

Regular Meeting

Commission Board Room
Dixie County Courthouse
214 NE Hwy 351, Cross City, FL 32628
February 15, 2024 – 6:00 PM

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

Martha McCaskill, Acting Assignment Assistant County Manager/Administrative Asst/Grant Coordinator
Chana Watson, County Attorney
Angie Crowley, HR Administrator
Leon Wright, Building and Zoning Official
Barbie Higginbotham, Clerk of Court
Verna Wilson, Chief Deputy Clerk
Joannie Morse, Deputy Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Board Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Commissioner Storey.

2. 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.

3. APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES

Commissioner Osteen made the motion to approve Minutes from the Regular Meeting of BOCC on February 01, 2024. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

4. VOUCHER APPROVAL

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

5. CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

None present.

PUBLIC HEARING: THE PUBLIC HEARING MAY BE CONTINUED TO ONE OR MORE FUTURE DATES. ANY INTERESTED PARTY IS ADVISED THAT THE DATE, TIME, AND PLACE OF ANY CONTINUATION OF THE PUBLIC HEARING SHALL BE ANNOUNCED DURING THE PUBLIC HEARING AND THAT NO FURTHER NOTICE CONCERNING THE MATTERS WILL BE PUBLISHED.

The motion to go into the Public Hearing was made by Commissioner Osteen. Seconded by Commissioner Wood. Board approved.

APPLICATIONS for SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS

A petition by **KENNETH & LORI J. BLACK** requesting a **Special Exception** to be granted, as provided in Section 4.3.5 SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS of the Dixie County Land Development Regulations to permit one recreational vehicle (ESA) zoning district, in accordance with the petition dated 01/22/2024 to be located on the property as described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 01-10-13-4512-0000-0340 508 NE 756 ST., OLD TOWN, FL. 32680; .00).
(Commission District 2 Daniel Wood)

The motion to approve the petition for a Special Exception for Kenneth and Lori J. Black was made by Commissioner Wood. Seconded by Commissioner Hatch. Board approved.

A petition by **WP RE VENTURES 1, LLC. - AGENT, JUSTIN ROE** requesting a **Special Exception** to be granted, as provided in Section 4.3.5 SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS of the Dixie County Land Development Regulations to permit one recreational vehicle (ESA) zoning district, in accordance with the petition dated 01/18/2024 to be located on the property as described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 36-09-13-4500-0000-0160 38 NE 304 AVENUE, OLD TOWN, FL. 32680; .00).
(Commission District 1 Jody Stephenson)

The motion to approve the petition for a Special Exception for WP RE Ventures 1, LLC.-Agent, Justin Roe was made by Commissioner Hatch. Seconded by Commissioner Wood. Board approved.

APPLICATIONS for VARIANCES

A petition by **ALLEN B. SHAW** located on the property as described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 25-09-09-0041-0000-0520 (17 SW 879TH STREET. STEINHATCHEE, FL. 32359) to request a **Variance** for a REDUCTION OF REAR SETBACKS FROM 25 FEET DOWN TO 5 FEET FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NEW HOME by the petition dated 11/20/2023 which is located within Section 4.17 "PRD" Planned Residential Development of the Dixie County Land Development Regulations in accordance with section 12.3 VARIANCE PROCEDURES.
(Commission District 5 David Osteen)

The motion to approve the petition for a Variance for Allen B. Shaw was made by Commissioner Osteen. Seconded by Commissioner Hatch. Board approved.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2024-07

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO APPROVE A SPECIAL EXCEPTION TO BE GRANTED, AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 4.3.5 SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS OF THE DIXIE COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS TO PERMIT ONE RECREATIONAL VEHICLE IN AN ENVIROMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREA (ESA) ZONING DISTRICT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PETITION DATED JANUARY 23, 2024.

