

February 21, 2017

JASPER, FLORIDA

REGULAR SESSION

The Board of County Commissioners, Hamilton County, Florida, met in regular session on Tuesday, February 21, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Meeting Room, 207 Northeast First Street, Jasper, Florida. Present were Commissioners Robert Brown, Randy Ogburn, Beth Burnam, William Mitchell and Josh Smith, a full Board being present. Also present was County Coordinator Louie Goodin and Attorney Cliff Adams. County Attorney John McCormick was absent due to being sick.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Randy Ogburn and led in prayer by County Attorney John McCormick with the Pledge of Allegiance being led by Chairman Ogburn.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

PROJECT BARK – DISCUSSION

Attorney Cliff Adams presented the Board with the First Amendment To Purchase and Sale Agreement for the Board to review. Mr. Adams explained the purpose of the agreement and stated that he is awaiting a response by PCS Phosphate.

VALDOSTA / LOWNDES SEWER SPILL

Attorney Cliff Adams presented the Board with a draft Resolution regarding the Valdosta / Lowndes sewer spill. Mr. Adams reviewed the document with the Board and stated that once approved that it should be forwarded to the entities. Chris Mericle addressed the Board and recommended that the Board approve the resolution and to also include the Alapaha River and other contributories in the resolution. James Rye also requested that the Board

pass the resolution and continue to work to stop the spills. Don McCallister stated that he would also like to see the contamination stopped. Deanna Mericle encouraged the Board to pass the resolution and to involve other affected local governments to assist with a resolution to the contamination issue. The Board stated that they intend to involve the other county governments to assist with pushing the State Agencies and the EPA to do their job. Mark Lander, with the Department of Health, advised the Board that EPA has made contact with his office and has stated that they are monitoring the issue closely.

- Motion by Commissioner Mitchell to adopt the Resolution with the recommended changes being made (add the Alapaha River, Suwannee and the other affected waterways. Second was made by Commissioner Brown, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

ROAD PAVING PROJECTS – STATUS REPORT

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

NW 34TH AVE. / CR-145 JOE STALLINGS – County Coordinator Louie Goodin presented the Board with a map outlining the concerns by Joe Stallins regarding the interchange of NW 34th Ave. and CR-145. Engineer Greg Bailey that NW 34th Ave. needs to be brought into CR-145 at a perpendicular angle. After a lengthy discussion, the Board agreed to allow staff to work on a solution to the road issues as outlined by Mr. Stallins.

LOVES TRAVEL STOP ENTRANCE – Mr. Bailey advised the Board that the SRWMD has requested additional information and that his staff are working on the site plan for the lighting at the intersection.

SW 79TH DRIVE – Mr. Bailey advised the Board that the surveyor has requested a change order for the type of survey in order to have the legal descriptions for the properties that must be obtained for the additional right-of-way.

- Motion by Commissioner Smith to approve the request for Cardno as recommended by Engineer Greg Bailey in the amount of \$7,411.75. Second was made by Commissioner Burnam, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

SW 55TH DRIVE – Mr. Bailey advised the Board that he has received the survey for the SW 55th Drive paving project and is in the process of putting the paving project together.

CR-137 – Mr. Bailey stated that he FDOT estimate appears to be approximately \$500,000 short. The Board agreed to allow staff to request additional funding for the project.

FDOT SCOP PROGRAM – Mr. Bailey advised the Board that the SCOP program is now available to the Municipalities and that currently District 2 has approved two (2) projects: Oaks Street from CR-150 to the city limits in Jennings and Kendricks Street from Suwannee to Cheshire in White Springs.

NW 23RD BLVD. – County Coordinator Louie Goodin presented the lowest quote for the high fencing to be constructed for the NW 23rd Blvd. paving project. Mr. Goodin stated that the quote is from Jasper Hardware in the amount of \$4,681.25.

- Motion by Commissioner Burnam to approve the quote from Jasper Hardware for the high fence as recommended by County Coordinator Louie Goodin in the amount of \$4,681.25. Second was made by Commissioner Mitchell, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Mr. Bailey also stated that the milling needed for the Gentivia Farms project previously outlined by Commissioner Smith is 1,700 tons.

SHIP / CDBG PROGRAM – STATUS REPORT

Ship Administrator Spencer Nabors gave the Board an update on the current CDBG and Ship projects. Mr. Nabors presented the Board with a copy of the current LHAP for review and stated that he will make comments in the next meeting or so that will cover the next period from 2017 – 2020.

HAMILTON COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD 0.25 MILLAGE REFERENDUM

Attorney Cliff Adams advised the Board that they are required by law to approve the language on the ballot for the Hamilton County School Board's request for a referendum.

- Motion by Commissioner Burnam to approve the official Ham. Co. School Board Referendum Ballot and to direct Supervisor of Elections Laura Hutto to hold the election. Second was made by Commissioner Brown, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

REQUEST FOR COUNTY TO REIMBURSE VEHICLE EXPENSE

Commissioner Burnam requested guidance from the Board in order to properly handle the request from Nathan Griffin for his vehicle expense due to his wife running off of the roadway and hitting a hole which caused damage to the front and back tires. Commissioner Burnam explained the accident and advised the Board that the county's insurance denied the claim and that she wasn't in favor of the reimbursement due to others having been denied. Nathan Griffin was present and also explained the accident as it occurred and also shared photographs of the hole beside the road. The Board discussed the accident as to there being some fault of Ms. Griffin for leaving the road right of way.

