

APRIL 15, 2014

JASPER, FLORIDA

REGULAR SESSION

The Board of County Commissioners, Hamilton County, Florida, met in regular session on Tuesday, April 15, 2014, at 6:00 p.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

Chuck Lambert, with the Hamilton County School District, stated that he supports the action being taken by the Board regarding road issues and appreciates the support and relationship between the School District and the County.

George Roberson addressed the Board and thanked them for the repairs made to his road. Mr. Roberson also discussed the access to the Bell/Tuten Cemetery and the need to allow access to individuals that have relatives buried there. After a lengthy discussion of the issue, the Board directed staff to check on the issue and determine the legal recourse in order to allow access to the cemetery. Wade Goolsby also advised the Board that he too had relatives buried in the cemetery and should be allowed access.

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 now in the process of dressing-up the driveways and shoulder of the road starting on the north end and moving south. Mr. Bailey also stated that he has met with FDOT regarding the Hunter Creek Bridge and that Anderson Columbia is preparing to provide the proper notice and begin construction of the bridge expansion.

LOVES TRUCK BYPASS – Mr. Bailey advised the Board that Mr. Gleason, with Loves Truck Plaza, is supportive of the 3rd option provided for the truck bypass and willing for the project to proceed. Mr. Bailey advised the Board that he will be meeting with FDOT in order to determine if the project could be funded through their grant process. Mr. Bailey

stated that he would also be working on the design for the project.

CROSSROADS VOLUNTEER FIRE STATION – Mr. Bailey advised the Board that the survey of the .93 acres is complete and will meet with staff to provide the plans for the renovation of the Fire Station.

SHIP PROGRAM – STATUS REPORT

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

CARE ORGANIZATION – REV. BILLY SIMON

Rev. Lorenzo Acoff addressed the Board in the place of Rev. Billy Simon from the Community Advocates Rallying Everyone organization. Rev. Acoff explained the purpose of the Care organization and requested support from the county. Rev. Acoff advised the Board that last year the organization was self-sufficient, however, this year they need assistance with a partnership and also financial assistance. Rev. Acoff stated that participation from the Board financially would be great; however, support of the community would be even better. Commissioner Burnam questioned Mr. Acoff about the networking of the organization with other such organizations already in existence within the county. Rev. Acoff explained that his group is working with the other pastors in the community and that the Youth Jam that will be forthcoming on April 30th will also be an event that will hopefully encourage others to work with their organization. Chairman Smith stated that staff would need to meet with Rev. Acoff and their group in order to better survey the needs of the organization before the Board taking any type of action. The Board then directed County Coordinator Louie Goodin to meet with Rev. Acoff to determine the needs of the organization. Paula Williams thanked the Board for listening to the presentation and explained that the organization's sole purpose is to represent the entire county.

JOE STALLINGS – IMPROVEMENT OF NW 34TH AVENUE

Joe Stallings addressed the Board regarding the needed improvements to NW 34th Avenue. Mr. Stallings explained to the Board his past experience as Commissioner in Georgia and made suggestions as to how to handle the road repair that would make the road safer and passable during inclement weather. Mr. Stallings stated that the road is too narrow in places, needs the cross drain replaced, needs tail ditches leading to the cross drain and proper ditches pulled and that the road is unsafe and the intersection at CR-145 is in adequate. The Board and Mr. Stallings discussed the issues with the road and options to explore to make the road and intersection a safer place to travel and directed that Commissioner Burnam assist Engineer Greg Bailey with providing his opinion of the road and intersection.

**SUWANNEE RIVER REGIONAL LIBRARY – STATE GRANT AMENDMENT –
BETTY LAWRENCE**

Suwannee River Regional Library Director Betty Lawrence presented the Board with an amendment to the State Aid Library Agreement for review and comments from the Board. Ms. Lawrence explained the changes and the Board took the following action.

- Motion by Commissioner Ogburn to approve the amendment to the State Aid Library Agreement as presented and recommended by Ms. Lawrence. Second was made by Commissioner Burnam, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Ms. Lawrence also discussed the timeline for the Jennings Library addition with the Board.

EMS BILLING AND RELATED COMPUTER NEEDS

EMS and Emergency Management Director Henry Land addressed the Board regarding the levels of the rivers and the flooding damages thus far due to the heavy rains in our area.

