# ***Regular MeetingDixie County CourthouseCommission Meeting RoomJuly 18, 2019 – 6:00 PM***

**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 Regular Commission Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chairman Mills.

**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:**

The motion to approve the Commission Minutes from the Regular Meeting of July 3, 2019 was made by Commissioner Mills and seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.

**VOUCHER APPROVAL:**

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

The motion to go into the Public hearing was made by Commissioner Osteen and seconded by Commissioner Higginbotham. Board approved.

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Ms. Tammi Clyatt appeared before the Board and read the Chandler Variance read by title only. She stated letters were mailed, signs were posted and there was no opposition. Commissioner Hatch inquired if anyone was present in opposition and Ms. Clyatt stated there was no one. The motion to approve the Chandler variance was made by Commissioner Hatch and seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.

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Ms. Clyatt read the Clark Special Exception by title only. She said letters were mailed, signs were posted and there was no opposition She added there was no one present in opposition as well. The motion to approve the Clark Special Exception was made by Commissioner Hatch and seconded by Commissioner Storey. Board approved.

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Ms. Clyatt read the Gibson Special Exception by title only, She stated letters were mailed, signs were posted and there was opposition. Commissioner Mills asked if anyone opposed and Ms. Clyatt said three people were opposed. The motion to deny the Gibson Special Exception was made by Commissioner Hatch and seconded by Commissioner Osteen. The Board denied.

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Ms. Clyatt read the Kelty Special Exception by title only. She stated letters were mailed, signs were posted and there was no opposition. She added there was no one present who opposed as well. The motion to approove the Kelty Special Exception was made by Commissioner Hatch and seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.

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

RESOLUTION **2019-50**

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO APPROVE A VARIANCE TO BE GRANTED, AS PROVIDED IN SECTION12.3.1OF THE DIXIE COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONSTO PERMIT A VARIANCE FOR THE PLACEMENT OF A 30’ X 60’ POLE BARN WITHIN A RESIDENTIAL, (MIXED) SINGLE FAMILY/MOBILE HOME (RSF/MH-2) ZONING DISTRICT, AS PROVIDED IN THE PETITION DATED MAY 23, 2019. (Chandler)

Ms. Clyatt read Resolution 2019-50 by title only for the Chandler Variance. The motion to approve Resolution 2019-50 was made by Commissioner Hatch and seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.

RESOLUTION **2019-51**

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 JUNE 5, 2019. (Clark)

Ms. Clyatt read Resolution 2019-51 by title only for the Clark Special Exception. The motion to approve Resolution 2019-51 was made by Commissioner Hatch and seconded by Commissioner Higginbotham. Board approved.

RESOLUTION **2019-52**

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 SUBPARAGRAPH (4) OF THE DIXIE COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS TO PERMIT ONE RECREATIONAL VEHICLE IN AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREA (ESA-4) ZONING DISTRICT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PETITION DATED MAY 23, 2019.

(Gibson)

Resolution 2019-52 was Denied by the Board.

RESOLUTION **2019-53**

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 SUBPARAGRAPH (4) OF THE DIXIE COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS TO PERMIT ONE RECREATIONAL VEHICLE IN AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREA (ESA-4) ZONING DISTRICT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PETITION DATED MAY 28, 2019.

(Kelty)

Ms. Clyatt read Resolution 2019-53 by title only for the Kelty Special Exception. The motion to approve Resolution 2019-53 was made by Commissioner Hatch and seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.

**STEVE FREMEN, VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER:**

Mr. Steve Fremen appeared before the Board and presented three code enforcement forms for review. He said complaints can be made in person or on their website. Mr. Fremen said the violator will receive a warning letter for the first violation which will have list the items to be corrected and a time frame. He said the second violation will result in a notice of violation and if there is a third violation then the person would appear in court. County Attorney Michael Osteen added he and Mr. Fremen have been working on the logistics. He noted if the County Judge will not hear the cases then a hearing officer would need to be hired which is usually an attorney and handed on a case by case basis. County Attorney Osteen stated it is up to Judge Johnson and she will be contacted. Commissioner Hatch inquired about funding and Mr. Fremen replied we can charge court costs. Commissioner Hatch asked about who will be the complainant if a County employee sees an issue and Mr. Fremen answered the County after he investigates the concern. Commissioner Hatch inquired about who would be responsible for paying court costs, if the complainant wanted to dispute the citation. Attorney O’Steen explained that the prevailing party would be awarded court costs. If the County is not the prevailing party, it would have to absorb those costs. Mr. Fremen stated the issues should not get that far and he hopes to resolve them before court.

