

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 19, 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 Tallman offered the invocation and led Pledge of Allegiance.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Chair Cossey turned the floor over to County Coordinator Jimmy Williams. On behalf of the other four commissioners, Mr. Williams presented Chair Cossey a token of recognition for her 20 years of service as a County Commissioner, and congratulated her on her upcoming retirement. Each of the other commissioners personally expressed appreciation for her leadership, and congratulated her. Chair Cossey expressed that retirement is bittersweet; that she will miss serving Union County a great deal, but is looking forward to enjoying retirement. She also wished the incoming commissioner the best.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Cossey welcomed the public and called for public comments.

JR Davis approached the Board with questions regarding the Sales Tax Referendum. Board members, Mr. Williams and Clerk Rhoades answered each of his questions.

Jason Waters also approached the Board with questions about the referendum. His questions were likewise answered.

The Board consented that the questions and answers were to be incorporated into Frequently Asked Questions to be compiled for the public.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Tallman moved to approve the consent agenda, and Commissioner Croft seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. Included in the consent agenda were minutes from the June 15, 2020 Regular Meeting, June 15, 2020 Public Hearing, July 20, 2020 Board of Adjustments Public Hearing, August 3, 2020 Workshop, August 3, 2020 Public Hearing, August 17, 2020 Regular Meeting, August 17, 2020 Public Hearing, September 9, 2020 Special Meeting, September 14, 2020 Tentative Budget Hearing, September 21, 2020 Final Budget Hearing and September 21, 2020 Regular Meeting and Budget Amendment 2020-06.

NORTHEAST 8TH AVENUE SURPLUS LAND

Aaron Tetstone approached the Board, and stated that a small road adjacent to his home was closed in 2008, prior to him owning the property, he has had full use of it since that time, but the land has remained the property of the County. He stated he is willing to pay any surveying costs necessary to have to title problem resolved. Mr. Williams said that Ordinance 2015-01 addresses surplus land, and added that this piece of property is not large enough to be built upon. Attorney Wade stated that because the road was closed via Resolution 2008-06, the land automatically reverts to adjacent land owners. He advised that no additional action is needed by the Board, and that he will follow up with Mr. Tetstone to complete any necessary actions.

SW 150TH LOOP ROAD CLOSURE

Mr. Williams informed the Board that there is a portion of 150th Loop that is not needed, and recommended that the Board close the short portion of the road behind the Danville Church of Christ. Attorney Wade stated that upon passing a Resolution closing the road, the ownership of the land would pass to adjacent landowners. **Commissioner Tallman moved to table the matter to allow Attorney Wade to draft a resolution. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

RESOLUTION 2020-10

Commissioner Tallman moved to pass Resolution 2020-10 and the supplemental agreement with extensions regarding SW 150th Loop. Commissioner Dobbs seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

SREC REQUESTS FOR BOARD ACTION

Mr. Williams advised that the SREC has notified him that other counties that they serve have set a cap of \$5,000 for each individual for Coronavirus Relief Funds, and they asked that Union County consider the same. **Commissioner Jimmy Tallman moved to set a cap of \$5,000 per individual for Coronavirus Relief Funds that are processed through the SREC, and Commissioner Dobbs seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.**

Clerk Rhoades informed the Board that there was a request for a previous SHIP grant recipient to refinance his home to lower his interest expense, and in order to do so, the Board needed to approve a subordination agreement. She further advised that this had no financial impact to the County. **Commissioner Dobbs moved, and Commissioner Croft seconded, to approve the subordination agreement for Dillon Clyatt, and all commissioners voted for the motion.**

COPCN ORDINANCE UPDATE

Attorney Wade advised the Board that there is a need to bring our COPCN application fees up to date, which needs to be done through an ordinance. He will prepare the ordinance for advertisement and a vote at the next meeting.

REPORT FROM RUSSELL A. WADE, III, COUNTY ATTORNEY

Attorney Wade updated the Board regarding the pending phosphate mining litigation, stating that a hearing was held earlier in the month, and the case is pending the judge's ruling.

REPORT FROM COUNTY COORDINATOR AND DEPARTMENT HEADS

Mr. Williams gave a briefing on the road projects. He also provided an update regarding the CARES Act, stating staff has met virtually with the liaison assigned to Union County by Florida Department of Emergency Management. He expects the second phase of funding, which is 20% of the allocation, to be released later in the week, and we are ahead of DEM's schedule to move to the third phase of funding, which is reimbursement.

Shelton Arnold, Jr, Road Superintendent, was unable to be heard, and Mr. Williams provided an update on his behalf regarding the erosion on the bridge on CR-229. He stated the bridge has been stabilized and is safe for travel. He also said the new mulching head has arrived and staff will start using it this week.

Mary Brown, Library Director, congratulated Chair Cossey on her retirement.

Wayne Clemons, EMS Director, thanked Chair Cossey for her service to Union County.

Tim Allen, Emergency Management & 911 Director and Interim Fire Chief, told the Board he has applied for a \$35,000 grant for a new air pack, and also a Fire House Subs grant for extrication tools to replace equipment that is nearly 40 years old, and has not had a response on either grant. He also advised that a fiber optic line was cut in Columbia County a few months ago, which impacted the calls to dispatch. He has applied for a \$45,000 grant that will create redundancy in the phone lines and prevent any similar problems in the future. Mr. Allen congratulated Chair Cossey on her retirement.

Luke Harlow, IFAS Extension Agent, echoed the thanks to Chair Cossey from the other directors.

October 19, 2020

Regular Meeting

REPORT FROM KELLIE HENDRICKS RHOADES, CLERK OF COURTS & COMPTROLLER

Clerk Rhoades had nothing to report.

REPORT FROM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Dobbs asked for input from other commissioners regarding a town hall meeting to address questions regarding the sales tax referendum. Attorney Wade advised that the Board could recess this meeting, and still advertise so that the Board would be certain to meet Sunshine Law requirements. Mr. Williams stated that he will work with Clerk Rhoades to publish on the County's website a list of FAQ's from the questions presented during public comments, and any others that are asked outside of the meeting. He is also planning to attend the City of Lake Butler's regular meeting to address questions there.

With no further business, Chair Cossey adjourned the meeting at 7:13 pm.

Adopted by vote of the Board of County Commissioners on November 17, 2020.