

**Regular Meeting**  
***Dixie County Courthouse***  
***Commission Board Room***  
***214 NE Hwy 351, Cross City, FL 32628***  
***March 03, 2022 – 10:00 AM***

*While adhering to the CDC Guidelines and following State of Florida Executive Orders: 20-51 Establishing Response Protocol, 20-52 declaring a Public Health Emergency, 20-69 regarding Local Government Public Meetings and the Dixie County Emergency Declaration 2020-29. The Board will meet and limit access by staff and the public to the meeting room. 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**

Jody Stephenson, District 1  
W. C. Mills, District 2, Vice Chairman  
Mark Hatch, District 3  
Jamie Storey, District 4, Chairman  
James Valentine, District 5

**STAFF**

Duane Cannon, County Manager  
Paul Gainey, Asst. County Manager  
Martha McCaskill, Administrative Asst/Grant Coordinator  
Michael Osteen, County Attorney  
Barbie Higginbotham, Clerk of Court  
Verna Wilson, Chief Deputy Clerk  
Della Rhymes, Asst. Chief Deputy Clerk  
Jacki Johnson, Chief Financial Officer

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Board meeting was called to order at 10:20 AM by Commissioner Storey.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG**

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

**APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES**

*Commissioner Mills made the motion to approve minutes from the regular meeting of February 03, 2022. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.*

*Commissioner Mills made the motion to approve minutes from the regular meeting of February 17, 2022. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.*

**VOUCHER APPROVAL**

*Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to approve the vouchers. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.*

### **CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS**

Dixie County Sheriff Darby Butler appeared before the Board to discuss some changes in Policy and Procedures for Law Enforcement. He said the Sheriff's Association is moving forward with being accredited. He said a set of rules and standards will be created to govern the Sheriff's office and to hold them accountable. He said it will take some time to reach this goal.

Sheriff Butler informed the Board that the Sheriff's office has run out of space. He said they need some more square footage. He said they need a larger evidence room and a training facility. He said they will need funding for the construction. He said that he will work with the County Manager and North Florida Professional Services to put together a plan.

***Commissioner Hatch made the motion to allow the Sheriff to move forward with planning. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.***

Sheriff Butler informed the Board that there are some buildings at the Dixie County jail that are not adequate for their needs. He requested they be donated to Ms. Rita Harris for the expansion of her school.

***Commissioner Hatch made the motion to donate the buildings located at the jail to Ms. Rita Harris for her school. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.***

Commissioner Stephenson asked who will pay for the building to be moved. Ms. Rita Harris said she will pay for them to be moved to her location.

Commissioner Stephenson asked the Sheriff if the Old Dixie County jail could be used for their evidence room.

Sheriff Butler replied he would rather not. He said it is too old and does not meet the specifications for an evidence room. He said the Sheriff's office must expand and is looking for more space.

Ms. Pearl Enfinger asked why her family was not notified of her brothers' death by the Sheriff's office.

Sheriff Butler replied that FHP was responsible for notification; however, he will look into the matter further.

***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 Mills. Seconded by Commissioner Stephenson. Board approved.***

A petition by **William Cannon** 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 in an ESA zoning district, in accordance with the petition dated 01/28/2022 to be located on the property described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 11-09-10-0252-000A-0050, (5250 NW Hwy 19, Steinhatchee, FL 32359; 0).

**(Commission District 5, James Valentine)**

Ms. Julie Herring appeared before the Board and read the Special Exception request made by William Cannon.

**Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to approve the Special Exception request made by William Cannon. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.**

A petition by **Robert W. Hastings** 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 in an ESA zoning district, in accordance with the petition dated 02/02/2022 to be located on the property described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 13-08-13-3720-0000-0230, (330 NE 818th Street, Old Town, FL 32680; 0). **(Commission District 1, Jody Stephenson)**

Ms. Julie Herring appeared before the Board and read the Special Exception request made by Robert W. Hastings.

**Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to approve the Special Exception request made by Robert W. Hastings. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.**

A petition by **Charles Michael Jones** requesting a **Special Exception** to be granted, as provided in 4.4.5 Special Exceptions of the Dixie County Land Development Regulations to permit a home occupation as defined in Article Two, 2.1.82 ( i ) #7 professional office located in an "AG" agriculture zoning district, in accordance with the petition dated 02/02/2022 to be located on the property described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 11-08-13-0000-3665-0100, (1112 NE 910th Avenue, Branford, FL 32008; 0).

