

Regular Meeting

Dixie County School Board Meeting Room

March 18, 2021 – 6:00 PM

While adhering to the 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 Dixie County Emergency Declaration 2020-27. The Board met and had limited access by staff to the meeting room while broadcasting the meeting via audio to the public who were provided other accommodations outside of the meeting room. The public could also participate via conference call at 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 6:00 PM 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 Stephenson made the motion to approve Minutes from the Sheriff Workshop of February 18, 2021. Commissioner Storey seconded. Board approved.

Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to approve Minutes from the Board's Internal Processes Workshop of February 18, 2021. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.

Commissioner Storey made the motion to approve Minutes from the EMS Staffing and Funding Workshop of February 18, 2021. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.

Commissioner Storey made the motion to approve Minutes from the Drainage on CR358 Workshop of February 18, 2021. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.

Commissioner Mills made the motion to approve Minutes from the Clerk and Board Processes Workshop of February 18, 2021. Commissioner Storey seconded. Board approved.

VOUCHER APPROVAL

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

The motion to go into public hearings was made by Commissioner Mills. Commissioner Storey 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 **Kevin and Laurie Willis** 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 an Residential, (Mixed) Single Family/Mobile Home (RSF/MH-2) zoning district, in accordance with the petition dated February 11, 2021 to be located on the property as described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 30-13-12-3500-000C-0070 (596 S. E. 205 Street, Old Town; Big Bradford S/D; Lot 7; Block C; .179 acres). (Commission District 3)

Ms. Tammi Clyatt appeared before the Board and read the Special Exception request made by Kevin and Laurie Willis.

Commissioner Mills made the motion to approve the Special Exception requested by Kevin and Laurie Willis. Commissioner Storey seconded. Board approved.

A petition by **Jimmy and Sharon Lyons** 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 an Residential, (Mixed) Single Family/Mobile Home (RSF/MH-2) zoning district, in accordance with the petition dated February 13, 2021 to be located on the property as described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 19-13-12-3285-000K-0030 (33 S. E. 217 Street, Old Town; Demory Hill S/D; Lot 3; Block K; 0.111 acres). (Commission District 3)

Ms. Tammi Clyatt appeared before the Board and read the Special Exception request made by Jimmy and Sharon Lyons. She clarified that this property is in Suwannee.

Commissioner Storey made the motion to approve the Special Exception requested by Jimmy and Sharon Lyons. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.

A petition by **Thomas E. Wilson** 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 an Residential, (Mixed) Single Family/Mobile Home (RSF/MH-2) zoning district, in accordance with the petition dated February 15, 2021 to be located on the property as described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 19-13-12-2994-0002-1730 (95 S. E. 228 Street, Old Town; Suwannee Shores Add. 2; Lot 173; .122 acres). (Commission District 3)

Ms. Tammi Clyatt appeared before the Board and read the Special Exception request made by Thomas E. Wilson.

Commissioner Storey made the motion to approve the Special Exception requested by Thomas E. Wilson. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.

A petition by **Richard and Marcella Addison** to request a **Variance** to allow a 10 foot setback on the South and East corners of their property for the construction of a 50'x24' enclosed pole barn as provided by the petition dated February 19, 2021, which is located within an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA-1) zoning district to be located on the property as described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 24-10-09-0000-0180-0000 (240 S. W. 470 Avenue, Steinhatchee; .999 acres). (Commission District 5)

Ms. Tammi Clyatt appeared before the Board and read the Variance request made by Richard and Marcella Addison. She clarified this property is in Jena.

Commissioner Valentine made the motion to approve the Variance requested by Richard and Marcella Addison. Commissioner Storey seconded. Board approved.

RESOLUTION 2021-34

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO APPROVE A SPECIAL EXCEPTION TO BE GRANTED, AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 4.7.5 SUBPARAGRAPH (13) OF THE DIXIE COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS TO PERMIT ONE RECREATIONAL VEHICLE IN A RESIDENTIAL, (MIXED) SINGLE FAMILY/MOBILE HOME (RSF/MH-2) ZONING DISTRICT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PETITION DATED FEBRUARY 11, 2021.

Kevin And Laurie Willis

Ms. Tammi Clyatt read Resolution 2021-34 in support of Kevin And Laurie Willis to the Board by title only.

Commissioner Storey made the motion to approve the Resolution 2021-34. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.

