# ***Regular Meeting Dixie County Courthouse Commission Meeting Room March 7, 2019 – 10:00 AM***

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

W. C. Mills, Chairman

David Osteen, Vice-Chairman

Gene Higginbotham

Mark Hatch

Jamie Storey

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Tim Alexander, County Manager

Michael Osteen, County Attorney

Dana D. Johnson, Clerk of Court

Della J. Petty, Deputy Clerk

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The Board meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Chairman Mills.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE:**

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

**APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES**

The motion to approve the Commission Minutes from Regular Meeting of February 21, 2019 was made by Commissioner Osteen and seconded by Commissioner Storey.

The Board approved.

**VOUCHER APPROVAL:**

The motion to approve the Vouchers was made by Commissioner Osteen and seconded by Commissioner Storey. The Board approved.

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

Mr. Greg Bailey appeared before the Board to give an update on several ongoing projects around the County. He said he attended a meeting last Thursday with Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) along with Commissioner Higginbotham and County Manager Alexander about the SCRAP and SCOP and the Highway 351A project. Mr. Bailey stated the FDOT verbally agreed to fund the shortfall for the project from County Road 351 South to County Road 351 North. He added it includes milling and resurfacing with four feet shoulders but does not include the two side roads. He will have the agreement ready at the April meeting. Mr. Bailey said Anderson Columbia Company, Inc. will be working on the Kate Green Road this week and will pave it next week while they are working on that area of U.S. Highway 19. He stated Old Town Upholstery Road will be getting pipe work done.

Commissioner Osteen inquired about the large hump transitioning from the new pavement of the road to the older paved sections coming into Cross City on Highway 19. He said it is not a smooth transition between sections and asked if this will be fixed. Mr. Bailey replied this is only temporary and they are not finished with the project yet; another layer of asphalt will put down. Commissioner Mills asked if it includes the entire highway and Mr. Bailey replied yes it does.

Commissioner Hatch expressed his concern with the new traffic light near the new High School. He asked if FDOT would put in rumble strips to warn people of the new signal because people are not used to stopping at this intersection and it has the potential for causing a wreck. Mr. Bailey said he will talk to FDOT about this and ask for some sort of advanced warning signs or lights to be put in place.

Manager Alexander presented a task order for North Florida Professional Services for Highway 351A. The motion to approve the NFPS task order was made by Commissioner Higginbotham and seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved. Manager Alexander added once FDOT issues the agreement and it has been fully executed then the task order will be finalized.

**STEVE HUTCHINSON, COUNTY ROAD SUPERINTENDENT:**

County Road Superintendent Steve Hutchinson appeared before the Board and informed them the newspaper made an error in advertising the milling for sale to be purchased from the County. He clarified the public must call Anderson Columbia Company, Inc. and purchase it from them directly for their own personal use in driveways. He said the County is putting milling on County maintained roads only not driveways.

Road Superintendent Hutchison informed the Board the clean up at Shired Island is done.

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

Emergency Services Director Brown appeared before the Board and informed them of an employee, Fire Chief Roy Bass, who was in an automobile wreck in a County vehicle. EMS Director Brown said n order to avoid a head on collision Mr. Bass swerved and hit a tree. He sustained no injuries; however the truck was damaged and will be totaled by the insurance company.

EMS Director Brown stated his crews responded to an arson fire at the old Dixie County Vocational School. He said the incident was being investigated by the Dixie County Sheriff’s Office and the Cross City Police Department. He added they responded to four other structure fires this week. EMS Director Brown said he will be out next week.

Commissioner Hatch asked EMS Director Brown to change the report number on the auto accident from 666 to something else and please don't use this number again and EMS Director Brown replied the Sheriff’s Office generates those report umbers. Major Scott Harden replied the report numbers are auto generated.

Manager Alexander informed the Board about the change in minimum wage and they pay EMT Staff and Paramedic Staff at two separate levels. He said they will need to raise the Paramedic Pay Scale in order to keep them separate.