Kenneth and Lori J. Black

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve the Rsolution 2024-07 request made by Kenneth and Lori J. Black. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

Resolution 2024-08

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO APPROVE A VARIANCE TO BE GRANTED, AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 12.3.1 OF THE DIXIE COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, TO GRANT A VARIANCE FOR A REDUCTION OF REAR SETBACKS FROM 25 FEET DOWN TO 5 FEET FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION OF NEW HOME WHICH IS LOCATED IN AN PLANNED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT (PRD) ZONING DISTRICT, AS PROVIDED IN THE PETITION DATED JANUARY 23, 2024.

Allen B. Shaw

Commissioner Wood made the motion to approve the Rsolution 2024-08 request made by Allen B. Shaw. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.

Resolution 2024-09

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO APPROVE A SPECIAL EXCEPTION TO BE GRANTED, AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 4.3.5 SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS OF THE DIXIE COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS TO PERMIT ONE RECREATIONAL VEHICLE IN AN ENVIROMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREA (ESA) ZONING DISTRICT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PETITION DATED JANUARY 18, 2024.

WP RE Ventures 1, LLC - Agent, Justin Roe

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve the Rsolution 2024-09 request made by WP RE Ventures 1, LLC. – Agent Justin Roe. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

6. DENNY GEORGE

Flag Presentation

Mr. George of Central Florida Electric Cooperation approached the Board to present an American Flag wall hanging made of failed fire hose from the Dixie County Fire station. Mr. George said this was the twelfth flag he has made and that through the making of these flags he has raised over \$20,000 for local charities. He presented on behalf of his family and expressed his appreciation for all the firefighters and thanked them for enduring and serving. The Board took photos with Mr. George and the EOC team members.

Mr. George also gave a quick update on the fiber internet service coming to Dixie County through Central Florida Electric Cooperative. He said that fiber is coming sometime around August of 2024.

7. KAY MCCALLISTER, TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Mrs. Kay McCallister approached the Board to invite Town Council Member Ryan Fullford to speak about the Train Depot in Cross City.

Mr. Fullford said they had a meeting this past Monday and voted to allocate \$5,000.00 to removing the lead paint and repainting the Train Depot. He states they got a quote of almost \$16,000.00 and they will put \$5,000.00 towards that and then they are taking \$8,000.00 out of the Tourism Development Council, that leaves around \$2,000.00 for inside improvements and Mrs. Karen VanAernam of Cross City Restore and Renew is donating \$3,000.00. He also stated they plan to finish before the Centennial Celebration on April 20, 2024.

Mr. Fullford also stated there is a Centennial Celebration Committee Meeting tomorrow February 16, 2024, at 3:30 PM. He states any help will be greatly appreciated.

8. KATRINA VANEARNAM AND SHIELA FRIERSON, DIXIE COUNTY ANTI-DRUG COALITION

Mrs. VanEarnam and Mrs. Frierson were not present for this meeting.

9. STEVE COPELAND, SUWANNEE WATER AND SEWER MANAGER

Mr. Copeland was not present for this meeting.

10. GREG BAILEY, NORTH FLORIDA PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Mr. Greg Bailey of North Florida Professional Services updated the Board on several ongoing projects.

These projects include:

- Emergency Operations (EOC) building. He states they received the water main permit on the seventh of February and are working with utility plans and will submit it to the Town of Cross City for review and to finalize. He also said he had a meeting with Director of Emergency Management Darian Brown to discuss the IT needs at the new building.
- Mr. Bailey stated that the Acting Assistant County Manager Martha McCaskill has a contract for Slack on the Old Town Fire Station and there is a tentatively set preconstruction meeting scheduled for February 22, 2024.
- Library Roof Repair- Mr. Bailey said the plans and bid documents were submitted on February 5, 2024.

- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)- Mr. Bailey stated they are still working on the plans for this project.
- Hall Chaires Road-Mr. Bailey said they have resubmitted to the Department of Transportation and are waiting on the approval to advertise.
- Sheriff's Evidence Building-Mr. Bailey informed the Board that he met with the Sheriff on Tuesday, and they are revising the floorplan based on the Sheriffs comments.
- Highway 349 Project- Mr. Bailey's said that his Transportation Director had a conversation with the Department of Transportation (DOT) staff this week and it looks like it will be around October of this year before coming out of their shop to the county. He said costs have increased considerably. The current estimate is around seven (7) million dollars.

Commissioner Storey asked about the status of starting construction on the two (2) roads the county is working on getting repaired.

Mr. Bailey stated that they are at about sixty percent. He said it would be about another two (2) to three (3) months before advertisement and around six (6) months before construction starts.

11. JOHN LOCKLEAR, LOCKLEAR AND ASSOCIATES

Mr. Locklear stated that he had nothing to bring before the Board for this meeting.

12. CINDY BELLOT, LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Mrs. Bellot was not present for this meeting.

13.. STEVE FREMEN, CODE ENFORCEMENT & VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER

Mr. Fremen was not present for this meeting.

Attorney Chana Watson presented for Mr. Fremen. Attorney Watson stated that the County Building and Zoning employee John Jenkins was served with a lawsuit where the county was named as defendant concerning the Loyd Roberts property in Dixie County. She said the County was served because this property had a code enforcement violation, and the County has placed a lien against the property. She informed the Board the bank is suing to foreclose on the property is the first lien holder, the County is the second lien holder, but the County may still be able to recover some money or at least be able to clean up the property. Attorney Watson said she was bringing this before the Board to see if she can go forward as well as monitor this on behalf of the County and Code Enforcement.

14. STEVE HUTCHISON, COUNTY ROAD SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Hutchinson was not present for this meeting.

15. DWAYNE CHAUNCEY, MOSQUITO CONTROL DIRECTOR

Mr. Chauncey was not present for this meeting.

16. TIM JOHNSON, SOLID WASTE DIRECTOR

Solid Waste Director Tim Johnson gave an update on the compactor and said they changed the hydraulic cylinder, and it is up and operational.

Commissioner Storey thanked Mr. Johnson for his hard work in getting the compactor up and running again.

Commissioner Hatch asked for Mr. Johnson to explore an option of getting a more self-contained compactor for the County. He stated that he liked the fact that it would be bigger, have no leach aide, be more environmentally friendly, and be mobile to serve the coastline areas.

Mr. Johnson said he would call and see if they could come and make some recommendations for our County.

17. LEON WRIGHT, BUILDING AND ZONING OFFICIAL

Building and Zoning Official Leon Wright stated that he spoke with the state on the floodplain ordinance and received the first draft, edited it, and sent it back and is waiting on a return copy to go forward.

Mr. Wright brought it to the attention of the Board that Building and Zoning must audit 150 houses by March 1, 2024, and this is out of 1,591 houses, in which the rest are due by December 2024. He stated that this is a lot to complete and would welcome any help that could be offered.

Audience Member Mrs. Barbara Cumings asked what is the fifty percent rule?

Mr. Wright answered that if a house is valued at \$100,000.00 dollars and is below base flood, the homeowner cannot do more than \$50,000.00 dollars worth of work to the home until the home is brought out of the flood zone.

Commissioner Hatch asked Mr. Wright what it would take for him to meet the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) deadline?

Mr. Wright said that he could focus one hundred percent on the FEMA files and do nothing else, for instance like stopping issuing permits, etc.... and just tackle this alone until it's done. He also stated that there may be an opportunity for an extension of the FEMA deadlines.

Commissioner Storey asked if Mr. Wright must personally go to each home or can he send help.

Mr. Wright stated that once a property is deemed to be forty percent and above, they come to him, and he must review those personally.

Commissioner Storey asked if Mr. Wright needed any help.

Commissioner Hatch asked if the process was the same as in Horseshoe Beach.

