

MARCH 18, 2014

JASPER, FLORIDA

REGULAR SESSION

The Board of County Commissioners, Hamilton County, Florida, met in regular session on Tuesday, March 18, 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

There were no comments from the public.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

VETERAN'S MEMORIAL PARK – STATUS REPORT

County Coordinator Louie Goodin reminded the Board about the brick laying ceremony that will be held on March 22nd from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Mr. Goodin also stated that the final design for the memorial wall will be available for the April 1st meeting.

ROAD PAVING PROJECTS – STATUS REPORT

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

CR-135 – The Board discussed with Mr. Bailey their concerns with the amount of dirt being requested from the county for the shoulder work on the CR-135 paving project. Mr. Bailey stated that his estimate is approximately 178 loads. After discussing the issue, the Board agreed for Mr. Bailey to get a price from the contractor Anderson Columbia for the necessary dirt. Mr. Bailey also discussed with the Board the load rating for the Hunter Creek Bridge construction project. Mr. Bailey stated that the contractor was not aware of the issues with the bridge until receiving the inspection reports. The Board stated concerns with the fact that they provided a bid amount for the bridge extension without knowing the true facts of the bridge and what the construction would do to the load rating of the bridge. Mr. Bailey then advised the Board that to add additional beams for structural support would cost

approximately \$16,500 and that FDOT stated that they would not allow the existing railing structure to remain in place. After a brief discussion and questions from the Board, Mr. Bailey stated that a complete replacement would cost approximately \$1.5 million. Mr. Bailey advised the Board that an option would be to approach FDOT again for additional funding to allow for the complete replacement of the bridge. Several members of the Board questioned how Anderson Columbia could submit a bid for the bridge without the plans and proper understanding of the bridge's condition and stated that Anderson Columbia needs to honor the bid that was submitted and building the bridge. The Board directed legal staff to review the contract with Anderson Columbia in order to determine the direction of the Board regarding the project. Mr. Bailey then stated that the resurfacing of the CR-135 is almost complete and that the issue with the shoulder work was mistakenly omitted by him during the bidding process. Mr. Bailey stated that there appears to be addition funds of approximately \$105,000 left after the construction that could be used for the dirt and other small items.

The Board then discussed the request from FDOT for a letter to allow a couple of projects within the municipalities to be placed on the work program for SCOP funding. According to Mr. Bailey, FDOT has approximately \$100,000 of excess funds to assist with these or other projects. Commissioner Oxendine stated that he felt that the Board should remove the NE 96th Place due to the road already having been milled, the Board agreed by unanimous consent. The Board discussed the issues with roads in each municipality and then approved the following list by motion.

- Motion by Commissioner Ogburn to prioritize the roads within the municipalities as follows:
 1. Oak Street (Jennings)
 2. First Street (White Springs)
 3. NW 38th Terrace (Jasper)
 4. Johns Street (Jennings)

Second was made by Commissioner Oxendine, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Mr. Bailey then discussed the request from Emergency Management Director Henry Land for NFPS to assist with the engineering, bid documents and plans for the State's matching grant for the enhancement of the Special Needs Shelter. Mr. Bailey advised the Board that the County has already been awarded the grant and that it must be completed by January 2015. The Board agreed by unanimous consent for Mr. Bailey to move forward with the request from Mr. Land.

PUBLIC HEARING – SPES 14-01 – SPECIAL PERMIT FOR ESSENTIAL SERVICES TO CONSTRUCT A COMMUNICATIONS TOWER – VERTEX DEVELOPMENT

Chairman Smith recessed the regular Board meeting and called the public hearing to order at 6:25 p.m.

