

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 21, 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; Commissioner Ryan Perez; James Williams, County Coordinator; Dianne Hannon, Board Secretary; Russ Wade, County Attorney; Pamela Woodington, Finance Director

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.

JR Davis approached the Board. He addressed Timber Village's outstanding balance of \$27,458 for past due mobile home permits, and asked the Board about the ability to collect those funds. Attorney Wade answered that there is nothing the county can do without code enforcement. He also brought to the Board's attention the RV Park in Worthington Springs, specifically stating the lack of special assessments paid on these RVs, but that most of them were semi-permanent and all contribute to the expense of the services provided by special assessments. Chair Tallman acknowledged the problem, and added that the Board will look into it and find a resolution. James Williams, County Coordinator added that he will research any application of the Land Development Regulations of Worthington Springs. Mr. Davis also inquired of any resolution on reverting to special assessments being charged on commercial properties. Chair Tallman answered that additional work is needed, and agreed that it needed to be done.

Mary Barker addressed the Board with concerns of drivers speeding in her neighborhood in Providence Village, and asked the Board to put in speed bumps. She lives on SW 45th Place, and is worried a child is going to be hurt. Commissioner Cannon responded that none of the roads other than the main road have any speed bumps, and has no objection to adding them on the additional roads.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Chair Tallman turned the floor over to Mary Brown, Library Director, who recognized Tenille Brannen as the Employee of the Month.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Cannon moved to approve the consent agenda, which included minutes from December 16, 2020 Workshop and May 17, 2021 Board of Adjustment Public Hearing and also Budget Amendment 2021-02 and the Finance Report. Commissioner Perez seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION ON CR-239A

Chair Tallman stated that the citizen, Curtis Clyatt, that requested this item be placed on the agenda was not in attendance.

REPORT OF DISCOUNTS, ERRORS, DOUBLE ASSESSMENTS & INSOLVENCIES

Commissioner Dobbs moved to approve the report submitted by the Tax Collector and Commissioner Croft seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

REVISIONS & ADDITIONS TO THE EMPLOYEE POLICY MANUAL

County Coordinator, James Williams, presented proposed clarification regarding payout of leave time upon separation from employment. Clerk Rhoades inquired if an employee retained the option to cash out leave at a later date. A consensus was expressed that the option remains, and she suggested adding the clarifying language. **Commissioner Perez moved to approve the policy amendment with the clarification. Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion, and all commissioners voted for the motion.**

DISCUSSION OF 1-CENT FIRE-RESCUE SURTAX

Attorney Wade reviewed the time frame and process for putting the surtax back on the ballot. Chair Tallman asked for the first step, and Attorney Wade answered that another ordinance be passed to start the process again, and start the required study. Chair Tallman expressed the desire to move forward, and asked Clerk Rhoades the revenue differences between the 1-cent sales tax and special assessment. She answered that currently, the revenue on the 1-cent sales tax would be nearly triple what is currently collected in special assessments. **Commissioner Dobbs moved for Attorney Wade to draft the ordinance and Commissioner Croft seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.** Attorney Wade added that he has the ordinance to be updated, and asked the Board if they are ready to move forward with passing it. The Board consented that they were.

RESOLUTION 2021-08, JERRY WHITEHEAD TRAINING FACILITY

Attorney Wade read a resolution which described the late Sheriff Jerry Whitehead's dedication to youth sports and dedicates a football training building to be built in his memory. **Commissioner Dobbs moved to adopt the resolution. Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion, and all commissioners voted for the motion.**

DISCUSSION OF IMPACT FEE IMPLEMENTATION

Attorney Wade informed the Board that legislation has just passed regarding impact fees, and once established, they are very difficult to adjust, and that there are new rules for how the funds can be used. He advised the Board have a workshop and consult with the regional planning council on the matter.

FISCAL YEAR 2020 FINANCIAL PRESENTATION

Zach Chalifour, James Moore & Co, presented a report regarding the financial report for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2020. Mr. Chalifour reported that a Comprehensive Annual Financial Report has been prepared by the Clerk's office, which exceeds the minimum requirements provided by statute, and reviewed what the extra components were. He reviewed the audit report, indicating that an unmodified opinion has been issued, and that no comments were found in any county office. Mr. Chalifour also addressed the additional work resulting from the Single-Audit requirement due to the CARES Act, and indicated that while James Moore & Co absorbed the additional work this year, he inquired from the Board the willingness to pay an additional amount not to exceed \$5,000 for the single-audit of American Rescue Plan Act, which would be payable from those funds. Mr. Williams expressed uncertainty regarding the ability to use those funds for that purpose. Clerk Rhoades indicated that she was confident the single-audit conducted by James Moore & Co would satisfy all requirements and that such fees would be allowable under the plan. The Board expressed no objection to the additional fees if it was allowable under the American Rescue Plan Act.

REPORT FROM COUNTY COORDINATOR

Mr. Williams relayed to the Board that he has received praise on the work done at the Providence Community Center, and that Attorney Wade has prepared a rental agreement for citizens to use the building.