RESOLUTION 2021-35

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO APPROVE A SPECIAL EXCEPTION TO BE GRANTED, AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 4.7.5 SUBPARAGRAPH (13) OF THE DIXIE COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS TO PERMIT ONE RECREATIONAL VEHICLE IN A RESIDENTIAL, (MIXED) SINGLE FAMILY/MOBILE HOME (RSF/MH-2) ZONING DISTRICT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PETITION DATED FEBRUARY 13, 2021.

Jimmy and Sharon Lyons

Ms. Tammi Clyatt read Resolution 2021-35 in support of Jimmy and Sharon Lyons to the Board by title only.

Commissioner Storey made the motion to approve the Resolution 2021-35. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.

RESOLUTION 2021-36

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO APPROVE A SPECIAL EXCEPTION TO BE GRANTED, AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 4.7.5 SUBPARAGRAPH (13) OF THE DIXIE COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS TO PERMIT ONE RECREATIONAL VEHICLE IN A RESIDENTIAL, (MIXED) SINGLE FAMILY/MOBILE HOME (RSF/MH-2) ZONING DISTRICT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PETITION DATED FEBRUARY 15, 2021. ***Thomas E. Wilson***

Ms. Tammi Clyatt read Resolution 2021-36 in support of Thomas E. Wilson to the Board by title only.

Commissioner Storey made the motion to approve the Resolution 2021-36. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.

RESOLUTION 2021-37

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 TO ALLOW FOR A 10-FOOT SETBACK ON THE SOUTH AND EAST PROPERTY CORNERS TO ALLOW FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 50' X 24' ENCLOSED POLE BARN, WHICH IS LOCATED WITHIN AN ENVIRONMENTALLY

SENSITIVE AREA (ESA-4) ZONING DISTRICT, AS PROVIDED IN THE PETITION DATED FEBRUARY 19, 2021. *Richard And Marcella Addison*

Ms. Tammi Clyatt read Resolution 2021-37 in support of Richard And Marcella Addison to the Board by title only.

Commissioner Storey made the motion to approve the Resolution 2021-37. Commissioner Valentine seconded. Board approved.

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

JAN PARKS AND TRAVIS COKER

Ms. Jan Parks and Mr. Travis Coker appeared before the Board. Mr. Coker said he is the Director of North Florida Medical out of Tallahassee. He informed the Board about a Mobile Medical Care Unit they have created in order to better serve the community. He said they would like to be able to park at the Community Center on Hwy 349 and Hwy 351 once a month. He said there is a lot of residents in this area that walk to town for medical care. He said they will need access to a bathroom for staff and patients.

Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to allow them to park the Mobile Medical Care Unit at the Community Center on Hwy 349 and Hwy 351 once a month. Commissioner Storey seconded. Board approved.

TOM HOLT, EXTREME BROADBAND

Mr. Holt was not present for this meeting.

CLAY MCCOY

Mr. Clay McCoy with the Army Corp of Engineers from Jacksonville appeared before the Board to discuss McGriff Pass. He said that he has been the Project Manager and has been working on the project. He said they have been authorized to do the McGriff Pass, but some of the stipulations have changed. He said they should have been able to start the work in October and December of 2021. He said that the ratings for the job is very low because there is not a high level of commerce traffic. He said in order to move forward some of the stipulations will have to be removed.

Commissioner Hatch said the last time this was dredged was in 1985 and that commercial boats cannot enter or exit the channel.

Mr. McCoy said he understands the channel can only be used at high tides and that does hurt local businesses.

Commissioner Hatch said the channel hasn't been maintained since 1985 and the people can't use it now.

Mr. McCoy said the law states you can dredge every 10 years.

Commissioner Hatch said it wasn't done in 1995 and then the law changed in 1996. Mr. McCoy said they have 25 year of information gathered but need more in order to move forward.

Mr. Will Kendrick appeared before the Board on behalf of Representative Neil Dunn. He said the Army Corp of Engineers should make a determination if the project is important to ask Congress about this. He said the Board can ask for a waiver and consideration in the form of a letter. He said this could have been done years ago, but everyone thought you had everything that was needed. He said that Senator Scott and Senator Rubio can also help.

Mr. McCoy said there may be some flexibility because the channel is in a rural area. Commissioner Mills asked how can five (5) million dollars be appropriated for the project and then be denied later. He said the lack of economics is caused by not doing this project. He asked if the appropriated money is still there to use. Mr. McCoy replied yes.

