

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA  
REGULAR MEETING  
OCTOBER 21, 2019

PRESIDING: Karen Cossey, Chair

RECORDING: Kellie Hendricks Connell, Clerk of Courts

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 called the hearing to order at 6:00 pm. Commissioner Dobbs offered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chair Cossey welcomed the public to the meeting and called for public comments.

Billy Townsend approached the Board to express his appreciation of the County, specifically the Solid Waste Department. He told members about David, a mentally handicapped resident of the County, whose mother passed away and he recently lost his job as a janitor at Shands at Starke. The Providence community has helped him get a place to stay, but it has become unlivable. They are helping build a small home for him, and needed to dispose of the old mobile home. He contacted Kim Hayes, and she provided him with a canister and waived the disposal fees under the County's indigency policy. Since then, Clay Electric, O'Neal Roofing, Hughes Supply and others have donated materials for the construction. He thanked the Board again for their assistance. Chair Cossey expressed appreciation for him helping the less fortunate, and commended Mrs. Hayes for her assistance.

Wayne Godsmark approached the Board, requesting that speed bumps be put in place on SW 146<sup>th</sup> Lane, as people drive very fast down the road. Chair Cossey responded that speed bumps were there years ago, but were removed for EMS purposes. Commissioner Tallman added that former Commissioner Smith had them removed because ambulances were slowed and he was concerned about a lawsuit, and suggested that rumble strips may be a better option. Wayne Clemons, EMS Director, told the Board he was unaware of any problems for EMS. Commissioner Cannon agreed, stating that from an EMS perspective, a small mound isn't enough to make a difference in a life-or-death situation. Mr. Williams informed the Board that this road is being submitted to be repaved and possibly widened, and hoped for a resolution with that project.

Hearing no further public comments, Chair Cossey closed the floor to public comments.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Clerk Connell presented the consent agenda, including minutes from the September 16, 2019 Tentative Budget Hearing, September 16, 2019 Board of Adjustments Meeting, September 30, 2019 Emergency Meeting, October 10, 2019 Special Meeting and October 10, 2019 Public Hearing. **Commissioner Tallman moved to approve the consent agenda, and Commissioner Croft seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.**

**AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

Chair Cossey recognized Brian Barry from the EMS Department for five years of service. Mr. Clemons indicated that he was unable to attend because he was taking care of an ailing family member. Leon Watkin was also recognized for five years of service with the Solid Waste Department. Mrs. Hayes expressed that he has been a

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faithful employee since she assumed the role of Director, and also that he has been instrumental in getting the welding shop operational. Mr. Watkins told the Board that he was grateful for the job, and simply recognized the wasteful spending that was being used to repair dumpsters, and that he knew they could do it in-house much cheaper. Chair Cossey also recognized Emergency Management and 911 Director Tim Allen for 15 years of service, adding that the departments didn't miss a beat when he assumed the duties of the director. Mr. Allen expressed appreciation for the opportunity.

#### **CHRIS TOWNE, KIMLEY-HORN**

Mr. Towne provided an update for all road projects. The bid process has been completed on SW 63<sup>rd</sup> Drive and SE 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and construction should begin soon. He expects to have 90% plans to Mr. Williams by early December. Water Management District permits have been obtained for CR 238N and NE 149<sup>th</sup> Street. He is trying to speed up NE 149<sup>th</sup> Street to get it on the same time frame as CR 238N so that they may be bid and constructed together.

#### **FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT**

Ryan Rehberg and Jay Tucker from the Florida Forest Service delivered the annual report, stating that they tended to five wildfires, authorized approximately 400 burns, and responded to three structure fires, five wrecks and one vehicle fire. The low number of wildfires is due to wet weather, and they expressed appreciation for the Board allowing them to utilize space in the EMS office. Mr. Tucker indicated he will be retiring in four months, after 36 years with the Forest Service, 35 of which were in Union County. He indicated the Service may be reorganizing with his retirement to group Union County with Bradford instead of Baker for the County Forrester. Chair Cossey congratulated him on his retirement.

#### **FALL UPDATE FROM FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

Mr. Stephen Browning updated the Board regarding the Department of Transportation's five-year plan, which includes a left turn lane on CR 231 at SR 121, and that construction will begin to replace the CR 231 bridge in the Spring. He also reminded the Board of upcoming application deadlines, and invited them to attend the upcoming Local Government Transportation Summit.

#### **RECREATION BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

Chair Cossey indicated that Mr. Mac Johns and Mr. Kevin Orton would like to be appointed to the Recreation Board. Commissioner Cannon asked if they would be additional members, or would be replacing some. Mr. Williams indicated that for now, they are additional members, but that some members may be stepping down soon. **Commissioner Tallman moved to appoint Mac Johns and Kevin Orton to the Recreation Board. Commissioner Dobbs seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

#### **BROWNSFIELD PROGRAM**

Chair Cossey informed the Board that only one application was received from the RFQ to handle the Brownsfield areas, from PPM Consultants. She added that this was a very niche industry and wasn't surprised there weren't more, and recommended the Board accept the proposal. **Commissioner Tallman moved to approve the proposal from PPM Consultants. Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

**ESTIMATED SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS**

Chair Cossey presented estimated special assessments from Property Appraiser Bruce Dukes of \$516,420, and called for Board action. **Commissioner Tallman moved to accept the estimate provided by the Property Appraiser. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

**REPORT FROM COUNTY COORDINATOR AND DEPARTMENT HEADS**

Mr. Williams told the Board that, with the help of Kimley-Horn, they were able to meet a very short deadline on a FRDAP Grant, and qualified for a \$165,000 grant. If awarded, it would pay for a new ball field, and upgrade lighting to LED, saving the Recreation Board significantly on the electric bill. He reminded the Board about Rural County Days in January, and told them he needed confirmation by Wednesday to reserve tickets for the reception if they intended to go. Lastly, he informed the Board of a small agriculture grant that he is applying for.

Kim Hayes, Solid Waste Director, presented information regarding two grants that have been awarded. One is a cleanup project for any items or debris that may harbor mosquito larvae, and amounts to \$10,000-\$11,000. The second is a gambusia fish program. These are fish that feed on mosquito larvae, and she is being provided with a pump and two tanks to begin the program.

Tim Allen, Emergency Management Director, told the Board that he recently received a \$10,000 mapping grant for the County.

**REPORT FROM KELLIE HENDRICKS CONNELL, CLERK AND COMPTROLLER**

Clerk Connell had nothing to report.

**REPORT FROM RUSSELL A WADE, II, COUNTY ATTORNEY**

Attorney Wade informed the Board that there is still no order on the Bert Harris case. Commissioner Tallman asked if it is normal for it to take this long, and the attorney indicated that it is normal for the judge to take a long time to respond in large or complicated cases.

**REPORT FROM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Chair Cossey stated that she and Mr. Williams had great success in Washington, DC last week, and made a lot of connections that will benefit the County.

Commissioner Tallman asked that everyone keep Mr. Wilco in their prayers.

With no further business, Chair Cossey adjourned the meeting at 6:47 pm.

**“Adopted on November 18, 2019”**