

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 22, 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, Chairman

RECORDING: Pam Woodington, Finance Director

ATTENDING: Commissioner Lacey Cannon; Commissioner Willie Croft; Commissioner Channing Dobbs; Commissioner Jimmy Tallman; Dianne Hannon, Board Secretary; Russ Wade, County Attorney

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Commissioner Tallman offered the invocation and led Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chris Towne, Kimley-Horn, updated the Board regarding ongoing road projects. He stated right-of-way issues still need to be resolved for 150th Loop. He recently met with FDOT, and relayed that road projects with safety issues are being given a higher priority for funding. He also addressed CR-238N, and stated that questions have arisen about the required thickness of the asphalt. FDOT asked that a traffic study be conducted to verify the truck traffic is not as heavy as originally planned for, so the thickness of the asphalt can be reduced. The cost of the study will be reimbursable under the grant. **Commissioner Tallman moved to accept Mr. Towne's recommendation to pay \$500 for a traffic study. Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

Phil Bishop, North Florida Professional Services, stated he inspected the courthouse roof before the holidays and was present to give the report to the Board. He reviewed the plans, and performed a physical inspection of the roof. The roof was in overall good shape. There was some leakage from Hurricane Irma, but no damage as a result of the storm. There are some changes that should be made to the roof to prevent further damage. The roof was not terminated properly where the newest addition meets the older part of the structure. There are ventilations and other equipment attached to the roof that are allowing water to leak in. Additionally, some mortar joints around the original structure from 1930 are deteriorating and allowing water to penetrate, and there are some leakage damages on the inside. The biggest problem on the roof is the flat roof over the east and west wings, which is almost completely flat. Mr. Bishop recommends installing pitched roof and additional drains. He advised that some costs associated with the leaks during Hurricane Irma may be recoverable from FEMA, and that he could work with staff to document those costs. He estimated that repairs for the improperly installed roof on the addition would be \$60,000-\$70,000, the brick work on the original building would be \$50,000-\$60,000 and to install pitches and drains on the wings would be roof \$60,000-\$70,000. He also recommended a contract for annual review, which would be \$3,000-\$5,000. No action was taken on this matter.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes were presented from the following meetings: December 13, 2018 Public Workshop, December 17, 2018 Regular Meeting and the December 17, 2018 Public Hearing of the Planning & Zoning Board. **Commissioner Croft moved to accept all minutes as presented. Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

FINANCE REPORT

Commissioner Dobbs moved to pay the invoices presented by the Finance Department and Commissioner Dobbs provided a second. The motion passed without opposition.

RMC WARDEN, MR. JOSEPH EDWARDS

Mr. Edwards introduced himself to the Board, adding that he began reporting to RMC on Friday. He recognized that Union County has a unique relationship with prisons. He informed them that he is looking forward to a positive working relationship, is available to help the County anyway needed, as long as it fits in their policy.

UNION COUNTY RIDING CLUB

Gary Cothran, Vice-President of the Union County Riding Club presented the Board with the Harlis R. Ellington Memorial Award for their help and support in obtaining new lighting for their riding arena.

RESOLUTION 2019-01, SMALL COUNTY GRANT, WAYNE CLEMONS

Mr. Clemons addressed the Board, stating that a grant has been approved for fitness equipment for the EMS station, and a Resolution of the Board is needed to accept the funds. **Commissioner Tallman moved to adopt Resolution 2019-01 as presented. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

MARJORIE DRIGGERS AND WILLIAM MCGILL PROCLAMATION

Attorney Wade read the Proclamation honoring the efforts of Marjorie Driggers and William "Bill" McGill in preserving the history of Union County. **Commissioner Tallman moved to accept the Proclamation as presented. Commissioner Dobbs seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

CHANGE ORDERS FOR CR-199 & 233RD LANE

Chair Cossey discussed a change order of a decrease of \$4,722.89 for 233rd Lane, and Pam Woodington informed that the project is now complete. **Commissioner Tallman moved to accept the Change Order for 233rd Lane. Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

Chair Cossey discussed a change order of a decrease of \$21,236.05 for CR-199, and that it should be complete by the end of February. **Commissioner Cannon moved to accept the Change Order for 233rd Lane. Commissioner Dobbs seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

REPORT FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS

Kim Hayes, Solid Waste Director updated the Board on the maintenance of the Worthington Springs EMS Station and the construction of the Agriculture Building.