**DUANE CANNON, ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER:**

Assistant County Manager Duane Cannon appeared before the Board and requested a six-month extension of the Timber Harvest Contract at the Cross City Airport due to all the recent rainfall. The motion to extend the Timber Harvest Contract was made by Commissioner Hatch and seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.

Commissioner Hatch discussed the meeting which he, Manager Alexander and Assistant Manager Cannon attended on March 6, 2019 with Central Florida Electric in regards to Economic Development. He said he would like for the Board to sponsor Assistant Manager Cannon to be the Board Representative to the Chamber. The motion to sponsor Assistant Manager Cannon as a Chamber of Commerce member was made by Commissioner Hatch and seconded by Commissioner Higginbotham. Board approved.

**TIM ALEXANDER, COUNTY MANAGER:**

County Manager Tim Alexander appeared before the Board and requested to approve a change order to the Peril of Flood Grant adjusting the project timeline. The motion to approve the Peril of Flood change was made by Commissioner Osteen and seconded by Commissioner Storey. Board approved.

Manager Alexander requested the Board to approve to reopen the County Boat Ramps. The motion to reopen the County Boat Ramps was made by Commissioner Higginbotham and seconded by Commissioner Storey. Board approved.

Manager Alexander requested moving the July 4, 2019 Board Meeting from Thursday to Wednesday, July 3, 2019 at 10:00 AM. The motion to approve the date change of the first July Meeting was made by Commissioner Osteen and seconded by Commissioner Storey. Board approved.

Manager Alexander said he met with Judge Jennifer Johnson and the Constitutional Officers in regards to Courthouse Security. He said they discussed installing a Panic Button System. He said the initial cost would be $5,100.00 and then $51.00 per month. The motion to approve the proposed Courthouse Security upgrade was made by Commissioner Osteen and seconded by Commissioner Storey. Board approved.

Manager Alexander requested the Board to approve the Old Town Methodist Church using Hinton Landing on April 21, 2019 for their Annual Easter Sunrise Service. The motion to allow the Old Town Methodist Church use of Hinton Landing for their Easter Sunrise Service was made by Commissioner Osteen and seconded by Commissioner Storey. Board approved.

Manager Alexander informed the Board of the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) Legislative Day on March 27, 2019. He said the Small County Coalition Meeting will be held on March 26, 2019 and he recommends the Board attend it.

Manager Alexander informed the Board of the annual FACT Conference being held from June 11, 2019 through June 14, 2019. He also reminded the Board of the Workshop for the Airport Master Plan Review on March 21, 2019 in the Board room at 4:30 PM.

Manager Alexander requested the Board to approve the bid advertisement for the park improvements to Yellow Jacket. The motion to approve the Yellow Jacket ad was made by Commissioner Higginbotham and seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.

Manager Alexander reminded the Board of the Toxic Round-Up Event on Saturday, March 23, 2019 from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM at the Dixie County Courthouse Parking Lot and from 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM at Fire Station 21 in Old Town. He also reminded the Board of the Dixie District Schools Business Partner Luncheon at the School Board Meeting room on March 8, 2019 at 12:00 noon.

Commissioner Hatch gave another letter he had received from Ms. Gladys Rollison to Manager Alexander to follow up on recycling.

**MICHAEL OSTEEN, COUNTY ATTORNEY:**

County Attorney Michael Osteen appeared before the Board and informed them the deed for the Tennis Court from the Town of Cross City to the Board of County Commissioners has been recorded at the Clerk's Office and is referenced in OR Book 529 Page 361. He said the Clerk is in possession of the original recorded deed.

County Attorney Osteen informed the Board he was getting signed quit claim deeds for the easement on the McCrabb Paving Project from the property owners and will have them ready at the March 21, 2019 meeting.

County Attorney Osteen informed the Board the Punk Clark Loop easements are almost ready. He said Cambell Global and Mr. Kevin St. Laurent have amended the right-of-way and sent them back to his office. He said they have been reviewed and signed and will be recording them soon.

