

# **Regular Meeting**

## **Dixie County School Board Meeting Room**

### **March 04, 2021 – 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 2020-27. 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  
Mark Hatch, Chairman  
W. C. Mills  
James Valentine  
Jamie Storey, Vice Chairman

#### **STAFF**

Duane Cannon, County Manager  
Michael Osteen, County Attorney  
Barbie Higginbotham, Clerk of Court  
Jacki Johnson, Chief Financial Officer  
Della Rhymes, Asst. Chief Deputy Clerk

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

The Board meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Commissioner Hatch.

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

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

#### **APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES**

*Commissioner Mills made the motion to approve Minutes from Regular Meeting of February 04, 2021. Commissioner Valentine seconded. Board approved.*

#### **VOUCHER APPROVAL**

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

*The motion to go into public hearings was made by Commissioner Storey. Commissioner Mills seconded. 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.***

A petition by ***Ricardo and Victory Green Garcia*** requesting 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-1) zoning district, in accordance with the petition dated January 06, 2021 to be located on the property as described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 06-10-10-0428-00U1-0080 (203 S. W. 348 Avenue, Steinhatchee; Gulf Forest West Un Rec S/D; Lot 8; 10.46 acres). (Commission District 5)

Ms. Tammi Clyatt appeared before the Board and read the Special Exception request made by Ricardo and Victory Green Garcia. She clarified this property is located in Jena.

***Commissioner Valentine made the motion to approve the Special Exception requested by Ricardo and Victory Green Garcia. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.***

A petition by ***Ashley L. III & Lisa N. Cisco*** requesting a ***Special Exception*** to be granted, as provided in Section 4.7.5 subparagraph (13 ) of the Dixie County Land Development Regulations to permit one recreational vehicle in a Residential, (Mixed) Single Family/Mobile Home (RSF/MH-1) zoning district, in accordance with the petition dated January 19, 2021 to be located on the property as described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 30-09-10-0000-0354-0000 ( 138 S. W. 805 Street, Steinhatchee; .420 acres). (Commission District 5)

Ms. Tammi Clyatt appeared before the Board and read the Special Exception request made by Ashley L. III and Lisa N. Cisco. She clarified this property is located in Jena.

***Commissioner Valentine made the motion to approve the Special Exception requested by Ashley L. III and Lisa N. Cisco. Commissioner Storey seconded. Board approved.***

A petition by ***Edward S. Manning and Cherie J. Manning*** 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 January 21, 2021 to be located on the property as described as

follows: Dixie County Parcel # 31-09-13-4482-0000-0210 (555 N. E. 396 Street, Cross City; Boat Lake Estates S/D; Lot 21; 4.80 acres). (Commission District 5)

Ms. Tammi Clyatt appeared before the Board and read the Special Exception request made by Edward S. Manning and Cherie J. Manning.

***Commissioner Valentine made the motion to approve the Special Exception requested by Edward S. Manning and Cherie J. Manning. Commissioner Storey seconded. Board approved.***

A petition by ***Colin C. McLeod and Donna Kay Kane*** 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 February 09, 2021 to be located on the property as described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 36-10-13-5665-0023-0410 (178 S. E. 905 Street, Old Town; Suwannee Gardens S/D; Block 23; Lots 40 & 41; .232 acres). (Commission District 2)

Ms. Tammi Clyatt appeared before the Board and read the Special Exception request made by Colin C. McLeod and Donna Kay Kane

***Commissioner Mills made the motion to approve the Special Exception requested by Colin C. McLeod and Donna Kay Kane Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.***

A petition by ***Joshua and Laura Williams*** to request a ***Variance*** for a 30'x 60' pole barn and to construct it 15 feet from the south side property boundary (setback is 25') as provided by the petition dated January 22, 2021, which is located within an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA-4) zoning district to be located on the property as described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 16-13-12-2927-0000-0940 (55 S. E. 340 Street, Old Town; Suwannee Palms S/D; Lot 94; .545 acres). (Commission District 3)

Ms. Tammi Clyatt appeared before the Board and read the Variance request made by Joshua and Laura Williams

***Commissioner Storey made the motion to approve the Variance requested by Joshua and Laura Williams Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.***

### **RESOLUTION 2021-23**

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 (ESA-1) ZONING DISTRICT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PETITION DATED JANUARY 6, 2021.

**Ricardo and Victory Green Garcia**

Ms. Tammi Clyatt read Resolution 2021-23 in support of Ricardo and Victory Green Garcia to the Board by title only.

