

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA  
REGULAR MEETING  
JULY 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 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 7:11 pm. Commissioner Cannon offered the invocation and led Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chair Tallman welcomed the public and called for public comments.

Patrick Maxwell invited all to participate in a golf tournament that is a fundraiser for the UCHS Golf Team.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**Commissioner Perez moved to approve the consent agenda, which included minutes from the May 17, 2021 Regular Meeting and the June 21, 2021 Regular Meeting along with the Finance Report. Commissioner Dobbs seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.**

**CITY OF LAKE BUTLER COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY REVERSION**

City of Lake Butler Mayor Jack Schenck approached the Board and apologized for the delay in the County receiving the funds from the CRA in accordance with the Interlocal Agreement. He explained that some of the CRA funds had been used to engage with Retail Strategies to identify and recruit potential retailers. There are currently two chain retailers attempting to purchase property as a result of the engagement, proving its success. Mayor Schenck told the Board that Commissioner Perez has been a good asset to the CRA Board, and hopes to move forward and make the CRA beneficial to the County.

Commissioner Perez said that Mayor Schenck has been instrumental in getting the funds to the County, and suggested a committee be appointed to review the Interlocal Agreement. The Mayor expressed that the City would like the opportunity to revisit the agreement as well. **Commissioner Perez moved to appoint himself, Mr. Williams, Clerk Rhoades and Mrs. Woodington to a committee to work with the City to work through the Interlocal agreement. Commissioner Dobbs seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.**

Commissioner Perez expressed that he believes the CRA funds should be used in the designated area. Clerk Rhoades told the Board that finance can account for any restrictions on those funds made by the Board. Chair Tallman said that he believes the CRA funds were spent illegally in the initial phases of the CRA, and does not believe it should still be restricted.

**100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Commissioner Perez informed everyone that the celebration of 100 Year Anniversary of Union County will be at 10 am on October 2, and will include the time capsule being opened and resealed, and showed banners that will be hung on the light posts down main street and in front of the courthouse.

**MEDIDIAN BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE BUDGET REQUEST**

Mr. Savoie from Meridian gave a presentation to the Board of the services provided by Meridian, and requested continued funding from the Board. Commissioner Dobbs asked what other agencies contributed, and Mr. Savoie answered that no municipalities in the County do. Chair Tallman asked if the School District contributed, and Mr. Savoie answered that they do, for the work that is done in the school system. He added that the funds requested from the County are to cover Baker Acts and Marchman Acts. Chair Tallman told Mr. Savoie that the County is currently in the middle of a \$298 million law suit, and that he would like to remain at the current amount of \$15,000. Mr. Savoie stated that if funding is an issue, he understands, but wants to be certain that there's not a problem regarding the services provided. Commissioner Cannon answered that there is no issue with Meridian services, but simply that the budget is limited. **Commissioner Cannon moved to contribute \$15,000 to Meridian for Budget Year 21-22, and Commissioner Dobbs seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.** Commissioner Dobbs recommended Mr. Savoie reach out to the City of Lake Butler.

#### **SARAH'S PARK INSPECTION BY THE FLORIDA DEP**

Mr. Williams said he was sent a letter from DEP, which stated an inspection was conducted on Sarah's Park and found that the park was out of compliance with the grant. He said the lack of maintenance is due to the lack of inmate labor, but corrections indicated in the inspection should be made. Commissioner Perez asked how much, and Mr. Williams answered that he does not know, and also recommended a new faucet type be installed. Commissioner Cannon said the volleyball court isn't used, and should not be repaired unless required by the grant. **Commissioner Cannon moved for Mr. Williams to make the necessary repairs and respond to the DEP as required to be in compliance with the grant. Commissioner Dobbs seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

#### **BUDGET AMENDMENTS 21-03 AND 21-04**

Clerk Rhoades presented Budget Amendments 21-03 and 21-04. Commissioner Cannon asked what the \$96,000 for the Fire Department was, and Clerk Rhoades answered that it was a grant for fire equipment. **Commissioner Cannon moved to approve Budget Amendments 21-03 and 21-04. Commissioner Dobbs seconded the motion, and all commissioners voted for the motion.**

#### **HEALTH INSURANCE PROPOSALS**

Chair Tallman recommended the Board wait to make a decision until they could hear from employees. Commissioner Dobbs directed for directors to communicate with their staff and direct any questions to Mr. Williams or Clerk Rhoades. **Commissioner Perez moved to fix the time to which to adjourn to Monday, July 26 at 12:10 pm. Commissioner Dobbs seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

#### **DESIGN FIRM FOR FIRE-RESCUE STATION**

Mr. Williams told the Board the North Florida Professional Services has designed seven stations for other counties, and recommends the Board hire them for the design of the station. **Commissioner Cannon moved to hire NFPS, and Commissioner Dobbs seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.**

#### **REPORT FROM COUNTY COORDINATOR**

Mr. Williams provided an update on roads projects, and that the bridge on CR-231 should be reopening and the end of July. He said that quotes are needed for the FRDP Grant for OJ Phillips Complex, and that a contract has been sent over for the land to be purchased for the new fire station.

Mr. Williams also said ARPA funds can be used for modifications at the EMS Station, and would like to move forward with much needed repairs and modifications. **Commissioner Dobbs moved to make the needed repairs and modifications to the EMS Station with the use of American Rescue Plan Acts funds, and Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.**

July 19, 2021  
Regular Meeting

Mary Brown, Library Director, said the Library had a very successful summer program, and thanked Luke Harlow, Wayne Clemons, Tim Allen and Mark Hughes for their assistance.

Wayne Clemons, EMS Director, informed everyone that COVID is surging again, and that the EMS Department is going back to COVID procedures. He advised all to be cautious.

Mr. Williams reported on behalf of Luke Harlow, IFAS Extension Director, that two more summer camps are planned.

**REPORT FROM KELLIE HENDRICKS RHOADES, CLERK & COMPTROLLER**

Clerk Rhoades informed the Board that the Tentative Budget Meeting has been set for September 9 at 5:30 pm, and the Final Hearing on September 20 at 5:45 pm.

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

Mr. Wade informed the Board that David Theriaque has recommended to add an attorney for joint representation, and that Alachua County is willing to pay any fees associated with the new attorney, provided that Union County maintains its current position regarding phosphate mining. **Commissioner Dobbs moved to allow the recommended legal firm and resolve any potential conflicts, and Commissioner Cannon provided a second. It passed without opposition.**

**REPORT FROM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Perez reported that there are only 10 gallons of chemicals left on hand for mosquito spraying, and that none is available for purchase.

Chair Tallman said that Mr. Arnold and the Road Department did a good job making repairs from the recent tropical storm.

Commissioner Cannon informed everyone that Commissioner Perez, Mr. Williams and he attended the Florida Association of Counties conference and found it very beneficial.

Chair Tallman adjourned the meeting, which is set to reconvene on July 26 at 12:10 pm.

*Adopted by vote of the Board of County Commissioners on August 16, 2021.*