Land Use Administrator Megan Carter explained the action before the Board per application 14-01 requesting to be allowed to construct a communications tower. Ms. Carter advised the Board that the Planning and Zoning Board recommended approval of the application. Alan Ruiz, with Vertex Development, was present to answer questions from the public and Board. Mr. Ruiz explained that the type of tower being requested would be a Mono Pole tower and will house several wireless companies. A near-by resident, Bruce Jackson, stated that he was concerned with the placement of the tower due to the sight. Commissioner Burnam questioned Mr. Ruiz about the placement and amount of property needed for the construction site. Mr. Ruiz then stated that if approved that construction of the tower would begin in September and that if the County needed to utilize space on the tower that there would be ample space.

There being no further questions from the Board or the public, Chairman Smith closed the public hearing and reopened the regular meeting at 6:35 p.m.

- Motion by Commissioner Burnam to allow the construction of the telecommunication tower and approve SPES 14-0. Second was made by Commissioner Brown, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

SHIP PROGRAM – STATUS REPORT

Ship Administrator Spencer Nabors presented the Board with the scores for the next CDBG Grant Application Cycle. Hamilton County scored out 12th on the list and would currently be outside of the funding range. Mr. Nabors recommended that the Board wait a couple of months in order to better determine the list of projects before releasing the \$125,000 match back to the Ship fund. Mr. Nabors also stated that the next grant cycle will only require a \$50,000 match for the maximum points.

DISCUSSION OF CROSSROADS FIRE DEPARTMENT BUILDING REPAIRS

County Coordinator Louie Goodin and Ship Coordinator Spencer Nabors explained the CDBG grant cycle for the possible funding for a new Fire Station at Crossroads. The Board later in the meeting stated that it doesn't appear that the CDBG grant will be an option for the construction of a new Fire Station and directed staff to put together the plans as previously discussed for the reconstruction of the Fire Station and present them to the Board by the May 6th meeting.

OBSTACLES TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN HAMILTON COUNTY – BOB BURTON

Chairman Smith advised the Board that he spoke with Mr. Burton prior to the meeting and that he didn't wish to address the Board at this time.

DISCUSSION OF ADDING A SIXTH ROAD GRADER

Road Superintendent James Bell and Assistant Road Superintendent Richard

Dunaway were present in order to discuss the possible need for a sixth (6th) Motor Grader. Commissioner Ogburn stated that the wet weather is causing a lot of the issues on the county dirt roads and would like to hear from staff prior to making a decision regarding purchasing an additional grader. Mr. Bell advised the Board that he is doing extensive training for the current grader operators. County Coordinator Louie Goodin advised the Board that during his meeting with Mr. Bell and Mr. Dunaway, that Mr. Dunaway will be solely working within the next few weeks to train the operators. Commissioner Oxendine suggested that the ditches be pulled to allow the roads to be crowned and allow the water to run off of the road and into the ditch. Commissioner Oxendine also stated that he realized that Mr. Bell is short of help and has lost several long time grader operators; however, the roads need to be graded differently. After a lengthy discussion the Board agreed to continue to evaluate the situation and make sure that the road issues are corrected. The Board also discussed setting up a pay incentive for the equipment operators in order to incentivize the other employees to desire to become equipment operators. Mr. Goodin stated that the pay rate for the Road Department employees is in-line with the surrounding counties. Mr. Goodin also presented the Board with a wage analysis from Cody & Associates that was prepared in 2003 for the county. After a lengthy discussion regarding the issue, the Board directed staff to devise a plan and a pay scale and report back to the Board. Chairman Smith reminded Mr. Bell and Mr. Dunaway that the Board is trying to help the situation and not cause any harm to the employees but to incentivize them to want to do better. Road Department employee Lewis Johnson questioned the Board about a back-up equipment operator and how the employee would be compensated when providing the back-up. The Board stated that this will also be handled during the compensation study by staff.

COUNTY COORIDINATOR EVALUATION

Commissioner Oxendine stated that he requested this item to be placed on the agenda and that if the Personnel Rules and Regulations require evaluations on department heads that the Board should evaluate the Coordinator's position. The Board then requested that the Clerk place a written copy of the evaluation form in the next packet in order to discuss at the next regular Board meeting.