***Commissioner Mills made the motion to approve the Resolution 2021-23. Commissioner Storey seconded. Board approved.***

**RESOLUTION 2021-24**

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO APPROVE A SPECIAL EXCEPTION TO BE GRANTED, AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 4.7.5 SUBPARAGRAPH (13) OF THE DIXIE COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS TO PERMIT ONE RECREATIONAL VEHICLE IN A RESIDENTIAL, (MIXED) SINGLE FAMILY/MOBILE HOME (RSF/MH-1) ZONING DISTRICT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PETITION DATED JANUARY 19, 2021.

**Ashley L. III & Lisa N. Cisco**

Ms. Tammi Clyatt read Resolution 2021-24 in support of Ashley L. III & Lisa N. Cisco to the Board by title only.

***Commissioner Storey made the motion to approve the Resolution 2021-24. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.***

**RESOLUTION 2021-25**

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 (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 JANUARY 21, 2020.

**Edward S. Manning and Cherie J. Manning**

Ms. Tammi Clyatt read Resolution 2021-25 in support of Edward S. Manning and Cherie J. Manning to the Board by title only.

***Commissioner Storey made the motion to approve the Resolution 2021-25. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.***

### **RESOLUTION 2021-26**

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 (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 FEBRUARY 9, 2020.

**Colin C. McLeod and Donna Kay Kane**

Ms. Tammi Clyatt read Resolution 2021-26 in support of Colin C. McLeod and Donna Kay Kane to the Board by title only.

***Commissioner Mills made the motion to approve the Resolution 2021-26. Commissioner Storey seconded. Board approved.***

### **RESOLUTION 2021-27**

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 30' X 60' POLE BARN, TO BE CONSTRUCTED 15 FEET FROM THE SOUTH SIDE PROPERTY BOUNDARY (SETBACK IS 25'), WHICH IS LOCATED WITHIN AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREA (ESA-4) ZONING DISTRICT, AS PROVIDED IN THE PETITION DATED JANUARY 22, 2021.

**Joshua and Laura Williams**

Ms. Tammi Clyatt read Resolution 2021-27 in support of Joshua and Laura Williams to the Board by title only.

***Commissioner Storey made the motion to approve the Resolution 2021-27. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.***

***Commissioner Storey made the motion to go out of the Public Hearings. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.***

### **MELANIE ANDERSON, TOBACCO FREE PARTNERSHIP**

Ms. Melanie Anderson appeared before the Board to discuss tobacco use. She informed the Board that over 31% of the youth in Dixie County use some form of tobacco. She said that over 18% of them use electronic vaping. She said the Tobacco Industry are targeting this age group by offering candy flavored products that appeal to them. She said the kids are taking these products to school. She said that Dixie County has implemented several Ordinances through the years to help deter the sale and use of these products. She said in 2011 an Ordinance was passed prohibiting the placement, sale and display of candy flavored tobacco products. In 2014 an Ordinance was passed prohibiting the sale and use of E-Cigarettes and liquid nicotine to anyone under age 18. In 2019 an Ordinance was passed restricting the

sale of tobacco within 1,000 feet of a school in Dixie County. She said that in December 2019 President Trump raised the Federal age limit for the legal sale of tobacco products to a person from the age of 18 to the age of 21.

In January of 2020 the Florida Sheriff's Association sent out a Legal Alert stating that they do not have the authority to enforce the illegal sale of tobacco products to anyone under 21 years of age.

She said that some of these products don't require the retailers to have the a State of Florida Tobacco Retail License to sell the product in their store and smaller Rural communities don't get the same level of State Inspections on retailers as larger Metro communities.

She requested that the Board adopt the requirement of a Tobacco Retail License for the county of Dixie and annual inspections of the retail stores and institute penalties and violations. She said the State of Florida and the Federal Government does not check to make sure the local Ordinances are being followed.

Ms. Rebecca Fusco appeared before the Board to present more data on this issue. She said they had done a survey in 2020 among the 189 students in Dixie County. She said that 14% of middle school students and 20% of high school students said they had vaped within the last 30 days.

She said that National Statistics show that if tobacco products are used before the age of 18 there is a greater chance of a person becoming addicted. She said if they were to compare their local survey to that of the National Statistics that would mean that 47 of the 189 students may possibly become addicted to tobacco in their adult life whereas, if the same number of students did not use tobacco until later in adulthood only 8 of them would possibly become addicted.

She said there are 25 Licensed Retailers in Dixie County that sell tobacco and vape products. She said that some of these stores are not following the rules.

Ms. Anderson informed the Board that they can require a Retail License per the County. She said they can set the fee and check for compliance. She said they can choose to do annual or quarterly inspections. She said they can establish penalties for violations. She offered to do some research with other counties and see how they deal with this same issue.

