

# Regular Meeting

Commission Board Room

Dixie County Courthouse

214 NE Hwy 351, Cross City, FL 32628

**May 02, 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 Gainey, County Manager

John Jenkins, Assistant County Manager

Martha McCaskill, Administrative Asst/Grant Coordinator

Chana Watson, County Attorney

Barbie Higginbotham, Clerk of Court

Verna Wilson, Chief Deputy Clerk

Joannie Morse, Deputy Clerk

Victoria Darkow, Deputy Clerk

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Storey.

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

The invocation was led by Commissioner Hatch and pledge was led by Commissioner Hatch.

### **3. APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES**

Regular BOCC Meeting of April 04, 2024

Regular BOCC Meeting of April 18, 2024

*Motion to approve the Regular BOCC Meeting of April 04, 2024, made by Commissioner Osteen.*

*Seconded by Commissioner Stephenson. Board approved.*

*Motion to approve the Regular BOCC Meeting of April 18, 2024, made by Commissioner Osteen. Seconded by Commissioner Stephenson. Board approved.*

**4. VOUCHER APPROVAL**

*Motion to approve the vouchers made by Commissioner Stephenson. Seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.*

**5. CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS**

None Present at this meeting.

*The Motion to go into Public Hearing was made by Commissioner Osteen. Seconded by Commissioner Stephenson. 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.**

**APPLICATIONS for SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS**

A petition by **Wayne & Theresa Whirle** 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 04/12/2024 to be located on the property as described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 25-09-13-4423-0000-0160 522 NE 796 ST, Old Town, FL 32680; .00). (Commission District 1 Jody Stephenson)

*Motion to approve the Special Exception for Wayne & Theresa Whirle was made by Commissioner Stephenson. Seconded by Commissioner Hatch. Board approved.*

A petition by **Robert Merriman** 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 04/10/2024 to be located on the property as described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 19-13-12-2952-000D-0110 129 SE 237th St, Old Town, FL 32680; .00). (Commission District 3 Mark Hatch)

*Motion to approve the Special Exception for Robert Merriman was made by Commissioner Hatch. Seconded by Commissioner Wood. Board approved.*

A petition by **Simone Lennon** 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 04/17/2024 to be located on the property as described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 13-09-13-4051-0000-0600 270 NE 799th St, Old Town, FL 32680; .00).

(COMMISSION DISTRICT 1 JODY STEPHENSON)

***Motion to approve the Special Exception for Simone Lennon was made by Commissioner Stephenson. Seconded by Commissioner Hatch. Board approved.***

A petition by **Phillip W. Padgett** 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 04/17/2024 to be located on the

property as described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 31-09-10-0376-0000-0050 438 SW Hwy 361, Steinhatchee, FL 32359; .00).

(Commission District 5 DAVID OSTEEN)

***Motion to deny the Special Exception for Phillip W. Padgett was made by Commissioner Osteen. Seconded by Commissioner Hatch. Board approved.***

#### **APPLICATIONS for VARIANCES**

A petition by **Harold Barry** located on the property as described as follows: Dixie County Parcel #19-13-12-2994-0003-3360 (39 SE 892 Ave. Old Town, FL 32680) to request a **variance** for a Reduce front setbacks from 25' to 5' & reduce side setbacks from 10' to 5" by the petition dated 04/11/2024 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)

***Motion to approve the variance for Harold Barry was made by Commissioner Hatch. Seconded by Commissioner Stephenson. Board approved.***

#### **RESOLUTIONS**

##### **RESOLUTION 2024-34**

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO APPROVE A SPECIAL EXCEPTION TO BE GRANTED, AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 4.3.5 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 APRIL 12, 2024. WHEREAS, **WAYNE and THERESA WHIRLE** has filed a Petition requesting Dixie County Board of County Commissioners to grant a Special Exception as provided in Section 4.3.5 Special Exceptions of the Dixie County Land Development Regulations to permit one recreational vehicle in an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA), Zoning District, by Petition dated April 12, 2024; and WHEREAS, the recreational vehicle is to be located on Dixie County Parcel No.: 25-09-13-4423-0000-0160 (522 NE 796 St. Old Town, FL 32680).

