

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA  
REGULAR MEETING  
NOVEMBER 18, 2019

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 insure that a verbatim record is made.

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

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Chair Cossey welcomed the public to the meeting and called for Board action regarding the Consent Agenda, which included minutes from the September 16, 2019 Regular Meeting, September 23, 2019 Final Budget Hearing, October 21, 2019 Regular Meeting and Budget Amendment 2019-05. **Commissioner Tallman moved to approve the consent agenda, and Commissioner Dobbs seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chair Cossey called for public comments, and hearing none, closed the floor to public comments.

**AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

Chair Cossey called Volunteer Fire Chief Mark Hughes to present an award. Mr. Hughes recognized Mr. Jack Eck for being named the Florida Volunteer Fire Fighter of the year. He stated that Mr. Eck is loyal and dependable, and responds to a call no matter what it is, and expressed that Union County is fortunate to have him as a volunteer.

**RESOLUTION 2019-13 AND SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR SW 63<sup>RD</sup> DRIVE**

Chair Cossey called for Board action regarding Resolution 2019-13. **Commissioner Tallman moved to adopt Resolution 2019-13 and the supplemental agreement as presented for SW 63<sup>rd</sup> Drive. Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion, and it passed by unanimous consent.**

**RESOLUTION 2019-14 AND SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR SE 8<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE**

Chair Cossey called for Board action regarding Resolution 2019-14. **Commissioner Tallman moved to adopt Resolution 2019-14 and the supplemental agreement as presented for SE 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion, and it passed by unanimous consent.**

**SPECIAL EXCEPTION SE19-02, SLAUGHTER HOUSE**

Chair Cossey called for Board action regarding Special Exception Application SE19-02, passed by the Board of Adjustments. **Commissioner Cannon moved, and Commissioner Dobbs seconded, to pass SE19-02. Commissioner Tallman asked that the record reflect that he will abstain from the vote because it is his application. All other commissioners voted for the motion.**

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### **FARM-CITY WEEK PROCLAMATION**

**Commissioner Tallman moved to accept the proposed proclamation of Farm-City Week. Commissioner Dobbs seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.** Commissioner Tallman asked for event dates for Farm-City Week, and Luke Harlow, Extension Agent, responded that the week is declared for November 20-27, and the annual dinner will be on November 21. Chair Cossey added that Farm Bureau is providing the meat, and 4-H clubs are providing side dishes and desserts.

### **TRAVEL POLICY**

Chair Cossey asked Clerk Connell to discuss the proposed travel policy. Clerk Connell answered that this is a codification of current processes, noting that the amounts for meal reimbursements are according to Florida Statutes and will change if the statute changes; and the mileage rate is determined by the IRS standard mileage rate, which will be updated every October 1. **Commissioner Dobbs moved to approve the travel policy as presented. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

### **REPORT FROM COUNTY COORDINATOR AND DEPARTMENT HEADS**

Mr. Williams announced that last Saturday the Volunteer Fire Department partnered with the Red Cross to install smoke detectors, make evacuation plans and other fire safety procedures in 68 homes. He noted that Mr. Eck and Mr. Mickey Foster were instrumental in the success of the program.

Mr. Williams also announced the County has been awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Suwannee Valley Foundation for panels, gates and other equipment at the new Ag Building. He added that the building is nearing completion, that the floors are almost done and it will be ready. He also stated that the fencing has been installed around the perimeter of the facility, and he is also looking into fencing in the retention pond. Mr. Williams stated that construction on the new addition being paid for by the Union County Livestock Association has begun.

Shelton Arnold, Jr, Road Superintendent, announced that because Thanksgiving is next week, his crews will not be rotating through the districts.

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

Clerk Connell thanked Mr. Arnold for repairing furniture in her office. She also informed the Board that bank accounts are being moved to Community State Bank. She stated that this change was already being planned, but the closing of the TD Bank branch has sped up the change.

Clerk Connell also added that the Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) meeting that was held in Union County last week was a huge success. The County was able to make many connections with State and Federal Agencies, and learned of many grant opportunities; and added that we have already had several promising follow-up conversations.

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

Attorney Wade informed the Board that Tax Collector Lisa Johnson has a small piece of property that should be turned over to the County, because the taxes are less than \$250, and tax certificates are not sold for less than that amount. He indicated that the County needs to file a tax deed, and he will work with Mr. Williams and the Clerk to get the proper paperwork completed.

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Attorney Wade also let the Board know that a zoning issue has arisen regarding commercial property, in that there is no zoning for commercial property currently in the County. The Comprehensive Plan does have a category called Commercial Neighborhood, which allows certain small businesses to be placed anywhere, but it is currently very restrictive. He recommends that the Board broaden the definition of the Community Neighborhood in the planning code to make it more useful. He indicated that if that is the pleasure of the Board, he will work with the North Florida Regional Planning Council to draft the proper ordinance. The Board indicated that he should pursue this.

#### **REPORT FROM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Dobbs thanked Mr. Eck and Mr. Foster for their efforts on Saturday working with the Red Cross.

Commissioner Tallman wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, and encouraged all to spend quality time with their family during the holiday.

Commissioner Cannon thanked Mr. Arnold for the Road Department's work in District 4. He indicated that many citizens have expressed appreciation, and that they have gotten things cleaned up that they have been requesting for years.

Commissioner Croft wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Before Chair Cossey adjourned the meeting, Kathleen Gunter approached the Board regarding a neighbor shooting in her neighborhood. She stated that multiple neighbors have bullet holes in their property, and a cow has been killed in a neighboring pasture. Chair Cossey asked Attorney Wade to respond, and he indicated that this is a problem for law enforcement. Ms. Gunter indicated that she has made 31 calls to the Sheriff's office, and that the State Attorney originally indicated he would charge the offender with a hate crime, but nothing has been done, and she is concerned for the safety of her family and the entire neighborhood. Attorney Wade told Ms. Gunter that this body has no power to help with this situation directly, as this is really an issue for law enforcement, and suggested she file for an injunction for repeat violence with the Courts. Clerk Connell indicated that the Clerk's office has a packet that she can fill out to submit.

With no further business, Chair Cossey adjourned the meeting at 6:30 pm.

*Adopted by vote of the Board of County Commissioners on December 16, 2019.*