Commissioner Hatch thanked them both for their presentation and agreed to look at the information that Ms. Anderson has offered to gather.

Commissioner Stephenson said his family previously owned a convenience store and that Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) would inspect the store and check the displays and the signs.

Ms. Fusco said the State inspector has penalized two stores in Dixie County during past years. She said the Federal Law says you must be age 21 to purchase tobacco products and the State of Florida Law says you must be 18. She said the FDA must enforce the law in Florida. She said there is no State License needed to sell vape products and no inspection is required. She said there is a Retailer in Dixie County that has no license and sells vape products. She said this is a legal loophole because vapes are in a different category than cigarettes.

Ms. Anderson said the county must enforce their own laws and Ordinances to protect our youth.

Commissioner Hatch asked if this may fall under Code Enforcement.

Mr. Steve Fremgen replied no.

County Attorney Michael Osteen commented that one store in the County sells vapes only.

Ms. Fusco replied yes, and they don't have a license.  
Ms. Anderson said the State only regulates State Law not Local Law.  
Commissioner Hatch said they will research this with Mr. Steve Fremen.  
Commissioner Mills said that the Board will help.

Ms. Anderson said that some people may question why you can join the military at age 18 but, you can't smoke until you are age 21. She said that many Military Bases are also tobacco free. She said that Recruiters can't get healthy recruits if their lungs are already compromised. She said getting health insurance will also be an issue for someone when they use tobacco products. She said that Major League Baseball and Colleges are tobacco free.

Ms. Fusco said the Dixie County Anti-Drug Coalition pays an off-duty Sheriff Deputy to check retail stores for compliance. She said they need more help with addressing this issue.

### **TOM HOLT, EXTREME BROADBAND**

Mr. Tom Holt and his engineer Mr. Nick George appeared before the Board to discuss some matters of importance.

County Attorney Michael Osteen intervened and said the Board is represented by Attorney Dale Scott in this matter and advised the Board to proceed with guidance from council. He said the status is unclear on Mr. Holt's legal representation. He said the case was dismissed and closed. He said that Mr. Lorenzo and Mr. Holt have threatened further litigation. He said that no discussion of this matter is allowed by the Board. He said that no permits have been filed for by Mr. Holt. He said they are trying to bypass the Ordinance and Florida Building Code.

Mr. Nick George said they would like to get permits. He said the Stop Work Orders must be lifted to get the permits. He said he met with Building and Zoning.

Mr. Leon Wright and their License and Insurance is on file. He said there are 25 deficiencies and would like to pull permits and have inspections to move forward. He said they want to fix the issues.

Commissioner Hatch instructed them to see Mr. Wright for permits in order to move forward.

Attorney Osteen reminded the Board of the matter discussed prior with regards to the cost to recover. He stated the cost is \$75,000.00 in the lawsuit. He said the Board voted to get reimbursed and to move forward. He said the money must be paid.

Commissioner Hatch and Commissioner Stephenson both agreed the money must be paid.

### **KEITH SEGAR, SUWANNEE WATER AND SEWER**

Mr. Keith Segar appeared before the Board and informed them that the application for the waster permit renewal was filed in January. He said there is some additional information needed from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) because of changes in regulations. He said it is a work in progress to meet the requirements and will keep them updated.

He invited everyone to the 2021 Lower Suwannee Art Festival to be held on March 13, 2021 at the Glynn Dyals Park from 10:00 AM until 3:00 PM. He said there will be food and crafts.

**GREG BAILEY, NORTH FLORIDA PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

Mr. Greg Bailey appeared before the Board and informed them that they are working on the sea wall in Suwannee.

**JERED LIZOTTE, LOCKLEAR AND ASSOCIATES**

Mr. Jered Lizotte had nothing to discuss with the Board at this time.

**CINDY BELLOT, LIBRARY DIRECTOR**

Ms. Cindy Bellot was not present for this meeting.

**STEVE FREMEN, VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER**

Mr. Steve Fremem had nothing to discuss with the Board at this time.

**STEVE HUTCHISON, COUNTY ROAD SUPERINTENDENT**

Mr. Steve Hutchison appeared before the Board and informed them that he had an employee quit and he needs to be able to replace him. He said he will advertise the position for two weeks.

Commissioner Hatch asked if the replacement is needed because of the hiring freeze in place.

Commissioner Stephenson asked what the job duties of this employee were.

Mr. Hutchinson said he mowed and repaired driveways.

Commissioner Mills asked if the person quits the job, does it need to be voted on by the Board to replace someone who quits.

Commissioner Stephenson said he would like to have Mr. Hutchison come to the Board members and talk about the job duties first.