(Commission District 1 Jody Stephenson)

***Motion to approve Resolution 2024-34 made by Commissioner Stephenson. Seconded by Commissioner Hatch. Board approved.***

**RESOLUTION 2024-35**

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO APPROVE A SPECIAL EXCEPTION TO BE GRANTED, AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 4.3.5 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 APRIL 10, 2024. WHEREAS, **ROBERT MERRIMAN** has filed a Petition requesting Dixie County Board of County Commissioners to grant a Special Exception as provided in Section 4.3.5 Special Exceptions of the Dixie County Land Development Regulations to permit one recreational vehicle in an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA), Zoning District, by Petition dated April 10, 2024; and WHEREAS, the recreational vehicle is to be located on Dixie County Parcel No.: 19-13-12-2952-000D-0110 (129 SE 237 ST. Old Town, FL 32680).

(Commission District 3 Mark Hatch)

***Motion to approve Resolution 2024-35 made by Commissioner Hatch. Seconded by Commissioner Stephenson. Board approved.***

**RESOLUTION 2024-36**

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO APPROVE A SPECIAL EXCEPTION TO BE GRANTED, AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 4.4.5 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 APRIL 17, 2024. WHEREAS, **SIMONE LENNON** has filed a Petition requesting Dixie County Board of County Commissioners to grant a Special Exception as provided in Section 4.4.5 of the Dixie County Land Development Regulations to permit one recreational vehicle in an Agricultural (AG) Zoning District, by Petition dated April 17, 2024; and WHEREAS, the recreational vehicle is to be located on Dixie County Parcel No.: 13-09-13-4051-0000-0600 (270 NE 799 ST. OLD TOWN, FL 32680).

(Commission District 1 Jody Stephenson)

***Motion to approve Resolution 2024-36 made by Commissioner Stephenson. Seconded by Commissioner Wood. Board approved.***

**RESOLUTION 2024-37**

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 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 APRIL 17, 2024. WHEREAS, **PHILLIP W. PADGETT** has filed a Petition requesting Dixie County Board of County Commissioners to grant a Special

Exception as provided in Section 4.4.5 of the Dixie County Land Development Regulations to permit one recreational vehicle in an Agricultural (AG) Zoning District, by Petition dated April 17, 2024; and WHEREAS, the recreational vehicle is to be located on Dixie County Parcel No.: 31-09-10-0376-0000-0050 (438 SW Hwy 361, Steinhatchee, FL 32359).

(Commission District 5 David Osteen)

**Denied**

**RESOLUTION 2024-38**

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO APPROVE A SPECIAL EXCEPTION TO BE GRANTED, AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 4.7.7 SUBPARAGRAPH (2) OF THE DIXIE COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS TO PERMIT A REDUCTION OF FRONT SETBACKS FROM 25 FEET DOWN TO FIVE FEET, REDUCE SIDE SETBACK FROM 10 FEET DOWN TO FIVE FEET, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PETITION DATED APRIL 11, 2024. WHEREAS, **HAROLD BARRY** has filed a Petition requesting Dixie County Board of County Commissioners to grant a Special Exception as provided in Section 4.7.7 subparagraph (2) of the Dixie County Land Development Regulations to permit reduction of front setbacks from 25 feet down to five feet, reduce side setback from 10 feet down to five feet (RSF/MH), Zoning District, by Petition dated April 11, 2024; and WHEREAS, the recreational vehicle is to be located on Dixie County Parcel No.: 19-13-12-2994-0003-3360 (39 SE 892 AVE OLD TOWN, FL 32680)

(Commission District 3 Mark Hatch)