**(Commission District 1, Jody Stephenson)**

Ms. Julie Herring appeared before the Board and read the Special Exception request made by Charles Michael Jones.

**Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to approve the Special Exception requested by Charles Michael Jones. Commissioner Valentine seconded. Board approved.**

A petition by **Andrew and Karen Burnham** requesting a **Special Exception** to be granted, as provided in Section 4.4.5 Special Exceptions: number ( 9 ) recreational activities, ( campground ) in the Dixie County Land Development Regulations "AG" agriculture zoning district, in accordance with the petition dated 02/11/2022 to be located on the property as described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 21-10-13-0000-4763-0000, (23210 SE Hwy 19, Old Town, FL 32680; 43.18). **(Commission District, 3 Mark Hatch)**

Ms. Julie Herring appeared before the Board and read the Special Exception request made by Andrew and Karen Burnham. She said there is no opposition.

Mr. Donald O'Claire said he was concerned about the sewer and dump station locations and the future expansion of the campground.

**Mr. Adam Collins**, the Engineer for the Burnham's, appeared before the Board. He said that they intend to follow the Land Development Code. He said they are only creating 100 large camping sites on the property and will provide for storm water maintenance and the septic drain fields will comply with the Florida Administrative Code. He said he does not know if a noise barrier is needed, but the setbacks and trees will be maintained for a buffer.

Ms. Kathy Missledine asked about the retention pond location and who is responsible if the water overflows to her property.

Commissioner Stephenson asked where the overflow goes when the retention pond is full.

Mr. Collins said the retention pond has been engineered to hold extra water. He said the current water flow downstream will be equal or less than. He said they have planned for several ponds for use.

Building Official Leon Wright added that Suwannee River Water Management District also must review these plans.

Mr. Collins agreed and said they must design the site to comply with the 100-year flood plain. He said the SRWMD engineers look at this closely.

Mr. Donald O'Claire asked where the campground entrance is.

Mr. Collins explained the entrance will be located on Hwy 19 and added that FDOT does not want a brake in the highway medium. He said they will follow the rules of the state for the entrance.

Mr. Wright said they will have another site visit with FDOT for their approval.

Ms. Jennifer Concia expressed her concern, via telephone, with U-Turns on Hwy 19.

Commissioner Storey clarified that FDOT will have to approve this and this is the beginning of a long process.

Ms. Pearl Enfinger recommended they have an AED on site to address medical emergencies.

Mr. Wright said this property is located within the DUDA.

***Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve the Special Exception requested by Andrew and Karen Burnham. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.***

A petition by **Darryl M. Shew** 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 in an ESA zoning district, in accordance with the petition dated 12/17/2021 to be located on the property described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 02-10-13-0000-4514-0200, (3180 NE Hwy 349, Old Town, FL 32680; 0).  
**(Commission District 2, W.C. Mills)**

Ms. Julie Herring appeared before the Board and read the Special Exception request made by Darryl M. Shew.

**Commissioner Mills made the motion to approve the Special Exception requested by Darryl M. Shew. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.**

A petition by **Cyril Fullenkamp** located on the property as described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 19-13-12-2930-0000-0330, (25 SE 210 Street, Old Town, FL 32680) to request a **Variance** for a reduction of front setbacks from 25' to 10' for construction of a home on Lot # 38 by the petition dated 02/09/2022 which is located within Section 4.7.7 RSF/MH Subparagraph (2) of the Dixie County Land Development Regulations in accordance with Section 12.3 Variance Procedures.

**(Commission District 3, Mark Hatch)**

Ms. Julie Herring appeared before the Board and read the Variance request made by Cyril Fullenkamp.

**Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve the Variance requested by Cyril Fullenkamp. Commissioner Valentine seconded. Board approved.**

**The motion to go out of the Public Hearing and back into the Board Meeting was made by Commissioner Stephenson. Seconded by Commissioner Valentine. Board approved.**

#### **RESOLUTION 2022-34**

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 SUBPARAGRAPH (4) OF THE DIXIE COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS TO PERMIT ONE RECREATIONAL VEHICLE IN AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREA (ESA) ZONING DISTRICT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PETITION DATED JANUARY 28, 2022.

**William Cannon**

Ms. Julie Herring appeared before the Board and read Resolution 2022-34 in support of William Cannon.

**Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve Resolution 2022-34 in support of William Cannon. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.**

#### **RESOLUTION 2022-35**

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 SUBPARAGRAPH (4) OF THE DIXIE COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS TO PERMIT ONE RECREATIONAL VEHICLE IN AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREA (ESA)

ZONING DISTRICT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PETITION DATED FEBRUARY 02, 2022.  
**Robert W. Hastings**

Ms. Julie Herring appeared before the Board and read Resolution 2022-35 in support of Robert W. Hastings.

*Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to approve Resolution 2022-35 in support of Robert W. Hastings. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.*

**RESOLUTION 2022-36**

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO APPROVE A SPECIAL EXCEPTION TO BE GRANTED, AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 4.4.5 SUBPARAGRAPH (4) OF THE DIXIE COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS TO PERMIT A HOME OCCUPATION AS DEFINED IN ARTICLE TWO, 2.1.82 (i) #7 PROFESSIONAL OFFICE IN AN AGRICULTURAL AREA (AG) ZONING DISTRICT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PETITION DATED FEBRUARY 02, 2022.

**Charles Michael Jones**

Ms. Julie Herring appeared before the Board and read Resolution 2022-36 in support of Charles M. Jones.

*Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to approve Resolution 2022-36 in support of Charles Michael Jones. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.*

**RESOLUTION 2022-37**

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO APPROVE A SPECIAL EXCEPTION TO BE GRANTED, AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 4.4.5 SUBPARAGRAPH (4) OF THE DIXIE COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS TO PERMIT SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS: NUMBER (9) RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES, (CAMPGROUND) IN AN AGRICULTURAL AREA (AG) ZONING DISTRICT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PETITION DATED FEBRUARY 11, 2022.

**Andrew and Karen Burnham**

Ms. Julie Herring appeared before the Board and read Resolution 2022-37 in support of Andrew and Kare Burnham.

*Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve Resolution 2022-37 in support of Andrew and Karen Burnham. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.*

**RESOLUTION 2022-38**

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 SUBPARAGRAPH (4) 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 DECEMBER 17, 2021.

**Darryl M. Shew**

Ms. Julie Herring appeared before the Board and read Resolution 2022-38 in support of Darryl M. Shew.

*Commissioner Mills made the motion to approve Resolution 2022-38 in support of Darryl M. Shew. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.*

**RESOLUTION 2022-39**

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 FRONT SETBACKS FROM 25' TO 10' FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A HOME ON LOT #38, WHICH IS LOCATED WITHIN SECTION 4.7.7 A RESIDENTIAL, (MIXED) SINGLE FAMILY/MOBILE HOME (RSF/MH) ZONING DISTRICT, AS PROVIDED IN THE PETITION DATED FEBRUARY 09, 2022.

**Cyril Fullenkamp**

Ms. Julie Herring appeared before the Board and read Resolution 2022-39 in support of Cyril Fullenkamp.

*Commissioner Mills made the motion to approve Resolution 2022-39 in support of Cyril Fullenkamp. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.*

**KURT MILLER, BENCOR**  
**Employee Benefits**

Mr. Kurt Miller appeared before the Board to inform them of an additional opportunity for the employees to benefit from a Special Pay Plan. He said the Dixie County school system has used this for over 20 years. He said employees accumulate sick and vacation time over the years. He said when they retire, the employee currently gets paid out in cash for this unused time. He said this program puts the money into an individual retirement plan for the employee. He said this is mandatory for all who participate in the plan. He said this plan is like a 401 K Plan. He said the money is invested and Bencor is paid by these investment companies. He said this is a cost savings to the employee and the county regarding not paying taxes. He said the employee does not pay social security taxes or Medicare taxes and the county does not have to match these taxes. He said this program has been IRS approved since 1998. He said there are no restrictions or fees when the employee wants to withdraw their money. He said the employee can decide when to withdraw the money to avoid increasing their tax bracket. He said Bencor needs basic employee information from the county to set up the employee account. He said they provide all the documents needed and communication with the employees. He said the money would be transferred from the county payroll department to the employee account.

Commissioner Hatch asked if the employee can make contributions to this account.

Mr. Miller said no. He said this transfer of funds is only done at the end of employment.

Commissioner Hatch asked about the deferment of paying taxes.

Mr. Miller replied the employee would pay Federal taxes by receiving a 1099.