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

Mr. Greg Bailey appeared before the Board and stated we got the review on Highway 351A from the Florida Department of Transportation. He noted changes will be made and sent back to FDOT for their approval then it can be sent out to bid. Mr. Bailey said most of the paving and grassing has been completed on the Old Town Upholstery Road and it should wind up real soon.

**STEVE HUTCHISON, COUNTY ROAD SUPERINTENDENT**:

Road Superintendent Steve Hutchison appeared before the Board to report a motor grader operator quit and he wants to put a previous operator in that spot. Commissioner Higginbotham commented if he can and Manager Alexander said policy states motor grader operators must operate it for six months consecutively to eligible to the stipend. Commissioner Storey added he lost a good motor grader operator because of a similar situation. Manager Alexander stated we had an operator who worked for 24 years and started back then waited for his six months. He said we have it set up in policy and it has been working so the employees would not go back and to between positions. County Attorney Osteen noted the policy can be amended and Manager Alexander said we have a hard time hiring and keeping motor grader operators as it is now. Manager Alexander said another option would be to convert the $2,400.00 per year to an hourly compensation. After a lengthy discussed, the motion to convert the $2,400.00 to an hourly rate was made by Commissioner Higginbotham and seconded by Commissioner Hatch. Board approved. Commissioner Higginbotham said he has a great motor grader operator who worked for a long time for the County who has agreed to come back to work and start at the bottom of the pay scale and he does not want to lose him. Manager Alexander stated that the grader operators that have worked for the approximate three months will be compensated by stipend for that time period, and then will be switched over to the hourly increase.

Manager Alexander noted an environmental study for the County Rock Pit will cost $350.00 and will be completed soon. He also said the Joe Anderson Park Road looks good with the milling which was completed by the Road Department.

**LEON WRIGHT, BUILDING AND ZONING:**

Building Official Leon Wright appeared before the Board and stated he did get a job offer but he enjoys working with the County and he will continue. He stated the Steinhatchee River Club thought they were on the Agenda however the North Central Florida Planning Council was not ready yet. Mr. Wright stated one violation was corrected by the homeowner on the Suwannee River for failing to get a permit due to wetlands. Commissioner Mills added the Board appreciates Mr. Wright and all he does.

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

Emergency Services Director Darian Brown appeared before the Board and reported 309 calls for last month with five air transports to local hospitals. He stated the crews are glad to have Squad One back in service which was rechassised locally by their mechanic and saved the County about $70,000.00. He asked the Board to look at it when they have a chance and let him know what they think of the new logo.

EMS Director Brown mentioned about the need to make changes for personal protective equipment. He said the State has responded to the recent shootings and mandated a standard for use of ballistic armor. He added one of his crews responded to a shooting incident just last week and he thinks the Board is well aware how critical the need. EMS Director Brown stated they are working now to acquire grant funding.

EMS Director Brown said he and Chief Scott Pendarvis attended fire chief’s conference this week. He noted a lot of good information comes out of those meetings which are beneficial to the County and with Chief Garner and Chief Pendarvis both on state boards a lot of extra travel is required. Commissioner Hatch inquired about the changed logo on the Squad One and EMS Director Brown replied they incorporated our school mascot and Rowland Corteze did a very good job. The Board all said they liked the new logo. Manager Alexander added it very fitting.

EMS Director Brown stated Chief Pendarvis will give a filmed interview for use in the medical field. He commented a lot of things are changing in the State and Nation with going toward community paramedicine which allows paramedics do more in the field. He said our medical director agrees with the concept and they now have a liaison to help with viability and to find funding sources. EMS Director Brown added the biggest hurdle is how to charge for calls that are non-transports and the State is pushing very hard to locate funding. He said there are two meetings scheduled to give us more information and Chief Pendarvis is on the community paramedicine State Board.

Commissioner Mills thanked EMS Director Brown for saving the County about $60,000.00 on the Squad One. EMS Director Brown said it was the type of truck which helped the most and a lot fire companies would not complete the work. He said it would cost a couple hundred thousand dollars to buy a new one but they bought the chassis cheap and spent about $15,000.00 with our mechanic’s time. Commissioner Mills commented we would like to do more of it and EMS Director Brown stated the brush trucks and fire trucks are not doable for us. Manager Alexander added the used aluminum truck bed went to a truck at the Road Department.

