

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA  
SPECIAL MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 9, 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

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 12:30 pm. Commissioner Tallman offered the invocation and led Pledge of Allegiance.

**CITY OF LAKE BUTLER WASTE WATER TREATMENT FACILITY**

City of Lake Butler Mayor Jack Schenck gave a history and status of the infrastructure of the City and summarized the efforts the City has made to obtain the grant for the Waste Water Management Treatment Facility.

Commissioner Jimmy Tallman has been asked what the problem is with the relationship between the County and the City. He answered that from his perspective, there is none. He realized that we all live here, and there's no animosity on his part. He does have concerns with the Waste Water Treatment Facility as there was a spillage of raw sewage. He does not want to tie land to the County to an operation that is not operating well. Mr. Jack Schenck agrees with Commissioner Tallman that there is a cultural problem, but he is asking for the Board to allow use of land to help fix the problem. Commissioner Cannon thanked and appreciated the Mayor for being in attendance at this meeting, but was frustrated that no one else was in attendance with him.

Commissioner Cannon has questions:

1. He asked of the Suwanee River Water Management District what the City and the County's best options are. Representatives from SRWMD answered that several years ago, they met with the City Manager and walked through how the Water Management District can help. The Water Management District's priorities are to remove nitrogen and increase reuse to save water. Studies have been shown how to do this, and it is still ongoing. It was suggested that the Water Management District can help the City further with other grants to solve each other's problems.
2. His second question was to Mayor Schenck: he asked about repairs to pipes and infrastructure and a grant for repairs; what is the biggest issue, pipes or the treatment facility. Mayor Schenck said that they are pursuing both at the same time. Commissioner Cannon asked what the benefits are to the County, and added that he has not seen any, and his responsibility is to the county.

Commissioner Tallman stated that the Department of Corrections amount paid for water and sewer monthly is \$50K. There has been a 9% increase in rates and he has been told by previous operators that for the City's treatment, infiltration is the problem. He is still concerned with management problems of the current facilities.

Commissioner Cannon said that the current infrastructure is not sufficient for him to feel comfortable with a long-term lease to the City. He suggested perhaps that the City buy land from the County and that would relieve the liability and concerns of the County.

Commissioner Tallman said that he still had concerns about the recent spill, and suggested options for treatment. The Suwanee River Water Management District offered to help make sure the situation is safe for the upcoming livestock show.

September 9, 2020  
Special Meeting

The Suwanee Water Management District asked what the City's deadline is for the grant.

Commissioner Cannon moved for the City to do soil testing and do a survey, and until that point, it may not be feasible, and the motion died for a lack of second.

Mayor Schenck asked for a decision from the Board.

**Commissioner Cannon motioned to table the issue at this time until the September 21, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Tallman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

Chair Cossey suggested that the Board move the regular meeting in November to November 17<sup>th</sup>, to allow the new commissioner to sit on the Board for that meeting, as he would be sworn in that day. The Board agreed by general consensus

With no further business, Chair Cossey adjourned the meeting at 1:37 pm.

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