

Regular Meeting
Commission Board Room
Dixie County Courthouse
214 NE Hwy 351, Cross City, FL 32628
January 02, 2025 – 10:00 AM

The Board meetings are audio recorded. The public can hear and participate in the meeting via conference call by dialing 1(917)900-1022 and enter code 32628.

COMMISSIONERS

Daniel Wood, District 2
Mark Hatch, District 3
Jamie Storey, District 4, Chairman
David Osteen, District 5

STAFF

John Jenkins, County Manager
Roy Bass, Assistant County Manager
Martha McCaskill, Administrative Asst/Grant Coordinator
Chana Watson, County Attorney
Barbie Higginbotham, Clerk of Court
Verna Wilson, Chief Deputy Clerk
Brenda Royal, Chief Financial Officer
Victoria Darkow, Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

The Board Meeting/Workshop was called to order at 10:00 AM by Commissioner Hatch.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG

The Invocation was led by Commissioner Storey and the Pledge to the American Flag was led by Commissioner Storey.

VOUCHER APPROVAL

Commissioner Osteen made the motion to approve the vouchers. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

Sheriff Darby Butler spoke about the last workshop and asked the Board for reimbursement for the funds from Hurricane Idalia. He stated that Mrs. Brenda Royal and Mrs. Rhonda Cannon worked together and broke down the funds as follows.

Labor - \$139,614.82
Equipment - \$52,261.44
Materials - \$ 1,232.84

The total is \$193,109.10 that Sheriff Darby Butler is requesting from the Board.

Commissioner Storey made a motion to reimburse Sheriff Darby Butler \$193,109.10 on behalf of the County. Commissioner Osteen seconded. Board approved.

KATRINA VANAERNAM AND SHIELA FRIERSON, DIXIE COUNTY ANTI-DRUG COALITION

Mrs. Katrina VanAernam was not present for the meeting.

KAY MCCALLISTER, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Mrs. Kay McCallister had nothing to bring to the Board.

GREG BAILEY, NORTH FLORIDA PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Mr. Kellen Bailey updated the Board on 95th and 97th and stated that the bids will be open on Tuesday. He informed the Board that they will review the bids to bring back at the next Board meeting.

JOHN LOCKLEAR, LOCKLEAR AND ASSOCIATES

Mr. John Locklear had nothing to bring to the Board.

CINDY BELLOT, LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Mrs. Cindy Bellot wished everybody a Happy New Year.

STEVE FREMEN, CODE ENFORCEMENT & VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER

Mr. Steve Fremem had nothing to bring to the Board.

STEVE HUTCHISON, COUNTY ROAD SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Steve Hutchison was not present for the meeting.

TIM JOHNSON, SOLID WASTE DIRECTOR

Mr. Tim Johnson had nothing to bring to the Board.

LEON WRIGHT, BUILDING AND ZONING OFFICIAL

Ordinance 2025-01

For application #24001 Kathie Ebaugh of JBPro, agent for Yellowfin Group, LLC.

Ordinance 2025-02

For application #24002 Kathie Ebaugh of JBPro, agent for Yellowfin Group, LLC.

Mr. Leon Wright reminded the Board that the LPA (Local Planning Agency) meeting will be held next Thursday on January 9th. He stated that there will be 13 RV special exceptions on the agenda.

Mr. Wright informed the Board that House Bill 267 takes effect today which reduces timeframes for Building Department applications and to include private providers.

Commissioner Hatch asked if there was a way that they could change the wording where you cannot sell a property with a special exception without having that removed first.

Attorney Chana Watson reminded the Board that a special exception runs with the property, not the individual and that they are renewable each year. She stated that she would do more research. Attorney Watson also asked for permission from the Board to move forward with Non ad valorem tax that will get collected each year.

Commissioner Hatch stated that there would have to be bookkeeping on the County's end to make sure the special exceptions are or are not renewed.

Mr. Wright stated that having it on the tax bill guarantees that they will pay it. He also informed the Board that the Ordinances were just an informational item and will be coming up at the LPA meeting.

