

WORKSHOP

Tax Collector-Boat and Dump Stickers

Dixie County School Board Meeting Room

March 04, 2021 – 9:00 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 9:00 AM by Commissioner Hatch.

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.

Commissioner Hatch said the purpose of the Workshop is to come up with an idea to help regulate the outside trash coming into the county and identify residents.

He asked Ms. Michelle Cannon if she could help with this through her office. He suggested the possibility of her sending a sticker when she sends the tax bill.

Ms. Michelle Cannon appeared before the Board and asked if the garbage and boat stickers will have assigned numbers.

Commissioner Hatch said yes for the boat stickers.

Ms. Cannon asked if there will be a fee for the garbage and boat stickers.

Commissioner Hatch said the garbage stickers will not be numbered.

Ms. Cannon asked about replacement decals. She said that a numbering system may be needed. She said that someone could give their sticker to someone else and keep asking for more stickers and then give the additional stickers to other people. She said you will need to know how many stickers are allowed per person and how to track the replacement stickers.

Commissioner Hatch said that's why we are here to figure this out.

Ms. Cannon said an inventory system and software would be needed for numbering.

Commissioner Stephenson said they would need to be numbered and establish a limit per household. He said this would help eliminate people giving them to other people.

Ms. Cannon said if the stickers are free people will always be asking for more.

Commissioner Hatch asked if these can be renewed every year and will this procedure even work.

Commissioner Stephenson said he thought this was pre-approved.

Commissioner Hatch said it was for boats only.

Ms. Cannon said she has been thinking about this for the past two weeks.

She said that her office is at capacity for the services they currently provide. She said they have three phone lines and have people waiting outside to be helped. She said that ½ of the 16,000 parcels owners mail their taxes to her office. In that event there would be the cost of postage to mail the garbage decal back to them. She said they are also issuing out of state tags and licenses. She said she will need a larger facility soon. She said she has a huge volume of people in her office and it would be a huge deal to move to a larger facility but, this will be needed in the future. She said this new practice, if implemented would have a huge impact on her office and they will need to purchase a software system to account for the numbers.

She said she does not have the space or the budget to take this on right now.

She said she may be able to assist in the future and offered to partner with the Board or whichever department will handle this. She said she can help with the November mailings and include an insert for information and notification to the public. She said then people can call in for an explanation.

Commissioner Mills said that if the Tax Collector could possibly help with this in the future then maybe they should wait and start this later. He said they should get the Budget straightened out first.

Ms. Cannon said her office may need to be separated from the Courthouse. She said that Driver's License needs to be handled privately due to sensitive questions. She said that the Concealed Weapons Permits are handled in a very small room at this time. She said a closed course is needed for the driving tests and a drive thru window would help the public as well.

She said she can help with the inserts for November and April but, they need to have everything worked out before they start.

She suggested allowing the roll off attendants managing the garbage decals. She suggested that if the house was moved closer to the gate then resident could bring their tax bill or assessment for proof of residency.

Commissioner Stephenson suggested getting a list of the taxpayers in the county and allow 3 stickers per household as the limit. He suggested the Roll off people could answer questions and the public could go to waste management to get an extra decal.

County Attorney Michael Osteen asked Ms. Cannon if she could help with this.

Ms. Cannon replied she can't do this now. She said the people who mail in their taxes don't get a receipt mailed back to them so there would be more postage needed to send out the decals. She said the phone call volume to her office for questions would be greater. She said if you don't charge people for the sticker or decals then they will want more if it's free and they will be passing these out to other people, friends and family.

Attorney Osteen agreed with the need to limit the decals. He agreed the decals could get passed around to other county residents which is what they are trying to avoid. He asked who will manage this for the county and do this job. He said the Board will need to create rules, have accountability and a system to handle the inventory.

Commissioner Valentine said this will pay for itself.

Attorney Osteen asked if this will be free to the taxpayer.