- Motion by Commissioner Burnam to deny the claim as presented by the Griffin's for reimbursement due to the accident on August 28, 2016. Second was made by Commissioner Brown, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

BIO FERTILIZER STOCKPILING CONCERNS

The Board had previously determined to re-visit the Bio Fertilizer stockpile concerns. Kevin Wright, with Generation Farms, was present to discuss any issues that the Board or public may have. Commissioner Smith stated that he feels that Generation Farms is currently doing everything possible to adhere to the best practices. Mr. Wright stated that the company has made changes to their operating practices in order to be a good neighbor to the nearby residences. James Rye, a resident of close proximity to the farm, explained that Generation Farms has been better and is doing what they can to eliminate the adverse effects on neighbors. Logan Ulmer, the Farm Manager, explained how the application of fertilizer is being handled. Commissioner Burnam stated that Arsenic has been detected in wells that are in close proximity to the stockpiles of the Bio Fertilizer. Mr. Wright explained the process and stated that Arsenic is not present in the type of fertilizer being used. Mr. Wright offered to provide documentation as to the ingredients of the Bio Fertilizer. Chris Mericle questioned Mr. Wright as to when the testing of the fertilizer is being performed on the pasteurization or raw fertilizer. Mr. Rye requested that the farm use

pasteurized fertilizer near his residence due to the offensive odor of the raw fertilizer.

HAMILTON COUNTY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY – STATUS REPORT

Economic Development Director Susan Ramsey gave the Board a status report on the current projects. Ms. Ramsey advised the Board that according to her sources that Visit Florida may still receive State funding; however, Enterprise Florida will probably not be funded any longer. Ms. Ramsey stated that Preferred Rentals has agreed to subsidy for their extension of their business and the additional jobs and services being provided. Ms. Ramsey also stated that Cultive Farms has also submitted a grant request. Ms. Ramsey advised the Board that Swift Straw is operating in the old ESP building and seeking to hire local individuals. The company will begin by employing approximately twenty (20) employees in the initial year and eventually purchase the building. Ms. Ramsey reminded the Board of the Interstate Task Force meeting tomorrow at 11:00 a.m. at the Development Authority Conference room. Cheek and Scott will be opening in March. Ms. Ramsey announced that the Chili Cook-off will be Saturday, February 25th and that she will be hosting a job fair for local jobs in the next couple of weeks. The Board directed staff to seek to assist Ms. Ramsey with establishing a date for the Technical Working Group meeting.

FUNDING REQUEST – PURCHASE OF SHIRTS FOR THE HAMILTON COUNTY CERT TEAM

- Motion by Commissioner Smith to approve the request for shirts for the Cert Team in the amount of \$751.00. Second was made by Commissioner Mitchell, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR THE ASSISTANT TO THE FIRE COORDINATOR

Fire Coordinator Henry Land explained the request and the purpose for the additional compensation for Pam Allen.

- Motion by Commissioner Mitchell to approve the request for Pam Allen as the Assistant to the Fire Coordinator in the amount of \$225 monthly. Second was made by Commissioner Burnam, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

DISCUSSION OF VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER COMPENSATION

County Coordinator Louie Goodin presented the Board with a County Fire Response Cost analysis for 2016. Mr. Goodin stated that the purpose of the report is to show the necessary funding for the Fire Departments. After a lengthy conversation as to how to retain and attract new Volunteers, the Board directed staff to continue to formalize a plan for the upcoming budget.

HAMILTON COUNTY – PCS FIVE YEAR SUMMARY RENEWAL

Chairman Ogburn advised the Board that Environmental Attorney Scott Shirley has been in contact with PCS Phosphate and is preparing the initial application to begin the process.

APPROVE BILLS

- Motion by Commissioner Brown to approve the bills (vouchers 121585 – 121882 and checks 053645 – 053775). Second was made by Commissioner Mitchell, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- County Coordinator Louie Goodin advised the Board that Maintenance Department needs to assist with the Camp School House renovations. The Board agreed by unanimous consent.
- Mr. Goodin also advised the Board that he would be on vacation from March 13, 2017 through March 17, 2017.
- Commissioner Smith requested staff to prepare a cost estimate for the installation of guardrails along the front of the Crosby residence. The Board also authorized the installation of the guardrails.
- Commissioner Smith also requested assistance with potholes in the Mill Creek Subdivision road.

- Commissioner Smith discussed with the Board Project Lifesaver, a program where older residents and autistic individuals receive a transmitter / receiver in order to be able to determine their locations. The amount being requested is \$2,500. The Board directed for the item to be placed on the agenda for the next Board meeting.
- Commissioner Smith also stated that staff will negotiate the milling for Gentivia Farms.
- Chairman Ogburn advised the Board that the Post Office has stated if repairs are not made to the Deer Hammock Subdivision road that the mail will not be delivered. Chairman Ogburn stated that the Property Owners Association has agreed to contact the owner in order to get the road brought to county standards in order to have a limited maintenance agreement.

There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Ogburn adjourned the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

RANDY OGBURN, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

GREG GODWIN, EX-OFFICIO CLERK