Commissioner Storey made the motion for the Board to have a letter drafted requesting the consideration and waiver. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.

KEITH SEGAR, SUWANNEE WATER AND SEWER

Mr. Keith Segar had nothing to discuss with the Board at this time.

GREG BAILEY, NORTH FLORIDA PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Mr. Greg bailey was not present for this meeting.

JERED LIZOTTE, LOCKLEAR AND ASSOCIATES

Mr. Jered Lizotte gave the Board updates on some projects.

CINDY BELLOT, LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Ms. Cindy Bellot appeared before the Board and discussed the Cross City Library report an requested their approval to get an Internet Service Tower installed. He said the company will do all the installation.

Commissioner Storey made the motion to move forward with the installation of the Internet Service Tower. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.

Ms. Bellot informed the Board of the Art Festival in Suwannee to be held on March 12, 2021. She said this is a good event for the County and has become an annual event.

Ms. Bellot expressed her thanks to Ms. Cindy Chewning for working on the Dixie County Centennial Celebration (100 year) which will be held on April 24, 2021.

STEVE FREMEN, VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER

Mr. Steve Fremem appeared before the Board to discuss who has the authority to police the proper selling and displaying of tobacco in stores. He said this does not fall under code enforcement.

He discussed the Code Enforcement Hearing bill with the Board. He said this one is expensive at 16 hours at \$175.00 per hour. He said the cost will vary depending on the length of the hearings.

County Attorney Michel Osteen said most hearings are very short. He referenced the Crown Hearing as an example which only took 10 minutes. He said the Rana Hearing took a longer amount of time.

Mr. Fremem said they don't have any more hearings scheduled yet. Commissioner Hatch instructed him to schedule some more hearings.

Commissioner Hatch asked about Mr. Crown.

Mr. Fremem replied the fines are up to \$5,000.00 and the County can lien the property

STEVE HUTCHINSON, COUNTY ROAD SUPERINTENDENT

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

DWAYNE CHAUNCEY, MOSQUITO CONTROL DIRECTOR

Mr. Dwayne Chauncey had nothing to discuss with the Board at this time.

MICHAEL LATSON, SOLID WASTE

Mr. Tim Johnson appeared before the Board and informed them that the Solid waste department needs a bucket for their loader. He said the seal is busted and leaking. He said he had a verbal quote of \$11,500.00.

Commissioner Mills asked who checked on the cost of the bucket.

Mr. Johnson replied that Mr. Latson had gotten the quote.

Commissioner Mills stated that the weight of the material does not affect the seal inside. The motion of swiveling and pulling back and turning is what affects the seals in the bucket. He said the operator needs to learn how to handle this. He said the seals are performing under 1000 pounds per square inch. He said the operator must be careful and stop the motion fully before moving in the opposite direction.

Commissioner Stephenson suggested they replace the seal on the old bucket.

Mr. Johnson said they have done this three (3) times already. He said it takes two (2) weeks to get the repair done.

Commissioner Mills said it should not take longer than two (2) hours.

Commissioner Stephenson asked why this hasn't already been done.

Commissioner Mills said it is hard to get repairs done. He said they must learn how to operate the machine.

Commissioner Hatch suggested they buy a bucket for the loader.

Commissioner Mills made the motion to purchase a bucket for the Solid Waste Loader. Commissioner Storey seconded. Board approved.

Commissioner Mills requested the Repair Shop work on the equipment for trash and fix the loader first.

LEON WRIGHT, BUILDING AND ZONING

Mr. Leon Wright had nothing to discuss with the Board at this time.

DARIAN BROWN, DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

Mr. Scott Garner appeared before the Board and requested they approve the State of Emergency extension for COVID 19 by implementing **Resolution 2021-33.**

Commissioner Storey made the to approve Resolution 2021-33 in support of the State of Emergency extension for COVID 19. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.

Mr. Garner requested the Board's approval of the amendment to the Local Mitigation Strategy by implementing **Resolution 2021-38.**

Commissioner Storey made the motion to approve Resolution 2021-38. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.

Mr. Garner requested the Board's approval to adopt the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan by implementing **Resolution 2021-39.**

Commissioner Mills made the motion to approve Resolution 2021-39. Commissioner Storey seconded. Board approved.

Mr. Garner requested the Board's approval of the 911 agreement.

