

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA  
REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 18, 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 virtual meeting to order at 6:00 pm, Commissioner Croft 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. **Commissioner Tallman moved to approve the consent agenda, and Commissioner Dobbs seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.**

**RESOLUTION 20-02**

Chair Cossey called for Board action for regarding Resolution 20-02, the traffic signal maintenance agreement with Florida Department of Transportation. Clerk Connell added for the record that the signal at the intersection of SR 100 and SR 121 was maintained by the City, and the revenue from that portion would be remitted to the City. **Commissioner Dobbs moved to accept the traffic signal maintenance agreement and pass Resolution 20-02, and Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion. All commissioners voted for the motion.**

**Resolution 20-03, Local Housing Assistance Plan**

Chair Cossey called for Board action regarding the Local Housing Assistance Plan for 2020-2021, 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 and Resolution 20-03. **Commissioner Tallman moved to accept the plan as presented and pass Resolution 20-03, and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Cannon. It passed unanimously.**

**DISCUSSION OF ATV'S ON COUNTY ROADS**

Commissioner Tallman stated he has received many complaints about ATV's being ridden on County roads. He added that he is not opposed to people riding, and has spoken with the Sheriff's Office about the situation. The Road Department has posted some signage. He asked Attorney Wade if the County can prohibit the traffic on county roads, stating the noise is a problem during late-night hours. Wade answered that the Board can control that, Commissioner Tallman made it clear he does not want to prohibit it altogether. Commissioner Dobbs added that there are also complaints in District 2; there is generally not an issue if they are not being destructive. Commissioner Tallman inquired about the County's ability to restrict in certain areas, and Attorney Wade answered that it would be up to the Sheriff's Office to enforce, and that the Board needs to give the Sheriff the proper tools to carry out the Board's wishes. Mr. Williams said he has spoken with the Sheriff, who is putting together a plan. Commissioner Cannon stated he has received many complaints as well, and encountered a problem with people destroying property. Commissioner Croft said he's received no complaints from District 5.

**DISCUSSION OF COMMERCIAL NEIGHBORHOOD CATEGORY MODIFICATION**

Attorney Wade announced he has discussed this with Mr. Williams, and explained that the County has a commercial designation within its Planning & Zoning codes. There are no commercial properties, but many commercial operations. There are many problems with the current situation, and now that the County has a County Coordinator, the Board should rectify the situation moving forward. He suggested a Commercial Neighborhood category modification. This simplifies some zoning issues and is a good fit for Union County, as it would provide some flexibility in development. Mr. Williams asked the Board to allow himself and Attorney Wade to work together to draft language to present to the Board. **Commissioner Cannon moved to allow Mr. Williams and Attorney Wade to draft language regarding a Commercial Neighborhood category modification to present to the Board. Commissioner Dobbs seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

**CONSIDERATION FOR PURCHASE OF CAT 309 WITH MULCHING HEAD**

It was stated that the County is in need of a piece of equipment, a CAT 309 with a mulching head. Commissioner Dobbs stated that he was in communication with the Road Department when they demoed the equipment, and it would free up many man hours that could be used for other tasks. He added it would be beneficial for the County. Mr. Williams stated it has been quoted as purchasing on a 3-year lease, with the cost in this budget year being \$49,000, which is already in the Road Department's budget. **Commissioner Cannon moved to purchase the CAT 309 on a 3-year lease. Commissioner Dobbs seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

**RESOLUTION 20-04, SMALL MATCHING DESIGN GRANT FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

Chair Cossey asked Attorney Wade to read the header of Resolution 20-04. Commissioner Tallman then confirmed with Mr. Williams that this was a matching grant. Mr. Williams answered that it is, but our match is waived because Union County is a REDI community. **Commissioner Tallman moved to approve Resolution 20-04. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

