

**APRIL 1, 2014**

**JASPER, FLORIDA**

**REGULAR SESSION**

The Board of County Commissioners, Hamilton County, Florida, met in regular session on Tuesday, April 1, 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**

Bob Burton addressed the Board regarding economic development and the need for the Development Authority to work with the Board and other entities for economic development within Hamilton County. Mr. Burton also encouraged the Board and others to put pressure on State Representative Elizabeth Porter regarding the need for growth and jobs in Hamilton County.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- Motion by Commissioner Burnam to approve the Consent Agenda and to pull Item #1 (Minutes). Second was made by Commissioner Brown, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Commissioner Burnam questioned the Board as to the Executive Director of the TDC having to travel to the Florida's Nature and Heritage Tourism Center two (2) days a week. Chairman Smith advised that the TDC approved for Ms. Eatmon to be in the office at White Springs two (2) days a week and that she will also be spending time at the Welcome Center on I-75. Chairman Smith then stated that the TDC has applied for a grant to assist with funding the travel for Ms. Eatmon.

Captain Matthew Morgan with the Jasper Police Department answered questions from the Board regarding the request for funds from the IRC fund.

**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 has completed the

paving portion of the resurfacing project and is still installing the guardrails. Mr. Bailey then advised the Board of the meeting with FDOT in order to resolve the issues with the Hunter Creek Bridge. Mr. Bailey stated that a complete replacement is not an option according to FDOT; however, the suggested modifications from FDOT will not affect the current load limits. Mr. Bailey explained the options suggested from the meeting and then stated that the approximate cost according to Anderson Columbia would be \$36,000. Mr. Bailey explained that the suggested option would be to place the concrete safety rails and place cover plates on the existing bridge beams which will not reduce the load rating on the bridge. The Board also discussed the price quoted by Anderson Columbia for the shoulder dirt at \$7.90 per yard which would be approximately \$24,000.

- Motion by Commissioner Ogburn to accept the recommendation of the engineer Greg Bailey regarding the Hunter Creek Bridge as long as the load rating is not decreased and to approve the quote from Anderson Columbia for the dirt at \$7.90 per yard. Second was made by Commissioner Oxendine, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Mr. Bailey then discussed the Crossroads Fire Department additions and suggested that the Board have the property surveyed prior to making any changes in order to determine how the improvements would be placed on the property. Mr. Bailey shared three (3) quotes from the following for the surveying of the property: Combass - \$1,100, Sherman Frier - \$1,250.00 and Donald Lee - \$2,300. The Board also discussed the possibility of removing the old voting house and making the polling place be inside of the renovated Fire Station. Mr. Bailey also announced that the meeting with Loves regarding the bypass truck route is on Wednesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2:00 p.m.

- Motion by Commissioner Ogburn to accept the quote for the survey from Nathaniel Combass in the amount of \$1,100 for the Crossroads Fire Department property. Second was made by Commissioner Burnam, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Commissioner Oxendine discussed the need to mill Amerson Blvd. due to having to the Motor Graders having to turn around on private property and the fact that the road is only a short distance. The Board agreed for Mr. Bailey to take a look at the road and provide the Board with an estimate of milling the road at the next Board meeting. Commissioner Ogburn stated that he also had a road in White Springs that is behind the S&S Store that needs to be milled due to continuous maintenance.

Attorney Cliff Adams gave the Board an update on the right-of-way acquisition for NW 23<sup>rd</sup> Blvd.

Commissioner Burnam requested clarification from the Board regarding the pulling of ditches due to complaints within her district. Commissioner Burnam questioned the Board regarding the decision making process per district and after a brief discussion, the Board stated that each Commissioner should include the Road Superintendent and make the decisions regarding roads for their own districts.

## **SHIP PROGRAM – STATUS REPORT**

County Coordinator Louie Goodin advised the Board that according to Mr. Nabors that there was nothing new to report.

## **HAMILTON COUNTY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY – STATUS REPORT**

Development Authority Attorney Rhett Bullard was present for the meeting and presented the Board with a written economic development update. The Board discussed the issues with the DJJ and School District project at the Panther Success Facility. Commissioner Burnam advised the Board and encouraged others to attend the North Florida Economic Development Academy workshop in Palatka. Ms. Burnam stated that she is attending just to become knowledgeable about economic development in the State of Florida. The Board thanked Mr. Bullard for attending the meeting.

## **BOARD APOINTMENT – SUWANNEE RIVER ECONOMIC COUNCIL, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- Motion by Commissioner Oxendine to re-appoint Commissioner Burnam to the Suwannee River Economic Council Board of Directors. Second was made by Commissioner Ogburn, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

## **VETERAN’S MEMORIAL PARK – STATUS REPORT**

Veteran’s Service Officer Clay Lambert gave the Board an accounting of the available funding for the Veteran’s Memorial Park. Mr. Lambert stated that the memorial wall will be constructed and then the panels placed on the wall. Mr. Lambert also stated that the pavilion plans will be ready for review soon. The Board complemented Mr. Lambert for his work and for the success of the brick laying ceremony.

## **EMS / FIRE COORDINATOR – HENRY LAND**

Mr. Land advised the Board that the extractor machine that was purchased is operational and being used to wash the bunker gear. Mr. Land also presented the Board with an incentive program for recruiting potential Fire Fighters within the county. After a lengthy discussion the Board stated that they would review the information and provide input from the Board for further discussion. Mr. Land then advised the Board that the Florida Fire Chiefs Association have grant funds that can be used for recruitment. Mr. Land then requested that in an emergency situation that the county employees that are not working due to the situation be encouraged to work at the EOC on a voluntary basis.