Commissioner Storey made the motion to approve the 911 agreement. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.

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 and had nothing to discuss at this time.

DUANE CANNON, COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Duane Cannon appeared before the Board and requested their approval for the County Manager to sign and submit applications for the Dixie County Site Assessment and Broadband Improvements Grants.

Commissioner Mills made the motion for the County Manager to sign and submit applications for the Dixie County Site Assessment and Broadband Improvements Grants. Commissioner Storey seconded. Board approved.

Manager Cannon discussed moving forward with plans for the 10-acre parcel at the Cross City airport. He said it has road and water access and that business space is available.

Commissioner Storey made the motion to move forward with plans for the 10-acre parcel at the Cross City airport. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.

Manager Cannon expressed his thanks to Ms. Carol West of the North Florida Economic Development Planning Council for all her help.

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to accept SW 449 Street as a County Road from Mr. John Sherill.

Commissioner Valentine made the motion to accept SW 449 Street as a County Road from Mr. John Sherill. Commissioner Storey seconded. Board approved.

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval of the MOU between the County and Anderson Columbia for the reef project.

Commissioner Mills made the motion to approve of the MOU between the County and Anderson Columbia for the reef project. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval of the contract between the County and Anderson Columbia to resurface SE 633 Street aka the Neely Hicks Road.

Commissioner Storey made the motion for the approval of the contract between the County and Anderson Columbia to resurface SE 633 Street aka the Neely Hicks Road. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval of **Resolution 2021-40** in support of the contract between the County and Anderson Columbia to resurface SE 633 Street aka the Neely Hicks Road.

Commissioner Storey made the motion to approve of Resolution 2021-40. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval of the CR351A and NE 223 Ave bike path time extension from June 30, 2021 to December 31, 2021.

Commissioner Mills made the motion for the approval of the CR351A and NE 223 Ave bike path time extension from June 30, 2021 to December 31, 2021. Commissioner Storey seconded. Board approved.

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval of **Resolution 2021-41** in support of the CR351A and NE 223 Ave bike path time extension from June 30, 2021 to December 31, 2021. **Commissioner Storey made the motion for the approval of Resolution 2021-41. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.**

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval of the purchase of a grinder pump for the Dixie County Jail. **Commissioner Mills made the motion for the approval of the purchase of a grinder pump for the Dixie County Jail. Commissioner Storey seconded. Board approved.**

Manager Cannon said he has received only one (1) quote for repair of the Jail roof.

Commissioner Stephenson asked about finding out where the One Cent Sales Tax allocation is going. He asked for the Minutes and Ordinances to be researched.

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval of the advertisement for the Human Resource position. **Commissioner Storey made the motion for the approval of the advertisement for the Human Resource position. Commissioner Valentine seconded. Board approved.**

Commissioner Stephenson inquired about the pay rate for this position. Manager Cannon said the salary is up to the Board to decide. He said the pay rate is currently \$20.00 per hour. He said the rate can be set based on qualification and experience. Commissioner Stephenson said you must know what to pay when you advertise for the position. County Attorney Michael Osteen added that the pay scale is based on several factors. Manager Cannon said the range can be from \$15.00 to \$20.00. Commissioner Mills stated they must get a qualified person for that position.

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to advertise for the Human Resource Department Supervisor at a range of \$15.00 to \$20.00 per hour. **Commissioner Mills made the motion for the approval to advertise for the Human Resource Department Supervisor at a range of \$15.00 to \$20.00 per hour. Commissioner Storey seconded. Board approved.**

Commissioner Mills inquired about filling Ms. Cheyenne Stemple Hutchinson's former position. Manager Cannon said he has been advertising for that position and the cut off for applications is March 25, 2021. He said he has not advertised the range of pay because that will be negotiated with the applicant.

MICHAEL OSTEEN, COUNTY ATTORNEY

County Attorney Michael Osteen appeared before the Board and informed them that Ms. Melisa Long has resigned from the Human Resource Department Supervisor position. He said he will need a vote from the Board to accept the resignation. He said that an Investigation of a County Department Head matter was done by Mr. Jason Taylor of the Kriszner Group. He said they have given this report and their recommendations to him. He has given each Board member and the Clerk a copy. He said the Investigation Report will become Public Record after tonight.

Commissioner Storey made the motion to accept the resignation of Ms. Melissa Long. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.