***Motion to approve Resolution 2024-38 made by Commissioner Hatch. Seconded by Commissioner Stephenson. Board approved.***

**ORDINANCES**

**ORDINANCE 2024-04**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA REPEALING AND REPLACING IN ITS ENTIRETY ORDINANCE NUMBER 2023-06, FURTHER REPEALING ANY LANGUAGE IN CONFLICT WITH THIS ORDINANCE; AND REPLACING SAID ORDINANCE WITH ORDINANCE 2024-04, PROVIDING FOR BOUNDARIES; DEFINITIONS; OBJECTS AND PURPOSES OF THE DISTRICT; GOVERNING BODY; ORGANIZATION OF GOVERNING BODY; POWERS OF BOARD; COLLECTION OF RATES AND CHARGES; CONNECTION WITH SEWER AND WATER SYSTEM; AUDIT; SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**First Reading 04/18/2024**

**Second Reading 05/02/2024**

***Motion to approve Ordinance 2024-04 made by Commissioner Hatch. Seconded by Commissioner Stephenson (5-0). Board approved.***

**Mr. W.C. Mills presented to the Board regarding a price change in the contract between himself and the County for recycling metal. He stated he would like to have a contract for 1/3 basis- 1/3 for the County, 1/3 for himself and 1/3 for equipment.**

Motion to accept W.C. Mills offer to amend his contract and make it a 1/3 contract between him and the County-1/3 himself, 1/3 the County and 1/3 for equipment made by Commissioner Stephenson. Seconded by Commissioner Wood. Board approved.

Discussion-Commissioner Wood asked Attorney Watson if the County can change the contract like that.

Attorney Watson answered yes, the County could amend the contract, but it can be done. She said the County can amend the contract now, but when up for contract renewal in September the County would have to renegotiate and readvertise if someone else shows interest in submitting a bid.

Commissioner Hatch asked how the County will be notified of fee changes and such.

Mr. Mills answered that the County will get a weight ticket for each load that he will turn into the County.

Mr. Mills also requested signage placement at the sites that say water softeners only and wire only for specific places to dump those items. He said loads are being rejected because of these items being in the loads and his crew is having to unload the whole truck to get these items out of the load before the load is accepted.

Solid Waste Director Tim Johnson stated that all wire is supposed to be taken to Greenville.

There was also some expressed concern regarding residents entering the County dump roll-off sites and cursing at the site employees and the question was asked by several Commissioners of what the County can do to enforce stopping this behavior.

Attorney Watson stated the only enforcement would be through law enforcement.

Mr. Mills also informed the Board he has a trash compactor for sale just like the kind the County has and said that he heard the County needed one. He also said he has a trash hauling trailer for sale. Mr. Johnson stated Mr. Mills trash compactor is in good shape.

Commissioner Hatch asked Mr. Johnson to have Mr. Birch come look at the trash compactor the County currently has and see if it can be repaired and for how much it will cost before agreeing to purchase the compactor from Mr. Mills.

Mr. Gainey stated the County Solid Waste Budget is almost exhausted.

Mr. Mills stated the cost of the trash compactor is \$25,000.00 and the trailer is \$45,000.00.

**Mr. Gainey stated he will meet with the County Finance Department and see if there are any other avenues for funding to purchase the compactor and trailer. He also stated he would get with Attorney Watson and draft the contract amendments and contact Mr. Mills when ready to sign and then they will bring it back to the Board.**

## **6. FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

Shired Creek Bridge Discussion.

Planning and Environmental Manager for the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) District two (2) Mr. Jamie Driggers gave an update on the Shired Creek Bridge replacement project, as well as the California Swamp AKA 'Sandfly' Bridge replacement project.

Mr. Driggers gave a status update and stated that from a design perspective DOT are approaching 60% plans mark. He said these projects have gone up significantly in cost over the last few years. He introduced Mrs. Melissa Morgan a Representative of the Bridge Offset and Replacement Program. He said she has been able to secure 3.5 million dollars towards the delta, but they are still significantly short, and he presented three (3) opportunities the County could consider helping resolve.

