

November 13, 2014

JASPER, FLORIDA

SPECIAL MEETING

The Board of County Commissioners, Hamilton County, Florida, called a special meeting on Thursday, November 13, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Meeting Room, 207 Northeast First Street, Jasper, Florida for the purpose of discussing the Project Bark economic development project. Present were Commissioners Josh Smith, Robert Brown, Beth Burnam and Buster Oxendine, Randy Ogburn was absent due to a family emergency. 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.

DISCUSSION OF THE "PROJECT BARK" ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Dianne Scholtz, with the Institute of Government, gave the Board a status report on the progress of Project Bark. Ms. Scholtz then introduced Carlos Silva as one of the partners for Project Bark. Mr. Silva thanked the Board for all of their hard work on Project Bark and stated that he visited the site and his only concern would be the two (2) neighbors that live in close proximity of the proposed site. Mr. Silva also stated that he would be concerned about the dust and noise for the other proposed site and wants to stay away from opposition by nearby residents. Mr. Silva assured the Board that they are committed to the project and working to bring their business to Hamilton County. Mr. Silva gave the Board a brief overview of their financial situation and stated that one of the lingering needs is a contract for a wood supplier. Mr. Silva then stated that they were also looking forward to having the Economic Development Agreement and would like to begin construction around March 1, 2015. Mr. Silva discussed the market for the pellets and how they would be processed and shipped. County Coordinator Louie Goodin stated that the Phase I Environmental Assessment has been completed for the project and the preliminary compaction study will be ready for the Board to review during the November 18th Board meeting. County Engineer Greg Bailey gave the Board a brief description of the compaction test. Ms. Sholtz advised the Board that the Rural Infrastructure grant will assist in the funding of any compaction issues with the property. Mr. Silva also stated that his company would have approximately seventy-two (72) direct jobs and that the indirect jobs would be significant as well. The Board again thanked Mr. Silva for his time and directed staff to get the Development Agreement drafted as soon as possible.

There being no further business before the Board, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 7:53 p.m.

ATTEST:

JOSH SMITH, CHAIRMAN

GREG GODWIN, EX-OFFICIO CLERK