

**Regular Meeting**  
**School Board Meeting Room**  
**Old Town, FL**  
**August 05, 2021 – 10:00 AM**

*While adhering to the CDC Guidelines and 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 the Dixie County Emergency Declaration 2020-27. The Board will meet and limit access by staff and the public to the meeting room. 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  
W. C. Mills, District 2, Vice Chairman  
Mark Hatch, District 3  
Jamie Storey, District 4, Chairman  
James Valentine, District 5

**STAFF**

Duane Cannon, County Manager  
Martha McCaskill, Administrative Asst/Grant Coordinator  
Michael Osteen, County Attorney  
Barbie Higginbotham, Clerk of Court  
Verna Wilson, Chief Deputy Clerk  
Della Rhymes, Asst. Chief Deputy Clerk  
Jacki Johnson, Chief Financial Officer

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Board meeting was called to order 10:10 AM by Commissioner Storey.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG**

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

**APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES**

*Commissioner Mills made the motion to approve Minutes from the Regular Meeting of June 17, 2021. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.*

**ACCEPT COMMISSION MINUTES FROM 2020**

*Commissioner Mills made the motion to approve Minutes from the Regular Meeting of May 07, 2020. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.*

*Commissioner Mills made the motion to approve Minutes from the Regular Meeting of May 21, 2020. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.*

*Commissioner Mills made the motion to approve Minutes from the Regular Meeting of June 04, 2020. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.*

Commissioner Stephenson expressed his reluctance to accept minutes on behalf of previous Board members.

**VOUCHER APPROVAL**

*Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to approve the vouchers. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.*

**CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS**

Dixie County Tax Collector, Michelle Cannon appeared before the Board to submit the County Held Tax Certificates Report.

**STEVE HUTCHISON, COUNTY ROAD SUPERINTENDENT**

Road Superintendent Stevie Hutchison appeared before the Board and said he has an agreement and signed contract to cut the roads for culverts on Road 30 and some other roads. He said the Army Corp of Engineers stipulates there must be 48-inch pipes installed.

Commissioner Stephenson said there are some of that size at the County Yard.

Commissioner Hatch said they got some from Suwannee Lumber also and to use the best ones.

*Commissioner Hatch made the motion to install the culverts. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.*

Commissioner Mills said if they cut the roads then the water will go to the swamp. Mr. Hutchison said yes into Crane Bay and then to the Gulf.

Commissioner Stephenson said this should help relieve some pressure from the Cross City and the Hwy 55 A area.

Mike Cassidy appeared before the Board to request that Old Hwy 19 be cut.

Commissioner Stephenson asked if this would impact the dirt road and the other side of the road. He said there were bridges and culverts in that area, but they were removed years ago. He said if the water flows the other way then he is okay with cutting the road.

Mr. Cassidy said he has also requested some fill dirt and he thanked the Board for help with that. He said that he doesn't want to hurt his neighbors. He said the water is flowing in the woods, but one culvert is stopped up.

Commissioner Stephenson asked what impact cutting the road will have on the Philmon's subdivision. He asked if the water flowed this way through the canals and across Hwy 19 towards Jena or towards the Salt Creek and Crane Bay area.

Commissioner Valentine said it will flood the Philmon subdivision in Jena.

Commissioner Mills said the county don't need any more flooding.

Commissioner Stephenson said the culverts should have already been put in place.

Mr. Cassidy agreed. He said they have asked for help before.

He said he didn't sign off on any work done prior as the County Manager.

Mary Goodrich spoke to the Board and said she live in Old Town and her home is flooded.

Commissioner Stephenson said he understands that water is an issue.

Ms. Goodrich said she has fixed her driveway three times.

Mr. Hutchison said he has looked at her property and sent photos to the Suwanee River Water Management District. He said their reply was that they are in compliance with what they do.

Mike Cassidy clarified that the county is in a State of Emergency. He said they want some dirt near their house.

Mr. Hutchison said he will bring two loads of dirt. He asked the Board if they wanted to cut the Old Hwy 19 road.

Commissioner Stephenson said they have talked about this already. He said they were told they need to do a study and the county don't have money to pay for another study. He said they should be able to handle some things while under a State of Emergency.

Commissioner Mills asked if they could repair some of the culverts that are out of alignment.

