** The grant application in the amount of \$5k to Enterprise Florida for Marketing was retracted and resubmitted with a request of \$35K which will encompass a larger range of use, including consulting, marketing, broadband and economic development as a package with Enterprise Florida. The FEMA contract for COVID relief has been prepared, and is waiting to be approved by the Board. This grant will cover COVID related expenses that were not submitted for reimbursement under the CARES Act. The FEMA requirement of 25% local

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match and the deadline have been waived. FEMA guidelines for COVID are in place. We have contracted with The Management Experts, Traci Buzbee to assist with this process.

Kim Hayes, Solid Waste Director reminded the Board that Tire Amnesty Days is to be held April 5 through April 16.

Mary Brown, Public Library Director informed the Board that she is planning for in person programs to resume and that online programs will continue. She also added that the annual 2nd grade library card sign up is scheduled for Wednesday, March 17. Library staff will travel to LBES this year.

Mr. Williams also notified the Board that the American Relief Act was passed and at this time information is minimal. Union County has been allocated to receive \$2.9 million. He will keep the board updated as more information and guidelines become available.

Tim Allen, Emergency Management Director advised that he has received notification of approval for 911 and Fire Grants from earlier applications. He plans to apply for \$35,000 in grants for maintenance contracts in the month of March.

Luke Harlow, Extension Agent invited everyone to the scheduled Ribbon Cutting for the Union County Agricultural Education Center which will be held on Tuesday, March 16 at 6 p.m., which has been a much awaited event. The Fair at the Ag-Ed Center will be beginning on Thursday, March 18 at 6 p.m. thru Saturday, March 20. Approximately 100 animals are anticipated to show. Mr. Harlow invited all to join in the festivities.

REPORT FROM KELLIE HENDRICKS RHOADES, CLERK AND COMPTROLLER

Mrs. Woodington reported that all reimbursement from the CARES ACT have been received.

REPORT FROM RUSSELL A WADE, II, COUNTY ATTORNEY

Attorney Wade informed the Board that he and Mr. David Theriaque discussed that the County is now in the discovery phase of Litigation with HPSII phosphate. Documents are to be prepared, ratified and signed. Attorney Wade recommends to the Board that Mr. Williams, as County Coordinator, be given the authority to sign the prepared documents for this specific process. **Commissioner Dobbs moved to approve recommendation made by Counsel, giving Mr. Williams the authority to sign documents related to the litigation. Commissioner Perez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

REPORT FROM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Perez requested that for the 100 year celebration, the Board form a committee of representation from all local organizations throughout the County for a more unified celebration. Commissioner Perez volunteered to lead on behalf of the Commissioners. **Commissioner Dobbs moved to create a committee to organize the 100-year celebration, chaired by Commissioner Perez, and Commissioner Cannon seconded, it passed unanimously.**

Commissioner Dobbs thanked Mr. Harlow and Mr. Arnold for eradicating a hornet's nest at a residence home in his district.

Commissioner Cannon thanked each director for always doing more than just their jobs. He expressed special thanks to Mr. Williams and Mr. Clemons for assistance with picking up playground equipment for the County.

Commissioner Croft had nothing at this time.

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Commissioner Tallman also had nothing to report at this time.

With no further business, Chair Tallman adjourned the meeting.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Jimmy Tallman, Chair

Kellie Hendricks Rhoades, Clerk of Courts

Adopted by vote of the Board of County Commissioners on May 17, 2021.