County Manager Duane Cannon explained there is a current limit on time accrued. He said the maximum limit is 240 hours for annual leave and 480 hours for sick leave. He said the county must still budget for people retiring and the pay out for them. He agreed this program would save money for all involved.

Mr. Miller explained that a wire transfer is sent on behalf of the employee to the account when they leave employment and that no taxes are paid out by the employee or the county.

A Lady from the audience said she had a bad experience with Bencor and trying to get her money when she retired from the school system. She said it took her several months to get the money.

Mr. Miller apologized to her and said Bencor is mandated by the FCC to make the electronic transfer within 24 hours of the request made by the employee.

Commissioner Stephenson asked how does Bencor get paid.

Mr. Miller replied the employee money is invested in a stable value fund. He said the employees make 1.5 percent interest on top of their money. He said that Lincoln Financial is the stable value fund that is currently being used. He said Lincoln Financial provides financial protection and a guarantee for the plan and the participants. He said all the companies are monitored by rating agencies like AM Vest and Standard. He said that Bencor can move the money to another fund if needed.

Commissioner Hatch said he would like the employees to choose if they want to participate in this or not. Commissioner Mills agreed.

Mr. Miller said this plan can be set up for a defined eligible group of employees to participate. He said everyone does not have to participate.

Emergency Management Director Darian Brown said he is concerned with his payout when he retires. He said he is grandfathered under the old policy and procedure to be paid 100 percent of his 1500 accrued hours of time.

Commissioner Hatch agreed that there are a few employees who fall under this grandfather clause issued in 2011.

Director Brown said he spoke with his financial advisor. He said his is concerned he will lose about 1/3 of his money and be in a higher tax bracket if he takes the pay-out. He said the county will also have to match the FICA taxes and Medicare from the budget. He said this proposed plan would benefit him greatly.

Ms. Holly Houghton said she has worked with Bencor before and this was a simple transfer. She said the transfer from Bencor to an investment company may take longer.

Ms. Sheila Frierson said she has used Lincoln Financial for 20 years now and they are good people.

Mr. Miller said you can also set the plan up by age levels.

Commissioner Stephenson said he would like the employees to have a say in the matter.

Ms. Houghton said this is a good idea. She said the Board has set limits on accrued time because employees were banking accrued time and not taking vacation time and sick days.

Commissioner Mills said his issue with the plan is that everyone must participate.

Mr. Miller said the Board can set limits and structure this by groups and amend them later to include more people who want to participate.

Manager Cannon said he will coordinate with Human Resources and Department Heads to help explain this to employees and get their input. He said this is a possible way to save money for the county and the employees.



Clerk of Court Barbie Higginbotham suggested that Director Brown set in on this meeting to help explain the process to the other employees.

#### **SUWANNEE WATER AND SEWER MANAGER**

Commissioner Hatch said he met with Mr. Lee, Mr. Strickland and Ms. Ross on President's Day. He said that Mr. Vern Hodson will be stepping down from that Board. He said he would like to recommend Mr. Jimmy Lamb to fill the vacant position. He said that that SWS Board rotates their elected positions like the County Board does. He said they will be interviewing applicants for the Manager position as well.

*Commissioner Hatch made the motion for Jimmy Lamb to fill the position vacated by Vern Hodson. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.*

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

Mr. Greg Bailey appeared before the Board to discuss the awarded contract to Slack Construction. He said they will move ahead with upgrades on Courthouse Security. He said they will meet with Anderson Columbia on Tuesday at 2:00 PM to discuss the Courthouse Parking Lot and negotiate a reduction in cost.

Mr. Bailey informed the Board that the NE 95<sup>th</sup> Street and NE 97<sup>th</sup> Street surveys still need to be completed for the CDBG grant. He said the grant cycle is still open for a few months. He said that NE 362<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and NE 364<sup>th</sup> Avenue will be submitted to FDOT in the next few days.

Mr. Bailey said the seawall project did not make the cut. He said that only 17 out of 246 applications were approved for funding. He said this is very competitive and they may need submit a plan with more details in the future. He said if the county could match money this could possibly up the score. Commissioner Hatch said something must be done. He said that Hwy 349 will be finished this coming year. He said they are losing the road near U. S. Post Office and at bridge to Griner Island to erosion. Manager Cannon said they can re-submit the request at the next cycle. Mr. Bailey said that the population of an area also factors into the matter. Ms. Pearl Enfinger suggested planting mangroves to help with erosion. Commissioner Hatch discussed the road designed near Billy Smith and Wayne McGargle. He said the road is good, but the curve is narrow. He said vehicles and trailers are falling off the edge of the pavement while making the turn. Mr. Bailey said there is not much room to work with, but they will look at this with the Road Department.