Commissioner Stephenson said that will cause more flooding if we do this now.

Mr. Cassidy said it may not have a negative impact.

Commissioner Mills said it will flood everyone if we remove the pipes at this time.

Mr. Cassidy agreed. He said the culverts are clogged and are not flowing.

Commissioner Stephenson said the county is in a tight spot. He said the water is flooding Cross City, the river is rising and it's bad everywhere.

Mr. Cassidy asked the Board to cut the road where Dwight Knight shot the road on the West side of the canal.

Manager Cannon said there is a culvert near Ryan Parker's driveway, and it runs East and West.

Mr. Cassidy said there is a big culvert to the West that can be addressed later.

Mr. Hutchison said that Mr. Jimmy Futch lives near and he needs to get out for doctor visits.

Commissioner Mills asked if there is a culvert on the other side of his driveway.

Commissioner Hatch said yes past his road.

Mr. Cassidy said he will speak with Mr. Futch.

***Commissioner Hatch made the motion to cut Old Hwy 19 between Jimmy Futch and the Hines Hwy at the culvert. Commissioner Valentine seconded. Board approved.***

Commissioner Mills said he understands this needs to be done.

Commissioner Stephenson said other people live in the area and they need time to respond.

Emergency Management Division Chief Scott Garner said that the Highway Patrol will close the road.

Dixie County Sheriff Darby Butler asked if this would cause some traffic delays for the Hines area and beyond Jimmy Futch. He said people will have to travel around this area. He said there are homes in the old Dixie Hunt Club which will be affected too.

Mr. Hutchison requested the Board's approval of donating a van that doesn't run to the Department of Corrections.

***Commissioner Hatch made the motion to donate the van to DOC. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.***

Commissioner Hatch asked who will be calling the Sheriff and the Florida Highway Patrol about the road being closed.

Sheriff Butler said they can call the Highway Patrol.

Mr. Hutchison reminded everyone of the Auction on Saturday, August 07 at the County Yard.

Commissioner Hatch said the water is crossing the Jena hwy.

Mr. Hutchison said they have posted signs.

Manager Cannon informed the Board that the Army Corp of Engineers must give their approval and release the contract to commence work on the Horseshoe Beach Turn Basin and Mark Channel Dredging Project.

Mr. Hutchison requested the Board get some more help for the County Manager at his office.

**BRAD HOARD AND ANDREW RAINS, EMPLOYEE INSURANCE**

Mr. Brad Hoard appeared before the Board and said they had discussed the insurance renewal options at the previously held Workshop.

Commissioner Stephenson asked if there was any feedback from employees.

Manager Cannon said the list of providers was sent to all employees. He said only one or two providers were not on the list. He said he didn't see anything negative and would recommend the Wellness Savings Program.

Mr. Hoard said it will make a significant savings to the county Budget. He said the Wellness Program may help catch early illnesses, which leads to a better work environment and less sick time off from work.

Commissioner Hatch asked how much notice will be given to employees about the wellness meetings.

Mr. Hoard said a month's notice. He said they will work with all the offices to coordinate.

Commissioner Mills asked when can employees switch back to the other plan.

Mr. Hutchison requested the Board get some more help for the County Manager at his office.

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Mr. Hoard said a month's notice. He said they will work with all the offices to coordinate.

Commissioner Mills asked when can employees switch back to the other plan.

Mr. Hoard replied at open enrollment.

**Ms. Hill**

Ms. Hill spoke to the Board and said she lives in Old Town. She said she would like them to clean up the canal near her property because she is flooded and must move.

Commissioner Stephenson clarified that she lives near the Willow Hole area.

He said that box culvert can't handle the flow of water.

Commissioner Storey said he is flooded at his house too.

***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 Hearings was made by Commissioner Mills. Seconded by Commissioner Valentine.***

A petition by ***PIDDLER'S POINT RV RESORT AND CAMPGROUND, LLC*** requesting a ***Special Exception*** to be granted, as provided in section 4.7.5 sub paragraph 13 zoning district RSF/MH1 to permit a campground, in accordance with the petition dated 02/05/2021 to be located on the property as described as follows: Dixie County

Parcel # 30-09-10-0000-0360-0304 4745 SW HWY 358, STEINHATCHEE, FL 32359; 4).  
***(Expansion of PIDDLERS POINT RV RESORT to new parcel)***  
**(Commission District 5, James Valentine)**

Ms. Julie Herring Julie Herring appeared before the Board and read the Special Exception request made by Piddler's Point RV Resort and Campground, LLC.

