

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA  
REGULAR MEETING  
AUGUST 16, 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 remotely

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 6:03 pm. Commissioner Cannon offered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance, and prayed for comfort for the family of Randel Bivins.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chair Tallman welcomed the public and called for public comments, and there were none.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Clerk Rhoades presented the consent agenda, which included minutes from the July 19, 2021 Health Insurance Workshop, the July 19, 2021 Roads Workshop, the July 19, 2021 EMS Workshop, the July 19, 2021 Regular Meeting, the July 26, 2021 Adjourned Meeting and the August 2, 2021 Emergency Meeting. **Commissioner Dobbs moved to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.**

**APPLICATION FOR THE USE OF STATE-OWNED LANDS BY THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**

**Commissioner Dobbs moved to grant the approval of the 100-foot easement for access and utilities for the Department of Corrections. Commissioner Perez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

**SHIP ANNUAL REPORT**

**Commissioner Perez moved to accept the SHIP Annual Report as presented from Suwannee River Economic Council. Commissioner Dobbs seconded the motion, and all commissioners voted in the affirmative.**

**RESOLUTION 2021-08, TIME EXTENSION FOR NE 149<sup>TH</sup> STREET**

**Commissioner Perez moved adopt Resolution 2021-08. Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion, and all commissioners voted for the motion.**

**RESOLUTION 2021-09 SCRAP GRANT**

Mr. Williams informed the Board that the Department of Transportation funded an additional portion of CR 238N, from NE 111<sup>th</sup> Way to CR 229N. Attorney Wade asked to review the agreement, and recommended a technical amendment to Resolution 2021-08. **Commissioner Perez moved to amend Resolution 2021-08 as recommended by Attorney Wade, and Commissioner Dobbs seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.**

**Commissioner Cannon moved to approve Resolution 2021-09, and Commissioner Perez seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.**

**WAIVER OF PURCHASING POLICY FOR PANDEMIC PURCHASES**

Mr. Williams informed the Board that some purchases may be needed quickly for ARPA, and requested the Board waive the purchasing policy for emergency pandemic purchases that are eligible for ARPA. Clerk Rhoades recommended the Board waive the sealed bid requirement. **Commissioner Perez moved to waive the sealed bid**

**requirement of the purchasing policy for pandemic-related purchases, and Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.**

**STATE AID TO LIBRARIES GRANT APPLICATION**

Priti McNutt, Assistant Library Director, presented the 2021-2022 State Aid Grant Application for approval. **Commissioner Cannon moved to approve to grant application, and Commissioner Perez seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.**

**REPORT FROM COUNTY COORDINATOR**

Mr. Williams provided an update on current road projects, and reminded everyone that the REDI meeting would be held in Union County on August 20 at 10 am. He also updated the Board regarding repairs made at the OJ Phillips Recreational Complex using insurance proceeds resulting from the tornado damage. Mac Johns, a Rec Board member, gave more detailed information on the complex and youth activities, and that he will provide any other project proposals to Mr. Williams. **Commissioner Dobbs moved, and Commissioner Perez seconded, to use any remaining insurance funds to replace the Michelle Perez memorial and add or improve lighting. The motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Williams said he will have a spending plan ready for Board approval in September.

Kim Hayes, Solid Waste Director, expressed appreciation to the Board for approving an employee appreciation day. She also advised the Board that there is a nationwide shortage for mosquito control chemicals.

Wayne Clemons, EMS Director, told the Board that approximately 70% of the calls received are suspected or confirmed COVID cases, that hospitals are filling up, and the virus is expected to peak in mid-September. He added that an employee has recently graduated from paramedic school, and a couple of other employees have been added.

Luke Harlow, Extension Agent, gave a review of the 4-H summer programs, and said they are postponing 4-H enrollment until September 7.

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

Clerk Rhoades asked for more information about the employee appreciation day mentioned by Mrs. Hayes, and Mr. Williams answered that there will be a luncheon. She also questioned the pleasure of the Board to create a policy for employee retirements, so that the Board could expend funds as an appreciate of a retiree's service, and they agreed by consent to create a policy. Clerk Rhoades added that there will be a Budget Workshop on August 31 at 5:30pm.

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

Mr. Wade informed the Board that mediation regarding the litigation with HPS has been scheduled for October 6 at 9 am.

**REPORT FROM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Perez announced that a 100-year celebration will be held on the first weekend in October. He told the Board that the City is being very cooperative, and looking for the CRA to be updated and looks forward to it being managed properly. The committee has agreed for the CRA Board to be re-evaluated and be composed of two county commissioners, two city commissioners and the Property Appraiser. He also added that the City has helped arrange a meeting with WCA to help evaluate solid waste costs.

Commissioner Dobbs expressed that he is praying for Commissioner Croft and all other effected by COVID.

August 16, 2021

Regular Meeting

Commissioner Cannon encouraged everyone to be cautious, as COVID is very widespread, and the road department has been doing a great job. He said that EMS has been impacted heavily by the virus, and the emergency rooms are backed up. They are running approximately 25% more calls, and the calls are taking longer due to the slow relief at the hospital. Commissioner Cannon invited everyone to attend an fire-fighter/EMS training on Thursday, and he also wished to hold a workshop regarding the EMS Department. **Commissioner Perez moved to fix the time to which to adjourn to August 17 at 5:30 pm to discuss the EMS Department. Commissioner Dobbs seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

Mr. Williams asked the Board their pleasure regarding purchasing food for the REDI meeting, and relayed expectations of a cost of around \$250. Clerk Rhoades explained that, generally, the county does not pay for food as the public purpose is unclear, but if the Board agrees and declares there is a public purpose, there would be no problems paying for it. **Commissioner Perez moved to declare the food for the REDI meeting a public purpose, and Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned by general consent at 6:55 pm.

*Adopted by vote of the Board of County Commissioners on November 15, 2021.*