

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 20, 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 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 Croft offered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Tallman welcomed the public and called for public comments.

Jody Redd, of Sapphire Disinfection, approached the Board and announced that he is manufacturing all natural disinfecting products here in Union County. He expressed that he is hoping to expand which will grow the local economy, and offered disinfection services for any large gathering.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Cannon moved to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Perez seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

UNION COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT CORE CONTRACT

Amie Johns, Union County Health Department, requested the Board approve the annual core contract between the Department and the Board, adding that there are no changes and they are requesting a continuation of \$35,000 in funding. **Commissioner Dobbs moved to approve the contract as presented. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

ANNUAL MONITORING OF HAZARDOUS WASTE GENERATORS AGREEMENT

Chair Tallman presented a renewal of an agreement with North Central Florida Regional Planning Council for hazardous waste generators monitoring. **Commissioner Perez moved to accept the agreement as presented. Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion, and all commissioners voted in the affirmative.**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING SERVICES AGREEMENT

Chair Tallman presented a renewal of an agreement with North Central Florida Regional Planning Council for local government planning services. **Commissioner Cannon moved to accept the agreement as presented. Commissioner Perez seconded the motion, and all commissioners voted in the affirmative.**

SHIP PROGRAM SUB-RECIPIENT ADMINISTRATION AGREEMENT

Chair Tallman presented a renewal of an agreement with Suwannee River Economic Council for the administration of the SHIP Program. **Commissioner Dobbs moved to accept the agreement as presented. Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion, and all commissioners voted in the affirmative.**

PROCLAMATION FOR UNION COUNTY'S 100 YEAR CELEBRATION

Commissioner Perez presented the Proclamation celebrating 100 years of Union County, and said it will be read on the day of the event. **Commissioner Perez moved to adopt the Proclamation. Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion, and all commissioners voted in the affirmative.**

RESOLUTION 2021-12, SCRAP DESIGN OF 92ND STREET, 146TH LAND AND 152ND COURT

Commissioner Cannon moved adopt Resolution 2021-12 as presented. Commissioner Dobbs seconded the motion, and all commissioners voted for the motion.

REPORT FROM COUNTY COORDINATOR

Mr. Williams provided an update on the tire amnesty program, stating that it would be a 1-3 day event and is for up to \$25,000. He said the closing for the land for the fire station is set for September 29. He announced that an Employee Assistance Program will go into effect on October 1, that is part of the county's insurance plan and will be no additional cost.

Mr. Williams also said that after the REDI meeting, a contact there has helped him find an additional 5-cent gas tax that is available, and implementing it will allow for more SCRAP and SCOP opportunities, but it is a tight timeline and must be voted on by October 1. Attorney Wade said the tax would be on gas, not diesel, and needs four Board members' vote to pass. Commissioner Perez verified with Mr. Williams that this would make the County eligible for more grant opportunities. Mr. Williams clarified that it must be used for capital projects. Chair Tallman expressed concerns of implementing another tax's effect on the passage of the sales tax for the Fire Department. Commissioner Perez said he thought they needed more time to consider the item, and recommended holding a meeting between the current meeting and October 1. Commissioner Cannon expressed that his conversations with constituents have revealed that they do not want to pay for it. Commissioner Dobbs said that gas is cheaper in Bradford and Columbia, where they have the tax, and expects that the market will adjust and prices at the pump will not change. Mr. Williams expressed concern over being completely dependent on DOT grants for road improvements. Commissioner Cannon said he can't make an informed decision on such a tight timeframe.

Tim Allen, Fire Administrator, said that he has one fire grant pending.

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 had nothing to report.

REPORT FROM RUSSELL A. WADE, III, COUNTY ATTORNEY

Attorney Wade provided an update on the opioid settlement, stating that under the current plan, small counties are receiving a very small amount, about \$5,000. He recommended working with other counties to try to change the plan to get more funds for small counties.

Attorney Wade advised that a new firm be added to the County's representation for the phosphate mining litigation, and that an Interlocal Agreement is proposed by Alachua County. The agreement states that Alachua County will continue to pay for the attorney, and asked that attorney fees be sought in the litigation and these be remitted back to Alachua County if granted. **Commissioner Cannon moved to add the recommended attorney and adopt the Interlocal Agreement with Alachua County. Commissioner Perez seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

Attorney Wade also told the Board that a lawsuit has been served regarding the Fair Labor Standards Act, and recommended to employ John Dickinson, the County's labor attorney, to handle the case and give Mr. Williams the authority to sign documents recommended by legal counsel regarding the suit. **Commissioner Perez moved to employ Mr. Dickinson and give Mr. Williams the authority to sign documents as recommended by counsel. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.**

REPORT FROM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Perez reported that there continues to be a shortage of mosquito chemicals. He also reminded everyone that this is the last meeting before the 100-year celebration, and announced there will be a time-capsule opening ceremony, that displays will be set up at the community center and other festivities. **He asked that the Board approve \$7,500 for the event for construction of a new time capsule and other items, and moved such motion. Commissioner Dobbs remarked that it only happens every hundred years and seconded the motion. All commissioners voted for it.**

Commissioner Dobbs expressed excited about the 100-year celebration.

Chair Tallman said that after talking with community members and 4-H leaders and having a meeting with IFAS, he recommends the Board maintain the current status with the Extension services.

Commissioner Cannon thanked the Road Superintendent for work in his district, and was happy to see Commissioner Croft back.

Commissioner Croft thanked everyone for prayers for him while he was ill.

The meeting adjourned by general consent.

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