Commissioner Hatch replied the garbage decal will be free but, not the boat decal.

Commissioner Mills said this needs to be given more thought.

Attorney Osteen said that good records must be kept.

Commissioner Stephenson said that he has seen other counties and their roll off sites look better than Dixie County.

Clerk Higginbotham suggested the county move the building closer to the entrance so the attendant can see the car or truck tags.

Commissioner Hatch said this won't work because out of county people own properties here in Dixie County.

Attorney Osteen said yes. Mr. Ronnie Pinner lives in Fanning Springs and owns property in Dixie County.

Mr. James Ward said he is from Suwannee County and said they had tried the garbage sticker over there as well. He said that Waste Pro and others were bringing trash to their dumps too.

Attorney Osteen said this will be hard to manage. He said that implementation and control is the issue.

Mr. Charlie Staub said the attendant needs to verify residents by their license and that commercial trash goes somewhere else. He said that some people unloading the wrong stuff.

He asked who will enforce the boat stickers. He said that Collier County tried this too.

Mr. James Ward suggested they look at some other counties. He said the attendant keeps the roll off sites clean. He said it is their job to do this. He commented that the Suwannee site use to be terrible.

Attorney Osteen said they can look at other counties and re visit this idea later

Commissioner Mills said they need to figure out what works and who will do the job and the limit of the decals and if they are Free or charge for stickers.

Commissioner Stephenson suggested they check with other counties. He said the roll off attendant keeps the site clean and they could ask people where they are from when they dump.
Attorney Osteen suggested to check their driver license or ID card.
Commissioner Hatch said checking their driver's license won't work.

Mr. James Ward asked which sites are the worst cases in the county.
Commissioner Hatch replied all of them. He said that visiting people bring their trash with them.
Commissioner Mills said he has seen boats filled with garbage coming in the county.

Commissioner Hatch said you must pay per bag in other counties.
Commissioner Mills said the garbage assessment is for the garbage created in Dixie County not garbage brought in from other counties.
Commissioner Mills said many people own property here and live full time somewhere else.

Ms. Cannon stated the people's address is on their tax bill. She said you can check the website of the Tax Collector. She said the person dumping garbage could use this for proof.
Attorney Osteen suggested to send a notice requiring valid ID and a copy of the tax bill for proof.
Commissioner Hatch said more research is needed.

Commissioner Mills said the Board passed an Ordinance to support this.
Attorney Osteen said this is not in effect.

Duane Cannon 2009-05 recorded and boat ramps and fees.
MH 2009 one for county and one for out of town. Flat rate for all. By federal guidelines.
WC know the voted on and passed.
MMO not sent to Tallahassee.
WC there is a record. In a meeting vote on this again and start over.
MH plan in place before we vote.
WC 2 or 3 years ago.
MH find some minutes. 2018 in question.
MMO everyone does some research on this.

Ms. Cannon spoke to the Board about the boat ramp decals. She said Ordinance 2010-02 supported this. She said that sales tax must be collected, and a Sales tax number is needed, and a monthly report is necessary. She said the Board needs to think about the placement of the sticker and if one sticker per boat is needed or what if the person owns several boats.
She asked who will manufacturing the decals and when does it expire.
Commissioner Hatch said they had a sample of the sticker at one time.

Ms. Cannon asked if the decal would renew on your birthday like your car or will the permit be good for one day only and who will enforce this. She said there are several factors that will have to be addressed

like daily balancing, accounting, monthly book keeping, reports to the Board and DOR, enforcement of violations, a procedure manual, exemptions for handicap or over 65 people or veterans. Attorney Osteen said they will need to do more research for the boat stickers too.

Mr. James Ward said he doesn't understand why they county wants to collect fees for a public boat ramp. Commissioner Hatch said it will help offset the expense of upkeep. Commissioner Mills said that Federal Law said it must be the same flat fee for everyone local or non-local people.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

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

ADJOURN

Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to adjourn at 9:45 AM. 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.