Mr. Wright said he is not sure how they are going forward with the process in Horseshoe, but if Alternative Recovery Consulting (the company that helped in Horseshoe Beach with Hurricane Recovery Grants) is willing to come help him that would be great.

Commissioner Hatch also encouraged everyone to apply for the State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program (SHIP) and mentioned that if a person doesn't qualify because of income standards to go ahead

and still apply. He stated that he spoke to Matt with the SHIP program and Mr. Matt said there might be a waiver there; it just depends on how big the gap is between the allowable income level and the actual income. Commissioner Hatch said he has spoken to the State Representatives about raising the qualifying income amounts.

Mr. Wright closed by reiterating that they are going to be one person down at Building and Zoning and have advertised for help and would appreciate any help offered to their department.

18. DARIAN BROWN, DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

Director of Emergency Services Darian Brown gave an update on the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) budget. He stated that Mrs. Lisa is doing an excellent job with the budget. He said that she hit \$86,239.00, which puts the EOC at \$482,835.00, which is still \$82,835.00 over the projected budget.

Mr. Brown offered help to Mr. Wright with any research, or anything needed for the FEMA deadline. He states he wasn't aware of the situation and constraints within Mr. Wright's department.

Mr. Brown stated they have two (2) fire stations being built in the County and that Mrs. Martha McCaskill will present the construction agreement with Slack Construction later in the meeting. Mr. Brown said Slack Construction was approved to be the contractor and the date is set for the preconstruction meeting for either the 21st or 22nd of February. He said the Old Town Fire Station has been demolished and the contract gives them 210 days to have a new fire station built. He states this means we should have a new Fire Station around August or September of 2024.

Mr. Brown stated the EOC expansion is going to start around August of 2024. He explained this new addition will include four (4) new offices, a new conference room, and a new lobby. The addition will double the size of the building.

Mr. Brown also mentioned to the Board that there are other recovery money requests lying on the Governor's desk at this time. He stated that there was fifty million dollars allotted for recovery from the state and our County has applied for \$112,000.00 of that money. He reminded the Board that some of the projects may not be viable and will get cut, but he is hoping the County will at least get two more projects approved.

Mr. Brown stated that today they submitted the Horseshoe Station in regular appropriations, but it was picked up in the special appropriations funds. He said this building was going to have a logistical staging area to disperse supplies during storms and included a County Community Center and Hurricane Shelter, so the County doesn't have to close the school in the event of a disaster. Mr. Brown said that unfortunately the cost came in at \$28,000,000.00 dollars and they were told \$2,000.00 to \$3,000.00; therefore, they knew it would probably not be picked up.

Mr. Brown stated the last project that the EOC department submitted was for the Fleet Maintenance Facility in Cross City. He said they currently have a two-stall maintenance facility beside Building and Zoning but wanted a bigger building and wanted to move it out to the property at the airport. Mr. Brown told the Board that he has been in contact with his Firetruck Sales Representative as well as his

State Representative, and has met with the CEO of Tenate Fire, who said if given the space, they would like to put a service center for a Pierce Fire Apparatus in this part of the state of Florida. The CEO of Tenate Fire told Mr. Brown that he will buy the lifts, put money and mechanics in it, and we would be able to get parts for the firetrucks at cost. Mr. Brown wants to see if we can get some revenue coming into the county, but it depends on approval. He said we can't guarantee it will be picked up, but he is hoping it will.

The cost of the building is 3.5 million.

Mr. Brown stated they had tanker training today for the new tanker. He said they will receive the equipment this week and are requesting reimbursement for one half a million dollars.

Mr. Brown said they will have a pushing ceremony on February 28, 2024, ^{but} he is not sure of the time yet.

Mr. Brown said he would be meeting with Mrs. Kat Cammack on February 27, 2024, in relation to fire grants as well as other grants in operations. He said he will also be meeting regarding a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) for medical care within the county. Mr. Brown stated he also spoke with the two (2) top people with the Department of Health (DOH) concerning the same thing and they have been conducting research in this area for our County.

