# ***Regular Meeting Dixie County Courthouse Commission Meeting Room July 3, 2019 – 10:00 AM***

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

Gene Higginbotham

Mark Hatch

W. C. Mills, Chairman

David Osteen, Vice Chairman

Jamie Storey

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Tim Alexander, County Manager

Michael Osteen, County Attorney

Dana D. Johnson, Clerk of Court

Della J. Petty, Deputy Clerk

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE:**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The motion to approve the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of June 20, 2019 was made by Commissioner Storey and seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.

**VOUCHER APPROVAL:**

The motion to approve the vouchers was made by Commissioner Osteen and seconded by Commissioner Higginbotham. Board approved.

The motion to go into the Public Hearing was made by Commissioner Osteen and seconded by Commissioner Hatch. 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.***

**RESOLUTION 2019-48**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO APPROVE ITS OWN PETITION TO ABANDON A COUNTY HIGHWAY IN FAVOR OF THE ACTUAL, COMMONLY UTILIZED AND TRAVELLED COUNTY HIGHWAY IN HORSESHOE BEACH.**

County Attorney Michael Osteen read Resolution 2019-48 by title only for the Board and let them know it has been advertised as required. He said they will need to vote to adopt the new Horseshoe Beach highway survey from the Cattle Gap to the Point which was done by the Florida Department of Transportation. He said this will clear up some encroachments on the right side but may create some on the Gulf side. The motion to approve Resolution 2019-48 was made by Commissioner Higginbotham and seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.

The motion to go back into the Commission Items was made by Commissioner Osteen and seconded by Commissioner Hatch. Board approved.

**BRAD HOARD, COUNTY INSURANCE:**

Mr. Brad Hoard appeared before the Board and introduced Mr. Andrew Rains as his associate and to discuss the County Insurance Policy 2019-2020 Renewal with Blue Cross and Blue Shield. He said the County had changed from AvMed to Blue Cross last year and the County still has some claims to clear up. He suggested they move open enrollment to August this year. He explained the difference between a Health Savings Account (HSA) and a Flexible Spending Account (FSA). Manager Alexander expressed his thanks for the early figures that were submitted. He said the Constitutional Officers been asked to budget for an estimated 15 percent increase. The Board thanked Mr. Hoard for the information.

**STEVE FREMEN, VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER:**

Mr. Steve Fremen appeared before the Board to discuss Code Enforcement procedures per Florida Statute. He said the property owner would be given a thirty day warning to fix the violation and become compliant and the next step would be to issue a citation for $100.00. He said the citations can be ordered by the Judge from $200.00 up to $500.00 per day. He said the property owner pays the fine. He said this procedure does not apply within the city limits of a town as the town will enforce its own policies. Commissioner Hatch inquired as to what criteria must be adhered to and Mr. Fremen replied the ordinance and the County Land Development Regulation (LDR) must be followed. He said even junk cars which are not legally registered and insured can be cited as a violation. Commissioner Hatch suggested they put this new information on the Building and Zoning website and Mr. Fremen said most calls are about trash. Commissioner Mills how will this affect people who are in the junk business and Mr. Fremen replied it depends on what it is; safety hazards are a great concern. He also stated there will not be a need to ride around and look for violations because he already gets plenty of calls.

**KEITH SEGAR, SUWANNEE WATER AND SEWER**:

Mr. Keith Segar appeared before the Board and informed them of a water main leak this past week. He said they issued a Boil Water Notice until they did the repairs and could have the water tested but everything is good now. He reminded everyone of the Golf Cart Parade at 5:00 PM and the Suwannee Fireworks Display on July 6, 2019 at dark.

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

Mr. Greg Bailey appeared before the Board and informed them the contractor will be finished with the Old Town Upholstery Road today. He said the crew will not be working this weekend.

**JERED LIZOTTE, LOCKLEAR & ASSOCIATES:**

Mr. Jered Lizotte appeared before the Board to inform them of the data he has gathered on the water flow through the culverts. He said he had tested culverts along the Highway 55A area, the Lee Cemetery area and the Ambroise Lane area. He said the water level is going down; however, he would like to gather more data on this for a month for a better evaluation.

**STEVE HUTCHINSON, COUNTY ROAD SUPERINTENDENT:**

Mr. Steve Hutchinson appeared before the Board and thanked them for the new trucks and also requested to get them insured so they can be used. Road Superintendent Hutchinson requested the Board help with building a dock in Horseshoe for the Commercial Fisherman. Commissioner Mills asked what the cost estimate would be to build one and Road Superintendent Hutchinson replied Mr. Timmy Futch and some other local residents helped build the dock at the County boat ramp. Manager Alexander said they would have the cost estimate of the material and use the County employees for the labor. He said the Army Corps of Engineers would need to authorize the permit for dock and suggested Locklear and Associates may be able to help with this also. He said they will need to get a set of plans and a material list. The motion to begin the process of getting a permit for the commercial dock at the County boat ramp in Horseshoe Beach was made by Commissioner Hatch and seconded by Commissioner Higginbotham. Board approved.

Mr. Hutchinson informed the Board he and Assistant County Manager Duane Cannon had met with Hunter Anderson of Anderson Columbia about milling the road to the restaurant and the Anderson Park Boat Ramp. He said they will also add the Black Jack Road and sealer to both roads.

**JOE RUTH, SOLID WASTE & MOSQUITO CONTROL DIRECTOR:**

Commissioner Hatch asked when the County employee Goal Day and Road Superintendent Hutchinson replied next Monday and they will be cooking in Horseshoe. Mr. Joe Ruth said his crew will be working Friday and Monday. Manager Alexander said the Solid Waste Department employees can use their goal day later.