Commissioner Stephenson requested Mr. Bailey look at the culverts on NE 305<sup>th</sup> Avenue, NE 497<sup>th</sup> Street, NE 316<sup>th</sup> Avenue while Anderson Columbia is working on this resurfacing. Manager Cannon clarified that Locklear and Associates are handling the CEI and Darabi and Associates are working on the planning engineering.

Commissioner Stephenson said he and Mr. Alex Cronan, from the Governor's office, road through the area. He said the County Manager and Mr. Dwight Knight also was involved with the tour. He said that Mr. Cronan stated that he has tried to call and establish communication with Dixie County regarding funding. He said that Mr. Cronan said there is funding available. Manager Cannon clarified that Mr. Cronan stated that if the Senators and Representatives approve the Bill, then the Governor will sign the approval. He said this has been submitted over three months ago. Commissioner Stephenson said they would also like to see the planned phases of the project.

Mr. Greg Bailey said he would like to speak with Mr. Cronan. He clarified there is a normal process and a political process, and they don't always match up. He said that several counties are hiring lobbyists to help move things along in Tallahassee.

Commissioner Hatch said they have been working on McGriff Pass for years and have nothing yet. Mr. Jeff Hardison of Hardison Ink stated that McGriff Pass is a Federal Government Project.

Mr. Greg Bailey said the administrator for the Consortium money wants to know if the county wants to pursue all projects at once or in phases. Mr. Bailey recommended they prioritize the projects.

Manager Cannon clarified this is the BP Oil Spill money.

Ms. Pearl Enfinger suggested the county have a plan in case of another oil spill.

#### **JERED LIZOTTE, LOCKLEAR AND ASSOCIATES**

Mr. John Locklear had nothing to discuss at this time.

#### **CINDY BELLOT, LIBRARY DIRECTOR**

Ms. Cindy Bellot appeared before the Board and stated that they inventoried 3,880 movies, 1,400 audio books, and 30,194 printed books at the Library.

Ms. Bellot thanked Ms. Barbara Cummings, Ms. Lita Weingart, Ms. Susan Pasti, Three Rivers Director Dale Collum, Three Rivers Operations Manager Cheryl Pulliam and Three Rivers Systems Technician Eli Anthony, all from the headquarters office in Mayo, for their help.

She also thanked Ms. Nina Johnson for surprising them with lunch on Thursday.

Ms. Bellot requested a quote of \$9,274.21 for a new computer room be approved by the Board.

***Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve the quote for the new computer room at the library. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.***

Ms. Bellot reminded everyone of the Art Festival coming up in the Town of Suwannee on March 12.

Commissioner Stephenson asked if the Tourist Development Council has reached out to her for office space for their part-time worker.

Manager Cannon said that position will possibly be working from home.

Ms. Houghton said they met with her and Scott Pendarvis and it was discussed that they may use the Historical Society building in Old Town.

#### **STEVE FREMEN, CODE ENFORCEMENT & VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER**

Mr. Steve Fremem appeared before the Board to inform them the next Code Enforcement Hearings will be March 31, 2022 at 2:30 PM for 10-12 cases.

He said the property near the church in Old Town is one of the cases on the docket to be heard.

Mr. Fremem said they still have not gotten a decision on the crab traps.

Commissioner Mills asked about the deadline on the crab trap decision.

County Attorney Michael Osteen said there is no deadline for the decision to be made by Chief Judge Mark Feagle.

**STEVE HUTCHISON, COUNTY ROAD SUPERINTENDENT**

Mr. Steve Hutchison was not present for this meeting.

**DWAYNE CHAUNCEY, MOSQUITO CONTROL DIRECTOR**

Mr. Dwayne Chauncey was not present for this meeting.

**MICHAEL LATSON, SOLID WASTE DIRECTOR**

Mr. Michael Latson was not present for this meeting.

**LEON WRIGHT, BUILDING AND ZONING OFFICIAL**

Mr. Leon Wright appeared before the Board and compared last year's permit count of 1200 to this year's which totals 701 so far. He said in January they implemented same day permitting on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, which has helped speed up the process.

