

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 20, 2020

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: Karen Cossey, Chair

RECORDING: Kellie Hendricks Connell, Clerk of Courts & Comptroller

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

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chair Cossey called the meeting to order at 6:17 pm, and turned the floor over to Attorney Wade. He advised that the phone-in capabilities were unexpectedly not working, but that the web login was. He informed the Board that he had updated the post on the Lake Butler Community Facebook Page to advise the public that the web access was available, and that given the lockdown, the Board had to do the best they can with the situation. He noted that several members of the public, County staff and others were able to join the meeting through on the post on the County website.

Commissioner Dobbs offered the invocation and led Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL AND REPORT FROM COMMISSIONERS

Chair Cossey called roll for the record, and all five members were present. None had any business to report.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Cossey welcomed the public and called for public comments, and none were presented.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Cossey called for Board action regarding the Consent Agenda, which included minutes from the March 16, 2020 Planning & Zoning Board Meeting, March 16, 2020 Regular Meeting and April 6, 2020 Emergency Meeting. **Commissioner Cannon moved to approve the consent agenda, and Commissioner Dobbs seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.**

PEACE OFFICERS MEMBORIAL DAY PROCLAMATION

Chair Cossey called for Board action for regarding proclaiming May 15, 2020 as Peace Officer's Memorial Day, and noted that there would be no events this year due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. **Commissioner Dobbs moved to pass the Peace Officers' Memorial Day Proclamation, and Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion. All commissioners voted for the motion.**

COUNTY LOGO AND MISSION, VISION & CORE VALUES STATEMENTS

The following was presented as the proposed statements:

Mission: To provide Quality growth of our community in a personal, responsive, and innovative manner, to instill leadership necessary to advance a safe and sustainable community, maintain a high quality of life, operate in a manner that is worthy of public trust, respect our rural heritage, and to protect our natural environment for present and future generations.

Vision: An innovative, cost effective government, committed to a high quality of life, uphold core values, strive for excellence in public service and be the county people are proud to live, work and raise a family.

Core Values: Honesty, Integrity, Transparency, Service, Accountability, Efficiency, Consistency, Respect, Knowledge, Stewardship, Collaboration, Self-Initiating, Self-Correcting

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Commissioner Tallman moved to adopt the logo and mission, vision and core value statements as presented, and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Dobbs. It passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATION OF MUNICIPAL SCOP GRANT FOR THE TOWN OF RAIFORD

Chair Cossey advised that the town of Raiford is interested in applying for a SCOP Grant, and asked that the County administer it. She confirmed with Commissioner Dobbs that her statement was correct, and he answered that it was. **Commissioner Dobbs moved to administer a SCOP Grant for the Town of Raiford. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

MEETING WITH ALACHUA COUNTY POSTPONED

Chair Cossey relayed that the joint meeting planned with Alachua County had been postponed, and was tentatively planned for June, and asked the Commissioners to call the secretary with their available dates. Clerk Connell advised that no firm date be set until there was a more firm date on reopening and allowing public gatherings, and the Chair agreed.

REPORT FROM COUNTY COORDINATOR AND DEPARTMENT HEADS

Mr. Williams provided an update on ongoing road projects: 95% plans have been submitted to FDOT for review for Saw Mill Road, 63rd Drive should be completed this week, and all other projects are on schedule.

Secondly, Mr. Williams informed the Board that Florida Association of Counties has provided a template letter for counties to send to legislators regarding financial relief from the impacts of the Coronavirus Pandemic. **Commissioner Dobbs moved to allow the Clerk and the County Coordinator to draft a letter to be sent by the Chair, and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Croft. It passed unanimously.**

Mr. Williams added that Community Development Block Grant funds are under consideration to provide relief to local governments.

Kim Hayes, Solid Waste and Mosquito Control Director, was not able to join the call, so Mr. Williams advised the Board on her behalf that mosquito spraying would begin the following day.

Mary Brown, Public Library Director, advised the Board that the Library Referendum is due to be placed on the ballot, and she asked that the Board hold a Public Hearing at 5:50 pm before the Regular Meeting in May, and the Board agreed. She also relayed that the library is now allowing drive-up service for the public to pick up books, taking all necessary precautions, and it has been very successful.

Wayne Clemons, EMS Director, advised that the department is working with the CDC, the Department of Health, and Emergency Management to protect the public. Chair Cossey asked if tests were available for his department yet, and Mr. Clemons was asked to be more specific about the tests he was expecting. He answered that he is expecting tests with 5-minute results for COVID-19, but they were not available yet.

Tim Allen, Emergency Management Director, gave the Board an update on the Coronavirus Pandemic: Two cases have been confirmed in Union County; his department is receiving and distributing Personal Protective Equipment throughout the County where it is needed, and he has been able to build up a small stockpile as a backup supply; the list of addresses that are being monitored for the virus is being added to and update daily; and he is having multiple conference calls daily with Florida Division of Emergency Management and other agencies to stay on top of the situation.

Luke Harlow, Extension Agent, provided an update of IFAS operations. He stated that most communications are via telephone or email, and he's providing agriculture assistance on a case-by-case basis, adding that he even helped a farm calibrate a sprayer over a video call. Mr. Harlow also added that 4-H clubs are meeting over video conference calls, and that one club even baked pies virtually together over a Zoom call.

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Mr. Harlow then relayed that the Agriculture industry has experienced losses due to the closing of schools, hotels and restaurants. He noted that local farmers have not been affected as much as those in south Florida. Mr. Harlow shared a success story about a young man in the community, Hunter Williams, who has been able to pick up boxes of produce and sell locally. He is following the guidelines surrounding the pandemic, and distributed over 2,000 pounds of fresh produce locally.

REPORT FROM KELLIE HENDRICKS CONNELL, CLERK OF COURTS & COMPTROLLER

Clerk Connell informed the Board that 63rd Drive and 8th Avenue were both nearing completion, but have not been invoiced recently. She asked that the Board consider approving payment for the roads within the amounts of the grant funds upon receipt of the invoices so that the Finance Department can apply for reimbursement from DOT. **Commissioner Dobbs moved to allow payment on invoices for 63rd Drive and 8th Avenue. Commissioner Tallman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

REPORT FROM RUSSELL A. WADE, III, COUNTY ATTORNEY

Attorney Wade relayed to the Board that he has filed a Motion for Reconsideration on the lawsuit regarding the Bert J. Harris Act, stating that there seemed to be some confusion with the Court on some of the details of the case based on the Order, and he was hoping to provide clarity.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Clerk Connell informed Chair Cossey that a member of the public was able to join, and Chair Cossey asked if she would like to speak. She declined, and with no further business, Chair Cossey adjourned the meeting at 6:42 pm.

Adopted by Union County Board of County Commissioners May 18, 2020