Mr. Brown reminded of the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Fire Stations on March 13, 2024.

Mr. Brown stated they are moving forward with the \$84,000.00 of Opioid money and he thanked Attorney Watson for the help with getting that money and said it will help the paramedicine program.

Commissioner Hatch asked about the paramedicine program and said that Mrs. Allison should be given a pat on the back for her work in that program for our community.

Mr. Brown Agreed. He stated that the County was able to have the program for around 3 years thanks to a grant received through the Anti-Drug Coalition, but it's no longer available for now.

He said that the Department of Health (DOH) is pushing for paramedicine on a community basis throughout the State of Florida. He also informed the Board there is a meeting at the Cape Canaveral on February 25, 2024, and the State Medical Director met with Medicare and Medicaid regarding Mobile Integrated Health and new codes for billing for mobile health. Mr. Brown said that if all comes to be the County will hopefully be able to bill in April or May of 2024.

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

Communications Director and IT Administrator Scott Pendarvis approached the Board to request for funds reallocation of some of the funds from the Sheriff's Office from the leftover Smartcop Funds, which totaled \$140,000.00 dollars. He said there is still a need for mounts for computers in the trucks and he is asking for \$50,000.00 dollars to buy a mount for every truck, and a few trucks still need money for computer connectivity. He also added that the new Fire Stations will need new computers as well.

Commissioner Hatch stated he was fine with that if it's approved by the Sheriff's Office.

Mr. Pendarvis said the first reallocation given was for \$45,000.00 dollars to purchase eleven laptops and Smartcop licenses for each laptop, and for a couple computers for the existing stations. He said he spoke with the Sherriff today and he is ok with this.

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve the reallocation of the \$50,000.00 pending the Sheriff giving his blessing. Second Osteen. Board approved.

Mr. Pendarvis also mentioned that he has a Special Disbursement under the Emergency Communications Board in the amount of \$100,000.00 dollars exclusively to beef up cyber security for the 911 dispatch unit.

20. GAIL CARTER, INDIGENT CARE

Mrs. Carter was not present for this meeting.

21. HOLLY HOUGHTON, COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT

Mrs. Houghton was not present for this meeting.

22. ANGIE CROWLEY, HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATOR

Human Resources Administrator Angie Crowley presented the Board with a request for Charlie Jones for another thirty days' extension of leave. She did make it known that if approved it would leave the County Extension Office closed for the month of March because Mrs. Holly Houghton will be at the Fair. She said she will try and get her some help for that time, but for now would like to ask the Board for approval for the extension of leave time for Mrs. Jones.

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve the thirty-day extension of leave for Charlie Jones. Seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.

23. PAUL GAINNEY, ACTING ASSIGNMENT COUNTY MANAGER

Mr. Gainey was not present for this meeting; however, he was attending via phone coverage. Acting Assistant County Manager/Grant Coordinator Martha McCaskill presented in his place.

Mrs. McCaskill presented the County Manager's Report as follows:

Action Items:

1. Request Board approval for the SHIP Down Payment Assistance for Jennifer Beveridge in the amount of \$20,000.00.

Commissioner Osteen made the motion to approve the SHIP Down Payment Assistance for Jennifer Beveridge in the amount of \$20,000.00. Seconded by Commissioner Hatch. Board approved.

2. Request Board approval for the SHIP Rehab Reimbursement for Debra Dease in the amount of \$24,805.65.

Commissioner Osteen made the motion to approve the SHIP Rehab Reimbursement for Debra Dease in the amount of \$24,805.65. Seconded by Commissioner Wood. Board approved.

3. Request Board approval of Resolution 2024-10 modifying the language to add Demolition/Reconstruction strategy to the SHIP 2023-2026 LHAP (local Housing Assistance Plan). This is due to the additional HHRP funds for Hurricane Idalia.

