# ***Regular Meeting Dixie County Courthouse Commission Meeting Room February 7, 2019 – 10:00 AM***

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

W. C. Mills, Chairman

David Osteen, Vice-Chairman

Gene Higginbotham

Mark Hatch

Jamie Storey

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Tim Alexander, County Manager

Michael Osteen, County Attorney

Dana D. Johnson, Clerk of Court

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The Commission Meeting was called to order by Chairman Mills at 10:00 AM.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG:**

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

**APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES:**

The motion to approve the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of January 17, 2019 was made by Commissioner Higginbotham and seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.

**VOUCHER APPROVAL:**

The motion to approve the Vouchers was made by Commissioner Osteen and seconded by Commissioner Storey. Board approved.

**MELANIE ANDERSON, TOBACCO FREE PARTNERSHIP:**

Mrs. Melanie Anderson appeared before the Board and asked for help on a policy to restrict the sale of tobacco and alcohol within 1,000 feet from the new high school. She noted there was an ordinance in place regarding the old high school but not one yet at the new one. Mrs. Anderson stated tobacco retailers spend seven billion dollars each year to market their product and she thinks it is very important to protect our youth. She added as this year’s Vice-President of our Chamber of Commerce she does not want to stop retail sales because there are a lot of people who visit our airport, ball park and the area near the new high school. Commissioner Higginbotham made a motion for the ordinance and Commissioner Osteen seconded it. County Attorney Michael Osteen inquired if any other counties have adopted a similar ordinance yet and Mrs. Anderson replied yes and she will provide a sample. Commissioner Mills commented within a 1,000 feet of any Dixie County School and Mrs. Anderson said that is our intention. County Attorney Osteen said we have a moratorium in place for marijuana dispensaries but what about pharmacies selling prescribed marijuana. Mrs. Anderson commented most dispensaries sell tobacco as well. Commissioner Hatch said if a convenience store is built near the new high school and wants to sell tobacco then the new store cannot. County Manager Tim Alexander asked the Board to let the attorney review all legalities concerning the proposed ordinance. The motion to restrict the sale of tobacco and alcohol including pharmacies and no vaping within 1,000 feet of any school in Dixie County pending attorney review was made by Commissioner Higginbotham and seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.

**GREG BAILEY, NORTH FLORIDA PROFESSIONAL SERVICES:**

Mr. Chad McCormick appeared before the Board and stated we are waiting on the contractor for the Kate Green and Old Town Upholstery roads to begin. He noted the turn lanes and traffic signals are almost complete and then street signs and lighting will be done. Mr. McCormick said for County Road 351A we are waiting on Florida Department of Transportation to revise their cost estimate. County Attorney Osteen commented the twenty-one page easement for Punk Clark Loop Road has been revised to a two page easement after he had a good phone conversation with FDOT He added it is now ready for the chairman’s signature. The motion to approve the two page easement was made by Commissioner Hatch and seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved. Mr. McCormick stated Mr. Greg Bailey is doing much better but not driving yet and he thanks everyone for their prayers.

**STEVE HUTCHINSON, COUNTY ROAD SUPERINTENDENT:**

Road Superintendent Steve Hutchinson appeared before the Board and stated the transmission has been received. He added the transmission along with the 644 tractor is both being looked at now. He said his crew has started on the drive ways this week. Commissioner Mills thanked him.

**LEON WRIGHT, BUILDING AND ZONING:**

Mr. Leon Wright appeared before the Board and said we will have a special exception and road closure petition ready for the next morning meeting due to the computers being down. He stated our county licensing board has been fairly inactive and we have two vacancies. Mr. Wright said he would like to bring back it back into compliance by adding Mr. Ray Reissener and Jody Stephenson to the County Licensing Board. The motion to appoint Mr. Reissener to the County Licensing Board was made by Commissioner Hatch and seconded by Commissioner Higginbotham. Board approved. The motion to appoint Mr. Stephenson to the County Licensing Board was made by Commissioner Hatch and seconded by Commissioner Higginbotham. Board approved.

**DARIAN BROWN, DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES:**

Emergency Services Director Darian Brown appeared before the Board and stated the local state of emergency has been allowed to lapse due to the Suwannee River finally going down from its flood stage.

**DUANE CANNON, ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER:**

Commissioner Hatch asked Assistant County Manager Duane Cannon to look at County owned vacant property where there may be two to three acres for planting pine trees and designate the revenue for future paving projects. Assistant Manager Cannon said he will work on a list of such properties.

**TIM ALEXANDER, COUNTY MANAGER:**

County Manager Tim Alexander appeared before the Board and thanked Mrs. Cheyenne Hutchison for confirming the list of Commissioner Committee Assignments. The motion to approve the list of Commissioner Committee Assignments was made by Commissioner Hatch and seconded by Commissioner Higginbotham. Board approved.

Manager Alexander presented the application for the Ruth Rains Middle School drainage project and to modify the current permit for the school property. The motion to approve the application was made by Commissioner Osteen and seconded by Commissioner Storey. Board approved. Commissioner Higginbotham inquired if it includes putting a culvert under the Horseshoe Road to drain the water and Manager Alexander replied yes it includes a cross drain as well.

Manager Alexander requested to increase the fixed assets inventory threshold from $1,000.00 to $5,000.00 per piece of County owned equipment. The motion to increase the fixed assets inventory threshold to $5,000.00 was made by Commissioner Higginbotham and seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.