1. The County could contribute funding to help with the project.
2. The County could kill one project to fund one completely, but it could be a while before the second project will come back for repairs, this will put the County at risk if we have an emergency because the road would still have to be closed.
3. The County could close both roads for eighteen months for repairs and not build a temporary structure but put the temporary structure funds back into the funding for the two bridge repairs. This would unfortunately fully close the road to the park and use of the road with no continual access while fixing the bridges but would replace both at once. This would add about a seventy-year life span to the bridge.

Commissioner Stephenson stated he didn't like the idea of removing one of the bridges off the repair roster because he has experienced times when items taken off the roster have not been put back on it.

Commissioner Osteen asked if there is any other funding available for building temporary bridges.

Mr. Driggers stated it would be tough in the amount of time the County has to repair these bridges.

Commissioner Osteen asked if the County could reach out to the Army Corp of Engineers for funding?

Mr. Driggers reiterated the challenge by saying that there are thousands of these being applied for throughout the state and the County would be competing with other counties as well.

Mr. Hutchison stated that while the bridges are closed the public could use the federal boat ramp (Fishbone Boat Ramp).

Mrs. Higginbotham expressed concern that if the roads are closed that could prevent FEMA from accessing the Shired Island Beach for their repairs.

Mr. Gainey stated that Chief Garner has a plan in place to ask for an extension of funding from FEMA and considering the circumstances the County should be able to get an extension granted. Mr. Gainey also mentioned that some of the repairs to Shired Island would take place prior to June of 2025, meaning that some of the Shired Island work would be completed prior to the bridge closing.

Emergency Operations Director Darian Brown stated the County should be able to start construction at Shired Island and have the beach engineered before DOT shuts the roads down and he doesn't think there will be any complications with asking for an extension if needed.

Mrs. Barbara Cummings asked what the impact on people who live down in that area would be as far as being able to travel on the road.

Commissioner Stephenson stated his mom has a parcel of land down in that area and would not be able to access the land if the bridge/road is closed.

Mr. Driggers said there is a property owner that DOT would have to work with for them to access their property.

Commissioner Hatch stated that he is good with it as long as citizens could use the Fishbone Boat Ramp.

The Motion to shut the road down when Department of Transportation (DOT) starts construction on the bridges and to accept option three (3) to work on both bridges at the same time was made by Commissioner Hatch. Seconded by Commissioner Osteen. (4-1) Commissioner Stephenson opposed.

#### **7. KATRINA VANAERNAM AND SHEILA FRIERSON, DIXIE COUNTY ANTI-DRUG COALITION**

Mrs. Sheila Frierson thanked the Board for giving access to some of the Opioid abatement dollars and gave feedback on what they have done with the money. She stated they have purchased Deterra Deactivation System packages for disposal of old drugs.

Mrs. Sheila also stated that they are working with the Dixie County EMS Paramedicine Program to go into target areas with campaigns primarily regarding Deterra, Narcan and Overdose Programs.

#### **8. STEVE COPELAND, SUWANNEE WATER AND SEWER MANAGER**

Mr. Steve Copeland stated they have 924 active accounts and within two (2) weeks the contractors did 176 units, and these have been inspected and have passed the manufacturer inspections.



Mr. Copeland thanked Commissioner Hatch and Mr. Tim Johnson for getting them the roll off because they have a lot of material to get rid of.

He stated they are getting a lot of complaints of people who don't like how the contractors are doing everything, but he wanted it on the record that Suwannee Water and Sewer has nothing to do with the contractors, Suwannee Water and Sewer collects information and sends it to the State, and the State is in charge of the contractors and pays the contractors.

