

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 27, 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 Channing Dobbs; Commissioner Ryan Perez; Dianne Hannon, Board Secretary; Russ Wade, County Attorney; Jimmy Williams, County Coordinator; Pamela Woodington, Finance Director

RECORD ESTABLISHED

On December 20, 2021 at 6:00 pm, Chair Tallman asked that it be established the meeting is on the record, but not called to order due to the fact that there is no quorum present. He announced that the scheduled meeting will be held on December 27, 2021 at 12:15 pm.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chair Tallman called the meeting to order on December 27 at 12:15 pm. Commissioner Cannon 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 the consent agenda presented by Clerk Rhoades, which included minutes from the November 15, 2021 Regular Meeting, November 15, 2021 Reorganizational Meeting, November 15, 2021 Planning and Zoning Public Hearing, November 23, 2021 Executive Sessions, December 7, Special Meeting, December 8, 2021 Executive Session and Budget Amendment 2022-02, and the Finance Report. Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

FUEL CARD POLICY

Chair Tallman turned the floor over to Clerk Rhoades to discuss the proposed fuel card policy. Clerk Rhoades advised that the policy has two minor changes made by Mr. Williams, both of which provide more discretion for disciplinary action for misuse of the fuel cards. **Commissioner Dobbs moved, and Commissioner Cannon seconded, to approve the fuel card policy as presented. The motion passed unanimously.**

APPLICATION FOR FUNDING FOR RESTRIPING OF CR-241 FROM 238N TO COUNTY LINE

Chair Tallman asked Mr. Williams to explain the item. Mr. Williams answered that there is funding available to apply for an additional safety project. **Commissioner Cannon moved, and Commissioner Dobbs seconded, to apply for funds to restripe CR-241 from 238N to the County line. The motion passed unanimously.**

UNION COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT WIC LEASE

Mr. Williams advised the Board that the Health Department pays, and the County has no financial obligation, but needs approval to lease space from Perez Enterprises. **Commissioner Cannon moved to approve the lease agreement. Commissioner Dobbs seconded the motion. Commissioner Perez announced that due to a conflict of interest relating to Perez Enterprises, he will abstain from voting. All commissioners voted for the motion.**

AGREEMENT WITH JONES EDMONDS FOR LANDFILL MONITORING

Mr. Williams introduced a representative from Jones Edmonds, who approached the Board regarding continuing to monitor wells at the old landfill, which was closed in 1997. He said that Department of Environmental Protection release the obligation of maintaining an escrow account, but still requires the monitoring. There was a four-year

lapse in testing while communicating with DEP. Jones Edmonds is asking for approval for the current work order to continue for next fiscal year, and will need a new permit application. Discussion ensued over DEP not releasing the county from monitoring, and how to stop the expense of monitoring. Chair Tallman noted that this has been going on for a long time. Mr. Williams asked if Jones Edmonds would have any information on landfills that have been released, and he answered that he could get it. **Commissioner Cannon moved to accept the work order, and Commissioner Perez seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.**

CONTRACT WITH LAKE BUTLER HOSPITAL

Mr. Williams explained that a contract has been arranged that Lake Butler Hospital will pay transport fees when no insurance is available to bill a patient. Clerk Rhoades asked how the billing company would know that it is a hospital transport, and Mr. Williams answered that it will all be established at the time of transport. **Commissioner Dobbs moved to accept the contract as presented with Lake Butler Hospital, and Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.**

CULVERT PERMIT APPLICATION

Chair Tallman asked Mr. Williams to elaborate on the proposed culvert permit application. Mr. Williams responded that there is an overload on culvert permits, and the County crew is backed up for installation. He added that no other county that he is aware of installs permits, and recommends that Union County follow their lead. The permit costs \$80, but the County bears a much higher cost to install a culvert. Commissioner Dobbs expressed that he believes that mandating mitered ends will be in the best interest of the County for maintenance purposes. Mr. Williams answered him, saying that requirement is on the application. Chair Tallman told everyone that the County should honor the permits that have already been approved and install those. **Commissioner Dobbs moved, and Commissioner Perez seconded, to approve the Culvert Permit Application. It passed unanimously.**

REPORT FROM COUNTY COORDINATOR

Mr. Williams reported that mediation with HPS II will take place on January 21 at 9:00 am, with he, Chair Tallman and legal counsel representing the county, and also that a workshop regarding EMS Commercial Special Assessment will be held on Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at 5:15 pm. He reminded everyone that Rural County Days will be in Tallahassee on January 26-27. Mr. Williams also stated that the state is redistricting, and it appears that we will be gaining Chuck Brannen as our Representative.

Mr. Williams communicated to the Board that he is meeting with Bob McKee and Chris Doolin regarding a change in language for additional funding for the Emergency Distribution. He also added that the last of the work done from repairs made with insurance proceeds are being completed. Mr. Mac Johns approached the Board, and stated that they need land cleared to make room for football practice fields.

REPORT FROM RUSSELL A. WADE, III, COUNTY ATTORNEY

Mr. Wade asked that the Board authorize Mr. Williams to negotiate the ongoing FLSA case, and report back to the Board for approval of an agreement. **Commissioner Dobbs moved to give the recommended authority to Mr. Williams and Commissioner Perez seconded it. It passed unanimously.**

He also announced that there has been a settlement with the State regarding the opioid case, but the current distribution does not include any money going directly to small counties.

REPORT FROM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Perez praised the EMS Department, stating that he recently needed to take his daughter there, and his family received excellent service.

Commissioner Cannon wished everyone a happy New Year.

Chair Tallman said that there is a dispute in District 3 regarding easements, and there is a question regarding the status of a road being a county road. Attorney Wade gave a synopsis of the statutes that will determine if the road

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belongs to the county. No resolution was reached as the details of the county's maintenance of the road was unknown. Chair Tallman expressed that he hopes that the situation can be worked out between the parties.

Commissioner Perez also addressed a concern from a citizen regarding putting a flashing stop sign at the end of CR 237-S at SR 100. Mr. Williams said he would talk to FDOT about it.

The meeting adjourned by general consent at 1:07 pm.

Adopted by vote of the Board of County Commissioners on February 21, 2022.