Commissioner Osteen made the motion to approve of Resolution 2024-10 modifying the language to add Demolition/Reconstruction strategy to the SHIP 2023-2026 LHAP (local Housing Assistance Plan). This is due to the additional HHRP funds for Hurricane Idalia.

Seconded by Commissioner Hatch. Board approved.

4. Request Board approval of the Slack Construction Agreement for the Old Town Fire Station in the amount of \$2,189,040.00.

Commissioner Wood made the motion to approve the Slack Construction Agreement for the Old Town Fire Station in the amount of \$2,189,040.00. Seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.

5. Request Board approval of the UCP (Unified Certification Program) Agreement. This is for the new requirement by FAA for the DBE (Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Plan) certification.

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve the UCP (Unified Certification Program) Agreement. This is for the new requirement by FAA for the DBE (Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Plan) certification. Seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.

6. Request Board approval to allow Mr. Gene Higginbotham and Mr. Robbie Lee to handle the Fair purchases on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners as completed in previous years.

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to allow Mr. Gene Higginbotham and Mr. Robbie Lee to handle the Fair purchases on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners as completed in previous years. Seconded by Commissioner Wood. Board approved.

Information Items:

1. Reminder for the NFEDP meeting related to Economic Development on Friday, March 1, 2024, at Camp Anderson Anchored 536 NE 168th Ave Old Town.

24. CHANA WATSON, COUNTY ATTORNEY

Attorney Chana Watson approached the Board with an Agreement from the Dixie County School Board regarding the Old Town Board Meeting Building, otherwise known as the WC Mills Building. Attorney Watson said that she wanted to make sure the Board is aware that she represents the School Board as well as the Board of County Commissioners.

She stated that the School Board wanted the County to review and sign an agreement stating that in exchange for the building the Board would assist with the establishment and development of an access road, including but not limited to clearing the route, hauling debris, supplying lime rock, labor, and

equipment. The agreement also states that once the County takes ownership of the building, they are responsible for all costs, and the agreement also allows the School Board to continue to use the parking lot. Attorney Watson said there is also a reverter clause that states that if the building was ever not being used for public purposes it would revert to the school board.

Commissioner Storey stated that he thought the Board had already signed an agreement for the building.

Attorney Watson said no, the Board just voted to accept it and since then things have become complicated. She states that the school is now having financial issues and are nervous about gifting an asset without something in return when they are looking at possible layoffs.

Commissioner Storey stated that the School Board agreed to help and assist them build the road, but now the School Board wants us to complete it all, not just assist.

Commissioner Hatch stated that there was previously a piece of property in Suwannee that was part of the agreement, but it is now off the table.

Attorney Watson verified that there was originally a piece of property in Suwannee in the agreement along with the Old Town Community Center, both properties given to the Board of County Commissioners in exchange for building the road for the school.

Attorney Watson explained the access road in detail to the Board. She stated that this would be a road allowing buses to go from the high school to the middle school without having to get onto Highway 19 and would also allow another access point in and out of the High School. She added that the road would be for school personnel only; however, there is not a clear route set forth for the road, because the current location would take the road across city property.

Commissioner Wood stated that he liked the word assist, but he didn't want the County to single handedly build the road.

Attorney Watson stated that the School Boards intentions were not for the County to build the whole road alone, but they just don't have the equipment and will also fall short on the funding as well as they have a very limited time to make it happen or they will lose the money.

Commissioner Hatch asked why the School Board backed out on including the Suwannee property in the agreement with the County?

Attorney Watson said the School Board needed it because of short falls in their budget.

Commissioner Hatch stated that he offered the School Board up to \$250,000.00 dollars worth of any kind of service and they turned it down, because they wanted an open-ended agreement. He also mentioned that it would cost around \$27,000.00 to \$28,000.00 dollars to run the building monthly and the building also needs some work.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wood to deny the current offer/agreement presented by the School Board regarding the Old Town Community Building and the new road for the school Board. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.