Commissioner Stephenson asked if there was any opposition to this petition.

Commissioner Valentine said it is a dangerous curve with a restaurant and a church.

Building Official Leon Wright informed the Board that the permit is for property adjacent to the campground. He said this requires a zoning change for the new parcel.

Mr. Joe Hunt, owner Piddler's Point

Mr. Hunt spoke to the Board and told them this was originally one parcel of land. He said it was divided and sold as two parcels. He said the campground was built on one side and the house is on the other side. He said they would like to add more camping spaces to the other side. He said he understands to opposition, but also must turn a lot of people away who want to camp here. He said he spent a lot of money and went through the whole process of applying for the permits and doesn't understand why they can't move forward when other campgrounds have been able to.

Commissioner Stephenson asked for clarification on how this will impact the area. He said the entrance is in the same spot.

Commissioner Valentine said this area is too congested.

Attorney Chris Scott spoke on behalf of Mr. Hunt and said the entry and exit will be in the same location and only one vehicle can enter or exit at a time.

Jan Payne, Steinhatchee United Methodist Church

Ms. Jan Payne spoke to the Board and said this was not originally a campground. She said that Mr. Johnson bought this property years ago and built a home. She said she doesn't know when it became a campground, but they want to put in 31 more spaces near church. She said four campers were there with generators running over the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend. She said the traffic is bad in this area. She said there is much opposition in Jena and feels this would have a negative impact on the community.

Commissioner Valentine said that many people in Jena are opposed to this.

Commissioner Stephenson said he wants to be fair to everyone.

Commissioner Mills said the Board always ask if there is any opposition to these requests before we vote. He said the other campground didn't have this kind of opposition voiced. He said it sounds like the public does not want this expansion.

Ms. Pat Cole spoke to the Board regarding the number of children running lose on the streets in Jena. She said the parents just turn them lose on golf carts and four wheelers.

Mr. Joe Hunt said the sewer is waiting on him for the permit. He said they have water already.

Commissioner Valentine said he has nothing against the Hunt's making a living. He said he has been given a petition opposing the campground.

Attorney Chris Scott said the four wheelers and golf carts are not an issue for the campground. He said the campground will not affect the road or the area. He said the Hunt's are requesting to expand the site and stimulate the economy. He said this is a positive change.

Commissioner Mills asked how 31 more camper spaces cannot affect the area.

Attorney Scott said this will be a benefit to Jena.

Wendy Hunt, owner Piddler's Point

Ms. Hunt spoke to the Board and said they bought the property in 2015 at a foreclosure sale and need to expand. She said they have customers come back year after year and they are turning some away because they don't have enough spaces. She said the new campground down the road could expand, so why can't they expand their business too. She said this will be an improvement to the area and develop tourism for Dixie County.

Commissioner Hatch said the people are opposed and therefore the Board is opposed. He said they also must work on the assessments.

Mr. Wright informed the Board that the site plans require setbacks and a privacy fence.

Commissioner Hatch said the Dollar Store had to do a beautification project.

Mr. Wright said that the campground can do a privacy fence and some landscaping.

Mr. Glenn Biggerstaff said that the Lucky Charm RV Park in Old Town was passed with objection from the neighbors. He said the county needs development.

Ms. Jill Holt said she sends people to other places to rent because there is nothing in Jena to rent and everything is on the Taylor County side. She said the traffic will be the same.

Attorney Scott requested to be able to explain the benefits of the campground expansion. He said that scallop season is very busy, and the fishing is good too. He said this area is in high demand year-round. He said this can be more revenue for the county and more employment opportunities.

He said this can boost the economy. He said that there is possibly a lack of communication, but they can work with the church on the issue.

Commissioner Mills asked if they have spoken with the residents that live in Jena. Attorney Scott replied no full-time residents.

Mr. Hunt said his brother use to own Fiddler's Restaurant in Steinhatchee.

Commissioner Mills said Dixie County is becoming like the towns that people are leaving behind. He said we are turning into the place you are trying to escape. He said the people are voicing their opposition.