**9. GREG BAILEY, NORTH FLORIDA PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

Mr. Greg Bailey Updated the Board on several ongoing projects, these included:

Emergency Operations Center (EOC) expansion- They had five (5) contractors attend and the bid opening is scheduled for May 14<sup>th</sup>.

Old Town Fire Station- There was a groundbreaking at the Old Town Fire Station a couple of days ago and they are now moving ahead with the contractors.

Library Roof Repair- They received an updated agreement from Attorney Watson.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)- The CDBG Project at 95<sup>th</sup> and 97<sup>th</sup> – They still completing the environmental review and waiting response for coordinating agencies, but plans are almost complete and should be able to advertise in about two (2) months.

82<sup>nd</sup> Ave/ Hal Chaires Road- Working with DOT local program and Gainey office, our part of plans ready to go but trying to combine LAP project that the County has been trying to get procured. (NE 592<sup>nd</sup> Chavous Road) Looking at combining 82<sup>nd</sup> and 592<sup>nd</sup> together.

Commissioner Wood asked if that will that push the Chaires Road construction back. Mr. Gainey stated it would not.

The Sheriff's Office Evidence Building- Still waiting for the final review of the floor plan.

Mr. Bailey stated that at the last BOCC meeting Mr. Ritter presented the Board with his plans to build a community swimming pool and other community items on his property, but was asking if the County knew of any funding available to help. Mr. Bailey said he and Mr. Gainey have a meeting with Mr. Ritter at 1:30 today at Mr. Gainey's office to see if they can help point him in the right direction for some funding.

**10. JOHN LOCKLEAR, LOCKLEAR AND ASSOCIATES**

Mrs. Natalie Oliverria stated that she had nothing to bring to the Board at this time.

**11. CINDY BELLOT, LIBRARY DIRECTOR**

Mrs. Bellot was not present for this meeting.

**12. STEVE FREMEN, CODE ENFORCEMENT & VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER**

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

**13. STEVE HUTCHISON, COUNTY ROAD SUPERINTENDENT**

Commissioner Stephenson asked Mr. Hutchison about getting several culverts looked at and cleaned out because of flooding concerns from the residents close by. He said he would get with Mr. Hutchison on which ones these are after the meeting.

He also said that the County needs to put more speed limit signs up around Wade Higginbotham's old store because they keep getting taken down.

**14. DWAYNE CHAUNCEY, MOSQUITO CONTROL DIRECTOR**

Mr. Chauncey was not present for this meeting.

**15. TIM JOHNSON, SOLID WASTE DIRECTOR**

Commissioner Stephenson stated that Dan Gilbert told them that there is a place in Lake City that may be able to rebuild the hydraulic pumps and that Mr. Gilbert would get Mr. Johnson connected with the guy that does that work and see if he can get him a price.

**16. LEON WRIGHT, BUILDING AND ZONING OFFICIAL**

Mr. Wright stated they had code enforcement training for two (2) days this week in the library regarding code enforcement and the Local Planning Agency. He thanked the Dixie County Public Library for their use of the conference room.

He said there may be a delay in the reading of the Land Development Regulations (LDR) and Code Enforcement Ordinances. So that they can follow up with Attorney Jennifer Kerkoff and make sure the County policies are correct.

He also stated that Mr. Scott Pendarvis with the Information Technology Department talked to the Local Planning Agency members regarding security and setting up their emails. He said he will be setting this up soon. Mr. Wright said he would like to have the new codes in place so the new members of the Planning Board will be familiar with these.

Mr. Wright stated there are multiple projects up for review including;

1. The Jena Project. He said this project had errors in the application and it was sent back.
2. The rezoning project next to Anderson Elementary School should be coming up for rezoning shortly.

**17. DARIAN BROWN, DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**

Director of Emergency Services Darian Brown **thanked** all the attendants present at the groundbreaking for the Old Town Fire Station.

He added that he has two (2) shovels from the groundbreaking in the back of his truck and would like to have all the Commissioners that attended the groundbreaking stop by after the meeting to sign them.

