

Regular Meeting
Commission Board Room
Dixie County Courthouse
214 NE Hwy 351, Cross City, FL 32628
March 7, 2024 – 10:00 am

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, Vice Chairman

Daniel Wood, District 2

Mark Hatch, District 3

Jamie Storey, District 4, Chairman

David Osteen, District 5

STAFF

Paul Gaaney, Acting Assignment County Manager

Martha McCaskill, Acting Assignment Asst. County Manager/
Administrative Asst/Grant Coordinator

Chana Watson, County Attorney

Jacki Johnson, Chief Financial Officer

Barbie Higginbotham, Clerk of Court

Joannie Morse, Deputy Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Board Meeting was called to order at 10:03 AM by Commissioner Storey.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG

The Invocation was led by Commissioner Hatch and the Pledge to the American Flag was led by Commissioner Stephenson.

3. APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES

Commissioner Osteen made the motion to approve Minutes from the BOCC and CC Workshop of January 17, 2024. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

4. VOUCHER APPROVAL---

Commissioner Osteen made the motion for voucher approval. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.

5. CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

None were present.

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 Stephenson. Seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.

APPLICATIONS for SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS

A petition by RICKY TURNER & AMY SUGGS 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 (ESA) zoning district, in accordance with the petition dated 01/12/2024 to be located on the property as described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 26-09-13-4468-0000-0060 1978 NE 642 STREET, OLD TOWN, FL. 32680; .00).
(Commission District 2 Daniel Wood)

The motion to approve the petition for a Special Exception for Ricky Turner and Amy Suggs was made by Commissioner Wood. Seconded by Commissioner Hatch. Board approved.

A petition by DAVID BAILEY requesting a ***Special Exception*** to be granted, as provided in Section 4.4.5 SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS of the Dixie County Land Development Regulations to permit one recreational vehicle. ("AG" AGRICULTURE) zoning district, in accordance with the petition dated 02/08/2024 to be located on the property as described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 28-09-13-4472-0000-0020 182 NE 385 AVENUE, OLD TOWN, FL. 32680; .00).
(Commission District 4 Jamie Storey)

The motion to approve the petition for a Special Exception for David Bailey was made by Commissioner Stephenson. Seconded by Commissioner Wood. Board approved.

A petition by RANDOLPH ALEXANDER requesting a ***Special Exception*** to be granted, as provided in Section 4.7.5 SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS of the Dixie County Land Development Regulations to permit one recreational vehicle (RSF/MH) zoning district, in accordance with the petition dated 01/24/2024 to be located on the property as described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 19-13-12-2952-000F-0110 96 SE 240 STREET, OLD TOWN, FL 32680; .00).
(Commission District 3 Mark Hatch)

The motion to approve the petition for a Special Exception for Randolph Alexander was made by Commissioner Hatch. Seconded by Commissioner Wood. Board approved.

APPLICATIONS for VARIANCES

A petition by WILLIAM & ASHTON KRAUSE located on the property as described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 19-13-12-2994-0002-2180 (287 SE 241 STREET, OLD TOWN, FL 32680) to request a *variance* for a REDUCTION OF SIDE SETBACKS FROM 10 FEET DOWN TO ZERO FEET FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW BOAT HOUSE by the petition dated 11/09/2023 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)

Building and Zoning Official Leon Wright stated there is opposition and called them to the podium to present.

Mr. James Melton approached the Board and stated that he is a neighbor across the canal from Mr. William Krause. Mr. Melton further stated that Mr. Krause wants to come six (6) feet out into the canal to build the new boat shed and that if this Variance is approved it would hinder him from getting in and out of his boat shed.

Mr. Wright reminded the Board that the petition is only for the side setbacks, not for the width of the canal.

Mr. Melton and the members of the Board reviewed the plans as supplied by Mr. Wright.

Attorney Chana Watson asked if the owner's property line goes to the middle of the canal.

Mr. Wright said no, it does not, and property owners can only build up to twenty-five (25) percent of the width of the canal, but this Variance is not related to the width of the canal, but only the side setbacks.

Commissioner Stephenson asked what the total width of the canal is.

Mr. Melton answered it is seventy-five feet from seawall to seawall. He added that the canal width may in fact be seventy-five feet, but there are some existing boat sheds there that measure out and take up space in the canal.

Commissioner Stephenson asked how much room there is in between the existing boat sheds.

Mr. Melton answered about four (4) feet.

Mr. Wright reminded the Board that today's Variance is only for the side setbacks.

Mr. Robert Larson approached the Board next and stated he also is a neighbor or Mr. Krause across the canal. He stated he also is in opposition for the same reasons. He said

that he recently rebuilt his boatshed using the existing footprint and if Mr. Krause extends outward along the canal it will be very difficult to back out of his boathouse.

Mr. Larson stated that if Mr. Krause uses the existing footprint that would be fine, but if he extends out into the canal that would keep him from being able to get into his boatshed.

Mr. Larson and Mr. Melton reviewed the maps of the properties with the Board.

Petitioner William Krause presented the plans for the new boat house and told the Board that he only wanted to reduce the South setbacks to zero, not the North. He said he would keep the same ten feet setback to the north. He added that this shouldn't encroach on his neighbors to the north in any manner. He also mentioned to the Board that they previously approved his other neighbors Mary and Robert Clark for a five (5) feet Variance to build their dock, which caused him to have to come into his dock from a different direction and that is why he is building this new dock.

Commissioner Hatch recommended all parties involved to meet at the property (s) along with himself and Mr. Wright to look at this and come up with a solution.

Mr. Krause stated that he was already conceding two- and one-half (2 ½) feet of what is allotted, and he doesn't see how he can give up much more than that and per the code he is allowed twenty-five percent of the canal to build out into.

Attorney Watson again reminded that the petition is only for side setbacks and the petition doesn't say zero on the South side only, but states zero on all sides.

Mr. Krause stated that at the time of submission of the application for Variance he wrote zero on the South side only.

The motion to Table the petition for a Variance for William and Ashton Krause was made by Commissioner Hatch. Seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.