A concerned citizen spoke to the Board and complained about the state of the Public Boat Ramps and Parks. He said the parks are dirty, the bathrooms are trashed, and sewage is overflowing at Shirred Island. He said the county charges people to stay in these conditions. He said he is speaking up for Piddler's Point.

Attorney Scott thanked the Board for their consideration and asked them to reconsider the benefits to the community.

***Commissioner Valentine made the motion to deny the request for the Special Exception by Piddler's Point. Commissioner Mills seconded.***

Commissioner Stephenson requested the Board table this issue and allow then time to speak to the community and then come back before the Board.

***Commissioner Mills said he will rescind his second and give them more time.***

***Commissioner Hatch made the motion to table the issue. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved to table this issue.***

Commissioner Hatch told the Hunt's they have two weeks to come back before the Board.

A petition by **Robert Carl** requesting 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 (ESA4) zoning district, in accordance with the petition dated 04/16/2021 to be located on the property as described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 18-08-14-3722-0000-0160 800 NE 807TH AVE , OLD TOWN FL. ; 0).

**(Commission District 1, Jody Stephenson)**

Ms. Julie Herring appeared before the Board and read the Special Exception request made by Robert Carl.

***Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to approve the Special Exception requested by Robert Carl. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.***



A petition by **Donald Dukes & Lisa Graham** requesting 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 (ESA4) zoning district, in accordance with the petition dated 04/21/2021 to be located on the property as described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 16-13-12-2927-0000-0060 80 SE 371 ST. , OLD TOWN FL. 32680 ; 0).

**(Commission District 3, Mark Hatch)**

Ms. Julie Herring appeared before the Board and read the Special Exception request made by Donald Dukes & Lisa Graham.

**Commissioner Hatch made the motion to table the Special Exception requested by Donald Dukes & Lisa Graham. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.**

A petition by **Kim & Karen Ingle** requesting 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 (ESA4) zoning district, in accordance with the petition dated 05/11/2021 to be located on the property as described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 11-10-13-0000-4549-0900 559 NE 197 AVENUE, OLD TOWN, FL 32680; 3).

**(Commission District 2, W.C. Mills)**

Ms. Julie Herring appeared before the Board and read the Special Exception request made by Kim & Karen Ingle.

**Commissioner Mills made the motion to approve the Special Exception requested by Kim & Karen Ingle. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.**

A petition by **David Rose** requesting 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 (ESA4) zoning district, in accordance with the petition dated 05/14/2021 to be located on the property as described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 16-13-12-2927-0000-1720 160 SE 330 ST. , OLD TOWN FL. ; 0).

**(Commission District 3, Mark Hatch)**

Ms. Julie Herring appeared before the Board and read the Special Exception request made by David Rose.

**Commissioner Hatch made the motion to table the Special Exception requested by David Rose. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.**

A petition by **Anna Wendt** requesting 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 (ESA4) zoning district, in accordance with the petition dated 05/14/2021 to

be located on the property as described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 19-13-12-2952-000G-0030 20 SE 870 AVE , OLD TOWN FL. ; 0). **(Commission District 3 Mark Hatch)**

Ms. Julie Herring appeared before the Board and read the Special Exception request made by Anna Wendt.

***Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve the Special Exception requested by Anna Wendt. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.***

A petition by **Arthur & Amber Glass** requesting 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 (ESA4) zoning district, in accordance with the petition dated 05/19/2021 to be located on the property as described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 08-08-14-6876-0000-000C 2240 NE HWY 340, BRANDFORD FL. 32008; 1). **(Commission District 1, Jody Stephenson)**

Ms. Julie Herring appeared before the Board and read the Special Exception request made by Arthur & Amber Glass.

***Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to table the Special Exception requested by Arthur & Amber Glass. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.***

A petition by **Brian Patrick Gavette** requesting a **Special Exception** to be granted, as provided in Section 4.4.5 subparagraph (9) of the Dixie County Land Development Regulations to permit one recreational vehicle (A4) zoning district, in accordance with the petition dated 06/14/2021 to be located on the property as described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 21-09-13-4321-0000-0200 1010 NE 394TH AVE , OLD TOWN FL. ; 3). **(Commission District 4, Jamie Storey)**

Ms. Julie Herring appeared before the Board and read the Special Exception request made by Brian Patrick Gavette.