Shelton Arnold, Jr., Road Superintendent had nothing to report.

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Mary Brown, Public Library Director introduced library employee Priti McNutt. Ms. McNutt been employed at the library for over eighteen years and is currently enrolled in college seeking a degree in Library Science.

Wayne Clemons, EMS Director, expressed appreciation for the inmate supervision provided by Mrs. Hayes. He informed the Board he has state meetings in Daytona this week. Commissioner Cannon addressed some billing concerns with Mr. Clemons. The billing company billed very little for the month of December, but it was caught up in January, and the matter was resolved.

Commissioner Cannon asked Mr. Clemons to compile costs to add a rescue station in Providence. He stated that he doesn't feel that that end of the County is being serviced properly. Commissioner Cannon would also like Mr. Clemons to look at numbers to change the operation to Fire-Rescue instead of EMS. Mr. Clemons stated that approximately half of the staff is dual certified, and that he will have information at the February meeting.

Mark Hughes, Volunteer Fire Chief, reported two of their trucks are no longer serviceable. He stated he is looking for grants to help with the purchase of a fire truck, and added that most grants will require a 10% match from the County. Commissioner Cannon questioned where the fire truck in Providence is stored. Mr. Hughes stated it has been stored for fourteen years at the home of volunteer Jim Rooney. Commissioner Cannon also questioned Mr. Hughes about the number of volunteer firemen, how many were active and recruiting practices.

REPORT FROM KELLIE HENDRICKS CONNELL, CLERK OF COURTS

Clerk Connell was absent due to her father being in the hospital.

REPORT FROM RUSSELL A. WADE, III, COUNTY ATTORNEY

Mr. Wade introduced Attorney David Theriaque, additional counsel for land-use related claims, including the claim recently filed under the Bert Harris Act. Mr. Theriaque informed the Board that under the Bert Harris Act, the County has 90 days of a claim being submitted to issue a settlement letter. Florida Statutes set forth eleven options, ranging from repealing the Comprehensive Plan Amendment to taking no action. If the Board wishes to not repeal the amendment, Mr. Theriaque recommends a motion to the Board directing him to provide a settlement letter to the attorneys who submitted the Bert Harris Claim selecting Option 11, taking no action by the governmental entity. Commissioner Cannon verified that selecting Option 11, simply states the County is not making any changes to decisions previously made. Mr. Theriaque confirmed that, stating that Option 11 implies that the County stands by the action that was made. **Commissioner Tallman moved to direct Mr. Theriaque to send the required letter, and select Option #11, indicating that the Board does not intend to repeal the Comprehensive Plan Amendment. Commissioner Croft proved a second and it passed unanimously.**

Attorney Wade reminded Commissioners that any message relating to public business should be provided to Clerk Connell or forwarded to their County email account.

Attorney Wade explained to the Board that there was a \$75,000 settlement offer for the HPS attorney fees in the public record request. He advised that by rejecting the settlement offer, we would continue in the Court system, and would continue to increase the fee liability that could be incurred. Attorney Wade advised that there are aspects to consider, including the risk of incurring additional costs. **Commissioner Cannon moved to accept the \$75,000 settlement offer, and Commissioner Croft seconded the motion.** Commissioner Cannon relayed that he believes in considering the risk of additional costs, accepting the offer makes the most business sense. **The motion passed with Commissioner Tallman opposed.**

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REPORT FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Dobbs thanked Mr. Arnold for all the help in District 2.

Commissioner Tallman expressed Commissioner Tallman thanked Pam Woodington, Kim Hayes and Wilson Whidden for all of their efforts in completing the Agriculture Building.

Commissioner Cannon thanked Mr. Arnold for all of the efforts of the Road Department in District 4. He added that they will soon begin putting up the historical markers in his district.


Chair Cossey adjourned the meeting at 6:57 pm.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:



Karen Cossey, Chair



Kellie Hendricks Connell, Clerk of Courts