A petition by TIMOTHY RENFROE located on the property as described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 19-13-12-2994-0002-1970 (111 SE 241ST STREET. OLD TOWN, FL. 32680) to request a ***variance*** for a REDUCTION OF SIDE SETBACK FROM TEN FEET DOWN TO ZERO FEET TO REPLACE EXISTING DOCK by the petition dated 12/08/2023 which is located within Section 4.3.7 ESA subparagraph (1) of the Dixie County Land Development Regulations in accordance with section 12.3 VARIANCE PROCEDURES.

(Commission District 3 Mark Hatch)

Mr. Wright stated no opposition called in to us, but not exactly a legal request because they have room on the opposite side of the boat shed. Recommended tabling.

The motion to Table the petition for a Variance for William and Ashton Krause was made by Commissioner Hatch. Seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.

A petition by H. DALE HERRING DBA: CRACKER HOUSE WINERY located on the property as described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 36-10-13-0000-5646-0100 (522 SE 897 STREET. OLD TOWN, FL. 32680) to request a **SPECIAL TEMPORARY USE EVENT FOR MAY 4, 2024** FROM 9AM TO 7 PM FOR A ONE DAY FESTIVAL WITH VENDORS by the petition dated 02/07/2024 which is located within an Environmentally Sensitive (ESA-4) Zoning District
(Commission District 2 Daniel Wood)

The motion to approve the request for Special Temporary Use Event by Dale Herring DBA: Cracker House Winery was made by Commissioner Wood. Seconded by Commissioner Stephenson. Board approved.

A petition by H. DALE HERRING DBA: CRACKER HOUSE WINERY located on the property as described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 36-10-13-0000-5646-0100 (522 SE 897 STREET. OLD TOWN, FL. 32680) to request a **SPECIAL TEMPORARY USE EVENT FOR DECEMBER 14, 2024** FROM 9AM TO 7 PM FOR A ONE DAY FESTIVAL WITH VENDORS by the petition dated 02/07/2024 which is located within an Environmentally Sensitive (ESA-4) Zoning District
(Commission District 2 Daniel Wood)

The motion to approve the request for Special Temporary Use Event by Dale Herring DBA: Cracker House Winery was made by Commissioner Wood. Seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.

Mr. Wright stated that Mr. Herring asked if this could be an auto renewal every year. He said he told Mr. Herring that he couldn't grant that but would see how the first festival went and bring it back to the Board afterwards.

Mr. Wright also asked the Board for direction concerning the retirement of Mr. Jean and stated that Mr. Jean will help see the County through to the end of creating the new Land Development Code, but the County will need help after Mr. Jean is gone. He said that the County didn't renew the contract with North Florida, and he needed direction on which way to go. He stated that Mr. Greg Bailey and Mr. John Locklear both have the capability to do the services, but he wasn't sure if he could use them since they were already on the Board.

Commissioner Hatch asked Mr. Wright what he wanted to do.

Mr. Wright said he is good going forward with Mr. Bailey and Mr. Locklear and then Mr. Bailey and Mr. Locklear stated they would work together to help.

Commissioner Osteen made the motion to go back to the Board. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board Approved.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2024-11

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO APPROVE A **VARIANCE** TO BE GRANTED, AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 4.7.7 (RSF/MH) SUBPARAGRAPH (2) OF THE DIXIE COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS TO PERMIT A REDUCTION OF SIDE SETBACKS FROM 10 FEET DOWN TO ZERO FEET FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW BOAT HOUSE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PETITION DATED NOVEMBER 9, 2023.

William and Ashton Krause

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to Table the Resolution 2024-11 request made by William and Ashton Krause. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.

Resolution 2024-12

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 SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS 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 JANUARY 12, 2024.

Ricky Turner and Amy Suggs

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve the Resolution 2024-12 request made by Ricky Turner and Amy Suggs. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.

Resolution 2024-13

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 SPECIAL EXCEPTION OF THE DIXIE COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS TO PERMIT ONE RECREATIONAL VEHICLE IN AN AGRICULTURAL AREA (AG) ZONING DISTRICT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PETITION DATED FEBRUARY 8, 2024.

David Bailey

Commissioner Wood made the motion to approve the Resolution 2024-13 request made by David Bailey. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.

Resolution 2024-14

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 SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS OF THE DIXIE COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS TO PERMIT ONE RECEREATIONAL VEHICLE IN AN RESIDENTIAL SINGLE FAMILY/MOBILE HOME AREA (RSF/MH) ZONING DISTRICT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PETITION DATED JANUARY 24, 2024.

Randolph and Cynthia Alexander

Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to approve the Resolution 2024-14 request made by Randolph and Cynthia Alexander. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.

Resolution 2024-15

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 VARIANCE PROCEDURES OF THE DIXIE COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, TO GRANT A VARIANCE WITHIN SECTION 4.3.7 ESA SUBPARAGRAPH (1) OF THE DIXIE COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS FOR A VARIANCE FOR A REDUCTION OF SIDE SETBACK FROM TEN FEET DOWN TO ZERO FEET TO REPLACE EXISTING DOCK WHICH IS LOCATED WITHIN SECTION 4.3.7. A ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREA (ESA) ZONING DISTRICT, AS PROVIDED IN THE PETITION DATED DECEMBER 8, 2023.

Timothy Renfroe

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to Table Resolution 2024-15 request made by Timothy Renfroe. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.

Resolution 2024-16

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 SPECIAL TEMPORARY USE EVENT FOR MAY 4, 2024, FROM 9 AM TO 7 PM FOR ONE DAY FESTIVFAL WITH VENDORS AS PROVIDED IN THE PETITION DATED FEBRUARY 7, 2024.

H. Dale Herring (permit # 240825)

Commissioner Wood made the motion to approve the Resolution 2024-16 request made by H. Dale Herring. Commissioner Osteen seconded. Board approved.

Resolution 2024-17

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 SPECIAL TEMPORARY USE EVENT FOR DECEMBER 14, 2024, FROM 9 AM TO 7 PM FOR ONE DAY FESTIVFAL WITH VENDORS AS PROVIDED IN THE PETITION DATED FEBRUARY 7, 2024.

