

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 20, 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

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chair Perez called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ralph Douglas approached the Board with concerns and questions about the county no longer maintaining cemeteries.

John Hall, from Promised Land Family Ministries, invited the Board and the public to an event on April 22.

JR Davis approached the Board, recognizing the helpfulness of the Solid Waste staff during tire amnesty. He also offered a ¼-acre piece of property as a donation to the county on 71st Way. **Commissioner Tallman moved, and Commissioner Croft seconded, to accept the donation from Mr. Davis, and all commissioners voted for the motion.**

Rondoll Huggins informed the Board about an incident involving his father and EMS personnel. He stated that the first ones on the scene took a long time to arrive, and did not act with a sense of urgency. He said that the team from Worthington Springs arrived second, and acted with the expected sense of urgency, but that he was very disappointed in the team that came from only blocks away. He also said his father was transported in a hot ambulance because the AC was out. Commissioner Perez asked Mr. Williams to review the call logs.

Jimmy Matthew approached the Board, stating that he missed last month's Planning & Zoning Board due to a mistake in reading the advertisement. He was informed that the Board has scheduled a workshop to address the issue.

Hearing no further requests to speak, Chairman Perez close the floor to public comments.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Clerk Rhoades brought several financial items to the attention of the Board. The first was an invoice to Department of Economic Opportunity for reemployment. She stated that the amount of \$3,343.12 is an old invoice, but she has not been able to determine what employees this is for, and concern that the county may not actually owe the amount. **Commissioner Tallman moved to deny the payment to DEO. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

Clerk Rhoades presented an invoice for Nextran for \$5,246.49 by the Solid Waste Department, and stated that it was made by Mrs. Hayes as a sole source, and needed the sole source to be determined by the Board in accordance with the purchasing policy. Mrs. Hayes explained that she's tried other places, but Nextran is the only company that she can find that can successfully repair this vehicle. Discussion ensued regarding advertising for a mechanic services annually through the RFQ process. **Commissioner Tallman moved to determine Nextran as a sole source for the repair of the solid waste truck. Commissioner Johns seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

Lastly, she explained that the FRDP Grant has been over-expended by \$10,310.43. She noted that there was \$8,125 donated by FPL, and needs a budget amendment to expend those funds. She said there is still an over-expenditure

in the amount of \$2,190, and would need a budget amendment to release the funds. Commissioner Tallman asked for her recommendation on where to pull the funds from, and she answered that she believes the amounts in Parks & Rec Maintenance should be adequate to cover it. **Commissioner Tallman moved, and Commissioner Dobbs seconded, to make a budget amendment to expend the \$8,125 from FPL and move \$2,190 from Parks & Rec Maintenance to fully fund the improvements made at OJ Phillips with the FRDP Grant.**

Commissioner Tallman moved to approve the consent agenda containing minutes and additional bills presented by Clerk Rhoades. Commissioner Dobbs seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Mary Diaz, an engineer with the SRWMD informed the commission about meetings being held this week regarding the Flood Risk Map Review, and advised that this is important as it can effect Flood Zone Designations and homeowners insurance. Chairman Perez asked Ms. Diaz about flooding issues previously discussed in the Hidden Oaks subdivision, and Ms. Diaz answered that she doesn't know the outcome. Chairman Perez asked her to please find a solution, and she said she will ask someone to reach out to the County.

AG ISSUES, LAKE BUTLER FFA CHAPTER

The Lake Butler FFA Chapter's Ag Issues Team, including Jordan Hendricks, Tanner Connell, Cailyn Boggs and Rylie Parrish presented information about the 2023 Farm Bill to the Board members.

PURCHASING POLICY UPDATE

Commissioner Dobbs moved table discussion regarding the purchasing policy. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

SHIP LOCAL HOUSING AGREEMENT

Commissioner Dobbs moved to table the approval of the local housing agreement due to a lack of information. Commissioner Tallman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

SCRAP TIRE AGREEMENT WITH GLOBAL TIRE RECYCLING

Mr. Williams announced that this agreement is for \$2,700 and would be reimbursed by the Department of Environmental Protection through the tire amnesty program. **Commissioner Tallman moved, and Commissioner Dobbs seconded, to approve the agreement with Global Tire Recycling. It passed unanimously.**

NATIONAL HEALTHCARE DECISIONS DAY

Commissioner Dobbs moved to adopt the proposed Proclamation regarding healthcare decisions. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

