

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA  
REGULAR MEETING  
OCTOBER 18, 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: Commissioner Lacey Cannon; Commissioner Willie Croft; Commissioner Channing Dobbs;  
Commissioner Ryan Perez; Dianne Hannon, Board Secretary; Russ Wade, County Attorney

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Chair Tallman called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Commissioner Croft offered the invocation and led Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**Commissioner Dobbs moved to approve a Budget Amendment regarding the Supervisor of Elections Grant Funding. Commissioner Perez seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.**

**Commissioner Dobbs moved to approve the Finance Report. Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.**

**UNION COUNTY BROADBAND CHAMPIONS FOR FAC**

Clerk Rhoades advised the Board that Florida Association of Counties has created a group to help obtain broadband in rural areas, and that James Williams, County Coordinator, had relayed that they are asking the Board nominate two members, ideally the County Coordinator and a commissioner. She further added that he had stated Commissioner Cannon would be the logical choice, as it most heavily effects his district. **The Board agreed by general consensus to nominate Commissioner Cannon and Mr. Williams to represent Union County.**

**CONSIDERATION OF COPCN FOR AMERIPRO**

Toby Witt, EMS Director, explained that this is standard language for COPCN's across the state, and once a county has more than one, that it functions like the private sector and the market will set the rate. He added that this is for DOC and Lake Butler Hospital only, and recommended the Board approve the application. **Commissioner Cannon moved to approve the COPCN Application for Ameripro. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion, and all commissioners voted for the motion.**

**WW GAY ANNUAL CONTRACT RENEWAL**

Clerk Rhoades reported that she had spoken with Mr. Williams, and that this is a renewal of the current contract at the same rate. **Commissioner Cannon moved to renew the WW Gay contract. Commissioner Perez seconded the motion, and all commissioners voted for the motion.**

**DOT GRANT FOR CR-18 AND RESOLUTION 2021-12**

Chair Tallman presented the agreement with Florida Department of Transportation for CR 18 SCOP Grant Engineering services, and the corresponding Resolution 2021-12. **Commissioner Cannon moved to accept the agreement and pass Resolution 2021-12, and Commissioner Dobbs seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.**

**REPORT FROM COUNTY COORDINATOR**

Commissioner Cannon reported that Mr. Williams had a severe allergic reaction and was hospitalized, and asked Mac Johns to present information about the Rec Board. Mr. Johns asked that Alvin Merrix, Bill Lang and Mallory Southwell all be appointed to the Rec Board, with Mrs. Southwell serving as the secretary and a check signer. **Commissioner Dobbs moved to appoint the stated members, including Mallory Southwell as secretary and check signer. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion and it passed without opposition.** Mr. Johns further reported that the board sold 100-Year Celebration t-shirts as a fundraiser, and Babe Ruth recently held their opening day, although it was not as large as the Spring season. He expressed appreciation to Nutrition Hideaway and Andrews Site Prep for their contributions on that day. He said the only thing needed at the complex is a PA system to be able to hold tournaments, and they are working on that. He also expressed that Alex is working out great.

Toby Witt, EMS Director, approached the Board with an update regarding the EMS Department. He said he has been in the position for about three weeks, and the biggest challenge is staff shortage. He relayed that the county needs 2 full-time trucks, and a third during peak hours. He gave some staffing details for how he is meeting the needs for the short-term, including that he has found a way to provide the option to pay call-time employees \$20 per hours in lieu of paying retirement, which is actually a lower cost to the county. He praised the level of training of Union County EMS staff, and stated that he has worked with the medical director and has been able to get paramedics cleared faster so they can start serving the community immediately, without sacrificing their abilities. Mr. Witt closed by saying that staffing is first priority. Commissioner Dobbs praised the staff for their performance at the scene of a severe auto accident a few weeks prior, where he just happened to be one of the first on the scene. Mr. Witt echoed his earlier comments, and said he is very impressed with the level of training.

Tim Allen, Emergency Management Director, told the Board that the fire department received a \$15,000 grant that Mark Hughes applied for, and it is for structural gear.

Luke Harlow, Extension Agent, expressed thanks to Commissioner Cannon for opening the building when a 4-H meeting needed to meet and he had the wrong key.

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

Mr. Wade informed the Board that David Theriaque has requested an executive session be called regarding the HPS Mining Case, and recommended it be on October 26 at 10:00 am. **Commissioner Perez moved to hold an executive session on October 26, at 10:00am, and Commissioner Dobbs seconded it. It passed unanimously.**

**REPORT FROM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Perez said the 100-Year Celebration expressed appreciation to all that contributed to it. Commissioner Dobbs announced that they had recently celebrated Raiford Day, and Chair Tallman said he was looking forward to another 100 years of Union County.

The meeting adjourned by general consent.

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