H. Dale Herring (permit # 240826)

Commissioner Wood made the motion to approve Resolution 2024-17 request made by H. Dale Herring. Commissioner Osteen seconded. Board approved.

ORDINANCES

Ordinance 2024-01

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONS OF DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA ESTABLISHING SHORT-TERM OVERNIGHT RENTAL REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS FOR OWNERS OF SHORT-TERM VACATION RENTALS; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT AND SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE OF LAWS AND ORDINANCES; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

First Reading 03/07/2024

6. TONY REID-PRESIDENT OF THE DIXIE BABE RUTH LEAGUE

Mr. Tony Reid President of the Dixie County Babe Ruth League approached the Board to present the upcoming Softball District Event scheduled to be held in Dixie County at the Roy Ward Little League Field on June 7-9, 2024.

Mr. Reid stated that the Dixie County Babe Ruth had a total of three hundred children signed up last year and three hundred and ten this year. He added that the League numbers are increasing in our County and that Dixie County had twenty-six teams last year and twenty-seven teams this year.

He informed the Board that there will be roughly around thirty-five to forty teams attending the Tournament. He added that this would bring approximately 1500 people daily and generally about 5,000 total for the whole weekend. He said that there will be an influx of families coming in on the Thursday, June 6th, before the event and recommended the County be prepared for the increase.

He stated there will be a variety of different Food Truck Vendors and there hasn't been a price set for the food trucks, but they will have to be licensed and insured. He also stated that he will keep all the vendors' information on hand at the park in case it is needed.

Mr. Reid mentioned that he would use the Trail Riders Club for additional parking and will make an entrance on the north side of the complex. He said there is no event scheduled at the arena, but the Trail Riders Club has been rented for that day and he would contact Mrs. Helen Rich to see if he can contact the renter and make sure they are informed of the Babe Ruth event going on that day.

Mr. Reid stated they spent approximately \$10,000.00 on upgrading the fields last year and put new clay on two fields and purchased five (5) pitching mounds that cost approximately \$6,000.00.

Mr. Reid told the Board that he spoke to many of the local businesses concerning the influx of people that will be coming and recommended them getting prepared with extra supplies and staff. He also said that flyers are being made and handed out throughout the county.

Mr. Reid said that he met with Sherriff Darbi Butler and Emergency Operations Director Darian Brown and told them what was coming up and scheduled a meeting for the first of May to finalize the resources needed.

Mr. Reid stated that he hoped to host the boys' baseball in 2025 and the girls' softball every other year.

He also mentioned that he would like to hold one day tournaments in our County after spring baseball/softball season which usually facilitates twenty teams. He said when Taylor County does these one-day tournaments it generally brings in around \$10,000.00 for one day.

Commissioner Storey stated that it sounds like the County needs to get on the ball and get the twenty-five acres out at Hudson Field done because this would be a bigger park for these tournaments.

Commissioner Stephenson stated that he thought he was told that by using the park as hurricane debris site, when done FEMA would come in and build a new facility out there.

Mr. Gainey stated that FEMA would generally just rebuild back to its original state and if there was no building on the property, they would not build a new one.

Emergency Operations Director Darian Brown agreed with what Mr. Gainey stated and reiterated that FEMA would only bring back to its original state.

Mr. Brown said the County has made an appropriations request to go in and clear the land and build a new building for future storms and to utilize it in off season as an event area, unfortunately, it cost approximately twenty-eight million dollars. Mr. Brown added that he would like to see something happen out there though.

Mr. Reid stated that they will do a memorial for Luke Mills, one of their Babe Ruth players who was killed in an ATV accident. Luke Mills passed away in June of 2023 and he would like to dedicate the field he played on and hang a plaque in his honor. He asked if he could also change the field number from field 6 to field 10, which was his jersey number.

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to hang the memorial plaque for Luke Mills at the Babe Ruth Field. Commissioner Osteen seconded. Board approved.

Commissioner Osteen made the motion to approve the changing of field number six (6) to be field number ten (10) in honor of Luke Mill's Jersey number. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.

Mr. Reid stated that the memorial plaque unveiling will be on March 30th, 2024.

Mr. Reid stated that they want to paint the concession stand dark grey. He said that Mrs. Patty Arrington, who is over an inmate crew told him that she and her crew would paint it if he could supply the paint.

Commissioner Storey stated he was willing to donate \$100.00 towards the painting.

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to allow Mr. Reid to paint whatever needs painting at the ball fields and make upgrades if it doesn't change the structure of the buildings. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.

Commissioner Storey asked Mr. Reid to find out how much the paint will cost and let them know. All the commissioners, Attorney Chana Watson and Clerk of Court Barbie Higginbotham agreed to donate \$100.00 towards the painting.

Mr. Reid also stated that Dixie County High School received a new scoreboard and would like to donate the old one to Babe Ruth Fields. He stated they would need help with the installation. Commissioner Hatch said Mr. Steve Hutchinson would be able to install it for him.

Mr. Reid said that the pressure washing at the ballpark has already started and is about fifty percent complete.

Mr. Reid had more items to bring regarding the future plans for soccer but will bring these to the Board at a later date.

Director of Human Resources Angie Crowley stated that she is almost positive that the Trail Riders Club is rented that weekend and she suggested leaving parking space for that event.

Mr. Reid said that he would tape off a section for the Trail Riders event and that he is also trying to add a new gate in the spot where some old fallen down fence is located close to the Trail Riders Club for a new entrance into the fields.

7. KAY MCCALLISTER, TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Mrs. Kay McCallister of the Tourist Development Council stated that they met with Visit Florida who did a presentation regarding the free listings they offer and the section on their website dedicated to Dixie County with four (4) businesses listed. She also stated that Jesse Samply, a resident in Dixie County presented some free programs for online listings and expressed how important it is to have an online presence. She stated that Mr. Samply also had the video crew for Visit Florida come in for the weekend and completed three days of video of Dixie County. She said these videos were made for the grant that Visit Florida will be distributing throughout the Southeast. She added that these are small thirty-second videos and we can have all of the three days' worth of footage in order to make more marketing videos in the future.