Mr. Hutchison said he will have to shuffle some employees to cover the loss of this employee.

***Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to replace advertise the position and replace the employee. Commissioner Storey seconded. Board approved.***

Mr. Hutchison informed the Board that a wreck had damaged the gangway at the Suwannee Boat Ramp, and it will cost \$8,000.00 to replace.

Mr. Hutchison asked about putting in rumble strips on the 351A and 351 North intersection near the Hatcher house.

Commissioner Stephenson suggested rumble strips or a light at this intersection.

Mr. Greg Bailey said that rumble strips in residential area are allowed. He said a solar powered flash stop sign is also possible. The rumble strips would cost \$1,300.00 and it would cost \$3,500.00 for a flashing stop sign. He said they can do additional reflective strips on the pole of the stop sign.

***Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to put in the rumble strips. Commissioner Storey seconded. Board approved.***

Commissioner Stephenson asked if the same material used to patch the highways can be used for these rumble strips.

Mr. Hutchison said there are specs that must be followed.

Commissioner Hatch said it must meet FDOT standards.

Commissioner Hatch thanked Mr. Hutchison for the list of employees and their jobs details.



County Manager Duane Cannon said this is a heavily traveled Truck Route and it will require 6 men to do this job and they will need to work on Saturday or Sunday when the traffic is less. He said the Board should be aware that this will require some overtime from employees.

**DWAYNE CHAUNCEY, MOSQUITO CONTROL DIRECTOR**

Mr. Dwayne Chauncey was not present for this meeting.

**MICHAEL LATSON, SOLID WASTE**

Mr. Michael Latson appeared before the Board to discuss a request for a hardship on payment of a rented dumpster. He said this person got three 20-yard dumpster and then wanted five more and still hasn't paid. He said they are asking for help from Board to waive the fees. He said he has already given the person a price break at \$200.00 each instead of \$300.00 each. He said this person owes \$800.00 currently.

Commissioner Hatch said the individual did call him and said they were having some family issues and were tearing down a house.

Commissioner Mills asked what they are doing.

Mr. Latson replied tearing down a house, and they needed more cans.

Commissioner Mills said that it cost \$300.00 for a 30-day rental and this person only getting charged \$200.00 and there are no other fees. He said they need to recover some of the cost. He suggested charge \$100.00 each for the fee. Give her a break. \$400.00 total charge.

Mr. Latson said the person owes \$800.00 for C & D waste.

Commissioner Stephenson suggested reducing the total some but, the county must cover the cost of the C & D disposal.

Commissioner Storey agreed to help but, they must cover the cost.

Commissioner Hatch said they already paid \$600.00.

Mr. Latson said there is a bill of \$800.00 outstanding.

After much discussion by the Board...

County Attorney Michael Osteen advised the Board that if they do this, they will be opening the door for the next person to do the same and they must have a reason for this exception. He asked what your reason is.

Commissioner Mills said the Board is trying to collect for services and they have been giving stuff away for free. He said they have set guidelines to follow and they must either change the policy or stick to it. He said that C & D waste is expensive for the County and they lose money on this.

***Commissioner Mills made the motion to follow policy. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.***

Mr. Latson informed the Board he will be on vacation from March 15 through March 22, 2021 and that Mr. Tim Johnson will fill in for him. He informed the Board that he does need a backup person and would like to promote Mr. Johnson to be his second in charge.

Commissioner Hatch said the Board had moved Mr. Billy Padgett over Solid Waste when Mr. Joe Ruth retired then Mr. Latson was promoted when Mr. Padgett passed away. He said Mr. Ruth and Mr. Padgett have been paid out.

Manager Duane Cannon requested clarification from the Board if there would be an increase in pay for Mr. Johnson to be moved to the Solid Waste Assistant position. He said he will need to look back at the files for the pay scale changes of the previous people in that position.

Commissioner Hatch said they need to research this and stop paying employees a set pay rate for no experience. He said there should be a job evaluation on this person experience and their knowledge of the job.

Commissioner Stephenson said they need to advertise the job and the pay.

Manager Cannon asked if Mr. Johnson will continue to be over the trucks as well. Commissioner Hatch said he can't do both jobs and he will need to be replaced by someone to handle the trucks.

Mr. Latson asked the Board what they want him to do. Commissioner Hatch said to promote Mr. Johnson and replace his previous position over the trucks.

Manager Cannon informed the Board that there is an ongoing Work Comp Claim and he will notify the Board when it is done. He said there is a position empty until the claim is settled.

Commissioner Hatch said to promote Mr. Johnson to be Mr. Latson's Assistant and give him a pay raise. Commissioner Storey said the Board should do some research and talk again at the next meeting.