Mr. Land then requested permission from the Board to ask the School Board to donate the property where the old baseball field is located in order to construct a burn building and fire training facility. The Board agreed by unanimous consent to allow Mr. Land to approve the School Board.

Mr. Land introduced John Mulligan and Don Passaro, with Intermedix, in order for them to give the Board a presentation regarding EMS billing and hardware. Mr. Mulligan explained how their company does business and also the inter-workings and advantages of doing business with them. Mr. Mulligan stated that they normally request a three (3) year contract with a sixty (60) day out clause. Mr. Land explained the issues with the current EMS software and the possibility if the Board is interested of doing a piggyback on another county's RFP process. Mr. Passaro then discussed with the Board the pricing for the billing software and the hardware that would be installed in the ambulances. The Board also discussed with Mr. Passaro as to whether the current EMS billing employee will be needed, as to which Mr. Passaro stated that there would have to be a local point of contact for the billing software to work properly. Clerk of Court Greg Godwin stated that the current employee is aware of the possible change in the EMS billing software and also stated that if there is not a change that the current system will need to be upgraded due to the age of the software. After a lengthy discussion, the Board directed legal staff to review the piggyback of the contract with Davie Florida and present the information to the Board for approval at the next regular Board meeting. Assistant EMS Director Mack Leggett advised the Board that he has discussed the quality of the software with other counties that are currently using the Intermedix software and that they have not made any negative statements regarding the operation of the software.

CONTINUATION OF COUNTY ROAD PROJECTS – STATUS REPORT

Mr. Bailey provided the Board with the amount of milling needed for Amerson Avenue (210 tons) and SE 165th Lane (470 tons) with the milling being applied four (4) inches thick.

- Motion by Commissioner Oxendine to allow the Road Department to mill Amerson Ave. and SE-165th Lane per the recommendation of Engineer Greg Bailey. Second was made by Commissioner Ogburn, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

DISCUSSION OF COUNTY INSURANCE ASSET SURVEY

Clerk of Court Greg Godwin and County Coordinator Louie Goodin reviewed with the Board the recommended changes to the county's property insurance and replacement costs due to the updated Asset Survey provided by the Florida League of Cities.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

VETERAN'S MEMORIAL PARK – STATUS REPORT

Mr. Goodin advised the Board that there is nothing new to report at this time.

2007 COUNTY TAX CERTIFICATES

County Attorney John McCormick requested that this agenda item be continued until the next Board meeting in order to allow legal staff time to review the certificates. Board agreed by unanimous consent.

2012 COUNTY TAX CERTIFICATES

Mr. McCormick also requested that the Board continue this agenda item to also allow for time to review the certificates. Board agreed by unanimous consent.

OFFER OF DONATION OF PROPERTY TO COUNTY

County Attorney John McCormick presented the Board with an email outlining his discussions with the individual that is requesting to donate the property to the county. After a brief review of the request, the Board rejected the offer due to no precise need for the property.

ENTERPRISE ZONE SURVEY DESCRIPTION QUOTES

County Coordinator Louie Goodin presented the Board with quotes from Nathaniel Combass (\$1,000) and J. Sherman Frier (\$1,575) for the survey of the Enterprise Zone.

- Motion by Commissioner Ogburn to award the Enterprise Zone survey to Nathaniel Combass in the amount of \$1,000. Second was made by Commissioner Brown, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

WATER / SEWER PLANT OPERATOR REPLACEMENT

The Board discussed the resignation of current Water / Sewer Plant operator Douglas Sunday. Mr. Goodin stated that he has contacted former plant operator Gordy Bass about filling in due to his former knowledge and experience with the plant. Mr. Bass stated that he would be willing to fill in for a short period of time and that his compensation would be \$30 per hour which is a little more than the contract amount with Mr. Sunday.

- Motion by Commissioner Ogburn to accept the recommendation of County Coordinator Louie Goodin to allow Gordy Bass to be the interim Water / Sewer Plant Operator at \$30 per hour. Second was made by Commissioner Oxendine, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

DISCUSSION OF CROSSROADS FIRE DEPARTMENT BUILDING REPAIRS

Mr. Goodin advised the Board that he would have the exact plans for the reconstruction of the Crossroads Fire Station for the Board to review at the May 6th meeting and also stated that the radio tower would have to be relocated.