Commissioner Hatch and Commissioner Stephenson both said they have heard good things about this. Commissioner Stephenson thanked him for working on catching up the back log of work. Commissioner Mills said he has also received fewer permit complaints.

**DARIAN BROWN, DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**

Director Brown appeared before the Board to update them on his trip to Bradenton. He said they inspected the fire trucks and the few deficiencies found have been corrected. He said the engines will go to the panhandle for paint and decals. He said it will be fully equipped when delivered.

Director Brown discussed the appropriations on the fire/ems stations. He said both stations are in the state budget which will close on March 10, 2022. He said that Ms. Bradley said they will deal with numbers later.

Director Brown discussed the minimum wage issue. He said they thought they had raised the level to be compared to other counties. He said other counties have amended their budgets and several are paying minimum wage rates now. He said other counties are paying \$96,000.00 compared to Dixie at \$44,000.00.

He said Dixie County has been short on staff for months and have no applicants to fill the new budgeted positions. He said they don't have any volunteers either. He said the turnover is high. He said that the staff is burnt out. He said they had 5,300 calls last year and 4,000 the year before.

Commissioner Stephenson said that other counties raised their pay scale again after Dixie had raised their pay scale.

Director Brown said everyone is struggling with staffing. He said the state allows Paramedics to work less hours in hospitals and make more money. He said a lot of people are doing this. He said he lost one CDL licensed driver for the mobile command unit. He said they are using other counties for mutual aid help with calls.

Director Brown said he would like to increase the road crew and office staff by \$2.00 per hour from the EMS/Fire budget. He said they won't be able to fill the six new budgeted positions and they won't be able to staff the second fire truck.

Commissioner Mills asked if he gives a \$2.00 raise this year, what will he do next year?

Director Brown said they can carry it forward next year. He said they also had to use ARPA funds to balance the budget.

Commissioner Stephenson asked if the General Fund has extra money for EMS and Fire to raise the pay scale for them and keep them from going to work for other counties.

Director Brown said they should wait and look at this again later in the next budget year.

Manager Cannon recommended they look at this during budget review.

Commissioner Hatch asked are they proposing to use all the money and still be able to fill the new positions.

Director Brown replied his proposal is to be staffed as they were before the budget by filling the four positions that are currently vacant. He said the six new positions will not be filled this year.

***Commissioner Hatch made the motion to fill and fund the four vacant positions from the EMS/Fire budget. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.***

Commissioner Storey said that small companies are also struggling with the minimum raise mandate.

Ms. Pearl Enfinger asked about her brother's death and the failure to follow through with his organs being donated.

Director Brown said the call is under review and he will discuss this with her in private later.

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

Mr. Scott Pendarvis had nothing to discuss at this time.

**GAIL CARTER, INDIGENT CARE**

Ms. Gail Carter was not present for this meeting.

**HOLLY HOUGHTON, COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT**

Ms. Houghton appeared before the Board and discussed the upcoming Suwannee River Livestock fair. She said there may be a loss on the hogs this year because they are too fat too soon. She said the public may purchase these for individual consumption.

She said there has been a shift in the participation of the Dixie youth in the programs. She said the numbers of participants are lower.

**ANGIE CROWLEY, HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATOR**

Ms. Crowley had nothing to discuss at this time.

**DUANE CANNON, COUNTY MANAGER**

Manager Cannon appeared before the Board to discuss several items needing their approval.

Manager Cannon said he will follow up with the Special Pay Plan with Bencor as presented and recommended earlier in the meeting.

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to execute the GSG Annual Maintenance Services Agreement for the Dixie County Fire and Solid Waste Assessment Program for FY 22-23 in the amount of \$19,500.00. He said they will review the tax roll and advise the Tax Collector on the bills to send out.

***Commissioner Mills made the motion to execute the GSG Annual Maintenance Services Agreement for the Dixie County Fire and Solid Waste Assessment Program for FY 22-23. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to execute the NGN Legal Services provided on the County's Annual Fire and Solid Waste Assessment Program for FY 22-23 in the amount of \$8,000.00 payable in two (2) lump sum payments.

***Commissioner Mills made the motion to execute the NGN Legal Services provided on the County's Annual Fire and Solid Waste Assessment Program for FY 22-23. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon explained they have been working on the data for the last two years. He said the base rate for commercial property/campgrounds for garbage is \$159.00 per ton.