Commissioner Mills asked if Mr. Johnson is still driving the truck. Mr. Latson replied yes and doing maintenance on the trucks too.

Commissioner Stephenson said to move Mr. Johnson him up to Assistant and address the pay rate later. He said he should continue with his daily task with a Change of Title. Mr. Latson said if Mr. Johnson takes on more tasks then he can't do the trucks too.

***Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to not give Mr. Johnson a pay raise now. He said they will look at hiring another person later.***

***Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon said there is another employee that was hired 7 months ago Full Time at \$9.75 and they have a CDL Class A License. He said they should give this employee a \$.25 raise for the license plus the \$.50 probationary period raise and it should be effective the next pay period.

Commissioner Hatch instructed Mr. Latson to put together a list of your employees like Mr. Hutchison has done.

Mr. Latson informed the Board they are training today and tomorrow so the Transfer Station will be low on staff. He said they will be having the Toxic Roundup Saturday. He said that Recertification is needed for the transfer station to remain open.

### **LEON WRIGHT, BUILDING AND ZONING**

Mr. Leon Wright appeared before the Board to inform them that the North Florida Regional Planning Council (NFRP) is drafting a Right of way Ordinance for Dixie County. He said this will need the Board's approval.

County Attorney Michel Osteen informed the Board that there is no agreement or Ordinance in place at this time. He said they will need to advertise and have a First and Second reading before adopting.

Commissioner Hatch asked if this Ordinance would help with the pole in question.

Mr. Wright said that everything that has been done currently is non-permitted work.

Commissioner Hatch asked if they would have to be given more notice to remove all the poles and re-do this.

County Attorney Michael Osteen reminded the Board that they have been on notice for three or four years and they know the process. He said even though the Board is advertising and passing the Ordinance, Extreme Broadband can go get their permits prior to the law coming into effect.

Mr. Wright stated there has always been a permitting process in effect.

County Attorney Michael Osteen stated there is no Right of Way Ordinance.

Commissioner Mills asked how long they will have to comply.

Mr. Wright replied they will have 30 days to pull permits on the poles.

County Attorney Michael Osteen stated that the Board did not vote on a fine and they are liable for reimbursement only.

Commissioner Hatch asked how long the two readings will lengthen the process.

County Attorney Michael Osteen replied 30 to 45 days.

Commissioner Hatch said that April 18 they will be able to have the seconded reading.

County Attorney Michael Osteen clarified that this Ordinance would apply to everyone it is not designed for just them.

Commissioner Hatch said this has been a long-term lawsuit and asked if this will tie things up for longer than 45 days.

County Attorney Michael Osteen said that all pending lawsuits have been dismissed at this time. He reminded the Board that they could ask the court to stay the Ordinance. However, the passing of the Ordinance would cover anyone in the future.

Mr. Wright agreed this would protect the county with anyone using the right of way.

County Attorney Michael Osteen said that Central Florida Electric has been involved with this lawsuit for a long time now.

Commissioner Mills said they should pass the Ordinance.

Commissioner Storey said they should advertise and move forward with the process.

Mr. Leon Wright discussed with the Board the growth in the county over the past 6 months compared to last year.

Commissioner Hatch said the Board voted in 2009 to change the Impact Fee. He said the economy was going down. He suggested the need to address the impact fee again to cover all the services provided and possibly increase the fee.

Commissioner Stephenson asked for clarification.

Commissioner Hatch said the Board should look at the impact fee and re do this or not. He said in 2005 it was raised to \$3,500.00 and in 2008 it was lowered due to the economy.

Commissioner Stephenson said he feels the numbers will go back down because there is a decline in the housing market. He said the Board should keep the impact fee the same for now and do some more research.

Commissioner Hatch commented that people will go where it is cheap to live.

Commissioner Mills said the Board will need to address this because more people are moving into Dixie County.

Mr. Wright said there has been an increase in site-built homes lately more than mobile homes and manufactured houses.

Commissioner Stephenson asked what the fee is per square footage.

Mr. Wright replied \$1.00 per square foot with a \$1,000.00 cap.

Commissioner Storey said the county is growing and needs more money to operate.

Commissioner Valentine said they should look into this and review.

Commissioner Stephenson asked about the poles barns that are being put in and if they need an agricultural permit or not.

Mr. Wright replied there should be an agricultural assessment on the property and sometimes they check. However, pole barn permits are issued.

Commissioner Stephenson asked if it is legal for a small ½ acre lot to have a pole barn for someone to park a camper or RV underneath.

Mr. Wright said they should go through the Special Exception Process.

Commissioner Stephenson said that some people are closing them in for shelter and then a storm tear it down.