***Commissioner Mills made the motion to approve the Special Exception requested by Brian Patrick Gavette. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.***

A petition by **Peter Toth** requesting 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 (ESA4) zoning district, in accordance with the petition dated 06/29/2021 to be located on the property as described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 13-09-13-4051-0000-0360 540 NE 817TH AVE , OLD TOWN FL. 32680; 2). **(Commission District 1, Jody Stephenson)**

Ms. Julie Herring appeared before the Board and read the Special Exception request made by Peter Toth.

**RESOLUTION 2021-102**

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 AN RESIDENTIAL SINGLE FAMILY/MOBILE HOME AREA (RSF/MH1) ZONING DISTRICT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PETITION DATED FEBRUARY 05, 2021.

***Piddler's Point***

***This Resolution was Tabled by the Board.***

**RESOLUTION 2021-103**

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 ENVIROMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREA (ESA/4) ZONING DISTRICT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PETITION DATED APRIL 16, 2021.

***Robert Carl***

Ms. Julie Herring appeared before the Board and read Resolution 2021-103 aloud and by title only.

***Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve Resolution 2021-103 in support of Robert Carl. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.***

**RESOLUTION 2021-104**

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 ENVIROMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREA (ESA/4) ZONING DISTRICT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PETITION DATED APRIL 21, 2021.

***Donald Dukes***

***This Resolution was Tabled by the Board.***

**RESOLUTION 2021-105**

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

ENVIROMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREA (ESA/4) ZONING DISTRICT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PETITION DATED MAY 11, 2021.

***Kim Ingle***

Ms. Julie Herring appeared before the Board and read Resolution 2021-105 aloud and by title only.

***Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve Resolution 2021-105 in support of Kim Ingle. Commissioner Valentine seconded. Board approved.***

**RESOLUTION 2021-106**

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 RECERECATIONAL VEHICLE IN AN ENVIROMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREA (ESA/4) ZONING DISTRICT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PETITION DATED MAY 14, 2021.

***David Rose***

***This Resolution was Tabled by the Board.***

**RESOLUTION 2021-107**

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 RECERECATIONAL VEHICLE IN AN ENVIROMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREA (ESA/4) ZONING DISTRICT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PETITION DATED MAY 14, 2021.

***Anna Wendt***

Ms. Julie Herring appeared before the Board and read Resolution 2021-107 aloud and by title only.

***Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve Resolution 2021-107 in support of Anna Wendt. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.***

**RESOLUTION 2021-108**

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 RECERECATIONAL VEHICLE IN AN ENVIROMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREA (ESA/4) ZONING DISTRICT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PETITION DATED MAY 19, 2021.

*Arthur Glass*

*This Resolution was Tabled by the Board.*

**RESOLUTION 2021-109**

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 SUBPARAGRAPH (9) OF THE DIXIE COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS TO PERMIT ONE RECERATIONAL VEHICLE IN AN AGRICULTURAL AREA (A/4) ZONING DISTRICT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PETITION DATED JUNE 14, 2021.

***Brian Gavette***

Ms. Julie Herring appeared before the Board and read Resolution 2021-109 aloud and by title only.

***Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve Resolution 2021-109 in support of Brian Gavette. Commissioner Valentine seconded. Board approved.***

**RESOLUTION 2021-110**

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 RECERATIONAL VEHICLE IN AN ENVIROMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREA (ESA/4) ZONING DISTRICT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PETITION DATED JUNE 29, 2021.

***Peter Toth***

Ms. Julie Herring appeared before the Board and read Resolution 2021-110 aloud and by title only.

***Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve Resolution 2021-110 in support of Peter Toth. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.***

**RESOLUTION 2021-111**

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 RECERATIONAL VEHICLE IN AN ENVIROMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREA (ESA/4) ZONING DISTRICT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PETITION DATED JULY 12, 2021.

***Steven Mergargel***

Ms. Julie Herring appeared before the Board and read Resolution 2021-111 aloud and by title only.

*Commissioner Mills made the motion to approve Resolution 2021-111 in support of Steven Mergargel. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.*

**JAN PAYNE, STEINHATCHEE METHODIST CHURCH**

Ms. Payne had nothing further to discuss.