Mr. Brown informed the Board of the upcoming hurricane season which starts June 1<sup>st</sup>. He also gave a public invitation for the pre-hurricane meeting at the Emergency Operations Office (EOC) on May 31, 2024, at 11:00 AM. He said he is going to Thomasville on May 29<sup>th</sup>, the day before to get the final numbers to give out in the May 31 meeting. He added they will provide lunch.

Mr. Brown stated they are working on improving the Federally Qualified Healthcare Services for our County. He said we currently have limited services, and he has a meeting in about two (2) weeks in Tallahassee regarding FQHC's and moving forward for better medical care in the community.

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

**911 Communications Director Scott Pendarvis stated he needed approval from the Board for the Annual Maintenance Spring Grant and presented the terms of agreement contract for signing. The Motion to approve and sign the Annual Maintenance Spring Grant contract was made by Commissioner Hatch. Seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.**

Mr. Pendarvis also stated he discussed upgrading the Courthouse camera system with the Security Staff and had a conversation with some security system vendors regarding upgrades and they have agreed upon the best option, which costs a total of \$71,359 over a three-year term. He said the County Manager's Office told him there is some federal money available that was designed for these types of items in the amount of around \$40,000 and the Sheriff's Office is willing to pay for the remainder. He said they would complete two separate invoices for these.

**The Motion to approve and go forward with the upgraded camera security system purchase was made by Commissioner Stephenson. Seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.**

**19. KAY MCCALLISTER, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

Mrs. Kay McCallister congratulated the Cross City Centennial Committee for the successful Centennial event and recognized Commissioner Stephenson for his BMX and dirt-bike show.

She stated they have added notices to the Dixie County Website regarding the Shired Island closure.

Also, she said in about two (2) weeks they should have notices posted to the Dixie County Website about the Short term Overnight Rental License.

She reminded everyone of the Cowboy Country Festival at the Cracker House Winery, located at the Herring Ranch on Saturday at 9:00 AM.

**20. GAIL CARTER, INDIGENT CARE**

Mrs. Carter was not present for this meeting.

**21. HOLLY HOUGHTON, COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT**

Miss. Houghton was not present for this meeting.

**22. ANGIE CROWLEY, HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATOR**

Mrs. Crowley was not present for this meeting.

**23. PAUL GAINEY, ACTING ASSIGNMENT COUNTY MANAGER**

## County Manager's Report

**May 2, 2024**

Action Items:

1. Request Board approval for the purchase of a Volvo – VHD – 64B Dump Truck from Nextran Corp. in the amount of \$187,545.62 based off the SWTF recommendation using ARPA funds.  
***The Motion to approve 1. the purchase of a Volvo – VHD – 64B Dump Truck from Nextran Corp. in the amount of \$187,545.62 based off the SWTF recommendation using ARPA funds made by Commissioner Stephenson. Seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.***
2. Request Board approval to replace the culverts at 55A Canal System (Sanders Property) based on SWTF recommendation.  
***The Motion for approval to replace the culverts at 55A Canal System (Sanders Property) based on SWTF recommendation was made by Commissioner Wood. Seconded by Commissioner Steph. Board approved.***

3. Request Board approval to reallocate funds from the CR 351 ARPA Project to the purchase of fencing materials from Langford Farms, LLC. in the amount of \$116.50 to clear up documentation for audit purposes.  
**The Motion for the approval to reallocate funds from the CR 351 ARPA Project to the purchase of fencing materials from Langford Farms, LLC. in the amount of \$116.50 to clear up documentation for audit purposes was made by Commissioner Osteen. Seconded by Commissioner Stephenson. Board approved.**
  