Mrs. McCallister stated that they are starting a new marketing campaign called Florida Hidden Coast and gave out t-shirts.

Mrs. McCallister also reminded the Board that the Tourism Board gives marketing grants to these events and listed some events coming up in the future.

These include:

- The Lower Suwannee Art and Nature Festival at Glen Dyals Park this weekend March 16, 2024.
- The Horseshoe Shrimp Palooza in early April 2024.
- The Centennial in Cross City on April 20, 2024
- The Cracker House Winery Event and the Horseshoe Beach Event in early May.

Attorney Watson mentioned doing a marketing grant for Mr. Reid's Babe Ruth Event coming up.

Mrs. McCallister said she has spoken with Mr. Reid, and they are going to try to do a marketing grant for the event and set up a booth to hand out information at the event.

Commissioner Hatch asked if there is a place where they have a community calendar to post all community events.

Mrs. McCallister said they are working on this. She said Mr. Jesse Samply is redesigning their website as well as the Chamber's website and is also making a community calendar to be used to advertise all the county events.

Mrs. McCallister mentioned that the Dixie County Tourism/Business Office is almost finished, and everyone is welcome to stop by and see it.

8. KATRINA VANEARNAM AND SHEILA FRIERSON, DIXIE COUNTY ANTI-DRUG COALITION

Mrs. Sheila Frierson reminded everyone that the County will be having a Toxic Waste Take Back this Saturday in Old Town and Cross City. She said last year they collected thirty pounds of medication. She also stated that this program was for disposal of expired or unwanted medications to keep drugs from getting into our water supply. She also presented a copy of a handout called, How Did the Drugs Get in My Water.

Mrs. Frierson said they are also conducting a study regarding the levels of medicine found in the fish we eat due to people flushing meds and will plan on bringing that to the Board next month.

She added that they will also be giving out information about the Deterra program, which is a program that helps with dissolving and destroying medicines safely at home. She said anyone is welcome to pick up a Deterra package at the Coalition office, which is by the drive through at Ameris Bank.

John Willimas Football Camp will also be at the Toxic Waste Event, and they will be providing information about vaping, drug abuse, knowing the law and prevention programs.

9. STEVE COPELAND, SUWANNEE WATER AND SEWER MANAGER

Mr. Steve Copeland updated the Board on the following:

- He said they currently have 928 active customer accounts, 184 complete reinstallations, 22 incomplete and still have about 800 to go.
- Contractors to do full installs-they are waiting on the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) Senior Manager to sign the purchase order.
- Next Tuesday they have a sewage inspection by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP).

Mr. Copeland thanked Road Department Superintendent Steve Hutchison for the use of equipment and people to prepare for this inspection.

- Lift station- Finally got all parts so they can get all three (3) pumps running.

Mr. Copeland stated that their Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) representative has stated that FEMA mitigation is extremely interested in moving the lift station across the street to their property so its higher and away from canal.

He also stated he has not heard anything back regarding the overflow in December.

Mr. Copeland said that their backup generators at the sewer plant and water plant have failed and hopefully Ringpower will come to repair those.

Mr. Copeland stated that seats one (1), four (4), and five (5) are on the ballad this year in November; however, this goes against the ordinance which says one (1), three (3), and five (5). He added this is because they have had so many leave the board and be appointed to the board and this has messed up the election cycles numbers. He states there are two ways to fix this; to either amend the ordinance or have a special election after the November election. He said he thought the easiest way would be to amend the ordinance.

Commissioner Hatch asked Mr. Copeland if he could get Attorney Rhett Bullard working on that and present it to Attorney Watson.

Mr. Copeland said yes, he could.

Mr. Copeland lastly thanked Scott Pendarvis for helping with some Information Technology (IT) problems these past few weeks.

10. GREG BAILEY, NORTH FLORIDA PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Mr. Greg Bailey updated the Board on several ongoing projects which include:

- EOC – He stated they have sent ninety percent of their set of plans to the town for their review and are on target for plans to be completed by April 1st and then go forward with the bid.
- Old Town Fire Station - He stated they have a preconstruction meeting on March 22nd and the contractor informed them he is having delay issues on building components and is expecting those to arrive on June 1 then construction should be starting around May 1st.
- Library roof repair - His staff has had a conversation with Attorney Watson regarding construction agreements with the adjacent landowner. Attorney Watson stated she will probably have them to his office this week sometime.
- 95th-97th Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) project – He stated their office conducted an internal sixty percent review and will be addressing those results and should be complete within the next two (2) months then the plans will go out to bid.
- Hal Chaires Road - He stated there are no more comments from Department of Transportation dot on construction plans; however, the road parallels the Greenway Trail, and is now State property and DOT had an issue with that. He said they presented to Department of Transportation (DOT) that the County has been maintaining it for years and they think DOT is now willing to let us move ahead. He said they are expecting to receive authorization to advertise prior to March 21st.
- The Sheriffs Evidence Building - He stated they have sent the third draft of the floor plan to review and once approved they can begin designing.

Mr. Bailey commended Mr. Reid and encouraged the County to invest in recreational facilities and expressed that youth recreation is a big portion of economic development.

Mr. Bailey lastly added that if there is anything they can do to help to let them know. He stated there are Federal Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP) grants available. He said they won't generally pay for a whole complex, but there are ways to cut down costs if the County has resources, they can dedicate to it.

Commissioner Storey thanked both Mr. Bailey and Mr. Locklear for getting things done within the County.

11. JOHN LOCKLEAR, LOCKLEAR AND ASSOCIATES

Mr. Locklear stated that he had nothing to bring to the Board at this time.

12. CINDY BELLOT, LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Mrs. Cindy Bellot reminded the Board of the Festival this coming Saturday in Suwannee. She stated that Mrs. Jane Conners runs the festival and does a great job.

Commissioner Hatch thanked Mrs. Jane Conners for her hard work and dedication in Suwannee.

Mrs. Bellot stated that everything is going well at the library in Cross City and the plans for the summer are almost completed.

13. STEVE FREMEN, CODE ENFORCEMENT & VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER

Mr. Fremem stated that he had nothing to bring to the Board at this time.

