

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 17, 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 ensure that a verbatim record is made.

PRESIDING: Karen Cossey, Chair

RECORDING: Kellie Hendricks Rhoades, Clerk of Courts & Comptroller; F/N/A Kellie Hendricks Connell

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 6:00 pm. Commissioner Croft offered the invocation and led Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Cossey welcomed the public and called for public comments. There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Tallman moved to approve the consent agenda, and Commissioner Dobbs seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. The minutes included were from the July 20, 2020 Regular meeting.

PROCLAMATION: CELEBRATING THE 100th ANNIVERSARY OF THE 19th AMENDMENT, LAKE BUTLER WOMAN'S CLUB

Present at the meeting were Ann Hendricks, Research Historian; Jean Brannen, President; Monica Bayer, Home Life Chairman. The Lake Butler Woman's Club asked the Board of County Commissioners to adopt a proclamation in honor of the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote. **Commissioner Dobbs moved to adopt the proclamation, and Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.**

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT, PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES

Hugh Thomas, Executive Director said that the Suwannee River Water Management is in charge of 15 counties and 15 river basins with more than 400 documented springs. He gave an update of the District's ongoing projects and efforts. Chair Cossey thanked the Water Management District for everything they are doing. He presented a check to the Board for Payment in Lieu of Taxes.

CARES ACT

Mr. Williams said that based on template from Small County Coalition; in accordance with the Treasury guidelines and the plan was reviewed with the Board. **Commissioner Cannon moved to accept the Coronavirus Relief Plan as presented and Commissioner Tallman seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.**

Mr. Williams also asked the board to give the Clerk permission to release checks as the invoices are received for the Cares Act. It would help expedite the county's response to COVID-19. Clerk Rhoades stated that if any large fund invoices or invoices that are not in the plan are received, before paying, she will approach the board for approval. **Commissioner Cannon moved to direct the Clerk to release payment for CARES Act fund as invoices are received, and Commissioner Tallman seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.**

Mr. Williams gave an update on other things that are going on with the Cares Act. The glass fronts for the Courthouse facilities, and other offices of the courthouse, and said there is a huge shortage of glass right now. Companies are working hard to get everything installed so the courthouse can open back up to traffic coming in. Commissioner Cannon asked if there was an update on the park's recreation equipment. Mr. Williams stated that they are still asking for an answer on that and nothing has changed as of right now. He was hopeful we will get more details in the next few weeks to get things clarified. Clerk Rhoades said she called Congressman Yoho's office regarding Florida Department of Emergency Management's confusing direction about CARES Act funds, once she hears from them she

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and she will get back to the Board members with an update. She specifically cited a presentation by the National Association of Counties on the importance of the recreations department, and that the kids that are being quarantined, the importance and ability for them to get out to these facilities and are pushing hard for them advocate for us, yet FDEM is not allowing the expenditure.

RECOMMENDATION FOR CEI FOR CR238

Chair Cossey and Mr. Williams recommended North Florida Professional Services to perform CEI services for County Road 238 improvements. **Commissioner Jimmy Tallman moved to accept the recommendation and Commissioner Croft seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.**

CITY OF LAKE BUTLER WASTE WATER TREATMENT FACILITY

Commissioner Dobbs spoke to Mr. Fred Sirmones regarding the Board's special meeting, but Mr. Sirmones wasn't aware of it which is why he did not attend.

Commissioner Cannon has reviewed the matter in depth, the City has had lot of help from our legislatures in helping get the funds, and even if it is going to the city, he expects the project to benefit county also. He agreed he doesn't like the City's presentation to the County, but believes it is in the best interest of both governments to grant the City's request. **Commissioner Cannon moved to agree to the City of Lake Butler's request, and direct Mr. Williams and Attorney Wade to work with them to meet their August 31 deadline, and Dobbs seconded the motion. The motion passed, with Commissioner Jimmy Tallman opposed.** Commissioner Cannon also stated a need to start asking for grants to extend lines into the county.

ROAD PROJECTS

Mr. Williams gave a briefing on the road projects. Preparation is ongoing for the bid documents for 238 North and Sawmill Road. 150th Loop has been submitted to the Department of Transportation for final review. 63rd Avenue & 8th Avenue are complete. CR-229 North from SR121 to Baker County, are still in design and working on drainage plans at this time. Commissioner Cannon asked about a meeting regarding 92nd and 150th. Mr. Williams stated that the Florida Department of Transportation has postponed the programs temporarily due to the COVID-19. Mr. Williams will keep the board posted.

No other Department Heads had anything to report.

REPORT FROM KELLIE HENDRICKS RHOADES, CLERK OF COURTS & COMPTROLLER

Clerk Rhoades had nothing to report.

REPORT FROM RUSSELL A. WADE, III, COUNTY ATTORNEY

Hearing has been set. Nothing else to report at this time.

REPORT FROM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Nothing to report or discuss at this time.

With no further business, Chair Cossey adjourned the meeting at 6:40 pm.

Adopted by vote of the Board of County Commissioners on October 19, 2020.