Manager Alexander presented the USDA loan paperwork for the Chairman’s signature for the Nature Source Wood Products roof. The motion to approve the USDA loan paperwork was made by Commissioner Osteen and seconded by Commissioner Storey. Board approved.

Manager Alexander requested approval for the Sheriff’s Office JAG grant for software upgrades. The motion to approve the JAG grant was made by Commissioner Osteen and seconded by Commissioner Storey. Board approved.

Manager Alexander stated Gilchrist County continues to keep their county parks and boat ramps on the Suwannee River closed. He recommended keeping our county parks and boat ramps closed due to a lot of debris in the water and the river still it outside its banks. The motion to extend the closure of county parks and boat ramps along the Suwannee River was made by Commissioner Higginbotham and seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.

Manager Alexander presented a task order for Locklear and Associates in the amount of $10,000.00 concerning the County Landfill. The motion to approve the task order was made by Commissioner Storey and seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved. Manager Alexander also presented the renewal application for the permit at the County Landfill in the amount of $9,500.00. The motion to approve the permit was made by Commissioner Storey and seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.

Manager Alexander said he had a conference call with FDOT concerning County Road 351A and new cost estimates. He noted we are waiting to see. He said the water line extension with the Town of Cross City is moving along and they have all necessary permits. Manager Alexander stated the hill at the construction and demolition landfill continues to be washed out and he estimates $12,000.00 to sod the hill as a preventative measure.

Commissioner Hatch inquired about the County Audit. Manager Alexander stated he met with each of the Board members and explained his concern about the ongoing County Audit. He added the County may receive a modified opinion.

Manager Alexander presented a letter of support for the Florida Wildlife Commission to move the opening date of scallop season. The motion to approve the letter of support was made by Commissioner Osteen and seconded by Commissioner Storey. Board approved.

**MICHAEL OSTEEN, COUNTY ATTORNEY:**

County Attorney Michael Osteen appeared before the Board and stated he and Assistant Manager Cannon have been working on an easement at Yellow Jacket. He stated it is his opinion the County does have a valid easement at the boat ramp and parking area for Yellow Jacket. He noted emails were found in 2013 where former County Manager Mike Cassidy asked Ted Burt to research it and they both agreed the County had an easement. Commissioner Higginbotham added Richard Corbin gave the County an easement as well. County Attorney Osteen agreed the easement came from Mr. Corbin.

County Attorney Osteen recommended the County accept a property donation from the Town of Cross City. Manager Alexander added the Board voted to take action for the survey of the property. The motion to accept the donated property was made by Commissioner Hatch and seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.

County Attorney Osteen stated he put in an application to the Town of Cross City for their city attorney position. He noted if he gets the position then he would make sure there would be no conflicts and another attorney would review if a conflict arose. He said as part of his professional license he must disclose to both Boards. The motion to accept County Attorney Osteen’s disclosure was made by Commissioner Hatch and seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.

**DANA D. JOHNSON, CLERK OF COURT:**

Clerk Dana Johnson appeared before the Board to let them know she has an appointment to meet with the lead auditor and her finance officer after today’s meeting. Commissioner Hatch reminded Clerk Johnson of their help if needed.

**COUNTY COMMISSION ITEMS:**

Commissioner Gene Higginbotham asked about the hole in the pavement on the Horseshoe Beach Road near Anderson Elementary. Road Superintendent Hutchison said they can help. Manager Alexander said the County taxpayers do not need to pay for this repair because the contractor messed it up and let’s make them pay for it. Commissioner Higginbotham asked Manager Alexander to get it done.

Commissioner Mark Hatch inquired about the 911 addressing near Suwannee. He said Ms. Sinoma Brown has called several Board Members about the issue. Manager Alexander stated Suwannee has a separate zip code and post office. He said it is similar to the Branford addresses in the First District. He added we can have Mr. Chuck Elton revisit Suwannee. Manager Alexander stated we have met with the United State Postal Service to rectify the issue.

Commissioner Hatch said he has spoken with Manager Alexander about hiring two part-time people and renting a grade-all to clean out ditches and get the water flow a little better. The motion to have the ditches cleaned out was made by Commissioner Osteen and seconded by Commissioner Storey. Board approved. Manager Alexander stated he will look at budget constraints.

Commissioner Hatch said something needs to be done with the red light at the new high school before there is a bad accident. County Attorney Osteen said that is why FDOT was reluctant to put in a red light because they say a red light causes more accidents. Commissioner Hatch said maybe rumble strips or paint on the road. Commissioner Higginbotham added we need blinking school zone lights. Manager Alexander stated the age of the students makes a difference for the speed limit and we have asked to move the posted signs. Mr. McCormick with NFPS said he will work on it.

Commissioner Hatch said this item has been bothering him for a while. He stated his church discussed the abortion clinic issue and he is a big prolife person and he wants to protect our County and our heritage. He added he would like to see an ordinance to ban abortion clinics in Dixie County. County Attorney Osteen said he will prepare a draft.

Commissioner WC Mills said he would like to move the posted signs and lights to the new high school. The motion to move them was made by Commissioner Storey and seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved. Mr. McCormick said they have a meeting set up with FDOT about lowering the speed limit in that area too.

**ADJOURN:**

The motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Higginbotham and seconded by Commissioner Osteen. The Board approved and the meeting adjourned at 10:52 A.M.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

W.C. Mills, Chairman

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Dana D. Johnson, Clerk-Auditor