Attorney Watson suggested taking it back to the School Board to see if they want to give the Board a dollar amount and then at that point, the Board will determine if they accept the building. She also stated there would also need to be an agreement with the city for the route on which to build the road.

City Council Member Ryan Fulford agreed and stated that the previously mentioned routes will not work, and the city would have to be presented with an alternate route.

25. BARBIE HIGGINBOTHAM, CLERK OF COURT

Clerk of Court Barbie Higginbotham stated that she just wanted to remind everybody of the Cross City Cleanup scheduled for Saturday February 24, 2024, for the Cross City Restore and Renew Program. She added that cleanup dates are scheduled as follows: March 30, 2024, and April 13, 2024, starting at 8:30AM at city hall.

26. COUNTY COMMISSION ITEMS

Commissioner Wood thanked the Solid Waste Director Tim Johnson for his help and hard work in getting the compactor back up and running. He also reminded everyone to keep Jody Stephenson and Steve Hutchinson in our prayers.

Commissioner Hatch asked for the County to provide dumpsters on the cleanup days for help with trash pickup.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hatch to put a twenty-yarder dumpster at the City Hall for trash pick-up on the cleanup days. Commissioner Osteen seconded. Board approved.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hatch to put a regular dumpster at the Johnny Green Park for the Black History Month Celebration for trash pick-up. Commissioner Osteen seconded. Board approved.

Commissioner Hatch stated that he received a call from Lucas Rollison regarding a program that implements placing donated life-preservers at local boat ramps for emergency situations.

A motion was made by Commissioner Osteen to implement the life preservers program. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

Commissioner Hatch also stated there is a meeting at Camp Anderson on March 1, 2024, from 8:30AM-12PM. He also reminded everyone to keep Commissioner Stephenson and Steve Hutchinson in our prayers.

Commissioner Osteen reminded everyone of the Steinhatchee Fiddler Crab Festival coming up this weekend. He also said he is meeting with Steve Hutchinson and Paul Greenwell with the Steinhatchee Stingray Recreation Association regarding making a walking trail in Steinhatchee. He assured this would be completed in stages with his discretion.

A motion was made by Commissioner Osteen to start on the greenway trail in Steinhatchee in stages with Commissioner Osteen's discretion. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.

Commissioner Storey asked everyone to keep Steve Hutchinson and Commissioner Stephenson in our prayers as well as HR Administrator Angie Crowley, who will be out the whole month of April. He added to keep one another and our County in our prayers.

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to go out to advertisement for a consultant that could help the County. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

Commissioner Osteen stated he needed more information.

Attorney Watson stated that the County could start the procurement process.

27. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Building and Zoning Official Leon Wright stated there is a flaw in overtime for straight salary employees. He stated it should be looked at and addressed.

Commissioner Hatch agreed.

Town Council Member Ryan Fullford reminded of a meeting on March 6, 2024, between the Town of Cross City and the Board of County Commissioners at 5:00 PM at city hall.

Mrs. Kay McCallister reminded everyone of a meeting at the Library Meeting Room on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at 4:00PM for a Tourism Council Workshop.

Mrs. Barbara Cummings asked the Board if they were aware of the bill before Legislature that would regulate term limits for County Commissioners and asked what we the people should do about this.

Commissioner Hatch said talk to your Representative Jason Shoaf and Senator Corey Simon.

Mr. Jim ward said he heard that the School Board is entitled to fifteen percent of the sale of state timber land, but the Board responded that they had not heard of anything in relation to this.

28. ADJOURN

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

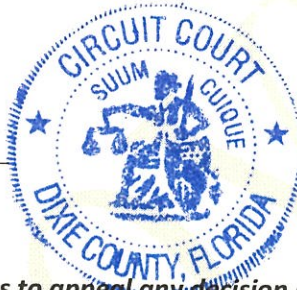
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA

ATTEST:



Jamie Storey, 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.