**RESOLUTION 20-05, SPECIAL CATEGORY CONSTRUCTION GRANT FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

Chair Cossey asked Attorney Wade to read the header of Resolution 20-05. Mr. Williams stated that this is the second part of a courthouse restoration grant, and that it is a 25% matching grant, of which 25% can be made in cash and the remaining can be made with labor. **Commissioner Cannon moved to approve Resolution 20-05. Commissioner Dobbs seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

**REPORT FROM COUNTY COORDINATOR AND DEPARTMENT HEADS**

Mr. Williams provided an update on ongoing road projects, and that no date has been provided for the prison to begin providing inmate labor again, and he is communicating with Department of Corrections. He added he is in constant communication with FAC and other agencies regarding the Coronavirus.

Mr. Williams stated the Census Bureau is concerned that the shutdown will impact the response to the census, and asked Board members to encourage their people to respond. Clerk Connell added that local funding is dependent on an accurate census count, so it's very important that people respond.

Mr. Williams spoke for Kim Hayes, Solid Waste and Mosquito Control Director, who has been in communication with Commissioner Dobbs regarding a home that burnt in his district. The only need is disposal of the mobile home. Chair Cossey stated that there is a line-item for this in the Solid Waste budget, and Mrs. Hayes has what she needs to provide assistance to the homeowner.

Mary Brown, Public Library Director, advised the Board that the library is in the third week of Phase I reopening, and that they are sanitizing books and computers between uses, and are operating under limited hours. She added that the June programs will be virtual, and that the summer reading program is still going.

May 18, 2020  
Regular Meeting

Wayne Clemons, EMS Director, informed the Board that a grant-funded generator will be installed at the Palestine Fire Station beginning May 19.

Tim Allen, Emergency Management Director, gave the Board an update on the Coronavirus Pandemic: twenty-five cases are in Union County, but 19 of those are inmates at UCI. 1,154 inmates have been tested, and there is a 2.5% positive rate, putting Union County well below the threshold to enter Phase II when the governor allows. There has been only one new case outside of the inmates in three and a half weeks, with a total of six, two of which are fully recovered. He added that the Health Department is providing drive-through testing at the UCHS bus ramp, and that his department has distributed supplies sent by Florida Division of Emergency Management. He has delivered to Lake Butler Hospital, the RMC hospital, numerous county departments, SREC, Archer Funeral Home, and that there is still a surplus of supplies, which he would like to use to maintain a stockpile for shelter openings for hurricanes or other unexpected events. He stated he participates in daily calls with FDEM, and is preparing for sheltering options with hurricanes and coronavirus. Mr. Allen added that \$23,480 in equipment has been received that was acquired with funds from a 911 grant. Lastly, he added that the antibodies test is only available to the hospitals, and Lake Butler Hospital requires 130 tests.

**REPORT FROM KELLIE HENDRICKS CONNELL, CLERK OF COURTS & COMPTROLLER**

Clerk Connell informed the Board that \$14,000 has been received by EMS through the CARES Act. She added that she has spoken with multiple businesses that have indicated they have seen either no change since the shutdown, or that sales have actually increased a bit. Clerk Connell is concerned with the revenue generated by the state-sharing portion of sales tax, but will not have definite numbers until late June. She also added that the Clerk's office is still fully-operational, but closed to the public because of the Supreme Court's order which is set to expire on May 29.

**REPORT FROM RUSSELL A. WADE, III, COUNTY ATTORNEY**

Attorney Wade had nothing to report. Commissioner Tallman inquired about the status of the court case with HPS, and he answered that the judge has not yet given an order.

**OTHER COMMENTS**

Commissioner Cannon stated that he has worked with an agency that has donated five collapsible stretchers to the EMS Department. He also added that he's received multiple requests for speed bumps, and asked for input from other commissioners. There was concern about slowing ambulances during a response, Commissioner Cannon stated that in his experience, speed bumps do not slow an ambulance. Mr. Clemons agreed.

Chair Cossey adjourned the meeting.

*Adopted by vote of the Board of County Commissioners on June 15, 2020.*