**TIM ALEXANDER, COUNTY MANAGER:**

County Manager Tim Alexander appeared before the Board and presented the grant offer for the Apron Rehabilitation at the Cross City Airport. The motion to accept the grant offer in the amount of $450,000.00 from the Federal Aviation Administration was made by Commissioner Osteen and seconded by Commissioner Storey. Board approved.

Manager Alexander recommended approval for Work Order 19-08R with Passero and Associates in the amount of $65,000.00 for the construction and grant administration on the Cross City Airport Apron Project. The motion to approve Work Order 19-08R was made by Commissioner Osteen and seconded by Commissioner Storey. Board approved.

Manager Alexander recommended approval for the LAP agreement with FDOT for the project management and design phase for NE 272nd Avenue (Willow Hole Road) in the amount of $3.346.00. The motion to approve the LAP agreement for NE 272nd Avenue was made by Commissioner Hatch and seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.

Manager Alexander read Resolution 2019-55 by title only in support of the above LAP agreement. The motion to approve Resolution 2019-55 was made by Commissioner Hatch and seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.

Manager Alexander recommended approval for the LAP agreement with FDOT for the project management and design phase for NE 592nd Street (Chavous Road) in the amount of $1,000.00. The motion to approve the LAP agreement for NE 592nd Street was made by Commissioner Storey and seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.

Manager Alexander read Resolution 2019-54 by title only in support of the above LAP agreement. The motion to approve Resolution 2019-54 was made by Commissioner Osteen and seconded by Commissioner Hatch. Board approved.

Manager Alexander asked Board approval for the use of the Spurgeon Cheek Property by the Wounded Warrior Group for their annual event. The motion to approve use of the Spurgeon Cheek Property was made by Commissioner Storey and seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.

Manager Alexander presented the Memorandum of Agreement with the FAA to adopt their Operations and Maintenance Manual for the AWOS at the Cross City Airport. The motion to approve the MOA with the FAA for the AWOS was made by Commissioner Hatch and seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.

Manager Alexander stated he and Commissioner Hatch met with Congressman Dunn’s aide Will Kendrick regarding funding for the rest of the Suwannee Highway (SR 349). The motion to approve Resolution 2019-56 in support of SR 349 resurfacing project which is 11.7 miles was made by Commissioner Hatch and seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.

Manager Alexander recommended the reappointment of Commissioner Hatch and Carol West to the North Florida Economic Development Partnership. The motion to approve the reappointment was made by Commissioner Higginbotham and seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.

Manager Alexander said he received a call from FDOT needing a Commissioner to sit on the new Suncoast Parkway project. The motion to appoint Commissioner Hatch was made by Commissioner Higginbotham and seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.

Manager Alexander stated he and Clerk Johnson have been working on the TRIM process and the Property Appraiser certified the tax roll. He said currently the County is at 10 Mills in the General Fund, .4 Mills in the Recreation/Library Fund and 2.6 Mills in the EMS Fund. Manager Alexander added if the Board adopts the recommended Millage Rate then our Budget would gain about $286,000.00 this year. The motion to adopt the Proposed Millage Rate was made by Commissioner Hatch and seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved. Manager Alexander read Resolution 2019-57 adopting the Proposed Millage Rate for FY 2019/2020. The motion to approve Resolution 2019-57 was made by Commissioner Hatch and seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved. Manager Alexander stated the first public hearing for the Budget will be held Thursday September 12, 2019 at 5:15 PM. Commissioner Higginbotham stated we will be receiving a check from Aucilla in the amount of $84,084.00 for this year. The motion to accept the Aucilla check was made by Commissioner Hatch and seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved. The motion to dedicate $27,000.00 to the purchase of an over the road truck for transport to Aucilla was made by Commissioner Hatch and seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved. Manager Alexander stated the new garbage packer truck is in use now and Mr. Ruth thinks it hauled about 21 tons on it first trip.

Manager Alexander stated the Safety Luncheon will be August 1, 2019 at 1:00 PM at the Dixie Diner and then go to the Emergency Operation Center for their FEMA training. He said the FEMA training is mandatory at the EOC beginning at 2:30 PM for the Road, Solid Waste and Building and Zoning Departments.