COURTHOUSE WHEEL CHAIR LIFT

County Coordinator Louie Goodin presented the Board with a quote from Mowrey Elevator Company in the amount of \$19,750 for a wheel chair lift. After a brief discussion the Board directed legal staff to review the quote and determine the compliance of the lift and width for the ramp. Mr. Goodin also stated that he would continue to seek other quotes for a lift if available.

APPROVE BILLS

- Motion by Commissioner Oxendine to approve the bills (vouchers 100967 – 101311 and checks 044929 – 045073). Second was made by Commissioner Brown, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- County Coordinator Louie Goodin advised the Board that according to Suwannee River Regional Library Director Betty Lawrence the Suwannee County Board of County Commissioners approved a five (5) percent raise for the Library employees.
- Mr. Goodin also announced that the Small County Coalition meeting is on March 26th in Tallahassee.
- Commissioner Burnam requested permission from the Board to place limerock on NW 27th Blvd. due to the recent flooding. The Board agreed to allow the road to be fixed by the Road Department.
- Commissioner Burnam also discussed with the Board a flooding issue with NW 49th Ave. and advised that a pipe needs to be placed in the road to allow the water to cross and would also need to contact the adjacent landowners in order to funnel the water to the creek area. The Board agreed to allow legal staff to make contact with the adjacent property owners in order to allow for an easement for the water to run along their property.
- Commissioner Burnam also advised the Board that the Rural Health Clinic has stated that there are no customers on Saturday's using the clinic and would like to sometime in the near future discuss the operating hours. Commissioner Burnam also stated that according to clinic staff that BCBS will be accepted as of April 1st.
- Commissioner Burnam then discussed the possible milling of approximately 3/10's of a mile of NW 44th Street from CR-141 to the Lily of the Valley Church.
- Commissioner Burnam presented the Board with a list of the right-of-way landowners for the NW 23rd Blvd. paving project and gave an update on the right-of-way acquisition. Attorney Cliff Adams advised the Board that acquiring the right-of-way will require a lot of time and expensive due to heir property. The Board agreed by unanimous consent to allow legal staff to proceed with the acquisition of the right-of-way.
- Commissioner Brown gave the Board an update on the SVTA meeting and stated that the group is seeking to contract with HMO contractors in order to receive Medicare funding.
- Commissioner Oxendine thanked the Board for allowing the Road Department to remove the old broken asphalt from Harvest Fellowship Church.
- Commissioner Oxendine also discussed the issues with the carcasses at the Halo Meat Processing Plant and advised the Board that the Department of Health is working to correct the violations and have the premises cleaned up.

- County Attorney John McCormick advised the Board of the action alert for HB979 and SB1090 by the FAC to provide housing for the homeless.
- Clerk of Court Greg Godwin advised the Board of the increase in the Medical Examiners fee.
- Attorney Cliff Adams announced that the ARC Handicap Ride will be on March 29th from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at the arena.
- Mr. Adams also announced the Sabel Trail meeting that will be held on March 24th at 9:00 a.m.
- Chairman Smith read a letter of thanks from the Greg Bailey family for the flowers that were sent to his mother-in-laws funeral.
- Chairman Smith also advised the Board that staff is working on a borrow pit easement to help eliminate the road issues on the south end of the county.
- Chairman Smith requested direction from the Board regarding the construction of a metal building for Timothy and Cynthia Poe. Chairman Smith stated that the Poe's need temporary power to build the building and there is an issue with receiving a building permit due to this structure being a secondary structure prior to the construction of the home. After a lengthy discussion the Board directed Chairman Smith to meet with Building Official John Auer in order to determine how to resolve the issues.

There being no further business before the Board, the Chairman recessed the meeting at 9:35 p.m.

JOSH SMITH, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

GREG GODWIN, EX-OFFICIO CLERK