Mr. Land also stated that Hamilton County doesn’t have enough fires to support the necessary training for the new Fire Fighters and requested that the Board consider constructing a burn building for training purposes. Mr. Land stated that an estimate would be around \$15,000 and that funds are still being held from the Fire Insurance billing that was done several years ago. After a lengthy discussion, the Board directed Mr. Land to provide

the Board with hard numbers for the facility and the construction needs. Commissioner Oxendine also discussed with the Board the possibility of offering a Fire Fighter retirement as an incentive for the hours of training and service that is required. The Board directed Legal Staff to research the issue and gave permission to Mr. Land to work on getting the proper equipment for a training facility.

### **HEALTH DEPARTMENT UPDATE – MARK LANDER**

Mark Lander, with the Hamilton County Health Department, addressed the Board regarding the Halo Meat Packing Plant. Mr. Lander stated that the State is still trying to gain access to the facility in order to determine if the animal carcasses have been removed. Mr. Lander stated that they will utilize the Sheriff's Department if necessary. Mr. Lander then discussed the wastewater spill from Lowndes County and the effect on water quality in the Withlacoochee and Alapaha rivers. Mr. Lander stated that the Governor's office has been contacted and that the City of Valdosta is under a consent order to make the necessary changes to their Wastewater Treatment Facility.

Mr. Lander also discussed the latest Health Rankings and stated that Hamilton County ranks 62 out of 67 counties and his staff will continue to work through the Strategic Healthcare Committee to make improvements to the services being provided. Mr. Lander thanked Henry Land and Pam Allen for their efforts in writing the Project Ready for Hamilton County and the county recognized for their efforts in public health.

### **COUNTY COORDINATOR EVALUATION**

The Board allowed County Coordinator Louie Goodin to step out of the room in order to discuss his evaluation. The Board stated that their only suggestion would be for Mr. Goodin to continue to utilize the training available and that he was doing an outstanding job as County Coordinator. Chairman Smith will take the evaluations and review them with Mr. Goodin. The Board also discussed providing Mr. Goodin with additional pay.

- Motion by Commissioner Oxendine to increase the salary of County Coordinator Louie Gooding by \$2,000 above his current salary based on the evaluation. Second was made by Commissioner Ogburn, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

### **APPROVE BILLS**

- Motion by Commissioner Oxendine to approve the bills (vouchers 101312 – 101451 and checks 045074 – 045175). Second was made by Commissioner Brown, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

### **LEAVE PAYOUTS**

- Motion by Commissioner Ogburn to approve the leave payouts for Ricky Davis (\$3,416.74) and Stephanie King (\$614.63) as presented by Clerk of Court Greg Godwin. Second was made by Commissioner Oxendine, motion carried with a

unanimous vote.

## **CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- County Coordinator Louie Goodin discussed with the Board a quote for a wheel chair ramp for the Courthouse. The Board requested staff to get additional quotes for the next meeting if possible.
- Mr. Goodin announced the Blood Drive at the Annex on April 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Commissioner Burnam questioned staff regarding the availability of the work crews that pick up trash and liter. Mr. Goodin stated that he would check with the DOC and get the crews to clean-up the areas.
- Commissioner Burnam also discussed with the Board her conversation with the Jasper City Manager Charles Williams. Commissioner Burnam indicated that Mr. Williams is interested in running water and sewer out to I-75 / SR-6.
- Commissioner Burnam requested that other Board members that are called concerning an issue within her district to please not tell the individual that they would take care of the issue and to show professional courtesy when discussing any issue in each other's districts.
- Commissioner Brown advised the Board that he attended the Sabel Trail meeting and that safety was their main concern throughout the meeting.
- Commissioner Oxendine shared with the Board his concerns regarding Representative Porter applying for the Economic Development Director's position in Columbia County. After a brief discussion of the matter, the Board directed legal staff to review the AGO of the issue.
- County Attorney John McCormick discussed with the Board the Wastewater spill issue in Lowndes County. Clerk of Court Greg Godwin advised the Board that the Valdosta City Manager will be meeting with officials in Madison County regarding the issue and the corrective measures being taken.
- Mr. McCormick reviewed an email exchange with Dr. Pennock regarding the re-districting process. The Board discussed the timing of the issue and stated their concerns that the 2014 election could possibly change the current lines drawn by Dr. Pennock. Dr. Pennock had also requested the Board to consider a travel reimbursement. After a lengthy discussion the Board directed legal staff to review the contract with Dr. Pennock and report back to the Board at the next regular meeting.
- Chairman Smith requested permission from the Board to make a one (1) time repair to the road in Westlake Subdivision due to having a limited maintenance agreement

on the road and for safety purposes. The Board agreed by unanimous consent to allow the repair.

- Chairman Smith also discussed with the Board the need to hire a seasonal / part-time employee to assist the maintenance and recreation departments due to the amount of mowing that is required. After discussing the possibility of hiring the current part-time maintenance employee full-time, the Board directed staff to review the situation and make a recommendation at the next meeting.
- Chairman Smith also announced that Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> is the opening day of baseball at the Recreation Center.

There being no further business before the Board, the Chairman recessed the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

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JOSH SMITH, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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GREG GODWIN, EX-OFFICIO CLERK