

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 19, 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 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 (attended virtually); Commissioner Ryan Perez; 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 and called for public comments. Seeing none, he closed the floor to public comments.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Tallman recognized Clerk Rhoades to review the consent agenda. She explained proposed Budget Amendment 21-01, but due to the complexity of the amendment, asked that the Board members review it and take action next month. She stated that the consent agenda consisted only of the finance report. **Commissioner Perez moved to approve the consent agenda, and Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.**

LAKE BUTLER FFA AG ISSUES PRESENTATION

The Ag Issues Team from the Lake Butler FFA Chapter gave a presentation entitled “Whose Water Is It Anyway?” which addressed the environmental impacts of bottled water and the effect that it has on the entire area. The Board thanked them for the information provided.

HEALTH CARE DECISIONS PROCLAMATION

Commissioner Perez moved to adopt the proclamation as presented, proclaiming April 2021 as “National Healthcare Decisions Month” in Union County, and Commissioner Croft seconded the motion. All commissioners voted for the motion.

ENFORCEMENT/ANIMAL CONTROL ISSUES

Ryan Clemons approached the Board regarding a neighbor keeping numerous dogs on his property, creating problems with the smell and the noise. He stated that Animal Control has investigated and has reported that there is no evidence of neglect and abuse, therefore there is nothing they can do. Chair Tallman inquired of Kim Hayes, Animal Control Director, and she stated that she has been to the property. After much discussion, the Board consented that the County needs a code enforcement officer, and instructed Jimmy Williams, County Coordinator, to reach out to similar counties to determine how they handle code violations. Mr. Clemons requested a copy of all Animal Control call logs to the property.

CONTRACT WITH NCBA

Mr. Williams presented an offer from the NCBA (national caucus and center on black aging), and offered two 20-hours positions for four years as part of a program to reintroduce the elderly to the workforce. The positions are

April 19, 2021
Regular Meeting

federally funded and paid directly to the employees from the NCBA. **Commissioner Cannon moved and Commissioner Croft seconded to accept the contract. The motion passed unanimously.**

COMMERCIAL SPECIAL ASSESSMENT

Mr. Williams directed the Board's attention to Ordinance 86-3, regarding the Special Assessment for EMS. It originally included \$60 for a commercial assessment, but that was later removed. Discussion ensued regarding how the commercial assessment can be charged, and the Board asked Attorney Wade to research the matter.

HEALTH INSURANCE QUOTES

Mr. Williams advised the Board that he has had many meetings and discussions with other counties, and believes the Board should seek competitive bids for health insurance. He stated that the current agent, Gallagher, may prove to be the best, but asked for the Board to solicit sealed bids to be certain. **Commissioner Dobbs moved to solicit bids for health insurances. Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

SHIP SUBORDINATION AGREEMENT FOR AUSTIN BAILEY

Commissioner Cannon moved to approve the subordination agreement for Austin Bailey, and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Croft. It passed unanimously.

REPAIRS TO THE PROVIDENCE COMMUNITY CENTER

Mr. Williams stated the Providence Community Center is in desperate need of repairs. There was extensive termite damage that has been torn out, and recommended an epoxy floor and paint at a minimum. There was discussion regarding charging a fee for citizens to use the building. Clerk Rhoades indicated that if it's the pleasure of the Board, all fees collected can be restricted to the maintenance of the building. Additional discussion centered around inspecting the building after use. Commissioner Perez suggested action be postponed until the next meeting.

RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL IMPACT FEES

Mr. Williams presented information to the Board on what the revenue impact would have been in recent years with impact fees of \$20, \$25 and \$30 per square foot. He noted that funds generated must be used for capital facilities, and recommended that the Board review the amounts annually. **Commissioner Perez moved for Attorney Wade to draft an ordinance implementing impact fees of \$30 per 100 square feet of new construction, to be reviewed annually. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

LAKE BUTLER HOSPITAL EMS TRANSPORT

Chair Tallman noted that Mr. Williams is currently in communication with Lake Butler Hospital, and no action is needed at this time.

ENERGY OPERATING ANALYSIS FOR COUNTY FACILITIES

Mr. Williams told the Board that Schneider Electric has contacted him and is interested in evaluating the county's facilities for energy saving opportunities. They will provide a quote, and if their suggestions are not successful in saving money, they will return any money spent to the county. **Commissioner Dobbs moved to accept the proposal, and for Schneider Electric to work with Commissioner Perez and Mr. Williams on the project. Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

NEW FEE IMPLEMENTATION FOR EMS RECORDS REQUESTS

Wayne Clemons, EMS Director, approached the Board and suggested that a \$25 fee per run report be implemented. Clerk Rhoades provided background, stating that the and Mr. Clemons had discussed that reports are requested regularly as public records requests, and that \$25 is the average cost to provide those.