Attorney Osteen informed the Board they have begun the prep work on the County Employee Handbook of Policy and Procedures. He said the handbook was adopted December 12, 2010. He said he has not found any Ordinance or Resolution by the Board supporting the handbook. He said the Clerk of Court has not found anything in the Board Minutes either. He recommended that each Commissioner needs to review and update and change and modify the handbook in a Workshop. He said the current handbook states that Department Heads are hired and terminated by the Board. He said the County Manager works for the Board and in other counties the Department Heads are under the authority of the County Manager not the Board. He said that Dixie County is not set up this way. He said that this is the time to revise and modify the handbook and adopt it with a Resolution and Ordinance.

Commissioner Hatch said the handbook has not been updated since 2010 and it should be updated annually. He said the Board should only hire and terminate Engineers, County Managers and Attorneys. He said all others should be handled by the County Manager.

Commissioner Hatch asked County Road Superintendent Mr. Steve Hutchinson how he handles the hiring of employees in his department.

Mr. Steve Hutchison replied that he advertises the position and the choses a person.

Attorney Osteen clarified for the Board that they are talking about Department Heads and not a line employee. He said the way the handbook is currently set up the County Manger can't hire and fire Department Heads. He said he would like to have a Workshop on this.

Attorney Osteen informed the Board that the Board Meeting Minutes from June of 2020 through November of 2020 were never produced. He has asked the Clerk to consult with their attorney about how to fix this issue. He said that the Clerk has the audio recordings.

He said he contacted Ms. Cindy Leverette, who is a court reporter, and she will charge \$30.00 per hour for the actual audio time to recreate the summarized Board Meeting Minutes from June of 2020 through November of 2020.

Attorney Osteen said the Board Minutes should have already been done but were not and it is now the current Clerk's responsibility.

Commissioner Mills stated that he thinks that the Board should pay for this to be done because it had nothing to do with the current Clerk administration.

Attorney Osteen stated that it was the responsibility of the Interim Clerk to produce these Board Minutes.

BARBIE HIGGINBOTHAM, CLERK OF COURT

Clerk Barbie Higginbotham appeared before the Board to discuss policy and procedure. She said that several employees had received the \$1,000.00 payment to their Health Savings Account prior to quitting their job. She said that all employees are eligible for this in January to help offset the employee insurance deductible. She stated that the Interim Clerk received \$1,000.00 for five (5) days of service and then another \$800.00 prorated amount after returning to her former position as Human Resource Department Supervisor. She said that two (2) other employees also received the \$1,000.00 before quitting their jobs. She said this is just throwing money away and the Board should be aware this is happening.

Commissioner Mills inquired about what the money is for.

Attorney Osteen replied the employees are paid in advance for the year and the money goes towards their employee insurance deductible.

Clerk Higginbotham said that one employee had already given notice to leave and still got the money.

Commissioner Mills commented that there is no policy in place to keep this from happening.

Attorney Osteen said that needs to be addressed too.

Commissioner Hatch said this has happened multiple times.

Clerk Higginbotham informed the Board that her staff have been digging through boxes to locate several years of Board Minutes. She said that some of the Board Minutes will need to be redone and requested a Workshop to talk about this and other matters.

Commissioner Mills made a motion to schedule a Clerk and Employee Workshop on May 20, 2021 from 4:00 PM until 5:00 PM. Commissioner Storey seconded. Board approved.

Clerk Higginbotham informed the Board that she has been going through old records and has 25 more boxes that need the Board's approval for destruction.

Commissioner Mills asked if the Clerk has more than one person working on this.

Commissioner Hatch said that the records must meet the retention schedule and not be needed for the Audit.

Clerk Higginbotham clarified they have met the retention schedule specifications and will be either shredded or burnt.

Mr. Steve Hutchison asked for permission to fill the holes in road with rock at the Cross City Veneer Mill.

Commissioner Hatch asked Clerk Higginbotham if she had found the Retention Books.

Clerk Higginbotham replied yes.

Commissioner Mills made the motion for the Clerk to destroy the 25 boxes of old records. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.

Clerk Higginbotham informed the Board that Ms. Melissa Long has made a public records request for the Kriszner Group Investigation Report and all the supporting documentation. She told the Board that she does not have all this information.

