

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA
WORKSHOP
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 workshop to order.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT MAINTENANCE POSITION

Chair Tallman turned the floor over to the County Coordinator, who first noted that is has been arranged for the school to send their inmates when available but they can't work at the school due to students being present. Discussion ensued regarding hiring a new maintenance for the Recreation Department, including noting a huge financial impact due to additional homestead exemption for teachers, law enforcement and first responders, which will amount to approximately \$500 per home, but that there is no way to estimate what this impact might be at this time. Commissioner Cannon asked how much was saved from the recent cost-share restructure in the Extension Office, and Mr. Williams answered approximately \$38,000, and that he estimates \$42,000 is needed. Chair Tallman asked Mac Johns how much he thought was needed, and Mr. Johns answered that he thought a salary of \$38,000-\$40,000 was needed. The Board agreed to advertise for the position and offer \$13 per hour.

PUBLIC SAFETY & CODE ENFORCEMENT

Sheriff Whitehead approached the Board about the large number of travel trailers that are being used as permanent residences and the Santa Fe Mobile Home Park, and the drain that these are on both the Sheriff's Office and EMS. He is concerned about more people putting in camp grounds that will be used as permanent residences. Many more items of concern arose, including people converting 16-foot sheds to homes and the loss of revenue from no stickers being purchased. Chair Tallman explained that to have a code enforcement officer, an appeals board is needed, but the Town of Worthington Springs has found that a magistrate can be used instead, and that code enforcement has been needed for a long time, but cautioned that it can be used as a vindictive tool. All agreed that a code enforcement officer is needed, and would probably pay for itself with the revenue from enforced mobile home sticker requirements and fines. Chair Tallman asked Mr. Williams what was needed to move forward, and he answered that he would inquire and follow direction from Mr. Crosby, the County Manager in Gilchrist County. The Board consented to move forward with the hiring process, and it was suggested that it could be funded with the franchise fees from FP&L. Mr. Williams was asked to gather more information. Attorney Wade stated a contract needs to be put in place with FP&L to implement the franchise fee.

ARPA SPENDING PLAN

Mr. Williams presented a spending plan with allocations for 85% to be used for public health expenses, 10% used for Premium Pay and 5% for administrative purposes. Chair Tallman expressed that he would like to see some funds used to construct a place for a fire truck to be housed at the property next to Harmony Baptist Church.

The workshop adjourned by general consent at 5:34 pm.

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