**MARK REBLIN, BIG BEND WATER AUTHORITY**

Mr. Mark Reblin appeared before the Board to present the Big Bend Water Authority Annual Budget for the 2021-2022 year. He informed the Board that Taylor County has approved the Budget. He informed the Board that they are in the process of upgrading the sewer plant. He said the system has increased from 50,000 gallons a day to 125,000 gallons. He said their operating revenue has increased and they have seen a five percent growth.

*Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve the BBWA annual Budget for 2021-2022. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.*

**FIRE AND SOLID WASTE ASSESSMENT**

Mr. Jeff Rackley and Ms. Heather Encinosa from Nabors, Giblin & Nickerson appeared before the Board to go over the Fire and Solid waste Assessment.

Manager Cannon spoke to the Board and informed them that over the over the past five years the EMS and Fire account balances have been continuously dropping. He said they have been looking at this for the past several years and trying to find options to help. He said the services provided over the past years exceed the revenues and resources. He said that local governments are strictly taxed paid. He said the only options are to either cut operations or raise taxes. He said they have done a study for the past two years and gathered data to help make the decision. He said this is not a spur of the moment decision. He said that he is the fifth generation to live in Dixie County, so this decision affects his family too. He said there has been some opposition to this assessment voiced in several phone calls and in nine letters since the public was noticed.

Ms. Encinosa began the presentation with discussion on the Fire Assessment. She said back in June the Board discussed the proposed Resolution 2021-86 for the Fire Assessment. She said revisions were made that amended improvement codes. She said the Board can lower the rate but cannot raise it any further. She said the assessment would be \$125.00 per year for residential properties, and \$.12 per square foot for non residential properties, and \$33.00 per parcel of vacant land less than 160 acres, and \$33.00 plus and additional \$.10 an acre for vacant land in excess of 160 acres. She said this will bring in 1.5 million dollars for the Fire Assessment.

Ms. Encinosa continued with the presentation of the Solid Waste Assessment. She said back in June the Board discussed the proposed Resolution 2021-85 for the Solid Waste Assessment.

She said revisions were made that amended improvement codes. She said the Board can lower the rate but cannot raise it any further. She said the assessment would be for \$180.00 per year for residential properties, and \$159.00 for non residential properties. She said this will bring in 1.7 million dollars for the Solid Waste Assessment.

Commissioner Storey said the notices were sent to the public and it was published in the newspaper, but he feels like the public is confused and have many questions.

Ms. Encinosa said the assessment cost to the public would be \$125.00 plus \$180.00 for a total of \$305.00.

Commissioner Storey asked for clarification what is the current cost.

Manager Cannon replied the current costs are \$135.00 for Solid Waste, and \$40.00 for Fire, and \$5.00 for mosquito.

Commissioner Stephenson asked if the public is required to vote by statute.

Ms. Encinosa replied no, the public is not required to vote on this by statute.

Commissioner Storey opened the floor for public comments. He requested that everyone state their name for the record and informed them they will each have three minutes to speak.

Dave Carroll spoke to the Board and said he hauls his own garbage and recycles everything that he can. He said that the people here for vacations are generating the extra garbage. He said he does agree that the Fire Department and the EMS Department deserve more, however he feels that the garbage assessment is not needed. He suggested the Board have tags to prove residency for garbage and have the out of town people pay to drop off their garbage.

A concerned citizen spoke to the Board and said he doesn't understand the need to raise the garbage assessment. He said that people are coming from other counties to the dump their garbage. He said his property is under water, so he doesn't get sprayed for mosquitos right now anyway.

Norman Strickland spoke to the Board and said he has some property in Jena with two small homes on it. He said his family stays there about four times per year. He said he feels that \$180.00 for the garbage assessment on each household is too much to pay.

A concerned citizen spoke to the Board and said she lives in Suwannee, and owns two properties, and is a Veteran on limited income. She informed the Board that she already pays higher taxes and feels like she doesn't have the proper facilities afforded to her. She said the Board owes a better explanation to the public.

Chris Cambell from Old Town spoke to the Board about the coincidence of taxes being raised while in the pandemic. She said many people have lost their jobs and she was forced to retire due to health issues. She said her husband is disabled and they are living on social security income. She asked if there are any tax breaks for people. She said this assessment increase would be too much of a hardship for people.