14. STEVE HUTCHISON, COUNTY ROAD SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Steve Hutchinson stated that the Road Department needs a tractor.

He said he currently has a 1988 John Deere that he can no longer get parts for. He added that Mr. W.C. Mills bought all the tractors from Cross City Veneer and is selling a 2003 that he would like to purchase, if approved.

Commissioner Hatch asked if Mr. Hutchinson has the money available in the Road Department budget.

Mr. Hutchinson said yes it was in the budget.

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to purchase a 2003 John Deer 644H Front End Loader with 11 hours for \$45,000.00 dollars from W.C. Mills. Commissioner Osteen seconded. Board approved.

Commissioner Stephenson asked where the money was that was made from an auction that was held to raise funds to help fix the loader and other road equipment. He added that he remembered that the County had a flood, and the money was used to fix the culverts, but then the County was supposed to put that money back into the Road Department equipment when reimbursed.

Mr. Hutchison said he didn't know where the money was.

Mr. Gainey stated this took place prior to him being in the County Management position and he is not aware of this.

Commissioner Stephenson said he would like the County to look into where this money is and if the County finds it this could allow them to be able to get the broken loader fixed.

Mr. Hutchison also asked the Board about purchasing another lawn mower. He stated that the County was supposed to get two lawn mowers, but only received one that he is aware of.

Mr. Gainey said that the County purchased one (1) lawn mower last year out of the Road Department budget, but he is not aware of the approval to purchase two (2) mowers.

Commissioner Stephenson asked if there is enough money in the Road Department budget for the purchase of another mower as well as the loader previously mentioned?

Mr. Gainey stated that after the purchase of the loader the Road Department budget would have about \$35,000.00 left in the budget. He said the lawn mower will cost approximately \$12,000.00 and further reminded the Board that the rest of the money in the budget will have to carry the Road Department through the rest of the year and we are not even 6 months into the new year.

Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to purchase a new lawn mower if the funds are available in the Road Department Budget. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.

15. DWAYNE CHAUNCEY, MOSQUITO CONTROL DIRECTOR

Mr. Chauncey was not present at this meeting.

16. TIM JOHNSON, SOLID WASTE DIRECTOR

Commissioner Hatch asked Solid Waste Director Tim Johnson if he found a building for the roll-off site on 55A.

Mr. Johnson answered that he did get with Mr. Gainey and he was supposed to contact the shed company and Mr. Johnson hasn't had a chance to get back with Mr. Gainey yet to see what he found out.

Mr. Gainey said that he has this covered.

Commissioner Hatch stated that he had someone call him regarding a burnout and he would like to waive the fees because the person saved the County money by using someone else's dumpster instead of the County dumpster, so it didn't cost the County or tie up any of our equipment.

Mr. Johnson said he spoke to B. Beckham and told him he would call Mr. Gainey to see if we needed to charge the fees.

Mr. Gainey stated he felt that because it was a business that brought stuff out there to dump the County should charge the fees.

Attorney Watson stated that if the contract with the owner of the property included the cost for debris disposal and he charged the homeowner for disposal when he didn't have to pay disposal fees this would defraud the customer. If he didn't charge because he anticipated the fees were going to be waived by the County, then that's where we're at.

Commissioner Hatch stated that we always waive the tipping fees on burnouts and thinks we should continue.

Motion made by Commissioner Hatch to waive the tipping fees on the burnouts.

Commissioner Stephenson presented an amendment to the motion to state to waive the tipping fees if the client didn't charge the customer. He said that if the business charges the customer, then the fees are not to be waived.

Mr. Johnson expressed concern about knowing if the customer was charged.

Commissioner Hatch said Mr. Johnson could call the customer.

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to waive the tipping fees on burnouts if the business did not charge the customer. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.

Commissioner Hatch asked about meeting out at 55A to look at the fence line.

Mr. Gainey stated he could meet directly after the Board meeting.

Commissioner Stephenson asked Mr. Johnson if the dump had been fixed at the rock pit.

Mr. Johnson said he is always told there is no money in the budget to fix it. He said he got an estimate of about \$6,000.00 to put a fence across the front. He said this included 650 feet of chain link with barb wire on top.

Mr. Johnson asked what he can spend on fence so that he can get it done.

Mr. Gainey stated that there is money in the budget for repair and maintenance and operating costs, but for the Board to keep in mind that they just bought an over-the-road truck and are looking into purchasing a trailer.

Commissioner Stephenson stated that he will put some red top wire up until the County can help put up a fence.

Commissioner Hatch asked if Commissioner Stephenson and Mr. Johnson can come up with a solution and bring it back to the next Board meeting.

Commissioner Wood asked if improving the lighting at the site will help with all the night trespassing.

Commissioner Stephenson said he felt like the only help would be enforcement.

Mr. Johnson stated that he thought that having a compactor at the sites would also help eliminate some of the trespassing and stealing.

Mr. Gainey stated that if the sites did not collect metal there would be no reason for trespassers to go into the sites at night because usually, they are going in to steal the metal.

Mr. Johnson also stated that having trespassers is a lawsuit waiting to happen.

Commissioner Stephenson said that if a fence is built then they can post no trespassing signs.

Attorney Watson asked if there are no trespassing signs already posted at these sites.

Mr. Johnson answered yes.

Commissioner Osteen suggested that if trespassers are seen to call the Sherriff's Office and if the person trespassing has a warrant, they can arrest them and remove them from the property.

17. LEON WRIGHT, BUILDING AND ZONING OFFICIAL

Building and Zoning Official Leon Wright presented to the Board and stated that they are working on the updating of the Floodplain Ordinance, and it should be advertised and ready for the first reading by the next Board meeting.

He stated that they are removing some portions of the code, which were of a higher standard and were unnecessary.

Mr. Wright also stated that once the Flood Plain is adopted then they will move to adopt the Land Development Regulations (LDR's).

He stated in 2007 the County adopted a Windspeed Ordinance, and it is in direct conflict with the Florida Building Code and needs to be repealed and they are working on presenting this to the Board.

Mr. Wright also told the Board that if they desire, he can also clean up the Burnout portion of the code.