Mr. Wright said it should be rated for a 130 MPH wind zone and that 120 square foot can be enclosed for storage only.

Mr. Wright said they have had 55 RV permit renewals which produced \$16,500.00 revenue for the county and have another 250 to collect. He reminded the Board that this was not being done in the past.

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

Director Darian Brown appeared before the Board to request the approval of Resolution 2021-28 in support of the Local State of Emergency for COVID be extended.

***Commissioner Storey made the motion to approve the Resolution 2021-28. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.***

Director Brown informed the Board that the Suwannee River water level is high and should crest at 9.8 tomorrow. He said that Purvis Landing and Gornto are also affected by the river. He said the rainfall from Georgia should not affect our area.

Director Brown requested the Board to seriously consider the Pendarvis Service Contract. He said this is a good idea for the Board. He said that Mr. Pendarvis took on this task voluntarily several years ago and the Board should decide to approve the contract or not.

Commissioner Hatch said the Board chose to table this at the last meeting and they have now had a couple of weeks to think about this. He asked the Board members what they would like to do. Commissioner Mills said he would like to keep Mr. Pendarvis as a PRN employee.

Mr. Scott Pendarvis spoke to the Board via telephone. He said having a contractor must be licensed and insured. He said the PRN employee can do this without the license or insurance. He said \$25.45 is for on-site work. He said he can take care of most everything remotely.  
**Commissioner Mills made a motion to keep Mr. Scott Pendarvis as a PRN employee.  
Commissioner Storey seconded. Board approved.**

Director Brown said that Mr. Matt Ferguson will fill the empty spot left by Mr. Pendarvis. He said they will advertise for the truck position left by Mr. Ferguson later. Commissioner Hatch agreed that is a good move. Director Brown commented that Mr. Ferguson's peers had recommended him for the job.

Director Brown informed the Board that June 01, 2021 is the beginning of Hurricane Season. He said they began forecasting in April due to early storms last year.

Commissioner Hatch asked for clarification of the Paramedic pay scale that was discussed at the Workshop. He inquired is it \$36.00 or \$38.00. Director Brown said that EMT starts at \$34.00. He said the Paramedics work a 24 hour shift then have 48 off for a total of 3,340 hours for the pay week. Commissioner Hatch asked about overtime and if it is reflected in the salary.

Mr. Matt Ferguson spoke to the Board to help clarify the pay scale and how the overtime hours worked affects the annual income of the EMS and Fire staff.

Director Brown said they Paramedic and Fire Fighter are paid at the top of the pay scale at \$42,000.00. Commissioner Hatch suggested they do more research on this because the numbers are deceiving due to overtime. He said he is just following up on the recent Workshop. Director Brown said they now advertise at the annual salary and are still paying below other counties.

Commissioner Hatch suggested the Ems Department and the Solid Waste Department get ready and turn in their data for the assessment and possibly update the information. Director Brown said the EMS and Fire Department was submitted last year, but they can update this if needed.

Commissioner Stephenson asked Director Brown if he had a problem with the Board. He said he has some emails that Director Brown sent to his staff prior to the Work Shops. He said he would like an explanation.

Commissioner Hatch said his job as Chairman is to keep the meetings flowing and stay on time. He said he had intended to speak with Director Brown after the meeting about an email but, never got the chance.

Director Brown said he feels this Board is working hard to make changes and he respects the difficulties they face. He said he has no issues with the Board.

Commissioner Stephenson said he wanted Director Brown to read the emails and explain them.

Director Brown read several emails aloud and summarized that in the past he chose to speak to the Board on behalf of his staff. When the Work Shops for 2021 were scheduled he encouraged his staff to be present and participate. He spoke of employees wanting to see changes. He spoke of the assessment data for Fire and EMS being turned in on time, but the assessment was put on hold due to other departments not being ready with their data. He said he asked his staff for input and they expressed pay is a concern. He said they have cut back within their department to help save money for the county. He said they had to back pay an employee because the wrong information was input into the payroll system. He said he has seen a lack of interest and change in the volunteer staff. He said his staff is short, overworked and underpaid. He said he had come to feel discouraged that this was the new normal and there would be little improvements.

Commissioner Stephenson said he was concerned because he had been fighting for Director Brown. He said he saw negativity towards the Board and was disappointed.

Director Brown said he has been trying since 2005 and fighting opposition since then. He said his staff know the struggles. He said he feels they have hit a brick wall. He said this is his opinion and his feelings on the issues and he apologizes if he offended anyone for speaking the truth.

Commissioner Stephenson said he feels that Director Brown is doing a good job.

Commissioner Mills said he would like to see Director Brown continue.

