

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 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; Pamela Woodington, Finance Director

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Tallman welcomed the public and called for public comments.

JR Davis approached the Board, and expressed appreciation for Leon Watkins during the Tire Amnesty Day. He noticed that Mr. Watkins had went above and beyond to assist an elderly man unload a large number of tires. Mr. Davis also asked what the county can do to get more inmates. Jimmy Williams answered that the Department of Corrections has reduced the number of inmates available, that he has no hope of increasing that any time soon, and added that he is having ongoing conversations with the Warden about the issue.

George Green, from Florida Crown, followed up with the Board from the previous month's meeting, and said that Florida Crown is continuing to move forward, and they are doing some out-of-the-box thinking to get more services to Union County.

Sean Brewer introduced himself and shared his background with the Board, and announced that he is a candidate for Circuit Judge for the Eighth Judicial Circuit.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Cannon moved to approve the consent agenda presented by Clerk Rhoades, which included minutes from the February 21, 2022 Regular Meeting and February 21, 2022 Board of Adjustments Public Hearing, and also the Finance Report. Commissioner Perez seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

LAKE BUTLER FFA AG ISSUES PRESENTATION

Chair Tallman recognized the Ag Issues Team from the Lake Butler FFA Chapter, and the group of FFA Members provided shared information about an ongoing issue entitled Mental Health of the American Farmer.

NATIONAL HEALTHCARE DECISIONS MONTH PROCLAMATION

Chair Tallman read a requested proclamation from Samantha Roper from Haven Hospice. **Commissioner Dobbs moved, and Commissioner Perez seconded, to adopt the Proclamation as presented. The motion passed unanimously.**

UNION COUNTY SOIL AND WATER DISTRICT

Chair Tallman recognized Luke Harlow, County Extension Director, to discuss the Union County Soil and Water District. Mr. Harlow said that new Florida Statutes that could affect the local Soil and Water Board. He said that the Soil and Water Districts were federal laws created as a result of the dust bowl. The local board has not functioned for several years, and added that a lot of boards educate the public by educating youth, by way of an Envirothon, environmental poster contests or working with state and local agencies. The Board is looking to moving to elected positions, by districts, and is dissolved, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

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will take over. The Board is required to have one meeting a year, and seats on the Board are not paid positions. Mr. Harlow agreed to look for new board members.

SURPLUS ITEMS

Mr. Williams announced that the recent placing of surplus items on govdeals.com was a great success, and items were sold for higher than expected. A list of additional items was proposed as surplus items and sold on govdeals.com. **Commissioner Dobbs moved to deem the items surplus and sell them on govdeals.com. Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion. All commissioners voted for the motion.**

WAIVING PURCHASING POLICY FOR FRDAP GRANT

Mr. Williams announced that he is meeting difficulties in getting bids for items at the Recreation Complex for the FRDAP Grant. Prices have went up four to five times as much as they were before COVID, and are currently very volatile and supplies are limited. Sealed bids don't make much sense as companies can't commit to amounts for the amount of time necessary for the time required for that process. He suggested to break down various items, and get competitive quotes. **Commissioner Cannon expressed concern for waiving the purchasing policy altogether, and moved to waive the sealed bid requirement for the FRDAP Grant only, and Commissioner Croft seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.** Commissioner Cannon noted that he knows many companies may decline to quote due to the inability to get materials.

NOVA TIME CLOCK SYSTEM

Mr. Williams presented a new system for keeping time and attendance: Nova Time. There was much discussion, where all agreed that the county needs a new system, and there were concerns about the high cost of the system. Mr. Williams indicated that there may be grant funds available for the first three years. The Board agreed by consensus to move ahead with a trial period if it can be grant-funded.

ADVERTISE FOR CEI SERVICES

Mr. Williams advised that the Board needed to advertise for CEI Services for upcoming road projects. **Commissioner Cannon moved to advertise for CEI Services, and Commissioner Croft seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.**

COUNTY INMATE MEDICAL CLAIMS

Clerk Rhoades advised the Board that the Sheriff's Office has negotiated with UF Health for medical bills for County inmates from over \$400,000 to \$38,427. She advised that the Board accept and pay this amount based on her conversations with Captain Williams, and further advised that the previous year's reversion from constitutional officers greatly exceeded budgeted amounts, resulting in a higher beginning fund balance. She also said that she has arranged with Captain Williams for the Sheriff's Office to make the payment since it has to be received by April 5 to be honored by UF Health. Clerk Rhoades recommended a budget amendment to increase Beginning Fund Balance and Sheriff's Appropriations by \$38,427, with the funds to be disbursed to the Sheriff's Office with the next appropriation. **Commissioner Cannon moved, and Commissioner Dobbs seconded, to approve the recommended Budget Amendment and to disburse the funds to the Sheriff. The motion passed unanimously.**

DESIGN ENGINEER FOR CR-238N

Clerk Rhoades advised that she tallied the results from commissioners for the CR 238-N project, and that Kimley-Horn received the highest score. **Commissioner Cannon moved to award the contract for design services for CR 238-N to Kimley-Horn, and Commissioner Dobbs seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.**

DESIGN ENGINEER FOR CR-18

Clerk Rhoades advised that she tallied the results from commissioners for the CR-18 project, and that North Florida Professional Services received the highest score. **Commissioner Cannon moved to award the contract for design services for CR 18 to North Florida Professional Services, and Commissioner Dobbs seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.**

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REPORT FROM COUNTY COORDINATOR

Mr. Williams reported that four candidates have been provided to the County from IFAS for the new Extension Agent, and recommended that he and Mr. Harlow conduct interviews. **Commissioner Cannon moved to add Michaela Clemons from HR to the panel consisting of James Williams and Luke Harlow, and for the panel to hire an extension agent from the interview process. Commissioner Dobbs seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

Mr. Williams communicated to the Board that Representative Chuck Brannen is in transition to become the State Representative for Union County as a result of redistricting, and a luncheon will be held on May 11 for introduction to county leadership.

REPORT FROM RUSSELL A. WADE, III, COUNTY ATTORNEY

Mr. Wade recommended the Board take action to adopt a standard FP&L contract and put an Ordinance on next month's agenda to adopt the contract. **Commissioner Dobbs moved for Attorney Wade to draft the ordinance to be voted on at the May meeting. Commissioner Croft seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously.**

REPORT FROM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

All commissioners praised multiple departments for work that has been done throughout the county. Commissioner Cannon made special mention of the Road Department for the work done to clear the land for the new Fire Station in Providence.

The meeting adjourned by general consent at 7:02 pm.

Adopted by vote of the Board of County Commissioners on May 16, 2022.