April 19, 2021
Regular Meeting

Commissioner Cannon moved to implement a fee of \$25 per incident number for reports provided. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

CEI FOR 150TH LOOP

Mr. Williams recommended TRC as the CEI for 150th Loop. **Commissioner Cannon moved to appoint TRC as the CEI for 150th Loop. Commissioner Perez seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

REPORT FROM COUNTY COORDINATION AND DEPARTMENT HEADS

Mr. Williams explained to the Board that the Department of Corrections is removing all DOC supervised work squads statewide. He has discussed the issue with the Warden of RMC and other DOC personnel, he recommends that the county draft letters to our legislative delegation. He added that the Small County Coalition is also addressing the issue, and that there are prisons that are under consideration for closure. Mr. Williams also made the Board aware that over 250 homes are in Union County for personnel housing, and that the next closest county has approximately 40. These homes have residents that utilize county services and schools, but provide no revenue. If these homes were not government owned, it would yield approximately \$300,000 in ad-valorem taxes each year. **Commissioner Dobbs moved for Mr. Williams to work with Attorney Wade to draft a letter to our legislative delegation regarding the matter. Commissioner Perez seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

Mr. Williams informed the Board that bridge on CR-231 is now closed, the pre-construction meeting for CR-238N has been held and the project is moving quickly, bids are out for construction on 150th Loop, Saw Mill Road is close to completion and is awaiting DOT inspection and that CR-229 is awaiting permits.

Mr. Williams added that the Town of Raiford has agreed to fund the Recreation Board in the amount of \$3,500. He added that he and Mac Johns have worked with Mayor Schenck from the City of Lake Butler, and the Mayor has pledged to work a contribution in their budget. He informed the Board that Babe Ruth baseball has about \$10,000 more this year than this time last year, that they are holding fundraisers, have volunteers wanting to help and need more space to practice.

Mr. Williams has also been in communication with Weyerhaeuser regarding a 5-acre parcel of land. They are currently asking \$7,600, but he believes he can negotiate a lower amount. **Commissioner Dobbs moved to allow Mr. Williams to enter negotiations with Weyerhaeuser. Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion and it passes unanimously.**

The Board was informed that Mr. Williams is holding weekly meetings regarding broadband access. He noted that there is a fiber optic line that runs through Providence, but that he has not heard back from inquiries regarding access to the line. He added that he has received grants for training and marketing, which will help with the upcoming 100-year anniversary and broadband implementation. He was also pleased add that the Governor has asked for more information regarding the appropriations request for a new fire station. He also added that he is working with directors to bring the EMS and Volunteer Fire Departments back together for training.

Kim Hayes, Solid Waste Director, proposed changes to collection sites that will allow for the collection of more garbage, which will allow a change in the policy restricting the amount of trash a citizen can bring to only one truck load per day. The Board consented to her recommended changes.

Shelton Arnold, Jr., Road Superintendent, approached the Board with the need for a new tractor. Mr. Williams stated that a leasing arrangement had been discussed, but it was found to not be cost-effective. Mr. Arnold stated

April 19, 2021
Regular Meeting

that he has found the best option to be a 100-horse power Kubota tractor and mower. **Commissioner Dobbs moved to purchase the tractor, and Commissioner Cannon provided a second. It passed unanimously.**

Wayne Clemons, EMS Director, and Tim Allen, Emergency Management Director, together told the Board they would like for the volunteer fire fighters to train with EMS personnel, and that this would be an easy shift. Mr. Allen also added that when the fire department was taken over by the County in 1990, that no change was made to the Special Assessment.

REPORT FROM KELLIE HENDRICKS RHOADES, CLERK OF COURTS & COMPTROLLER

Clerk Rhoades informed the Board that any documents regarding the mining case were needed for this phase of litigation, and that if any Board members had anything that was not in their email, to please provide it to her or Attorney Wade.

REPORT FROM RUSSELL A. WADE, III, COUNTY ATTORNEY

Attorney Wade had nothing to report.

REPORT FROM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Perez informed everyone that a committee meeting regarding the upcoming 100-year celebration. He also added that the School Board is interested in the broadband, and is willing to help with a speed test.

Commissioner Dobbs expressed appreciation for the thoughts and prayers as he has been ill with COVID, and that he is improving. He also added that he believes all employees should be DOC certified to supervise inmates.

Commissioner Cannon reported that playground equipment has been installed in Providence, and that he will personally donate the equipment. He asked Clerk Rhoades to keep the check that had been cut to reimburse him.

With no further business, Chair Cossey adjourned the meeting.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

James Tallman, Chair

Kellie Hendricks Rhoades, Clerk & Comptroller

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