

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 21, 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 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.

Jack Schenck, Mayor of the City of Lake Butler, addressed the Board in response to the waste water spill discussed at the Special Meeting regarding the City's Waste Water Treatment Facility on September 9. Mayor Schenck stated that he knew of the spill prior to the meeting, but gained additional information during the meeting. He added that the Department of Environmental Protection was notified after the meeting, DEP representatives inspected the spill and determined that it was less than 1,000 gallons, which is not reportable. He also responded to accusations regarding fecal count violations, stating that in the previous 36 months, there have been two failures, but none on drinking water. He also clarified that the Department of Corrections will pay approximately \$373,000 to the City in revenue for Fiscal Year 19-20, and is the City's largest customer. Revenues for the fiscal year are estimated to be \$771,000, expenditures are \$632,600. A large portion of the excess will be used for debt service on the plants.

Commissioner Dobbs asked how the 200-500 gallon estimate was obtained. Mayor Schenck answered that two City employees working the night of the failure made that estimation, and DEP concurred that the estimated spill was less than 1,000 gallons. He concluded by stating that he is looking forward to the results of DEP's investigation.

Commissioner Tallman stated that wells on County property have been tested, and were clean. He expressed relief at these tests, as this was a large concern.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Cossey called for Board action regarding the Consent Agenda. **Commissioner Tallman moved to approve the consent agenda, and Commissioner Dobbs seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.**

CONTRACT WITH UNION COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Chair Cossey called for Board action regarding the contract with the Union County Health Department for Fiscal Year 2020-2021, indicating it is a continuation contract for the year with no changes. **Commissioner Tallman moved to accept and approve the contract as presented, and Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion. All commissioners voted for the motion.**

AGREEMENT FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING SERVICES

Chair Cossey called for Board action regarding the agreement with the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 for Local Government Comprehensive Planning Services for \$3,500, indicating it is a continuation contract for the year with no changes. **Commissioner Cannon moved to accept and approve the agreement as presented, and Commissioner Croft seconded the motion. All commissioners voted for the motion.**

September 21, 2020
Regular Meeting

Commissioner Tallman stated that several years ago, the amount paid to the planning council was reduced from \$7,000, but that they do a lot of work for Union County, and he believed we should pay more to adequately pay our fair share. He was aware the budget for next year was already adopted, but for the following year, would like to see it increased back to the previous amount.

AGREEMENT FOR ANNUAL MONITORING OF HAZARDOUS WASTE GENERATORS

Chair Cossey called for Board action regarding the agreement with the North Central Florida Planning Regional Council for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 for Annual Monitoring of Hazardous Waste Generators for \$2.778, indicating it is a continuation contract for the year with no changes. **Commissioner Tallman moved to accept and approve the agreement as presented, and Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion. All commissioners voted for the motion.**

ANNUAL REPORT FOR SHIP PROGRAM

Chair Cossey called for Board action regarding the SHIP Annual Report including Fiscal Years 2017-2018, 2018-2019 and 2019-2020. **Commissioner Tallman moved to accept and approve the report as presented, and Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion. All commissioners voted for the motion.**

Commissioner Tallman asked about cuts to the SHIP program for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. Clerk Rhoades answered that the funds were cut for the year, and were replaced at a 50% level from the CARES Act for individual assistance for rent and mortgage relief.

MAP OF RIGHT OF WAY ON 150TH LOOP

Chris Towne, representative from Kimley-Horne approached the Board regarding a right of way map for 150th Loop. Plans for the paving of the road have been submitted to the Department of Transportation, and the Department responded that there was a small area currently maintained by the County, by not recognized by a legal right of way. He recommended the Board adopt the proposed map to incorporate the right of way as it is currently maintained. **Commissioner Tallman moved to adopt the map as presented, incorporating the additional area into the County's legal right of way. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Croft, and all commissioners voted for the motion.**

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Williams provided a list of names that had applied to be on the Union County Economic Development Committee. He recommended the Board appoint Christopher Mecusker, Eugene Dukes, Jesse R. Bielling, III, Bo Bayer, JR Davis, Joe Pietrangelo and Jennie Reed to the committee. **Commissioner Dobbs moved to appoint the listed people to the committee. Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

CORONAVIRUS RELIEF PLAN

Mr. Williams informed the Board that the State has announced that additional funds have been released, for 20% of the allocation, and provided a recommended updated Union County Coronavirus Relief Plan, amending the percentages allocated to parts of the plan. **Commissioner Tallman moved to accept the SHIP CARES Act Funding Agreement, and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Croft. It passed unanimously.**

COPCN APPLICATION

Mr. Williams stated that there are currently two companies that need to renew their COPCN permit with the County, but the ordinance governing this is Ordinance 86-01, and he has identified several areas of it that need to be reviewed. Mr. Williams recommended that the Board grant a two-month extension to both Century and Liberty to allow review of the Ordinance and adoption of any needed changes before the companies submit for a renewed permit. **Commissioner Dobbs moved to grant Century and Liberty a two-month extension on their current permits. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

REPORT FROM COUNTY COORDINATION AND DEPARTMENT HEADS

Mr. Williams provided an update regarding on-going road projects. CR-231 Bridge replacement is currently under construction by Florida Department of Transportation. The Department has informed him that it may be necessary to close the road in February.

Mr. Williams informed the Board that the livestock show held at the Ag Education Building was a great success, with 124 exhibitors, over 20 youth from surrounding counties, and the Union County Livestock Association was able to raise \$2,200 on concessions. Many positive comments were received about the new facility.

Shelton Arnold, Jr., Road Superintendent inquired of the Board regarding purchasing a new mulching head for the mini excavator already owned. He stated the new one has been very beneficial in keeping up maintenance without inmates. The state contract price is \$20,896. **Commissioner Cannon moved to purchase the new mulching head, and Commissioner Dobbs provided a second. It passed unanimously.**

Mary Brown, Library Director, added to the record that the Library Referendum passed with an all-time highest margin.

Wayne Clemons, EMS Director, relayed that the new ambulance has arrived and is available for all Board members that want to see it.

Luke Harlow, IFAS Extension Agent, announced that UF and 4-H programs are allowed to meet in person effective today, and 4-H can now hold in-person meetings again.

REPORT FROM KELLIE HENDRICKS RHOADES, CLERK OF COURTS & COMPTROLLER

Clerk Rhoades had nothing to report.

REPORT FROM RUSSELL A. WADE, III, COUNTY ATTORNEY

Attorney Wade announced there will be a hearing on the Bert J. Harris case on October 6 at 1:15 via Zoom. Commissioner Tallman inquired regarding the Public Records Request, and the attorney responded that they have not responded to the County's last response.

Mr. Williams added that bid advertisements will go out for Sawmill Road, with a bid opening on October 26 at 12:15.

REPORT FROM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Tallman addressed the spill at the City of Lake Butler's waste water plant, stating an assumption has been made and that math estimates computed from the time the pumps ran incorrectly would be approximately 79,000 gallons of waste water spilled. He stated he had spoken out of turn, and was incorrect when he said there was 200,000 gallons. Investigators received a written statement from the relief operator, and he is thankful that the well was tested at the Ag Facility, and the water was clean.

Commissioner Cannon sadly thanked the Road Department, as he has received multiple call from people in his district about the work done with the mulching head. He added to the record that the new ambulance was purchased with CARES Act funding, and is expected to be in service later in the week

With no further business, Chair Cossey adjourned the meeting.

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