Brenda Wulford from Old Town said she pays someone to haul off her garbage and she don't want to pay for both this service and the assessment.

Doyle Thomas spoke to the Board and said that people don't understand the exact amount of the assessment increase.

Ms. Encinosa answered the Fire Assessment is \$125.00 per year for each dwelling.

Mr. Thomas asked about farmland.

Commissioner Stephenson replied that is exempt.

Mr. Thomas asked about vacant land.

Commissioner Stephenson replied \$33.00.

Mr. Thomas asked about timberland and agricultural land.

Commissioner Stephenson said that is exempt.

Manager Cannon said they can give a list to Mr. Thomas for a better explanation.

Ms. Encinosa said that agricultural land is exempted by the state and there is no local control over that.

Loraine Thomas spoke to the Board and said they own 50 properties from one acre to five acres. She said the assessment increase would impact them significantly.

William Wiggins spoke to the Board about Joppa Lodge #4. He said they are an exempt charitable organization and a fraternity with memberships for the past 139 years. He said they have been listed as a commercial building. He said they are not a business and don't generate garbage. He said the assessment will cause them to lose money that they would be able to give to charities and scholarships.

A concerned citizen from Horseshoe spoke to the Board and said that the Roll Off site is closed sometimes and there is a lot of tourist traffic and they leave trash at the gate. She requested that someone be put there to man the site regularly.

A concerned citizen spoke to the Board and said they must run the county like a business. They said that more people are moving into the county. They said they own a business, and this will be a hardship. They said they understand there hasn't been an increase in the assessment in 19 years and they don't want to lose services or volunteers.

Cheryl Valentine read a letter from the owners of Cheeks Pharmacy and Evans Square to the Board. The letter stated they felt the additional assessments are unreasonable and would be a burden for businesses and asked the Board to reconsider. Burden on businesses too.



Charles Scott spoke to the Board and suggested using the Voter Registration Card as a form of identification and proof of residency for the roll off sites.

Lisa Ganus spoke to the Board and said they need more paid Fire Fighters. She said a lot of people have fallen on hard times and have a limited income. She more people are living off the system these days. She asked what the extra assessment money is paying for.

Gina King spoke to the Board and said she does not agree with the assessment. She said her neighbors are burning trash and there are people living in campers with no sewer or electricity. She asked if she must pay for those people too. She said that she is trying to do things the legal way while others are not.

Debbie Wulforth asked the Board where the extra money is going. She said the Board needs to justify the Solid Waste increase and the public needs to know. She said the county must move forward with businesses or the community will die.

Gary Williams spoke to the Boards and said he has no problem with the Fire Assessment amount. He said he hires someone from Levy County to get his trash and feels he should not have to pay for both.

Pam Herring Edmonds spoke to the Board and agreed a tax increase is needed; however, it should be a tax on gas. She said everyone pays the tax not just landowners.

Kelly Chairs spoke to the Board and said she is a small flower shop and smoke shop business owner and can't afford the assessment increase. She said she already pays \$200.00 more for trash because she is within the city limits.

John Rollison spoke to the Board and said he owns several rental properties within the city limits. He said some are rented and some are not. He said he has no problem with the Fire Assessment, but the Solid Waste Assessment is too high.

A concerned citizen from Suwannee spoke to the Board and said that Dixie County is a business and the people voted for the Board to make decisions and they ask that the Board listen. They said they felt there is a lack of communication and there is no transparency. They said the public hasn't heard some of the responses and clarification of the Audits and the Budget.

A concerned citizen spoke to the Board and said the public is not sure where they are as a county. They asked if the 2019 and 2020 Budget is completed. They asked why the tax is set at the maximum amount allowed. They asked where the money is going.

Dwight Petty from Old Town spoke to the Board and said he has no problem with the Fire Assessment. He said he is retired and on a fixed income. He said the rate should be lower and everyone should pay.

Rob Nelson from Old Town spoke to the Board and said he is okay with the Fire Assessment. He said he does have an issue with the Solid Waste Assessment.

James Ward from Branford spoke to the Board and gave his support and said this must be done.

A concerned citizen asked if they could get a waiver if they use a garbage pick-up service.

Commissioner Stephenson said that Waste Pro is dumping out of county garbage in Dixie County and they cannot charge Waste Pro for this.