Ms. Jacki Johnson appeared before the Board to discuss the Sheriff Pass through Grants. ***Commissioner Storey made the motion to sign the Grant Submitted by Dixie County Sheriff Deputy Timmy Roberts because it had already been approved at the last meeting. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.***

Ms. Johnson said she would like to make the Board aware that this CESF Grant is from a different fiscal year. She said it is from July 01, 2020 thru September 30, 2020 for \$10,559.76. Board Approved March 04, 2021. She said the money was spent in the previous year and it is Board funded to the Sheriff no matter if it's a Grant or not.

***Budget Amendment and Disbursement Request from the DCSO from FDLE for the reporting period of 04-01-2020 through 06-30-2020 for the CESF for \$35,890.20. This was not discussed.

***Reimbursement Request from DCSO from the Law Enforcement Education Fund for the reporting period of March 2020 for \$2,625.60. This was not discussed.

Dixie County Sheriff Darby Butler appeared before the Board and had no explanation for the Board about this CESF Grant from July 01, 2020 thru September 30, 2020 for \$10,559.76. He said he would like to table his response for now and clarify with the Clerk office about this matter. He said this is carried over from the former administration.

Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to table the two (2) grants for the Dixie County Sheriff's Office that were presented for discussion and approval. Commissioner Storey seconded. Board approved.

Commissioner Stephenson inquired about the County's Finances.

Ms. Johnson said that 2020 is getting ready to be audited and that 2021 is being caught up and on schedule. She said there is no starting balance for 2021 until they close out 2020.

Commissioner Stephenson asked if they have accurate documents and records for 2020.

Ms. Johnson replied they are locating everything they can find. She said the Audit is only as good as the documents that are existing. She said she can't say if all the documents are there and they are using the CRI Consultants to help.

Clerk Higginbotham informed the Board that the former Finance Director's desk was emptied and no files or documents were left behind.

COUNTY COMMISSION ITEMS

Commissioner Valentine had nothing further to discuss.

Commissioner Storey had nothing further to discuss.

Commissioner Mills said it has come to his attention that Chairman Hatch continues directing staff to do things without the whole Boards approval.

Commissioner Hatch inquired what is he talking about.

Commissioner Mills replied that he directed Mr. Hutchison to place millings on a certain road without speaking with the other Board members.

Commissioner Hatch said this just made more sense to do this road versus stacking them up on the side.

Commissioner Mills said the decision should be the Boards as a whole.

Commissioner Hatch said some things don't need to be voted on.

Commissioner Mills said that bigger things do need to be voted on by all the members of the Board.

Commissioner Hatch said it didn't make sense to move the millings twice.

Commissioner Mills said for example the Board has asked him for his input on equipment but the whole Board still votes on what to do about it.

Commissioner Mills said the Board should look at which road needs the millings and then decide.

Commissioner Hatch said he apologizes and asked where the Board would like to put the millings.

Commissioner Mills said the Road Superintendent and the county Manager needs to decide and bring the recommendation to the Board to vote on.

Manager Cannon said he can review the roads and make a list for the Board.

He said he would like clarification about the double handling of the millings.

Mr. Hutchison said that it was 2.3 miles from the project to Lee Cemetery Road.

Commissioner Hatch said if it is very far from the project then we must use a dump truck, a low boy, a loader and a man to make this happen.

Commissioner Hatch agreed that those are valid points that need to be discussed.

Commissioner Mills asked why Commissioner Hatch was avoiding the County Manager.

Commissioner Hatch replied that he was a party to the Kriszner Group Investigation, and he did not go to the County Manager's office.

Commissioner Mills asked about a letter that Commissioner Hatch had authorized.

Commissioner Hatch replied he had sent this to the County Attorney to review on behalf of the Board.

Commissioner Mills commented that Commissioner Hatch is hard to work with. Commissioner Hatch responded that Commissioner Mills was also hard to work with. Commissioner Mills said that he does not yell at people or attack them unless provoked. He commented that Commissioner Hatch has been the aggressor in several situations.

Commissioner Mills made a motion to remove Commissioner Hatch from the position of Board Chairman. Commissioner Storey seconded.

Commissioner Storey stated that he likes Commissioner Hatch, but he has seen a very different side of him lately and so has the community. He said he thinks the Chairman position should be rotated among the Board members. He said that when Ms. Melissa Long went to Manager Cannon's office and did what she did, that he felt that Commissioner Hatch should have stepped in and calmed her down. He said that Commissioner Hatch did not do this.