COURTHOUSE WHEEL CHAIR LIFT

County Coordinator Louie Goodin presented the Board with quotes from the following companies for a Wheel Chair Lift:

1. Profound Medical Equipment - \$8,700
2. Accessibility Professional, Inc. - \$8,483
3. Mowrey Elevator - \$19,750

After a brief discussion of the quotes provided, the Board directed Mr. Goodin to take a look at the functionality and design of the Accessibility Professional lift and report back to the Board at the next meeting.

PART-TIME / FULL – TIME MAINTENANCE EMPLOYEE

- Motion by Commissioner Ogburn to hire current part-time Maintenance employee Travis Erixton full time effective April 16, 2014. Second was made by Commissioner Oxendine, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

The Board also stated that current Maintenance employee Donnie Davis is still to be working as a grounds keeper in order to assist Mr. Erickson with his duties.

APPROVE BILLS

- Motion by Commissioner Ogburn to approve the bills (vouchers 101452 – 101747 and checks 045176 – 045301). Second was made by Commissioner Oxendine, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

DISCUSSION OF REPRESENTATIVE ELIZABETH PORTER'S QUEST AS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR OF COLUMBIA COUNTY

The Board stated their concerns with Representative Elizabeth Porter's quest to be the Economic Development Director for Columbia County. Commissioner Oxendine stated that he disagrees with the interpretation of the AGO, however, as of yet an employment decision has yet to be made by the Columbia County Board of County Commissioners.

- Motion by Commissioner Ogburn to declare an emergency and to direct County Coordinator Louie Goodin to contact and speak directly with Ms. Porter and share the Board's concerns about the dual employment as Economic Development Director and Representative and to also send a letter stating the Board's position.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- County Coordinator Louie Goodin advised the Board that the Landfill needs approximately 5-6 loads of milling, Board agreed by unanimous consent.
- The Board also approved for Mr. Goodin to have the decimal meters recalibrated due to the need to check the noise levels at the Jennings GP race track per citizen complaints.
- Mr. Goodin advised the Board that staff will be entertaining an economic development client on May 5th, 6th and 7th and will bring the Development Authority on board with the project discussion. Mr. Goodin stated that he will be needing assistance from the Board and Development Authority.
- Commissioner Ogburn discussed with the Board a request for assistance from Alma Sweat, County Attorney John McCormick will review the request.
- Mr. Goodin presented Commissioner Ogburn with the Shelter quotes for the White

Springs Library; Commissioner Ogburn suggested that the item be placed on the agenda for the next Board meeting.

- Commissioner Oxendine advised the Board of the need to repair approximately 150 feet of the milled road next to Calvary Baptist Church due to damages by the heavy equipment changing the Duke Energy power poles. The Board agreed by unanimous consent.
- County Attorney John McCormick presented the Board with the Local Option Fuel Tax ordinance for review due to the expiration date of July 1, 2014. Mr. McCormick stated that the Board must determine the intent of the Board and the percent share of the proceeds from the tax with each Municipality. The Board agreed to allow the ordinance to remain as it has been for the last several years.
- Attorney Cliff Adams discussed the contract between the Board and Dr. Pennock regarding the redistricting process and advised that the travel reimbursement is allowable in the contract. Attorney Adams also stated that Dr. Pennock is currently working on Phase 4.
- Chairman Smith discussed with the Board the request by the TDC to have the Road Department underbrush and remove the trees that are blocking the view of the sign along I-75. The Board agreed by unanimous consent and directed County Coordinator Louie Goodin to advise Mr. Bell of the action by the Board.
- Chairman Smith then discussed the speed limit issue along CR-141 near the city limits of Jennings. County Engineer Greg Bailey is reviewing the situation.
- Chairman Smith made the Board aware of an issue that is going on at the Road Department with authority of the road grader operators. Mr. Goodin advised the Board that he would handle the situation.
- Chairman Smith also stated that he was approached by Economic Development Director Susan Ramsey as to whether the Board would be willing to discuss a Medical Incinerator being placed in the county. The Board stated that they are not in favor of the discussion at this time.

There being no further business before the Board, the Chairman recessed the meeting at 10:35 p.m.

JOSH SMITH, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

GREG GODWIN, EX-OFFICIO CLERK