**SCOTT PENDARVIS, 911 COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR
& I.T. ADMINISTRATOR**

Mr. Scott Pendarvis asked for direction from the Board on how to handle Suwannee Water and Sewer requesting I.T. support and billing.

Commissioner Hatch stated to bill them and to come up with a cost structure to present at the next Board meeting.

Mr. Pendarvis stated that the Board might need to look into hiring another person to help as needed.

DARIAN BROWN, DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

Chief Garner informed the Board that last Saturday morning, a Dixie County ambulance was involved in an accident, but fortunately nobody had any injuries. He stated that both airbags had deployed, and the windshield was busted, and it has been sent over to insurance.

He had some good news and stated that they received confirmation back on the truck they bought in Texas and that it is ready to be picked up.

Chief Garner stated that he spoke with the DOT (Department of Transportation) representative and that they will be back in the area on January 3rd to start picking up debris again.

Mrs. Sarah Ross asked for clarification if the showers and laundromat at D-Trac were still in use.

Chief Garner stated that the 30-day deadline for the showers and laundromat are up on January 6th or 7th.

GAIL CARTER, INDIGENT CARE

Mrs. Gail Carter provided a defined letter to the Board of what her and her program do for the County.

Mrs. Carter explained that residents from Dixie County who need medical care are transported to Shands Hospital in Gainesville and that the resident will complete a form for indigent health care in the event the resident had no other means of insurance.

HOLLY HOUGHTON, COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT

Mrs. Holly Houghton was not present at the meeting.

ANGIE CROWLEY, HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATOR

Mrs. Angie Crowley informed the Board that the Optum Finance cards have been mailed out to the County employees.

She clarified and stated that these cards are for medical expenses only and that if there is any remaining money left over at the end of the year, it will go back to the County.

JOHN JENKINS, COUNTY MANAGER

Action Items:

1. Request Board approval to accept the FHFC (Florida Housing Finance Corp.) funds allocated to Dixie County in the amount of \$117,000.00 for the 2024 hurricanes to assist homeowners with roof replacement. This allocation is managed by SREC (Suwannee River Economic Council) SHIP program.

Motion to approve and accept the FHFC (Florida Housing Finance Corp.) funds allocated to Dixie County in the amount of \$117,000.00 for the 2024 hurricanes to assist homeowners with roof replacement. This allocation is managed by SREC (Suwannee River Economic Council) SHIP program made by Commissioner Osteen. Seconded by Commissioner Storey. Board approved.

2. Request Board approval of the SHIP program Sub-Recipient Agreement language revision to include Fred Fox Enterprises as the Housing Construction Manager to administer the demo/rehab projects for Dixie County HHRP (Hurricane Housing Recovery Program) program managed by SREC (Suwannee River Economic Council).

3.
Motion to approve the SHIP program Sub-Recipient Agreement language revision to include Fred Fox Enterprises as the Housing Construction Manager to administer the demo/rehab projects for Dixie County HHRP (Hurricane Housing Recovery Program) program managed by SREC (Suwannee River Economic Council) made by Commissioner Osteen. Seconded by Commissioner Wood. Board approved.

4. Request Board approval of the SHIP Rehab Reimbursement for Kerry Osteen in the amount of \$24,655.00.

Motion to approve the SHIP Rehab Reimbursement for Kerry Osteen in the amount of \$24,655.00 made by Commissioner Storey. Seconded by Commissioner Wood. Board approved.

5. Request Board approval of the Local Workforce Development Area 26 ("LWDA 26") (formerly known as "CareerSource North Central Florida") Interlocal Agreement between Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Gilchrist, Dixie, and Union Counties.

6.

Motion to approve the Local Workforce Development Area 26 ("LWDA 26") (formerly known as "CareerSource North Central Florida") Interlocal Agreement between Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Gilchrist, Dixie, and Union Counties made by Commissioner Osteen. Seconded by Commissioner Storey. Board approved.

7. Request Board approval of the Locklear TWO Amendment # 2 for 22FRP81 Dixie County Airport & Prison Flood Abatement to include Attachment 8-B requirements for compliance with SLFRF.