We have now reviewed 200 residential and commercial sites to date. He said that adjustments may be needed, and this company will help the county figure that out.

Commissioner Hatch said he had some calls on this regarding campgrounds paying for their trash.

Attorney Osteen said some people are concerned over the commercial properties being charged per square footage for the fire assessment.

Manager Cannon said those concerns have been reviewed and updated as well.

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to execute the Loan Agreement between Dixie County and Drummond Community Bank for the Fire Truck purchase in the amount of \$748,615.20.

***Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to execute the Loan Agreement between Dixie County and Drummond Community Bank for the Fire Truck purchase. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval of Resolution 2022-40 in support of the Loan Agreement between Dixie County and Drummond Community Bank for the Fire Truck purchase.

***Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve Resolution 2022-40 in support of the Loan Agreement between Dixie County and Drummond Community Bank for the Fire Truck purchase. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval for the purchase of a Hustler Lawn Mower from Creekside Farm Supply based on the lowest quote in the amount of \$10,998.91.

***Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to purchase a Hustler Lawn Mower from Creekside Farm Supply based on the lowest quote. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to proceed with the sale of the following properties to the highest bidder as presented. He said these were advertised and they had several bidders. The total of sales is \$59,536.65. He said this will need to be a Cashier's Check payable to the Board of County Commissioners to be deposited in General Fund.

***Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to proceed with the sale of the following properties to the highest bidder as presented. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.***

<b>Highest Bidder</b>	<b>Bid Amount</b>	<b>Parcel Number</b>	<b>Property Address</b>
Cecilia Schnorbus	\$8,276.00	08-08-14-0000-6856-0101	NE 893 <sup>rd</sup> Ave
Ronald Williams	\$1,839.39	12-08-13-0000-3692-0201	NE 884 <sup>th</sup> & NE 833 <sup>rd</sup> St
William Smith II	\$26,401.26	24-08-13-3771-0000-0000	NE 816 <sup>th</sup> Ave
Rickey Gainey	\$3,500.00	24-09-13-4053-0026-0040	NE 433 <sup>rd</sup> Ave
Bryan Company	\$18,020.00	25-09-09-0041-0000-0630	SW 877 <sup>th</sup> St
Melinda Davis	\$400.00	25-10-13-4970-00C5-0210	SE 149 <sup>th</sup> Rd
Melinda Davis	\$400.00	25-10-13-4970-00C6-0250	SE 149 <sup>th</sup> Ter
Melinda Davis	\$300.00	25-10-13-4970-00C6-0300	SE 149 <sup>th</sup> Ter
Melinda Davis	\$400.00	25-10-13-4970-00D2-0020	SE 150 <sup>th</sup> Ave

Commissioner Hatch requested Manager Cannon speak with Mr. Mike Mose about Mullet Road.

Commissioner Mills asked about property near Continental.  
 Manager Cannon said it will be in the next round of advertisements.

**MICHAEL OSTEEEN, COUNTY ATTORNEY**

Attorney Osteen had nothing to discuss at this time.

**BARBIE HIGGINBOTHAM, CLERK OF COURT**

Clerk Higginbotham informed the Board that there will be an additional annual cost of \$475.00 to post the Board Meetings Audio to the Clerk website.

*Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve the payment of the annual cost of \$475.00 to post the Board Meetings Audio to the Clerk website. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.*

Clerk Higginbotham informed the Board that Della has numerous resolutions from the year of 2020 ready to be reaffirmed by the Board.

Commissioner Hatch asked Attorney Osteen how to proceed.  
 Attorney Osteen said these should be read by individual resolution number and then reaffirmed as a group.

Asst. Chief Deputy Della Rhymes read the list of Documents from 2020 to be reaffirmed by the Board as follows:

- |                            |                                    |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>RESOLUTION 2020-66</b>  | Thomas and Kelly Anne Marazita     |
| <b>RESOLUTION 2020-68</b>  | Roger D. Narney                    |
| <b>RESOLUTION 2020-69</b>  | Scott B. and Marcia K. Oehler      |
| <b>RESOLUTION 2020-75</b>  | Bobby Glen Robbins                 |
| <b>RESOLUTION 2020-76</b>  | Rising Star Quall                  |
| <b>RESOLUTION 2020-78</b>  | Stephenson/Teramore/Dollar General |
| <b>RESOLUTION 2020-81</b>  | Law Enforcement Impact Fee Fund    |
| <b>*ORDINANCE 2020-200</b> | Stephenson/Teramore/Dollar General |
| <b>RESOLUTION 2020-92</b>  | Jeffrey David                      |
| <b>RESOLUTION 2020-93</b>  | Karen Fellenz                      |
| <b>RESOLUTION 2020-94</b>  | Daniel S. Kelley                   |
| <b>RESOLUTION 2020-103</b> | Tim Spivey                         |
| <b>RESOLUTION 2020-105</b> | Greg Perrault                      |