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

Emergency Services Director Darian Brown appeared before the Board and informed them his crew will be working on Friday and Monday and cooking on both days. EMS Director Brown informed the Board they will be doing the inspection of the cooking area at the new restaurant and the milling will be a definite benefit as the people will need a more reliable access.

EMS Director Brown informed the Board of a request from Major Harden. He said they have been asked to assist with the transport of a paraplegic inmate from Macon, GA to Dixie County. The motion to approve EMS Staff to assist the Dixie County Sheriff’s Department with the inmate transfer was made by Commissioner Hatch and seconded by Commissioner Storey. Board approved.

**TIM ALEXANDER, COUNTY MANAGER:**

County Manager Tim Alexander appeared before the Board to request to execute documents for the JAG Project to purchase new equipment. The motion to approve the JAG grant application was made by Commissioner Osteen and seconded by Commissioner Hatch. Board approved.

Manager Alexander informed the Board of the Cross City Airport Apron Rehab Project Bid Opening. He said they reviewed two bids and opened them on June 27, 2019. He said Passero and Associates recommended the Board award the project to Slack Construction for $648,680.00 contingent upon FAA grant contract. The motion to accept the Slack Construction bid was made by Commissioner Higginbotham and seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved. Commissioner Hatch said to inform them there will be no work order changes.

Manager Alexander requested the Board approve a work order with Passero and Associates in the amount of $65,000.00 for construction administration, monitoring, observation and grant administration. The motion to approve the work order with Passero and Associates was made by Commissioner Higginbotham and seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.

Manager Alexander requested the Board to approve Resolution 2019-49 in support of the loan to purchase the 2020 Mack Packer Garbage Truck. The motion to approve Resolution 2019-49 was made by Commissioner Hatch and seconded by Commissioner Storey. Board approved.

Manager Alexander informed the Board the County Probation Report is in their packet for their review. He stated they are still getting complaint calls about Bob’s River Place.

**MICHAEL OSTEEN, COUNTY ATTORNEY:**

County Attorney Michael Osteen appeared before the Board and informed them an answer has been filed and a motion to dismiss the lawsuit against him and Mr. Leon Wright. He said that he has met with Central Florida Electric and has seen the existing Order from Judge Johnson to move the Cable TV poles. He said the case is in Appeals Court now. County Attorney Osteen stated the Cable TV Company has been instructed to fix the Safety Code Violations several times before the County would give them an easement. Mr. Leon Wright added the Cable TV Company thinks having a FCC License exempts them from needing a permit to place their product on poles in right of way.

County Attorney Osteen said he met with Assistant County Manager Cannon and Mrs. Cheyenne Hutchinson to discuss the bids submitted on the work to improve Yellow Jacket. He said they have $50,000.00 to use on the project or the County could lose the funds. He said they received three bids for the work. He said the bids were $80,000.00 and $90,000.00 and $200,000.00 for the work. County Attorney Osteen said the lowest bidder is still $9,000.00 over the budget. He suggested they readvertise and renegotiate with lowest bidder on the work that is needed. He said they can remove the bathroom work from the project list. Commissioner Higginbotham said they have $4,500.00 of the TDC money in the budget and the Board can give $4,500.00 to the project as well. The motion to drop the bathroom work from the project was made by Commissioner Higginbotham and seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Commissioner Hatch stated he is not in favor of the vote and would like to readvertise and start over with the bids. Commissioner Mills agreed the Board should start over. Commissioner Higginbotham reminded everyone they need to get started on the project now or they will lose the money. Commissioner Osteen asked what the deadline for money is and Manager Alexander reminded everyone that they did require a mandatory pre-bid as well. County Attorney Osteen added he feels the other bidders will make an argument if they don't start over. Manager Alexander said there is a motion on the floor and the Board approved. Commissioner Storey suggested they find out about the deadline to use the money and Mrs. Cheyenne Hutchinson reminded everyone the Board received the grant for the property in 2010.

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

Clerk Johnson appeared before the Board and informed them the Preliminary Audit was submitted to the State of Florida on Sunday, June 30, 2019. She said they will be finalizing the Audit for 2016-2017 over the next two weeks. She said they will be looking to hire a new Auditing Company to do the future Audits but will be keeping the current Auditing Company on as consultants.

Clerk Johnson requested the Board approve a Budget Amendment for the Sheriff Department for $462.00 to be used for education. The motion to approve the Budget Amendment in the amount of $462.00 was made by Commissioner Higginbotham and seconded by Commissioner Storey. Board approved.

**COUNTY COMMISSION ITEMS:**

Commissioner Hatch invited everyone to the Fireworks Event in Suwannee.

Commissioner Osteen said he will bring some food to the County Employee Goal Day event.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS:**

Mrs. Maggie Biggerstaff appeared before the Board to discuss the Mobile Surgical Vet Unit operated by Dr. Wendy Biggs, DVM of Archer, Florida. She said it is a partnership between Pay To Spay, Inc. and Cares Affordable Animal Clinic to provide affordable prices and convenient service. She said they have been helping Dixie County residents with their pets since February of 2019 and have taken care of 51 dogs and 67 cats. She said they operate on Sunday once a month. Mrs. Biggerstaff added this program provides the only Veterinarian Service in for Dixie County and it also saves the County from the burden of animal control pickups for abandoned and homeless animals. She said there are no financial requirements to use this program. The motion to provide a letter of support from the Board in favor or Pay to Spay, Inc. was made by Commissioner Higginbotham and seconded by Commissioner Hatch. Board approved.

**ADJOURN**

The motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Higginbotham and seconded by Commissioner Hatch. The Board approved and the meeting adjourned at 10:56 A.M.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

W.C. Mills, Chairman

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Dana D. Johnson, Clerk-Auditor