

**July 1, 2014**

**JASPER, FLORIDA**

**REGULAR SESSION**

The Board of County Commissioners, Hamilton County, Florida, met in regular session on Tuesday, July 1, 2014, at 9:00 a.m. in the Board Meeting Room, 207 Northeast First Street, Jasper, Florida. Present were Commissioners Robert Brown, Randy Ogburn, Beth Burnam and Buster Oxendine, Commissioner Smith was absent due to work related training. 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 concerning Economic Development and how the Development Authority is conducting business. Mr. Burton discussed the potential water issue where individuals will be required to pay for water. Mr. Burton also stated that he wasn't sure if R. B. Davis was still on the Development Authority Board; however, if he is that he is violating the Judicial Cannon #3 by being appointed as a County Judge and also serving on the Development Authority. Mr. Burton also stated his dissatisfaction with the local Radio Station and shared his disagreement with the media and attack on other media forms. Mr. Burton finally stated that people need to take the time to participate in the role of government in order to better understand their rights and the role of government.

George Roberson addressed the Board regarding Chairman Smith by stating that he would not be intimidated by being threatened to be removed from the Board meeting. Mr. Roberson went on to state his displeasure with Chairman Smith and his recent interaction with him.

Wade Goolsby gave the Board an update on the health of former County Coordinator Danny Johnson.

**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 CR-135 will be closed on Monday, July 7, 2014 for the beginning of the construction on Hunter Creek Bridge.

**COURTHOUSE PARKING LOT** – Mr. Bailey advised the Board that Sherman

Frier is laying out the parking lot and that once complete the Road Department can begin placing the lime rock. Mr. Bailey also discussed the need for permission to relocate or remove the power pole, the Board agreed by unanimous consent to have the pole removed.

**GIBSON PARK BOAT RAMP** – Mr. Bailey advised the Board that the contract is ready to be signed and executed.

### **SHIP PROGRAM – STATUS REPORT**

Ship Administrator Spencer Nabors gave the Board a status report on the Ship Program. Mr. Nabors stated that he has received five (5) new applications since the add was placed in the News Paper requesting applications.

County Attorney John McCormick stated that an individual with a Deferred Payment Loan for a Ship project is now deceased and there are heirs wishing to live in the home. Mr. Nabors advised the Board that the Board could either forgive the DPL making the property clear or allow the DPL to remain in tack. The Board agreed by unanimous consent to leave the DPL in place.

Chairman Smith announced that the Board only received one (1) proposal for the administration of the Ship Program. The one proposal was from In Touch Consulting, Inc. with the owner Spencer Nabors present for any questions. Mr. Nabors also advised the Board that the fee that was in the proposal is actually \$34,500 rather than the \$35,000 quoted. After reviewing the proposal the Board took the following action:

- Motion by Commissioner Ogburn to accept the proposal and award the Ship Administration Services to In Touch Consulting, Inc. Second was made by Commissioner Oxendine, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

### **LILLIAN UDELL – DISCUSSION OF MAINTENANCE OF ACCESS ROAD TO CEMETERY**

Lillian Udell addressed the Board regarding the road that allows access to her private cemetery. Ms. Udell explained the condition of the road and the Board stated that the easement to the cemetery is private and would need to be deeded to the county in order to provide maintenance. Commissioner Ogburn advised the Board that he would take a look at the road and culvert issue and report back to the Board.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING AND TECHNOLOGY – PRESENTATION**

Pamela McElroy presented the Board with documentation outlining the services provided by Environmental Consulting and Technology. Ms. McElroy explained that their services are provided for the entire community and is performed through Site Specific Grants or Brownsfield Assessment Grants. Ms. McElroy explained the application and grant writing process. The Board directed staff to assist with the preparation of the application due to the submittal deadline being September 30, 2014. County Attorney John McCormick advised

the Board that he would like to discuss this issue with Environmental Attorney Scott Shirley prior to moving forward with the process. The Board agreed for legal staff to review the grant process prior to moving forward.

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

Economic Development Director Susan Ramsey gave the Board a status report on the current Economic Development projects. Ms. Ramsey advised the Board that the projects that she is currently working on are still confidential.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

### **VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK – STATUS REPORT**

Veterans Service Officer Clay Lambert gave the Board a status report regarding the progress of the Veterans Memorial Park. Mr. Lambert provided the Board with an accounting of the project thus far and stated that there is approximately \$31,321.00 remaining to begin the next phase of the park. Mr. Lambert advised the Board that he is getting ready for the construction of the granite wall, side walk and then the pavilion.

### **DISCUSSION OF HERITAGE VILLAGE OWNERSHIP**

- Motion by Commissioner Ogburn to allow legal staff to increase the cap to \$1,500 in order to have a phase 1 environmental assessment for Heritage Village. Second was made by Commissioner Burnam, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

### **ROAD DEPARTMENT WAGE RECOMMENDATION**

County Coordinator Louie Goodin presented the Board with a revised copy of the Road Department Wage Program for the Board to review. After a lengthy discussion the Board stated that the wages should be based on the equipment rather than the qualifications of the employee.

