

FEBRUARY 4, 2014

JASPER, FLORIDA

REGULAR SESSION

The Board of County Commissioners, Hamilton County, Florida, met in regular session on Tuesday, February 4, 2014, at 9:00 a.m. in the Board Meeting Room, 207 Northeast First Street, Jasper, Florida. Present were Commissioners Josh Smith, Robert Brown, Randy Ogburn, Beth Burnam and Buster Oxendine, a full Board being present. Also present was County Attorney John McCormick, County Coordinator Louie Goodin and Attorney Cliff Adams.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Josh Smith and led in prayer by John McCormick with the Pledge of Allegiance being led by Chairman Smith.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Katie Rooney, with the Hamilton Humane Society, advised the Board that their organization is operating out of the North Florida Paws facility in Jennings and requested that the Board support the Humane Society by attending a Spay-ghetti Dinner and silent auction on February 22, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

BAYNARD WARD – SUWANNEE VALLEY ELECTRIC – INTRODUCTION OF NEW CEO

Baynard Ward, Public Relations representative for SVEC, introduced the new CEO Mike McWaters. Mr. McWaters stated that SVEC will continue to partner with the community and work together. Chairman Smith stated that the Board is thankful for the cooperation with SVEC through the years.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Motion by Commissioner Brown to approve the Consent Agenda. Second was made by Commissioner Oxendine, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

DISCUSSION OF RURAL HEALTH CLINIC

Executive Director of the Health Department Mark Lander and Operations Manager Brenda Brown addressed the Board regarding the contractor for the county's OB-GYN provider. Mr. Lander stated that he is considering contracting with the Primary Health Care Clinic rather than the University of Florida for the OB-GYN services for the county. Mr. Lander explained the benefits of keeping the contract for the services local and also requested support of the Board. The Board agreed by unanimous consent to allow Mr. Lander to proceed with a contract with the Primary Health Care Clinic for the OB-GYN services.

County Coordinator Louie Goodin provided the Board with copies of the marquee signage for the clinic. After discussing the quote, the Board directed Mr. Goodin to get three (3) quotes for the sign and also discussed allowing D&S to re-submit due to their quote now being a public record.

HOURS OF OPERATION – PAPA’S MARKET – JOANN TOWNSEND

Joe Ann Townsend, owner and operator of Papa’s Market, addressed the Board regarding the allowable operating hours and requested that the Board consider approving an extension or amendment to the current ordinance. Ms. Townsend explained her operation, licensing and why she is requesting that her establishment be allowed to remain open until 1:00 a.m. County Attorney John McCormick then reviewed the current and past ordinances establishing 12:00 a.m. as the time that all such businesses in the county must close. Commissioner Burnam stated that she talked to the Sheriff’s Department and they all said that they have never had issues with Papa’s Market; however, her concern would be other businesses not handling an extension properly. Ms. Townsend stated that she felt that it was unfair to punish the three (3) like businesses in the county due to the prior owners not being willing to follow the law. Mr. McCormick advised the Board that if the Board is considering taking action regarding the request that it would require an ordinance change. Commissioner Ogburn stated that he is concerned about re-opening this issue due to the recommendations of the current ordinance by Law Enforcement and the fact that there have been no complaints since changing the ordinance. Commissioner Oxendine stated that he agreed with Commissioner Ogburn regarding the issue and that the issues have subsided since the change of the ordinance. Commissioner Brown stated that he could see both sides of the issue. Chairman Smith then stated that currently the Board doesn’t appear to support the request being made by Ms. Townsend. Ms. Townsend stated that though she doesn’t agree with the decision of the Board, she respects the Board’s decision and thanked them for their time.

Mr. Goodin presented the Board and legal staff with a draft Hospital Services Agreement for county employees. The Board agreed to table the issue until the Board and legal staff has had time to review the agreement.

ROAD PAVING PROJECTS – STATUS REPORT

Engineer Greg Bailey gave the Board a status report on the current road and building projects.

CR-135 – Mr. Bailey advised the Board that Anderson Columbia is working on setting the headwalls and also the survey data for the Hunter Creek Bridge extension for the CR-135 paving project.

LOVES TRUCK BY-PASS – Mr. Bailey advised the Board that the Davis’s are still reviewing the third (3rd) option and should make a decision soon. Mr. Bailey also advised the Board that the removal of the retention pond will be up to Loves due to owning the property. Mr. Bailey then advised the Board that he would get with staff and set up a meeting with the interested parties and FDOT.

COURTHOUSE PARKING LOT – Mr. Bailey stated that he will be meeting with Road Superintendent James Bell regarding the preparation and paving of the parking lot by Anderson Columbia.

NW 23rd BLVD. – The Board reviewed the fence proposal options for Buckhead Farms (David King). Attorney Cliff Adams advised the Board that he discussed the previous discussion by the Board to only rebuild the fence one (1) time rather than twice with Mr. King and that in order for him to donate the property, the Board would need to accept option 1 which would be to construct a temporary fence and then using his materials, rebuild the main fence. The Board agreed by unanimous consent to accept option 1 when to right-of-way is ready to be purchased. Commissioner Burnam also discussed the need to have parcel #26 flagged according to the survey in order to determine the exact location of the road. After a discussion of the issue, the Board agreed in principal to accept option #1 for Buckhead Farms and also to have engineer Greg Bailey assist with establishing the actual roadway as stated on the right-of-way map for parcel #26 flagged.