The Board responded yes; they did wish for Mr. Wright to clean up the Burnout portion of the code.

Mr. Wright stated that they issued the permit for the new Dollar Store on Highway 19, and they have started construction. He added that they are getting ready to demo and prep the Higginbotham Store as well.

Mr. Wright also mentioned that he has hired David Lake to do field inspections.

He said he has moved Jean inside, and he also helps with field work when there is a surplus of inspections.

He said they outfitted the truck with Wi-Fi.

He added that he has moved Jesenia Teague to Julie's old position.

Commissioner Hatch asked what is going on outside of Cross City.

Mr. Wright stated they are cutting trees, and the County doesn't have a tree ordinance, so it doesn't bother him.

Mr. Wright stated that they are adding small scale exemptions to the new Flood Plain Ordinance, and this would cover tree cutting and such for residential single families.

18. DARIAN BROWN, DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

Director of Emergency Services Darian Brown stated they just recently had a Department of Health Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Division inspection in which they passed with no deficiencies.

Chief Scott Garner presented the Board with information regarding the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) match project is in the appropriations bill to waive all financially strained counties for all matches.

He stated this will bring our HMGP amount from 8.2 to 10.3-10.5 million dollars that we can apply for.

Mr. Garner provided a list of projects allocated at this time:

- Backup generator at the Courthouse.
- 4 roads in Suwannee-SE 205, SE 218, SE 209, and SE 228 St for the raising of the roads. He stated he received quotes for these.
- Enlarging canal system and replacing box culverts in Old Town
- Seawalls on the riverside of 349 South
- A community wide warning system for public safety

He stated that the State of Florida has provided a contractor under the name of Title Basin to assist with these projects free of charge and they will be assisting with the technical writing and technical assistance for any HMGP projects throughout the state.

Chief Garner stated that all PWs are moving forward, and Cow Creek is the most recent one they have for the undermining of the bridge.

Commissioner Osteen asked that if once the bridge is undermined can it be opened?

Chief Garner said, yes, if Department of Transportation (DOT) approves we can open it back up.

Chief Garner stated he received an email that the Governor of Florida awarded 66 million dollars to Hurricane Idalia impacted communities. Dixie County received 10.15 million dollars, which will handle all the dredging in Horseshoe and Suwannee, the two (2) fire stations, and the Shired Island Beach renourishment and taking to engineered beach.

He said that once these are started then we can look at redoing pavilions. He also added that he will get with our engineers and see if this is something they can do or if they recommend going to a beach engineering Specialist.

Attorney Watson stated she didn't hear anything mentioned about the Horseshoe Park.

Chief Garner said Horseshoe Park would be done under the project worksheets (PW's) and the others mentioned are items not done under Project Worksheets; these are the dredging of the canals in Horseshoe and Suwannee, moving the fire station out of the Town of Horseshoe from the surge zone north of the water tower, replacing station three (3) at Highway 349 and Highway 351, and taking Shired Island from a natural beach to a engineered beach.

Commissioner Stephenson asked for clarification on Shired Island. He stated that the County was going to take some grant money and purchase some of the park from his dad and was wondering what happened.

Director Brown asked where the property is located.

Commissioner Stephenson said his property goes through the park beside the pavilions.

Director Brown stated there is another project and they are trying to do something out there, but he didn't want to make any promises.

Commissioner Hatch asked about the status of the McGriff and Alligator Pass?

Chief Garner said that the County doesn't own those. He states he met with Representative Kat Cammack and some FEMA individuals in late February to entertain the idea of the Army Corp to help with the McGriff Pass. He added they said if it is shovel ready, they shouldn't have an issue with trying to go forward with that.

Director Brown stated that he spoke directly to Senator Kat Cammack, and she seemed to be very much aware and deeply moving in that direction.

Mr. Gainey stated the meeting with the Army Corp is on March 12, 2024, at 11:00 AM.

Commissioner Hatch also asked about the docks at the Suwannee Community Building that was blown over to Mrs. Chris Barbers place.

Chief Garner said they are in the process of getting the PWs written.

Commissioner Hatch asked if the Community Building was still in limbo.

Chief Garner said that the County doesn't own the land, it is owned by the School Board, and it is more than fifty percent damaged, and a decision must be made as to if we move the building or raise it up and are we going to be able to that on non-county owned property?

Human Resource Administrator Angie Crowley asked if FEMA is going to give us more money on that or are we just taking what the insurance is giving us.

Chief Garner stated that depends on how it is written and what the amounts are, and FEMA has not given us an answer as to what they will do yet and how much.

Mr. Gainey reminded the Board that if the County already got insurance money and a settlement and then decided to move forward with that money, this would forfeit any potential funding from FEMA.

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

Mr. Pendarvis had to step out of the meeting and was not present at this time.

20. GAIL CARTER, INDIGENT CARE

Mrs. Carter was not present at this meeting.

21. HOLLY HOUGHTON, COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT

Mrs. Houghton was not present at this meeting.

22. ANGIE CROWLEY, HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATOR

Human Resources Administrator Angie Crowley reminded everyone of the Wellness Health Screening scheduled for March 14, 2024, at the Trail Riders Club from 8:30 AM until 4:00 PM. She encouraged everyone to preregister for a time slot and reminded of the importance of participation for our County health rates. She added that they will be giving away a \$25.00 gift card to Walmart and snacks.

She also stated that she has a dollar amount of \$76,189.00 from the insurance for the wrecked dump truck that was totaled. She stated needs approval from the Board so she can sign the title and to do that she would need to get a letter of authorization signed giving her the authority to sign.

Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to approve Human Resources Administrator Angie Crowley to get a signed authorization letter allowing her to sign the title for the wrecked dump truck. Commissioner Osteen seconded. Board approved.

23. PAUL GAINNEY, ACTING ASSIGNMENT COUNTY MANAGER

Acting Assignment County Manager Paul Gainney reviewed the County Managers Report Action Items as follows:

Action Items:

1. Request Board approval of the Powell & Jones CPA contract renewal FY 2023-in the amount of \$84,500.00.

Commissioner Stephenson made the approval of the Powell & Jones CPA contract renewal FY 2023-in the amount of \$84,500.00. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

2. Request Board approval of the DSI contract Amendment # 2 for ARPA which reflects 10% allowable for Administrative Services for an increased amount of \$ 6,890.30, which brings the total DSI contract amount to \$326,825.30.