County Attorney Osteen informed the Board in regards to their request for him to draft an ordinance restricting abortion clinics from opening within Dixie County per the Attorney General municipalities cannot control or ban them from opening as it would go against the Constitution. He said they can issue a proclamation or resolution stating their opposition to them opening an abortion clinic in Dixie County. The motion to draft a proclamation in opposition of abortion clinics opening in Dixie County was made by Commissioner Hatch and seconded by Commissioner Higginbotham. Board approved. Commissioner Hatch inquired if the county can have Pro Life Signs on display and County Attorney Osteen replied yes. He also said the County can use zoning laws and increase permit fees to discourage them from coming in to the County.

County Attorney Osteen informed the Board the tobacco ordinance prohibiting the sale of tobacco near a school is drafted and ready to be advertised in the paper. He said the first reading will be the morning meeting of April 4, 2019. He said the second reading will be at the night meeting of April 18, 2019 and the Board will vote on it at that time. The motion to advertise the draft tobacco ordinance was made by Commissioner Hatch and seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.

County Attorney Osteen reminded the Board of the Marijuana Moratorium in effect for Dixie County. He read the bill that was presented to the Senate yesterday and said the Governor and the Courts say municipalities cannot control or ban them from opening as it would go against the Constitution.

County Attorney Osteen informed the Board he is dealing with the Extreme Broadband Cable TV Company in Suwannee. He said the Holt's and Central Florida Electric are in a lawsuit with each other and there is an order in place for the Holt's to comply with which they have not as of yet. County Attorney Osteen said they maintain they had permission from a former Commissioner of the Board to place their equipment where it is currently located even though there is not a resolution or ordinance in place to support their claim. He said he and Dixie County Building Official Mr. Leon Wright are working on the Stop Work Order in place and the Holt's Attorney has asked for his Malpractice Insurance information. County Attorney Osteen said the Holt's are alleging he is conspiring with Central Florida Electric in this case because his father is on their Board and has been for many years. He said to clear up any conflicts of interest in this case he would like the Board's approval to bring in Attorney Conrad Bishop to help with this issue at no expense to the County. He said he will pay all of Attorney Bishop's legal fees. The motion to approve County Attorney Osteen seeking help from Attorney Conrad Bishop was made by Commissioner Higginbotham and seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved. Manager Alexander informed the Board they had explained in their meeting with the Holt's the County would like to help but they must go through the legal process in order to get things done. Commissioner Mills asked why they have not complied with the order and County Attorney Osteen replied they have given no reason for non compliance.

County Attorney Osteen read aloud a letter from the Steinhatchee River Chamber of Commerce thanking the Board for attending the meeting with Florida Wildlife Commission in Gainesville, Florida last week. He said they were appreciative of the Board's support.

**DANA D. JOHNSON, CLERK OF COURT:**

Deputy Clerk Della Petty appeared before the Board and presented the County Match to Federal Grant Trust Funds under the Help America Vote Act from the Supervisor of Elections, Starlett Cannon. She said the amount is $974.08 for the budget amendment. The motion to approve the Supervisor of Election request was made by Commissioner Hatch and seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.

**COUNTY COMMISSION ITEMS:**

Commissioner Gene Higginbotham requested the Board members agree to help purchase a Chapter Animal from the Suwannee River Livestock Fair this year along with members of the School Board and all were in agreement.

Commissioner Mills thanked everyone for coming to the Board meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS:**

Major Scott Harden inquired about the $50,000.00 amendment to the Sheriff's Budget. He said they want to make a draw from the rent a bed money to pay an inmate hospital bill for $56,000.00. The motion to approve the $50,000.00 budget amendment for the Sheriff was made by Commissioner Osteen and seconded by Commissioner Storey. Board approved.

**ADJOURN**

The motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Higginbotham and seconded by Commissioner Storey. The Board approved and the meeting adjourned at 10:35 A.M.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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ATTEST: W. C. Mills, Chairman

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Dana D. Johnson, Clerk-Auditor