<b>RESOLUTION 2020-108</b>	Michael and Yuliya Faught
<b>RESOLUTION 2020-109</b>	Debra and Robert Davis
<b>RESOLUTION 2020-110</b>	Phillip and Tammy Bryan
<b>RESOLUTION 2020-113</b>	Gene Ray Parrish Jr.
<b>RESOLUTION 2020-116</b>	William and Courtney Schueneman
<b>RESOLUTION 2020-117</b>	Steven and Teresa Kelly
<b>RESOLUTION 2020-118</b>	John Wayne Holleman
<b>RESOLUTION 2020-119</b>	Christopher Edwin Wilson
<b>RESOLUTION 2020-121</b>	Ernest and Donna Rutherford
<b>RESOLUTION 2020-122</b>	Warren and Bree Barrow
<b>RESOLUTION 2020-123</b>	Michael and Debora Jennings
<b>RESOLUTION 2020-124</b>	Dale Herring
<b>RESOLUTION 2020-127</b>	Ray and Monica Henson
<b>RESOLUTION 2020-128</b>	Stephenson/Teramore/Dollar General

*Commissioner Hatch made the motion to reaffirm the above listed Resolutions from 2020 and Ordinance 2020-200. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.*

Commissioner Stephenson questioned the resolutions and ordinance for Stephenson/Teramore/Dollar General.

Attorney Osteen clarified this was for zoning changes for property previously owned by Mr. Johnny Stephenson.

**Chief Financial Officer Jackie Johnson** appeared before the Board to discuss the monthly financial report. She said a large percentage of revenue comes into the General Fund in December, January, and February. She said this looks like you have a lot of money, but this must last until December.

Commissioner Stephenson said he appreciates these reports being given to the Board. Ms. Johnson said that things are improving.

Ms. Johnson said the extra money in General Fund is for EMS and Fire and other departments. She said this must be proportioned and prioritized. She recommended they get more money in General Fund for an emergency and future needs as well as grants. She said you need cash for the upfront funding for reimbursable grants. She said they need at least three months of operating money. She said the revenue and expenditures must balance so as not to overspend.

**COUNTY COMMISSION ITEMS**

Commissioner Valentine had nothing to discuss at this time.

Commissioner Hatch had nothing to discuss at this time.

Commissioner Stephenson the metal needs to be attended to.

Commissioner Mills said he has talked with Road Superintendent Steve Hutchison about a bucket for the 350 John Deer Tractor. He said he will look for a used bucket if the Board agrees for him to do so.

Commissioner Stephenson asked if they can trade for another bucket.

Commissioner Hatch said this is a dirt bucket and they need one for rock.

Commissioner Stephenson asked why they have a dirt bucket on this tractor.

Commissioner Mills said that is what they sent with the tractor. He said this bucket does not work well for digging rock.

Commissioner Hatch said the Road Department did a good job on the culvert replacements on Old Hwy 19. He asked if the materials had been ordered for the Storm Water Task Force.

Manager Cannon said that some materials have been received and the rest should arrive in 4-6 weeks.

Commissioner Storey thanked everyone for another good meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS**

Ms. Sheila Frierson thanked the Board for helping the Dixie County Anti-Drug Coalition. She said they are participating in the Toxic Waste Roundup on March 26, 2022. She said that people can bring their old medication to be disposed of by the Sheriff's office.

Mr. Burnham thanked the Board for their approval of his campground.

Commissioner Stephenson recommended they check the contract on the John Deere 350 Tractor.

APPROVED



**ADJOURN**

*Commissioner Mills made the motion to adjourn at 1:00 PM. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.*



ATTEST:

*Barbie Higginbotham*  
Barbie Higginbotham, Clerk-Auditor

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA

*WC Mills*  
W. C. Mills, Vice-Chairman

**PLEASE BE ADVISED** that if a person decided 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.*