SHIP PROGRAM – STATUS REPORT

County Coordinator Louie Goodin advised the Board that Mr. Nabors was attending a CDBG webinar and that there was nothing new to report.

VETERAN’S MEMORIAL PARK – STATUS REPORT

County Coordinator Louie Goodin stated that according to VSO Clay Lambert that there nothing new to report; however, construction is still moving right along.

SUWANNEE RIVER REGIONAL LIBRARY – BETTY LAWRENCE – WAGE RAISES

Suwannee River Regional Library Director Betty Lawrence presented the Board with the Library’s State Aid Funding Grant guidelines. Ms. Lawrence also discussed with the Board how the Inter-Local Agreement came about and the range of salaries for the Library employees. Ms. Lawrence advised the Board that the salary range for Library employees is the same for all counties in the region and that she is seeking a salary increase from the Suwannee County Board of County Commissioners for all Library employees. Commissioner Ogburn and other members of the Board shared their concerns and doesn’t anticipate that Suwannee County will approve a raise until the 2014 – 2015 fiscal year.

HAMILTON COUNTY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY – STATUS REPORT – SUSAN RAMSEY

Economic Development Director Susan Ramsey was not present for the meeting; however, the minutes from their previous meeting was provided for the Board.

DISCUSSION OF CROSSROADS FIRE DEPARTMENT BUILDING REPAIRS

County Coordinator Louie Goodin presented the Board with plans and estimates for the remodel and upgrade of the Crossroads Fire Department. After reviewing the plans, the Board directed staff to further develop the plans, schedule a walk-thru for the local contractors and allow them to provide a bid for labor only with the county to provide the materials. The Board requested that staff have the bids for approval for one of the two (2) meetings in March if possible.

- Motion by Commissioner Ogburn to allow staff to develop plans for the Crossroads Fire Department, schedule a walk-thru for the local contractors and bid the project. Second was made by Commissioner Oxendine, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

REQUEST FOR QUOTES FOR OBSOLETE VEHICLES

This item was mistakenly placed on the agenda and will appear on the March 4, 2014 agenda.

DISCUSSION OF REDISTRICTING PROCESS

The Board discussed the letter from Superintendent Tom Moffses stating that the School Board no longer wishes to participate in the redistricting process. County Attorney John McCormick recommended that the Board continue with the redistricting process. The Board discussed making the final determination of the lines after the November election and discussed the legal issues with legal staff as to whether to proceed or not.

- Motion by Commissioner Oxendine to accept legal staff's recommendation to proceed with phase four (4) and five (5) of the redistricting process through 2014 and to make the final determination of the district lines in 2015. Second was made by Commissioner Ogburn, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Commissioner Oxendine stated that he supports option #1 based on the decision per the Florida Statute and legal council's advice.

APPROVE BILLS

- Motion by Commissioner Oxendine to approve the bills (vouchers 100291 – 100494 and checks 044574 – 044682). Second was made by Commissioner Ogburn, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

The Board also pulled voucher 100386 (Daniels Funeral Home) regarding a discrepancy of the bill and will pay upon legal opinion of the expenditure.

IRC FUND REQUEST – TOWN OF JENNINGS

- Motion by Commissioner Ogburn to declare an emergency and approve the request by the Town of Jennings in the amount of \$975.00 from the IRC funds. Second was made by Commissioner Burnam, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Commissioner Ogburn requested that staff contact FDOT regarding the litter on HWY 41 and would like to see the inmates used when possible.
- Commissioner Ogburn also advised the Board of the funding issue with Jewitt Street. Commissioner Ogburn stated that after the FEMA reimbursement that the project will be approximately \$20,489.68 short with the Town of White Springs unable to pay the balance. Commissioner Ogburn recommended that the county absorb the cost and the Board agreed by unanimous consent.
- Commissioner Burnam advised the Board that the first opportunity for Ethics Training will be on March 27th.
- Commissioner Oxendine directed staff to make sure that the bids for the Crossroads Fire Department are in-line with the wishes of the Board.
- Chairman Smith shared with the Board comments from a Volunteer Fire Fighter about the lack of response from the VFD's in the county.
- Commissioner Burnam also agreed to replace Chairman Smith on the SVTA Board.
- County Attorney John McCormick addressed the board regarding the possibility of placing a VFD at the SR-6 / I-75 Interchange in order to lower the ISO rating. County Coordinator explained that Dixie County has established unmanned stations around their county so that all areas have something within the five (5) mile radius. After a lengthy discussion, staff advised that they will research the issue and report back to the Board.

There being no further business before the Board, the Chairman recessed the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

JOSH SMITH, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

GREG GODWIN, EX-OFFICIO CLERK