Mr. Williams indicated that an additional survey is needed for the OJ Phillips Recreation Complex for the FRDP Grant. Clerk Rhoades inquired as to why an additional survey was needed, when one was just complete for the

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recent grant. Pamela Woodington asked if Mr. Williams had the most recent survey. There was discussion regarding the surveys, and Mrs. Woodington and Mr. Williams will communicate to make sure that he had the most up-to-date available before additional funds were expended on another. Commissioner Cannon added that the same surveyor should be used in the event that another was needed to minimize cost.

Mr. Williams indicated that he has spoken with Tax Collector Lisa Johnson regarding the county's retention of CRA funds under the interlocal agreement. In speaking with legal counsel, she has been advised that she may remit the county's 50% of the CRA funds directly to the county. **Commissioner Dobbs moved for the Tax Collector to remit those funds directly to the County and Commissioner Perez seconded the motion.** Clerk Rhoades added that approximately \$60,000 is due from previous years, and asked for input from the Board regarding the past due amount. Chair Tallman indicated that the County should still pursue those funds. Clerk Rhoades indicated that she would work with Commissioner Perez to pursue the funds from the City.

Mr. Williams provided an update of upcoming road projects. Chair Tallman added that there have been many changes to 150th Loop since the project was started. In the beginning, a landowner personally paid approximately \$1,100 for a survey to correct right of way issues to allow for paving in front of his property. Due to other right of way issues, that portion of the road will not be paved, and he would like for the county to reimburse those funds to the landowner, and to commit that any millings available be used on that portion of the road. **Commissioner Dobbs moved to reimburse the survey costs, and to put millings on that portion of the road. Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.** Mr. Williams added that the design phase of CR-18 and the second phase of CR-238N will be beginning July 1.

Mr. Williams advised the Board that citizens from the Town of Worthington Springs and the Town of Raiford have called and asked about various issues, and that he cannot help them because he cannot locate a copy of the LDR's for either town. Commissioner Dobbs offered to go to the Town of Raiford to help, and Chair Tallman will go to the Town of Worthington Springs.

Two \$5,000 Enterprise grants have a deadline to be closed June 30, but final invoices for that work has not been received. Mr. Williams asked that the Board direct the Clerk for payments for those grants not to exceed \$5,000 be released upon receiving the invoice. **Commissioner Perez moved for the Clerk to release those payments, and Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.**

Mr. Williams also advised the Board that he has proposed a deadline of July 8 for insurance bids, and will set a meeting with the constitutional officers to present the proposals, and then report back to the Board at the July meeting.

Mary Brown, Library Director, reminded the Board that summer programs are underway, and invited all to come to the end of summer bash on July 15.

Wayne Clemons, EMS Director, addressed problems with the lack of personnel, and assured the Board that he is working with neighboring counties and will find a solution.

REPORT FROM KELLIE HENDRICKS RHOADES, CLERK & COMPROLLER

Clerk Rhoades informed the Board that she has begun the process of applying for the funds available through the American Rescue Plan Act, presented the agreement and asked that if it's the pleasure of the Board for her to sign the agreement, that they take action to do so pending Attorney Wade's review of the applicable agreements. **Commissioner Dobbs moved to direct the Clerk to sign necessary agreements to receive the first round of**

American Rescue Plan Act funds upon the approval of the attorney and Commissioner Perez seconded the motion. All commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

Clerk Rhoades presented the 2020 State of Our Union report, highlighting the changes from the previous year, and indicating the impacts from COVID and the CARES Act funds and also that the county now has no loan balances outstanding.

REPORT FROM RUSSELL A. WADE, III, COUNTY ATTORNEY

Mr. Wade informed the Board that Weyerhaeuser has submitted a permit request for the Airline Road, which is essentially a guaranteed right to use the road because they are intending to make approximately \$80,000 in improvements to the road. Commissioner Cannon asked about the timeframe on the permit, and Mr. Wade answered that it would be through June 30, 2040. He further explained that this does not remove any rights of the County, but simply guarantees to Weyerhaeuser that the county will allow them to use the road through that date. **Commissioner Dobbs moved to grant the request, and Commissioner Croft provided a second. It passed without opposition.**

Mr. Wade also readdressed the rental agreement for the Providence Community Center, indicating that he has drafted a very generic agreement with proposed amounts for rents and deposits. Mr. Williams provided amounts of expenditures and the number of rental for the past several years, and suggested that rents be charged in accordance with the average cost to use the building. Discussion ensued among the board members regarding the amount of rent and deposit to charge, and they agreed to postpone the discussion so that more information could be gathered.

REPORT FROM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Perez inquired about the CR-231 bridge reopening, adding that citizens in his district are anxious for the reopening of the road. Mr. Williams answered that it is nearing the deadline that will begin to fine the contractor for every day of closure, and that it is anticipated to be open the week of July 4th. Commissioner Perez announced that four students have been placed in various departments for a summer program from the Florida Crown Workforce, and he wished everyone a happy and safe Fourth of July.

Adopted by vote of the Board of County Commissioners on July 19, 2021.