Commissioner Storey and Commissioner Valentine both agree.

Commissioner Hatch said the Board has always supported EMS. He said to look at the \$.50 raises that have been given over the years except for last year. He said that everyone needs help within their departments, and everyone wasn't ready with the assessment data last year. He said the emails didn't look good.

Director Brown said these emails were not sent to the Board they were sent to his staff and there are other circumstances to consider.

Mr. Matt Ferguson said he would like to clarify the pay. He said that for insurance purposes you need an hourly rate. He said the overtime is misleading. He said 240 hours a month is a full-time position. He said most Paramedics make \$12.00 per hour and around \$40,080.00 per year with overtime, but on a normal work week they make \$24,960.00.

He said the highest paid non officer employee has worked for 15 years and only makes \$14.00 per hour.

Mr. Ferguson said he started in 2009 and then in 2012 became a Lieutenant and he makes \$47,770.00 with all the hours that are worked. He said that Work comp and insurance doesn't understand these other factors.

Mr. Ferguson said Director Brown is a good leader and makes his staff stronger. He said he helps his staff and utilizes his resources and have good people to work with you to help. He said he felt that Directors Browns emails were not an insult to the Board. He said tradition is great, but that's the way we always done things is not a good approach to business. He said you can't keep operating without upgrading or fixing the issues. He said the business or team, or family must continue to thrive even if the decision is not popular. He said it is hard being a boss and a parent and a Commissioner.

Commissioner Hatch said thank you and he agrees.

**GAIL CARTER, INDIGENT CARE**

Ms. Gail Carter had nothing to discuss with the Board at this time.

**HOLLY HOUGHTON, COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT**

Ms. Holly Houghton appeared before the Board via telephone. She said the Fair starts Friday and Saturday and showing through Sunday. Then start again the next Friday with hogs and steers on Saturday and the Sale on the March 17.

**MELISSA LONG, HUMAN RESOURCES SUPERVISOR**

Ms. Melissa Long was not present for this meeting. Manager Cannon said she will be back tomorrow.

**DUANE CANNON, COUNTY MANAGER**

County Manager Duane Cannon appeared before the Board to discuss several matters.

Manager Cannon requested the Board approve the Monitoring Response Report for the 2018-2019 SHIP funds and the 2020-2021 Corona Relief funds administered by the Suwannee River Economic Council. ***Commissioner Storey made the motion to approve the Monitoring Response Report for the 2018-2019 SHIP funds and the 2020-2021 Corona Relief funds. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon requested the Board approve to advertise for a grant coordinator/administrative assistant within the County Manager's Office as a replacement for Ms./ Cheyenne Hutchinson. ***Commissioner Mills made the motion to approve the advertisement for a grant coordinator/administrative assistant within the County Manager's Office. Commissioner Storey seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon requested the Board approve the Board Meeting location remain at the School Board Meeting room in Old Town for April and May. Commissioner Hatch said the current location is larger and more people Are coming. ***Commissioner Storey made the motion to approve remaining at the School Board Meeting room in Old Town for April and May. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.***

Commissioner Hatch said the School Board had talked about giving this building to the County for a Community Center.

County Attorney Michael Osteen agreed they have been talked about that in the School Board Meetings. He said a survey will need to be done.

**Commissioner Mills made the motion to have a survey done for the School Board Meeting Building in Old Town. Commissioner Storey seconded. Board approved.**

Commissioner Hatch said that the Suwannee Community Center is on the School Board's property and the building belongs to the County. He said they need to address this issue again. County Attorney Michael Osteen said they never went anywhere with this.

Manager Cannon requested the Board approve how to handle the Livestock Contributions towards Chapter animals. He said it is usually \$500.00 or \$700.00 from each Board member. He said that former Commissioner Gene Higginbotham has handled this in the past and has offered to continue if the Board wants him to do this.

**Commissioner Storey made the motion to allow Mr. Gene Higginbotham to continue to handle this for the Board. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.**

Manager Cannon requested the Board approve the termination of a hanger lease with Mr. Don Quincey III. Mr. Quincey III was present via telephone.

County Attorney Michel Osteen summarized that Mr. Quincey III had missed payments and was slow to pay payments. He said they met last year on June 01, 2020 and Mr. Quincey III signed a month to month lease. He said the payments are two months behind now. He said he has sent a letter giving 30 days to vacate. He said that Mr. Quincey III had recently sent a check to pay for six months in advance, but the Board has already voted to void the lease.