4. Request Board approval of the SmartCop Invoices SCICT0000097 in the amount of \$21,503.00 and SCICT0000099 in the amount of \$54,304.00 to clear up documentation for audit purposes.  
**The motion for approval of the SmartCop Invoices SCICT0000097 in the amount of \$21,503.00 and SCICT0000099 in the amount of \$54,304.00 to clear up documentation for audit purposes was made by Commissioner Osteen. Seconded by Commissioner Wood. Board approved.**
  
5. Request Board approval to move forward with the quote from Dixie Dragline Service, LLC. to install culverts at 3 separate locations on an hourly basis of \$165.00 based on SWTF recommendation.  
**The Motion for the approval to move forward with the quote from Dixie Dragline Service, LLC. to install culverts at 3 separate locations on an hourly basis of \$165.00 based on SWTF recommendation was made by Commissioner Osteen. Seconded by Commissioner Wood. Board approved.**
  
6. Request Board approval to purchase 1000 Press-n-Stick Calendars and 2500 Large Almanac Calendars for approximately \$6200.00.  
**The Motion for approval to purchase 1000 Press-n-Stick Calendars and 2500 Large Almanac Calendars for approximately \$6200.00 was made by Commissioner Osteen. Seconded by Commissioner Stephenson. Board approved.**

Information Items:

1. McGriff Pass update.  
Mr. Gainey stated the County had a meeting with the Army Corp of Engineers regarding two (2) ways of funding for the McGriff Pass dredging and these include meeting the economic impact study, which we do not, and the other way is through congressional authority. He said the County has tried to reach out to our Congress woman Kat Cammack but has been unsuccessful. He said if anyone can reach Congress Woman Kat Cammack, please let him know and it will be greatly appreciated.
2. CR 349 update.  
Hwy 349 paving project-the County is in the process of making the Construction Engineering and Inspection (CEI) scope of work and getting the advertisement prepared. He said the County must have the CEI in place prior to sending out the design bid advertisement and that should be happening soon.
3. Grant Services Bid opening today at 3:00 pm in the BOCC meeting room.

4. EOC Fire Station Bid Opening on May 14, 2024, 2:00 pm at the BOCC Meeting Room.

5. T-Hangar Bid Opening May 14, 2024, 2:00 pm at the BOCC Meeting Room.

6. Mosquito Control Update.

Mr. Gainey stated the Program is going to be on hold temporarily because Mosquito Control Director Dwayne Chauncey has submitted his resignation. He said the County has reached out to the Florida Department of Agriculture for options on how to move forward to start providing services again.

Mr. Gainey also introduced Ms. Katy Roberts. He said she will be interning with the County Managers Office during the summer.

#### **24. CHANA WATSON, COUNTY ATTORNEY**

Attorney Watson stated the County has mediation on a lawsuit the County is involved in, and she will keep the Board involved in and -everything else is moving forward.

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

Mrs. Higginbotham stated that she had nothing to bring to the Board at this time.

County Finance Director Brenda Royal reminded everyone that the Truth in Millage (TRIM) and budget will be starting, and they will have to rearrange a Board meeting in the month of September to facilitate the budget meeting from a Thursday night to a Monday night and it is important for everyone to attend.

#### **26. COUNTY COMMISSION ITEMS**

Commissioner Wood stated he had nothing.

Commissioner Hatch stated that the Centennial Celebration turned out awesome. He reminded everyone of the City and County meeting at the Dixie County Public Library on May 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM and encouraged everyone to attend.

Commissioner Osteen apologized for not being able to attend the groundbreaking ceremony of the Old Town Fire Station, but said it was all hands-on deck at the prison.

Commissioner Stephenson said he would like to have Mr. Pendarvis look at his County phone because it keeps sending him a message that someone is trying to airdrop him something.

Commissioner Storey stated this has been a good meeting today and he was glad to see everyone show up.

**27. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS**

Mr. John Nelson of the Citizens on Patrol (COP) representing Dixie County approached the Board regarding their volunteers not having County injury and liability Insurance. He expressed a concern about having volunteers out there doing their job and not being covered if something happens.