Commissioner Stephenson made the approval of the DSI contract Amendment # 2 for ARPA which reflects 10% allowable for Administrative Services for an increased amount of \$ 6,890.30, which brings the total DSI contract amount to \$326,825.30. Commissioner Osteen seconded. Board approved.

3. Request Board approval of the FDOT New Hangar Building Amendment # 1 additional funding amount of \$551,620.00.

Commissioner Osteen made the approval of the FDOT New Hangar Building Amendment # 1 additional funding amount of \$551,620.00. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.

4. Request Board approval of the DEP 22PLN32 Vulnerability Assessment Amendment # 1 updates to the contract verbiage and attachments. To be signed electronically by the Chairman.

Commissioner Osten made the approval of the DEP 22PLN32 Vulnerability Assessment Amendment # 1 updates to the contract verbiage and attachments. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.

5. Request Board approval of the Dixie County Artificial Reef Enhancement Application in the amount of \$120,000.00.

Commissioner Stephenson made the approval of the Dixie County Artificial Reef Enhancement Application in the amount of \$120,000.00. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

6. Request Board approval for the SHIP Down Payment Assistance for Jordan Pickern in the amount of \$20,000.00.

Commissioner Osteen made the approval for the SHIP Down Payment Assistance for Jordan Pickern in the amount of \$20,000.00. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.

7. Request Board approval for the SHIP Rehab Reimbursement for Patricia Dillion in the amount of \$14,999.00.

Commissioner Osteen made the approval for the SHIP Rehab Reimbursement for Patricia Dillion in the amount of \$14,999.00. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

8. Request Board approval for the SHIP Release of Lien for Peggy Valentine in the amount of \$1,500.00.

Commissioner Stephenson made the approval for the SHIP Release of Lien for Peggy Valentine in the amount of \$1,500.00. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

9. Request Board approval for the Release of Lien for Peggy Valentine on parcel 031012-1438000A-0170 in the amount of \$28,446.75.

Commissioner Stephenson made the approval for the Release of Lien for Peggy Valentine on parcel 031012-1438000A-0170 in the amount of \$28,446.75. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.

10. Request Board approval for the purchase of a 45K Trailer from 4Trailer in the amount of \$28,500.00 based off the SWTF recommendation using ARPA monies.

Commissioner Stephenson made the approval for the purchase of a 45K Trailer from 4Trailer in the amount of \$28,500.00 based off the SWTF recommendation using ARPA monies. Commissioner Osteen seconded. Board approved.

11. Request Board approval of the for the purchase of a Shearex 35” Vertical Mulching Head, to fit the new Excavator, from Quality Equipment & Parts in the amount of \$31,500.00 based off the SWTF recommendation using ARPA monies.

Commissioner Stephenson made the approval of the for the purchase of a Shearex 35” Vertical Mulching Head, to fit the new Excavator, from Quality Equipment & Parts in the amount of \$31,500.00 based off the SWTF recommendation using ARPA monies. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

12. Request Board approval to allocate the 2022-2023 Opioid Settlement Disbursements received in the amount of \$70,633.07 to EMS to be used for the Community Paramedicine program.

Commissioner Stephenson made the approval to allocate the 2022-2023 Opioid Settlement Disbursements received in the amount of \$70,633.07 to EMS to be used for the Community Paramedicine program. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.

Information Items:

1. Freeman House in Jena MOA renewal.

Mr. Gainey stated that in 2014 a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was entered into between Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and Dixie County. He pointed out that on Page 2 of the agreement it lays out the responsibilities of the County.

He also said he has been in contact with Rachel Penrod with FWC and she said they are willing to move forward and to take on the project if the Board doesn’t want to continue with the agreement. He added that if the County continues in the agreement, the County would be responsible for providing the following:

- regular ground maintenance
- mowing and road maintenance
- trash removal along the entrance and around the house and all other buildings
- provide water, sewer and electric utilities
- law enforcement patrols and have a host caretaker on site,
- make available for public access
- provide services necessary for events

Commissioner Osteen asked if FWC owns the property.

Mr. Gainey stated yes, they do own the property.

He then asked the Board for direction on whether to continue in the agreement or allow the State to pick up.

Mrs. Kay McCallister stated that Mrs. Rachel Penrod of FWC told her she needed the space for the biological research team to stay and if they resumed the building it would no longer be open to the public.

Mr. Gainey reminded the Board that the property belongs to the State of Florida and if we continue in the agreement the County would be responsible with all the associated costs of upkeep.

Repealed Motion--Motion to let FWC have the property and they can cover all the cost of it (First Osteen, Second Wood)—This motion was repealed and the Board made the motion below regarding the memorandum of agreement.

Attorney Watson stated that by just briefly reviewing the agreement it looks like under the agreement the County would be maintaining a long-term sub lease of property for environmental education ecotourism activity. She added that FWC couldn't proceed with bioengineering if we are the lease holder.

She also stated that she needed more information and more time to review the document.

Mr. Gainey stated that there is a ninety-day termination requirement for either party.

Commissioner Storey suggested tabling the motion for Attorney Watson to review the agreement thoroughly and bring it back to the Board at the next meeting.

Attorney Watson stated that as she quickly reviewed the agreement, she observed an issue with the responsibility of the County under #5 that would allow vehicle access to no more than six (6) vehicles at one time and that would hinder any usage the County could have.

The Motion was made by Commissioner Osteen to terminate the memorandum of agreement with FWC. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

2. Dixie County Employee Wellness check-up is on Thursday, March 14, 2024, 8:30 am - 4 :00 pm at the Trail Riders. You can set your appointment time by using the website at <https://pickatime.com/dixiecountybocchealthscreeningschedule>.
3. Reminder of the Suwannee River Livestock Fair is going on now until March 20, 2024.
4. Consultant Services Discussion.