Mr. Quincey III spoke to the Board via telephone. He said that in June he was unaware that a payment was due because he did not receive an invoice. He said he forgets sometimes. He said the January check was for \$700.00 but, was misplaced. He said he dropped another check for \$1,500.00. He said he wants to continue the lease, but he can't remember to pay the bill month to month. He said he would prefer to pay six months or a year in advance or get monthly invoices. He said he has referred business to the airport and needs the hanger.

County Attorney Michael Osteen said that Mr. Quincey III said he dropped off the payment, however the drop off box is monitored by camera and there was no activity shown on film. He said the County does not invoice bills for the hanger.

Mr. Quincey III said prior to June his father was responsible for the bill.

County Attorney Michael Osteen asked the Board if they want to terminate the lease or accept the money. Commissioner Mills said that he is in violation of the agreement.

Commissioner Hatch asked the Board members if they want to accept the money or terminate contract.

**Commissioner Mills said to terminate the lease.**

**Commissioner Stephenson agreed to terminate the lease.**

**Commissioner Storey and Commissioner Valentine agreed to terminate the lease**

**Commissioner Hatch stated the Board will terminate the lease with Mr. Quincey III.**



Commissioner Stephenson asked about the job advertisement and hourly pay rate for Cheyenne Hutchinson's former position.

Manager Cannon said he will need to look at this and this is normally discussed at the interview. He said six years ago the Assistant Manager Position started around \$35,000.00.

Ms. Cheyenne Hutchinson said she started at \$9.75 as the Administrative Assistant/Grants Coordinator. Commissioner Hatch said Ms. Hutchinson's pay rate was raised as she obtained more degrees.

Ms. Hutchinson said she was given incentives as she obtained her degrees.

Manager Cannon said her pay rate is budgeted.

Commissioner Hatch said it is currently a lot higher than \$9.75.

Ms. Cheyenne Hutchinson stated that she is currently in a different role.

Commissioner Hatch suggested the advertisement be revised to offer a range in salary depending on qualifications and with a list of qualifications.

Commissioner Hatch wanted to discuss the Workshop about repairs at the Jail.

Manager Cannon said he has roof quotes from three contractors to repair and or rebuild the roof on the Jail. He said they can talk about financing. He said he spoke with Mr. Ridgeway about the repair of the air conditioner and he will get a quote.

#### **MICHAEL OSTEEN, COUNTY ATTORNEY**

Attorney Michael Osteen had nothing to discuss with the Board at this time.

#### **BARBIE HIGGINBOTHAM, CLERK OF COURT**

Clerk Higginbotham appeared before the Board to give them an update.

Clerk Higginbotham requested approval from the Board on behalf of the Sheriff for reimbursement of \$1,336.00 from the Law Enforcement Education Fund.

***Commissioner Mills made the motion to approve the \$1,336.00 reimbursement to the Sheriff. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.***

Clerk Higginbotham requested approval from the Board on behalf of the Sheriff to amend the budget in the amount of \$18,722.09 from a FDLE grant.

***Commissioner Mills made the motion to approve the \$18,722.09 FDLE grant. Commissioner Storey seconded. Board approved.***

Clerk Higginbotham requested approval from the Board on behalf of the Sheriff for to amend the budget in the amount of \$10,599.76 from a FDLE grant.

***Commissioner Mills made the motion to approve the \$10,599.76 FDLE grant. Commissioner Storey seconded. Board approved.***

Clerk Higginbotham requested approval from the Board for records destruction. She said there are 36 boxes ready for destruction and they are in compliance with record retention.

Commissioner Hatch explained Record Retention to everyone and the process of destroying records.

Clerk Higginbotham said she is going to call and get a price quote on shredding.

***Commissioner Mills made the motion to approve the Clerk to move forward with the records retention compliance and destruction of records. Commissioner Storey seconded. Board approved.***

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

**COUNTY COMMISSION ITEMS**

Commissioner Stephenson had nothing further to discuss.

Commissioner Mills said he wanted to speak on the County Attorney position. He said our Attorney is working hard for the Board and doing a good job. He said there are allegations. He said as long as the Attorney is licensed to do the job he should continue. He stated that is his position on the issue.

Commissioner Valentine said he was in favor of him to stay.

Commissioner Storey and Commissioner Stephenson and Commissioner Hatch were in favor as well.

Commissioner Storey said that Ms. Cheyenne Hutchinson will be missed.

Commissioner Hatch said thanks to Ms. Hutchinson and wished her good luck.

Attorney Osteen also said Ms. Cheyenne will be missed.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS**

There were no comments or concerns expressed from the public at this time.

**ADJOURN**

Commissioner Mills made the motion to adjourn at 12:46 PM. Commissioner Storey seconded. Board approved.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Hatch, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Barbie Higginbotham, Clerk-Auditor

**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.*