Manager Alexander stated the Salvation Army reports will be emailed and they are doing a great job for the County. He added they currently have 75 active cases.

Manager Alexander stated the C&D site will be filled up soon and he recommends charging for C&D material again. The motion to charge for C&D material at the Landfill was made by Commissioner Hatch and seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved. Commissioner Hatch said it was good to help out but it is needed now.

**MICHAEL OSTEEN, COUNTY ATTORNEY:**

County Attorney Michael Osteen appeared before the Board and stated he went with Commissioner Higginbotham to the Aucilla monthly meeting. County Attorney Osteen said he applied for their attorney and was hired along with Mr. Conrad Bishop from Taylor County. He added the next hearing for the Extreme Broadband case is August 12, 2019 at 3:00 PM and he feels the case will be dismissed.

County Attorney Osteen noted the closing documents for the property donated by Mitch Mitchell are being finalized now and he will need the Chairman’s signature to accept the donation. He added the gift to the County appraised at $1,200,000.00 for the two acres and will help with extra parking.

County Attorney Osteen explained in April Mr. Joe Ruth asked the Board to increase the solid waste special assessment. He stated most surrounding counties have an escalator for their fire assessment too. County Attorney Osteen said he along with Manager Alexander and Assistant County Manager Cannon looked at prior history and it is a non ad valorem assessment unlike property taxes and the cost associated must be fairly apportioned. He said after his research Ordinance 89-01 appears to be the first time it was ever done and in 1995 the ordinance set the rates with no increases since Ordinance 02-02. County Attorney Osteen noted we must have a public hearing and prior to September 15, 2019 and there is no way to get it done this year. He said Taylor County is going through the same issue and he contacted the Neighbors, Giblin and Nickerson Law Firm to be here on September 5, 2019 at 1:30 PM for a proposed workshop. The motion to have the workshop on September 5, 2019 at 1:30 PM was made by Commissioner Hatch and seconded by Commissioner Storey. Board approved.

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

Clerk Dana Johnson appeared before the Board and stated the County Audit for FY2016/2017 has been officially filed with the State of Florida.

Clerk Johnson presented a budget amendment for the Sheriff in the amount of $2,640.00 for Law Enforcement Education. The motion to approve the budget amendment in the amount of $2,640.00 was made by Commissioner Higginbotham and seconded by Commissioner Hatch. Board approved.

**COUNTY COMMISSION ITEMS:**

Commissioner Gene Higginbotham said he is being sued for man about Shired Island and Manager Alexander stated he took care of the situation.

Commissioner Mark Hatch said he has been working with David Hughes from Suwannee who wants to lease the old gym/fire house in Suwannee. He stated he along with Manager Alexander and Assistant County Manager Cannon and looked at and it is in poor shape. Commissioner Hatch said Mr. Hughes wants to do physical therapy office. County Attorney Osteen stated the County owns the building and the School Board owns the land. The motion to proceed with gathering more information was made by Commissioner Osteen and seconded by Commissioner Storey. Board approved. County Attorney Osteen said he wants to be able to lease if for the County and Manager Alexander added they will make sure it can be done.

Commissioner Hatch said he saw the video of the main in the Courthouse filming in the offices without permission and it was sickening to see the look on employee’s faces. Manager Alexander said the video is on YouTube under “Casper” for those who want to view it. Commissioner Hatch stated he was infuriated him a person could just walk into each office with no type of security and he wants an ordinance to keep this type of thing from happening again. Manager Alexander said there has been lots of discussion about securing the Courthouse and have been trying to budget the funding needed. Commissioner Higginbotham stated he wants a sign on the Prison Road about cameras in use for security purposes as well. The motion to get the ordinance process started was made by Commissioner Osteen and seconded by Commissioner Storey. Board approved. Clerk Johnson thanked the Board for their efforts to help secure the Courthouse.

Commissioner David Osteen thanked Mr. Wright and Mr. Fremen for all their hard work. He said he has got a lot of compliments from our citizens for the job they’re doing.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS:**

Mr. James and Cheryl Stevens appeared before the Board to request a refund for impact fees they say were previously paid. The motion to refund the impact fees was made by Commissioner Hatch and seconded by Commissioner Higginbotham. 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 7:28 P.M.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

 DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

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Dana D. Johnson, Clerk-Auditor