Commissioner Stephenson asked Manager Cannon about his working relationship with Commissioner Hatch.

County Manager Duane Cannon replied that he has had conflict with Commissioner Hatch. Manager Cannon said that he doesn't attack people and that he was overpowered and talked to harshly. He said he is trying to move forward. He said when he has spoken to Commissioner Hatch on the phone that he did not say why he wouldn't come to the County Manager's office. He said Commissioner Hatch would not talk to him on the phone. He said Commissioner Hatch instructed him to come to the Board office to handle any business.

Commissioner Mills previously made a motion to remove Commissioner Hatch from the position of Board Chairman. Commissioner Storey had previously seconded. There was a Roll Call Vote on removing Commissioner Hatch from the position as Board Chairman.

Commissioner Mills stated his vote was yes.

Commissioner Storey stated his vote was yes.

Commissioner Valentine stated his vote was no.

Commissioner Stephenson stated his vote was yes.

The Board approved removing Commissioner Hatch from the position of Board Chairman.

Commissioner Hatch stated they will need to appoint a Vice Chairman. He made the recommendation that Commissioner Storey continue as Vice Chairman and Commissioner Stephenson be appointed Chairman. Commissioner Stephenson said that he was not ready for that yet.

Commissioner Mills made the recommendation that Commissioner Storey be appointed Chairman. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Commissioner Storey accepted the position as Chairman.

Commissioner Stephenson made the recommendation for Commissioner Mills to be appointed as Vice Chairman. Commissioner Storey seconded. Commissioner Mills accepted the position as Vice Chairman.

Commissioner Stephenson had nothing further to discuss.

Commissioner Hatch had nothing further to discuss.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Tom Phelps appeared before the Board to discuss the Dixie County Little League and Babe Ruth sharing the facility and fields for their practices and games.

There was much heated discussion back and forth between Mr. Phelps and some of the Babe Ruth supporters regarding the two (2) Organizations conflicting schedules for practices and games and who purchased the bases for the facility. The Babe Ruth Ball Club said they purchased the bases for \$2,500.00 and they are locked up in the shed.

Commissioner Storey said he thought they had previously worked this all out at a prior meeting at the County Manager's office.

Mr. Phelps said he thought Commissioner Storey was favoring the Babe Ruth Ball Club over the Little League.

Commissioner Storey said that Mr. Jason Lokowitz thought he was favoring the Dixie County Little League over Babe Ruth.

Mr. Phelps said the Little League is only scheduled for one (1) day a week for five (5) teams. Manager Cannon said the County provides the facility only and that the leagues must work together on their scheduling.

Commissioner Storey suggested each club get their own bases and put them away when done. He asked Mr. Phelps how many days you want to schedule to play. He said that Mr. Phelps son had agreed to one (1) day a week and the second Saturday.

Attorney Osteen said the facility has six (6) fields.

Mr. Phelps said he was told not to be there at the same time as the other teams.

Attorney Osteen excused himself from the meeting for a prior engagement.

Mr. Jason Lokowitz appeared before the Board as the President of Babe Ruth Club. He said they have 248 players and 17 teams and 3 T Ball teams. He said the bulk of their games are here or in Steinhatchee. He said that Mr. Lucas Rollison purchased the field bases in 2016 when they were affiliated with Little League. He said he felt that Little League was disrespected by other counties and he stepped down. He said the State Commissioner contacted him and wanted them to join Babe Ruth. He said in December of 2020 the Little League said they didn't

have enough kids to play and they would join the two (2) clubs together under the charter insurance and share everything.

He said they will buy more bases if needed. He said there is no need to come before the Board about this. He said they have a lot of games on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

Commissioner Storey asked if the County cleans up the Hudson Ball field would that work as an alternative facility for the Leagues.

Mr. Phelps said that Babe Ruth cannot use their bases.

Commissioner Mills said in response to a phone call he received they are not changing the name of the Roy Ward Fields. He said the Organizations have changed their names.

Ms. Lindsey Rollison stated the reason to change the Organization name to Babe Ruth was to offer more competition to the players and to be able to travel.

Mr. Phelps said they have parents who don't want to travel for ball games during the week.

Commissioner Mills asked if the Board was in agreement to agree on things together as a Board.

Commissioner Stephenson said the County will provide the facility, but the Leagues must work this out.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Mills made the motion to adjourn at 8:44 PM. Commissioner Hatch 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 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.