Mr. Gainey asked the Boards opinion on getting a monitor installed in the Board Meeting Room for map and sketch presentations. He said this would include installation of a T.V. monitor and a small computer.

Commissioner Hatch, Storey and Stephenson all said they thought this would be a good idea.

Mr. Gainey stated that Attorney Watson has been doing research into the piggybacking off the Town of Horseshoe as discussed in our last meeting and introduced her to the Board to share information on the subject.

Attorney Watson stated there are some concerns with piggybacking. She said the municipality falls under different guidelines than what our County does because they can set their own procurement procedures. She also stated if their procedures fall short and we piggyback and get audited, they can come back for reimbursement of any funds we received and used.

Commissioner Hatch recommended hiring a consultant.

Mr. Gainey asked what scope of work and what services the County would be advertising for.

Commissioner Hatch answered application and administrative oversight.

The Motion was made by Commissioner Hatch to advertise for consulting services. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

Director of Emergency Services Darian Brown asked if the County wanted them to continue with their specific grants, because they have had a lot of success.

Commissioner Storey recommended Mr. Brown and their team to continue processing their grants and said they had done a good job.

Commissioner Hatch agreed but also added that it doesn't hurt for that to be in the consultant's scope of work as well.

24. CHANA WATSON, COUNTY ATTORNEY

Attorney Watson presented a request from Mr. Jason Holifield for an easement that would cross over the property at the Jack Roberts Curve Rolloff Site and access his property.

Mr. Gainey stated he spoke with Mr. John Locklear of Locklear and Associates and asked if the easement would affect the site in any way as far as our burn permit and he assured it would not affect it at all.

Commissioner Hatch clarified with Mr. Holifield that it would be a thirty-foot easement to the property line and into his property to keep cows and traffic out of a residential neighborhood. Mr. Holifield also stated that he will put a fence on the easement.

The Motion was made by Commissioner Osteen to accept the approval of the easement for Mr. Jason Holifield. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

Commissioner Hatch recommended the County not charge Mr. Holifield.

Attorney Watson informed the Board that the agreement presented by Mr. Holifield stated this is a perpetual easement for his successors and assigns and heirs into perpetuity. She explained that this means if Mr. Holifield sells the property it will remain with anyone, he may sell it to. She further recommended letting him pay because the property will remain with him and transfer to his successors. She stated he is offering \$5,000.00.

The Board agreed to take payment for the easement of land from Mr. Holifield in the amount of \$5,000.00.

Attorney Watson also brought before the Board another piece of property in a similar situation, that is land locked that at one time was under an owner who subdivided the property. She stated the parent property was originally owned by the Keatings then the County got a piece and Mrs. Chaires owns a piece. She said that Ms. Chaires' property is totally land locked and she could sue at a future date to get access from the County because we are a part of the parent property. She made the recommendation to grant access to Ms. Chaires.

Mr. Gainey provided a map showing the access route they would give Mrs. Chaires. He stated the red line on the map is the suggested route to provide for her.

The Motion was made by Commissioner Osteen to give access to Mrs. Chaires as presented on the map/handout (the red line along the fence line) by the County Managers Office. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

25. BARBIE HIGGINBOTHAM, CLERK OF COURT

Clerk of Court Barbie Higginbotham stated that she doesn't appreciate being bashed in a public meeting by a county commissioner about the county finances and that the county budget is at least eighty-five percent better now than when she came into office four (4) years ago and that her team has worked hard to get to that point.

Commissioner Storey thanked Mrs. Higginbotham and the finance team for all their hard work.

Finance Director Mrs. Jackie Johnson brought the current budget report. She stated that the County is forty-two percent in and are doing good. She said they have gotten most of the Advalorem taxes in and there is usually a nice size deposit in April. She said everything else is posted and up to date. She added that the 2023 audit will take place at the end of the month and that every bank account is reconciled and up to date.

Mrs. Mary Goodrich asked if the County is staying within the budget.

Mrs. Johnson answered yes, it is.

26. COUNTY COMMISSION ITEMS

Commissioner Wood stated that the Road Department is getting some stuff fixed in the Second District and that he is glad to have County Road Department Superintendent Steve Hutchinson back.

Commissioner Hatch apologized for missing some of the County meetings and explained that he has had some family health problems and his mom's house was broken into.

Commissioner Osteen stated that Commissioner Hatch was in our prayers and that if he needed anything for him to let us know.

He also added that on April 13, 2024, there will be an open house/career day at the Mayport Coast Guard Base from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM.

Commissioner Osteen also stated that there is a large old 1970's motor home left at the Jena Boat Ramp Park from the Hurricane Idalia damage and he asked to see if Mrs. Chana could do some research to find out how to get rid of it.

Commissioner Hatch advised calling the Sheriff's office to have them red tag it.

Commissioner Storey stated that Commissioner Hatch is in our prayers.

27. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Mrs. Mary Goodrich approached the Board with a text message that she read with a few questions and concerns from her friends in the community.

The Board assured her that these issues are being taken care of and things are better out in the Hammock than they have been in years.

Commissioner Hatch asked Mr. Gainey if he has a list of items for repair and work in that area.

Mr. Gainey said yes, but he wasn't sure where Mrs. Goodrich lives in relation to the jobs being performed.

Mr. James Melton asked for a day and time that Commissioner Hatch and the others regarding the Variance for the boat ramp could meet.

Commissioner Hatch stated he will try and schedule something to meet with all parties involved and it will probably be scheduled for the first part of next week.

Town Council Member Ryan Fulford reminded everyone that they have a Centennial celebration meeting today at 3:30 PM at City Hall and it is open for anyone who wishes to attend.

BOCC Regular Meeting
Commission Board Room
Dixie County Courthouse
214 NE Hwy 351, Cross City, FL 32628
March 07, 2024 – 10:00 AM

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.

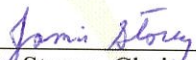
28. ADJOURN

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Osteen seconded. Board approved.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA

ATTEST:





Jamie Storey, Chairman


Barbie Higginbotham, Clerk-Auditor

PLEASE BE ADVISED that if a person decides 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.