### **STORM WATER DRAINAGE EASEMENTS – RELATING TO MEADOW BROOK WOODS SUBDIVISION**

County Attorney John McCormick and Chairman Smith advised the Board that they have yet to hear from Mr. Carter regarding the easement to clear debris from his property that is causing the water to back-up during a heavy rain.

### **NW 23<sup>RD</sup> BLVD DEED ACCEPTANCE**

Attorney Cliff Adams advised the Board that there is nothing new to report; however, Steve Curry is continuing to working on the heir property.

## **CONTRACT FOR AMBULANCE BILLING AND RELATED PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

- Motion by Commissioner Ogburn to approve the contract for signature between the county and Intermedix for EMS software and billing. Second was made by Commissioner Oxendine, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

## **HAMILTON PRIMARY CLINIC – HOURS OF OPERATION**

County Coordinator Louie Goodin presented the Board with a letter from Shands requesting a change in the hours of operation for the clinic. The Board discussed the current hours of operation. Commissioner Oxendine stated that he doesn't agree with changing the hours due to the need to be consistent and that they agreed to the hours prior to ever opening the clinic. George L. Roberson also added that the hours of the clinic need to be consistent.

- Motion by Commissioner Ogburn to approve based on the Hospital Board's approval for the hours of operation to be changed to 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday – Friday. Second was made by Commissioner Brown, motion carried with a three (3) to two (2) vote. Voting against the motion were Commissioners Smith and Oxendine.

Later in the meeting Commissioner Ogburn questioned legal staff as to him participating in the action taken regarding the Hamilton Primary Clinic due to his nephew being employed by Shands and working at the clinic. After a brief discussion, the Board took the following action:

- Motion by Commissioner Ogburn to rescind his previous motion regarding the changing of the hours of operation for the Hamilton Primary Clinic. Second was made by Commissioner Brown, motion carried with a unanimous vote.
- Motion by Commissioner Brown to approve based on the Hospital Board's approval for the hours of operation to be changed to 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday – Friday. Second was made by Commissioner Burnam, motion failed with a two (2) to two (2) vote. Voting against the motion were Commissioners Smith and Oxendine with Commissioner Ogburn abstaining from the vote.
- Motion by Commissioner Oxendine to approve based on the Hospital Board's approval for the hours of operation for the Hamilton Primary Clinic to be changed to 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Monday – Thursday and 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. on Friday. Second was made by Commissioner Brown, motion carried with a three (3) to one (1) vote. Voting against the motion was Chairman Smith with Commissioner Ogburn abstaining from the vote.

## **PROJECT BARK – DISCUSSION**

County Coordinator Louie Goodin advised the Board that the company involved in Project Bark is showing interest in locating their business in Hamilton County. Mr. Goodin shared with the Board a mock abatement for the figures provided by the company. The Board discussed whether the business would be under a confidentiality agreement with the Board since they were present for a special meeting with the Board on May 6, 2014. According to legal staff the only confidentiality agreement would be with the Development Authority. Attorney Cliff Adams stated that he was concerned about the possibility of the Board pre-judging the tax abatement issue. County Attorney John McCormick discussed with the Board how the Florida Statutes are applied in a tax abatement case. Economic Development Director Susan Ramsey advised the Board that she would be willing to share the financial information that has been requested by the Development Authority with the Board. The Board after a lengthy discussion advised Mr. Goodin to share with the business that the Board will work with the company in any way possible in order to attract their business to Hamilton County.

## **APPROVE BILLS**

- Motion by Commissioner Oxendine to approve the bills (vouchers 102889 – 103101 and checks 046106 – 046196), Commissioner Oxendine also stated that there were bills from his employer Norfolk Southern; however, he works in a completely different department. Second was made by Commissioner Ogburn, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

## **CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- County Coordinator Louie Goodin reminded the Board of the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration and fireworks show.
- Commissioner Ogburn advised the Board that there are documents stored in the old Camp School House in White Springs and requested direction from the Board. The Board agreed for Commissioner Ogburn to get with Mr. McCormick about the removal of the records.
- The Board stated that they would be visiting the Annex during lunch in order to look at potential areas for a larger Board room.
- Commissioner Ogburn advised the Board that the Landfill Loader is down and will need to have the engine rebuilt. Commissioner Ogburn also stated that the cost would be approximately \$5,000, the Board agreed by unanimous consent.
- Commissioner Burnam discussed with the Board that the SREC is offering coupons for the Farmer's Market and other participating farmers for fresh produce; however, there are no farmers participating in the program in Hamilton County and requested

that the Board encourage local farmers to participate.

- Commissioner Burnam thanked County Coordinator Louie Goodin for his work on Project Bark and other economic development projects.
- Commissioner Burnam also discussed with the Board how the confidentiality clause works with businesses seeking to locate in the county.
- Commissioner Brown questioned staff as to the timeline for the work to be performed on 108<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Goodin stated that it is on the schedule.
- Chairman Smith advised the Board that Suwannee Valley Electric is willing to participate in the economic development of the county where possible.

There being no further business before the Board, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 12:03 p.m.

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JOSH SMITH, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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GREG GODWIN, EX-OFFICIO CLERK