# ***Regular MeetingDixie County CourthouseCommission Meeting RoomFebruary 21, 2019 – 6:00 PM***

**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

Della J. Petty, Deputy Clerk

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The Meeting was Called to Order by Chairman Mills at 6:00 PM.

**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 Mills.

**APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES:**

The motion to approve the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of February 7, 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 Higginbotham. Board approved.

*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.*Hatch and seconded by Commissioner Gene. Board approved.

A petition by *Dianne and Lewis Cruce* requesting a Special Exception to be granted, as provided in Section 4.4.5 subparagraph (9) of the Dixie County Land Development Regulations to permit one recreational vehicle in an Agricultural (A-4) zoning district, in accordance with the petition dated November 05, 2018, to be located on the property as described as follows: Dixie County Parcel Number: 28-08-13-3820-0000-0030 (4335 N. E. Highway 353, Old Town, 0.936 acres). (Commission District 1)

Ms. Tammi Clyatt appeared before the Board and read Cruce Special Exception by title only. She noted letters were mailed, signs were posted and there was opposition. The motion to deny the Cruce Special Exception was made by Commissioner Higginbotham and seconded by Commissioner Hatch. Board denied.

The motion to go back into the Commission Agenda Items was made by Commissioner Hatch and seconded by Commissioner Higginbotham. Board approved.

**CAROL WEST, NORTH FL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP:**

Mrs. Carol West appeared before the Board representing both the Chamber of Commerce and the Dixie Education Foundation. She stated she attended the Economic Development Summit in Orlando and this year’s buzz word is work force. She added Wendy Hutchison and Noah Rollison sponsor the AVID program and Michelle Burke teaches about aviation careers at the High School. Mrs. West stated ninety percent of the room didn’t know about aviation in the classroom and our team did a great job showcasing our schools future in aviation. She noted aviation and aerospace are in the top five industries in the State of Florida. Mrs. West said on average small counties spend between $200,000.00 and $600,000.00 on economic development. She added Central Florida Electric Cooperative has invited the tri-county area to attend a meeting on March 6, 2019 for a discussion to hire a professional person for economic development. She thanked the Board for allowing her to attend the summit and for their continued support. Mrs. West reminded everyone of the County Centennial in April 2021 and the Town of Cross City will be 100 years old in 2023. Commissioner Hatch inquired about vocational opportunities for our students and Mrs. West replied there are sixty-six schools within driving distance of Dixie County who provide vocational programs.

**CINDY BELLOT, LIBRARY DIRECTOR:**

Mrs. Cindy Bellot appeared before the Board and said our very own Rob Hatch will be performing at our Centennial Celebration. She added the Library will have a display from NASA the last week of May. She noted Three Rivers Regional Library System will have its next Board meeting on March 14, 2019 at the Gilchrist Library. She commented we now have 11,001 patrons which is not bad for a small county.

**CHEYENNE STEMPLE HUTCHINSON, TDC:**

County Manager Tim Alexander stated Mrs. Hutchinson’s grandfather passed away and there will be a service on Saturday. He asked everyone be in prayer for them.

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

Mr. Chad McCormick appeared before the Board and stated they will meet with Florida Department of Transportation about County Road 351A next Thursday for the final estimate. He said the US 19 turn lane construction is now complete. Commissioner Osteen said he received a lot of complaints. Manager Alexander stated he will meet with FDOT safety division regarding the school zone. Commissioner Mills said his concern with the Jena turn lanes. Mr. McCormick said he will look at it. Mr. McCormick added paving should begin on the Old Town Upholstery and Kate Green Roads next week.

**STEVE HUTCHINSON, COUNTY ROAD SUPERINTENDENT**:

Road Superintendent Steve Hutchison appeared before the Board to discuss comp time for the employees. He asked the Board to revise the policy to increase their number of comp time on the books from 50 hours to 150 hours. Commissioner Hatch inquired why and Superintendent Hutchison stated during the storm season when comp time is earned the employees like to use it during hunting season. The motion to increase the number of comp time from 50 hours to 120 hours on the books was made by Commissioner Higginbotham and seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved. Manager Alexander said he will update the policy handbook.

Superintendent Hutchison said he would like to advertise next week for a grader operator and operator/mechanic. Manager Alexander noted the position is already in the budget. The motion to advertise was made by Commissioner Higginbotham and seconded by Commissioner Hatch. Board approved.

Manager Alexander stated we have one citizen who wants to purchase millings for the area beside their property on our county road. Mr. Glen Biggerstaff asked how would the lime rock be maintained and Commissioner Hatch said just grade in between it. Superintendent Hutchison said it will not interfere with our graders. Manager Alexander noted the County must maintain it once it is in place. Commissioner Mills said we can’t do it for one person and not the next person. Manager Alexander stated the County would haul, place, level then maintain it. Mr. Jered Lizotte inquired about the price and County Attorney Osteen said it costs $250.00 per load. The motion to allow a citizen to purchase millings and place on the County Road was made by Commissioner Hatch and seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved. The motion to advertise for a part-time limb mower was made by Commissioner Hatch and seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved. Manager Alexander thanked Superintendent Hutchison for always supporting his crew.