GUARDRAIL ON CR-241

Mr. Williams brought to the Board's attention that the guardrail on CR-241 at the bridge over the Santa Fe River is a safety hazard for Larry McDaniel's driveway. He said that DOT has acknowledged that visibility is restricted. Mr. Williams said that Mr. McDaniel has had several close calls in having an accident. After discussion, it was determined that enough time has passed since DOT did the work on the guardrail, and the County may remove it. **Commissioner Tallman moved to alter the guardrail on CR-241 by working with the engineers on continuing services with the county. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

MANAGED SERVICES AMENDMENT WITH NEW RIVER TECHNOLOGY

After much discussion, it was determined that more information was needed regarding New River Technology managing the County's emails. **Commissioner Croft moved, and Commissioner Tallman seconded, to table the matter and invite Brady Clark and Nathan Thornton to the meeting. It passed unanimously.**

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER INCENTIVE PROPOSAL

Toby Witt approached the Board and asked that the Board approve the proposed incentive payment schedule for the Volunteer Fire Department. He noted that it is already budgeted for, and would be less than the budgeted amount if it was in place. **Commissioner Tallman moved to accept the proposal and Commissioner Johns seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.**

HORSEBACK RIDING AND RECREATION TRAILS

Commissioner Tallman told the Board that he has had the idea of building horseback riding and recreation trails on the land behind the horse arena, and he would like the blessing of the Board to move forward with it. He proposed putting in trails for horseback riding, exercise and other activities, and wants to look for grants for the project. He stated that he has a grant for \$10,000 in mind, and that he has discussed this with the Union County Riding Club, and that they are supportive and had good ideas about the project. He would like for it to be at least one mile long, and noted that it would keep vandalism and mischief down in the area. The Board members agreed by consensus for Commissioner Tallman to pursue the project.

Commissioner Tallman moved to accept the proposal and Commissioner Johns seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Williams provided an update on road projects to the commissioners. He also stated he was working on a rental fee schedule with Mrs. Daniel to present at the next meeting.

Mr. Williams told the Board that DEP has awarded the County a grant for Resilient Florida, and the workplan is due on April 10. He recommended Jones-Edmunds to help facilitate the grant. **Commissioner Dobbs moved to hire Jones-Edmunds to facilitate the workplan in accordance with the grant. Commissioner Tallman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

There was discussion among Board members regarding cemetery maintenance, and the costs to continue the service. The Board agreed to take the matter up in a workshop, and set a workshop for March 30 at 1 pm.

Mr. Williams asked for clarification on the renovations to the Board office. The Board agreed to continue with the project, with the spending to be presented at each meeting for a budget amendment.

Mr. Williams announced that the Suwannee River Water Management District will be in the Board room tomorrow from noon until 7:00 pm to discuss any concerns that the public may have with the updated flood maps.

Mr. Williams presented Task Work Orders 4, 5, 6 and 7 from PPM for work under the Brownfields Grant, which he received by email the day of the meeting. The properties are owned by Tomahawk, and each is not to exceed \$8,000. He said that there is a proposed truck stop on this property, which is located behind Hardee's. He noted that this is not guaranteed, that the property is investor owned and is inside the City of Lake Butler. **Commissioner Dobbs moved to approve Task Work Orders 4, 5, 6 and 7. Commissioner Johns seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

Kim Hayes presented multiple quotes for coverings over collection sites, noting that they were much more than anticipated. She stated that that Handi-House was the least expensive for comparable products, at \$48,871. The Board indicated that they would like to move forward with the purchase. Clerk Rhoades stated that this is above the \$30,000 threshold and the purchasing policy requires sealed bids. Due to the nature of the purchase, and that Mrs. Hayes had obtained quotes which were unexpectedly above the \$30,000 threshold, **Commissioner Dobbs moved to waive the bid requirement of the purchasing policy, to accept the lowest quote from Handi-House for \$48,871 and make a budget amendment to pay for the structures from the General Funds Special Account #2. Commissioner Johns seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

March 20, 2023
Regular Meeting

Toby Witt, EMS Director, addressed the issues raised in public comments, noting that the ambulance is running without AC, and we cannot get a chassis for a new ambulance, and it is a problem nation-wide, but it has since been repaired. Commissioner Johns asked Mr. Witt to reach out to Mr. Huggins to address the complaints regarding personnel.

Chairman Perez stated that Jim DeValerio is to start on April 3, and that the Union County Livestock shows were a huge success.

Commissioner Dobbs, Commissioner Tallman and Commissioner Johns also commented about the success of the livestock shows. Commissioner Johns also noted that there was some vandalism at OJ Phillips and he is working with the appropriate authorities to try to teach the kids responsible a lesson, and there has been a citizen's committee formed to get Internet access to the Providence area.

Chairman Perez adjourned the meeting by general consent.

Adopted by vote of the Board, April 17, 2023 regular meeting