Motion to approve the Locklear TWO Amendment # 2 for 22FRP81 Dixie County Airport & Prison Flood Abatement to include Attachment 8-B requirements for compliance with SLFRF made by Commissioner Osteen. Seconded by Commissioner Wood. Board approved.

8. Request Board approval of the Passero TWO 24-18 to update the Airport DBE (Disadvantage Business Enterprise Plan) per the new rule requirements.

Motion to approve the Passero TWO 24-18 to update the Airport DBE (Disadvantage Business Enterprise Plan) per the new rule requirements made by Commissioner Storey. Seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.

9. Request Board approval to renew the Mosquito Control Director agreement with Matt Weldon for 6 (six) months in the amount of \$1200.00 per month.

Motion to approve and renew the Mosquito Control Director agreement with Matt Weldon for 6 (six) months in the amount of \$1200.00 per month made by Commissioner Storey. Seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.

Information Items:

1. Rural County Days Network reception will be on Wednesday, Mar 19, 2025, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm, at the Dunlap Champion West at Doak Campbell Stadium. There is a \$35.00 fee per ticket paid in advance. Would any of the Commissioners like to attend this event? Rooms can be reserved overnight as the Courtyard event is the following day, Thursday, Mar 20, 2025, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm at the Capitol Plaza.

The Commissioners stated that they would attend the event, however Commissioner Storey and Commissioner Osteen would not be staying overnight.

Commissioner Jody Stephenson could not attend this meeting.

Mrs. Kay McCallister stated that the County will have a tent set up at the event also.

Mr. Jenkins stated that NE 82nd Ave and NE 592nd St has been awarded to the contractor and will be starting next week.

CHANA WATSON, COUNTY ATTORNEY

Attorney Chana Watson asked the Board if they would like to proceed with the ad valorem on special exceptions, she stated that she will work on it and bring it back before the Board.

Attorney Watson also stated that she has five (5) trailers left and is giving them out tomorrow to the people on the list. She stated if the County Commissioners had anybody else then to let her know today. She stated that they are still short quite a few titles and is working with the housing person to find the missing titles.

BARBIE HIGGINBOTHAM, CLERK OF COURT

Deputy Clerk Verna Wilson represented Clerk of Court Barbie Higginbotham and had nothing to bring to the Board.

COUNTY COMMISSION ITEMS

Commissioner Wood wished Mr. Wright a Happy Birthday and commended Mr. Johnson for the dump being clean and clear the day after Christmas.

Commissioner Osteen thanked Mr. Johnson and asked what the County will do with the trailers if they have any they don't use.

Attorney Watson stated that they belong to the County and suggested to get rid of them.

Commissioner Storey wished Mr. Wright a Happy Birthday and commended Mr. Johnson

Commissioner Hatch stated that he is excited for the new year and has plans for quite a few changes this year. He wished everyone a Happy New Year and Mr. Wright a Happy Birthday.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Kirk Marhefka reminded everyone that the Town of Cross City will be holding a City/County meeting on January 15th at 5:00PM at the County Manager's Office.

Mrs. McCallister asked if the County was still doing debris pickup and Commissioner Hatch answered yes.

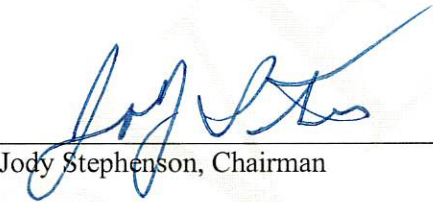
ADJOURN

Commissioner Storey made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA



ATTES



Jody Stephenson, Chairman



Barbie Higginbotham, Clerk-Auditor

PLEASE BE ADVISED that if a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearings, he/ she will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose, he/ she will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

“Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact (352) 486-4931 (Voice & TDD) or via Florida Relay Service at (800) 955-8771.”

The Board meets the first Thursday of each month at 10:00 AM and the third Thursday of each month at 6:00 PM. Individuals that would like to be placed on the agenda should call Barbie Higginbotham, Clerk of Court, by 4:00 PM on the Friday Preceding the Board meeting, at (352) 498-1200.