Mr. Gainey asked if Mr. Nelson was referring to health or liability insurance and thinks there may have been a misunderstanding about which one is being mentioned in the policy.

Mr. Gainey said he would talk to Captain Forehand regarding this.

Attorney Watson also expressed that she thought it was some misunderstanding.

Mr. J.D. Nobles of the Town Council in Horseshoe Beach asked the Board for an update on the canal dredging in Horseshoe Beach and the Horseshoe Park.

Mr. Darian Brown updated the Board on the dredging and said the money to dredge has been sent to the County. He said there is a legal process which includes advertising and a bid process. He said this usually is a thirty-day process and once the contract is awarded, the County can set the amount of time to begin construction.

He stated that the Horseshoe Beach Park is not part of that money but is under FEMA funds from storm damage. He said they have submitted for this, and it has been reviewed locally in Gainesville and forwarded to Atlanta and now the County is waiting on FEMA to approve and fund and send the checks. He recommends the County not start projects until approved, because the County could be responsible for repaying if not approved.

Mr. Nobles asked for clarification about the amount of funding for the Horseshoe Beach dredging. He stated that he attended the meeting where the bill was passed by Senator Corey Simon for five (5) million dollars, but then he heard in the last meeting and in the minutes Dixie County would receive 2.25 million dollars for dredging. He wanted to know why the difference in the amount.

Mr. Brown explained that whatever number submitted to the EOC by the engineering firm was submitted to the State and was approved at that requested amount. He stated the projects are all approved at 100%. If it costs more than what was submitted there will need to be more funding will need to be found.

Mr. Gainey stated part of the application process requires submission of a cost estimate, and this was submitted with the application.

Commissioner Hatch asked if the dredging for Horseshoe Beach and Suwannee Canals were ready to send out for bid.

Mr. Gainey said the County is in the process of building the Horseshoe and Suwannee scope of work and preparing the advertisement to put out for bid. He said this should be done within the next 14-24 days and it's a thirty-day advertisement.

Mr. Nobles asked if the Town Council of Horseshoe can be part of the scope of work review before advertisement.

Mr. Gainey explained the current scope of work.

Mrs. Karen VanAernam of Cross City Restore and Renew thanked the County Commissioners, Road Department Supervisor Steve Hutchison, Solid Waste Manager Tim Johnson and all County departments for their support and efforts with the Centennial Celebration.

She also introduced the members of Cross City Restore and Renew; Barbie Higginbotham, Verna Wilson, Beverly Pivicheck, Christy Roberts, Katrina VanAernam, and Sheila Frierson.

She thanked the County work crews (David Ellison, Bradley Hurst, the inmate work crew) for their help with the town clean up and building upgrades they have been doing recently.

She also listed the buildings they have been upgrading, which include, Miss. Holly Houghton's UF Extension Agency office, the Supervisor of Elections Office, the United Christian Services building and the Dixie County Advocate building.

Mr. John Cherry with Central Florida Electric Company (CFEC) updated the Board on fiber internet access. He said the fiber has been installed down the Horseshoe Road to their hut and up to Scrub Creek Church on the Jack Roberts Curve on 351. He brought brochures for information on how to sign up.

Mr. Cherry also reminded everyone of the 85<sup>th</sup> Annual CFEC meeting this coming Saturday at the Suwannee Livestock Pavilion in Fanning Springs at 8:00 AM. He said members that attend the annual meeting will receive \$30.00 off their electric bill, but the applicant must be a direct member or spouse.

He also stated CFEC will readvertise for the district position since Mr. Osteen passed away.



**28. ADJOURN**

**Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to adjourn at 7:53 PM. Commissioner Osteen seconded. Board approved.**



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA

*Joy Sp*  
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Jamie Storey, Chairman  
Jody Stephenson, Vice Chairman

*Barbie Higginbotham*  
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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.***