**JOE RUTH, SOLID WASTE AND MOSQUITO CONTROL DIRECTOR:**

County Attorney Osteen read a letter presented to Commissioner Hatch. The letter had $20.00 attached and stated concerning elected officials here is a deposit of $20.00 for household recycling from Gladys Rollison. The letter also stated people don’t want to drive to Perry or Trenton to recycle and also the dumpster on CR 55A needs some attention. Commissioner Hatch agreed and contributed $20.00 to the recycling fund. Manager Alexander stated on March 23, 2019 there will be Toxic Roundup day at the Courthouse parking lot and Fire Station in Old Town.

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

Mr. Darian Brown appeared for the Board and presented his monthly report. He noted 314 calls in January with two air transports. He added $164,786.00 in charges and $62,000.00 in deposits. He also presented his annual staffing report for fire suppression. He said fire response requires four people to safely respond to a structure fire – two people inside and two people outside who respond within fourteen minutes from time of call to time of arrival on scene. EMS Director Brown said there were 1,118 calls in 2018 and 441 times the standard was met. He stated the response time is getting better. He noted if the Town of Cross City is taken out of the equation then response time is met about forty percent of the calls. He gave an example of a call this past Friday night where six personnel responded to a trailer fire and they fought it for six hours nonstop. He added they ran out of thirty air bottles twice and his people were exhausted with one firefighter injury. Commissioner Mills inquired about their equipment and EMS Director Brown stated they have top of the line equipment. Commissioner Mills thanked him and his crew for doing the best they can.

**DUANE CANNON, ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER:**

Assistant County Manager Duane Cannon appeared before the Board and said he met with the timber harvester on the 75 acres purchased last year adjacent to the Cross City Airport. He stated we have an agreement with the land owner to access the 75 acres but will need lime rock at the turn off. He commented they should begin in about two weeks and it will take about a month to cut the timber.

**TIM ALEXANDER, COUNTY MANAGER:**

County Manager Tim Alexander appeared before the Board and recommended action on the task order for Locklear and Associates on the Peril of Flood grant in the amount of $52,000.00. The motion to approve the task order was made by Commissioner Higginbotham and seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.

Manager Alexander requested a Board a workshop regarding the Airport Master Plan on March 21, 2019 at 4:30 PM. The motion to hold the workshop was made by Commissioner Higginbotham and seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.

Manager Alexander recommended keeping the County Boat Ramps closed because the other side of the Suwannee River is still closed. The motion to keep the County Boat Ramps closed was made by Commissioner Hatch and seconded by Commissioner Higginbotham. Board approved.

Manager Alexander met with the Little League and new Babe Ruth managers for use of the Hudson ball field which will be fixed up. The motion to designate Hudson Ball Field for the new Babe Ruth league was made by Commissioner Osteen and seconded by Commissioner Higginbotham. Board approved.

Manager Alexander thanked those who attended the meeting regarding the upcoming scallop season with the Florida Wildlife Commission. He noted the FWC said it was the first time an entire County Commission had come before them and they were impressed. Mr. Charlie Norwood and Mr. Mark Revlin appeared before the Board to thank them for their support. Commissioner Hatch stated their minds were made up to leave the open day at July but everyone’s support made all the difference. Commissioner Higginbotham reminded all to be at the meeting on March 5, 2019 to support it again.

**MICHAEL OSTEEN, COUNTY ATTORNEY:**

County Attorney Michael Osteen appeared before the Board and stated the Judge entered an injunction in the Central Florida Electric versus Extreme Broadband case. He added it will be very costly if CFEC has to move their poles.

County Attorney Osteen said the deeds have been prepared for tennis courts should be approved at the next City Council meeting. Manager Alexander said we are getting them cleaned up.

County Attorney Osteen asked everyone to keep Mrs. Joe Ann Sheppard in your prayers.

**COUNTY COMMISSION ITEMS:**

Commissioner David Osteen asked about the stretch of Highway 51 owned by Dixie County. He said there is a sink hole in it and Assistant County Manager Cannon said Jorgensen would need to be contacted.

Commissioner Gene Higginbotham stated he received a complaint about a contract crew for FDOT who was clearing the right of way on State Road 349 at 8:00 AM on a Sunday morning near the First District Community Building and Manager Alexander said he will check on it.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS:**

A member of the audience asked if the audit is complete and Manager Alexander said no it is being worked on with about forty items to review.

**ADJOURN:**

The motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Higginbotham and seconded by Commissioner Osteen. The Board approved and the meeting adjourned at 6:50 P.M.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

 DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

 W.C. Mills, Chairman

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Dana D. Johnson, Clerk-Auditor