A concerned citizen asked if it is possible to assess the vendor.

Brenda Rodriguez from Horseshoe spoke to the Board and said she understands the need for the increase. She thanked the EMS and Fire crews. She said she lives in a two-story home and the Fire Department doesn't have a ladder to reach the second story. She said many homes must be higher if they are on the coast. She asked where the money is going.

A concerned citizen asked if the impact fees have been discontinued and when will the Board vote on the Millage rates.

Commissioner Hatch replied the impact fees are still in force and they will not vote on the Millage rates yet.

A concerned citizen from Old Town spoke to the Board and said she also uses a pick-up service, Sunshine Waste Management, for trash. She asked for clarification on the dumping fees that she is paying them and said she doesn't want to pay for both.

Commissioner Stephenson asked her to find out who they are paying and ask for proof of payment.

Daryl Lucas from Old Town spoke to the Board and said he is retired and moved here from Tampa and has no issue with the Fire assessment. He asked if this would increase every year. He suggested other choices like maybe a gas tax.

A concerned citizen spoke to the Board and said the public wants to know where the funds are going. He said the Roll Off sites for Horseshoe and Suwannee are not maned and a Fire House is needed with proper equipment.

Barry Johnson from Old Town spoke to the Board said he pays the School Tax and has no children. He said he has no problem with the Fire Assessment, but he does have an issue with the trash. He said there are people living illegally around the county in homes and campers with code enforcement issues. He said the county needs to clean this up and have someone to address these complaints. He said he has neighbors who have been living in this situation for months.

Karen Ingle spoke to the Board and said the Board needs to stop allowing these Special Exceptions. She said that someone has moved in seven campers and left them on a property in her neighborhood. She said they need staff to look around the county for these issues.

Code Enforcement officer Steve Fremmen said the county is addressing these issues.

Commissioner Mills said it is harder to get these structures gone once they are moved in. He said that the Code Enforcement Department was started to handle these issues. He said they must go through the court system, and they are working on this.

Commissioner Hatch said that these people won't be getting any power turned on.

Mr. Jonson said the mobile homes are older than five years and people are already living in them.

Commissioner Mills said this is a lengthy process.

Mr. Fremmen said they have been dealing with some of these for 18 months now and are still in court.

Commissioner Hatch said the county has a system in place to handle code enforcement issues with compliance and fines. He said the county has been trying to clean up these issues. He suggested the public issue a written complaint and it will be addressed.

Mr. Thomas spoke to the Board and asked them to consider people's needs and to be fair and impartial.

A concerned citizen spoke to the Board and suggested the Board address these issues before they get out of hand. He said that people are living in campers without power. He said these sites need to be inspected.

Darian Foster from the Purvis Landing area spoke to the Board and said the garbage is coming from somewhere else

Commissioner Hatch said the Board has been waiting and not wanting to increase taxes. He said that he owns multiple properties too. He said he has studied this and been reluctant. He said the county must have a Fire and EMS Department to save lives. He said there is a lot of traffic on the holidays. He suggested they man all the Firehouses during the holidays. He said we all create trash. He said some of the public is paying to have their garbage picked up, but the county is not charging the vendor to dump it.

Commissioner Stephenson said he likes the idea of stickers to prove residency and asked why they still don't have this implemented. He said he has spoken with other counties. He said that Jefferson County charges \$280.00 for their garbage assessment. He said that Dixie County must

take the trash from the roll off sites to the transfer station and then separate the garbage and then haul the garbage out of county to Greenville, FL. He said they need to replace some equipment. He said they need to hire more staff. He said they don't have enough people to fight a fire. He said the Ambulance crew and the Road Department had to help the Fire crews fight a fire recently. He said that taxes have not been raised in 19 years. He said this cannot be partially done, it must be done at the full amount and even then, the county will still be behind.

Commissioner Hatch said this cannot wait another 20 years. He said they did a rate study and looked at setting amount and increases.

A concerned citizen spoke to the Board and requested they tell the public what they are paying for and explain everything to the public.

Commissioner Hatch said that is why we are here today. He said he has an issue with the Commercial side of the assessment. He said that having a fire inspection should be able to help with insurance.

Ms. Encinosa reminded the Board that the Assessment Study that was done was on a five-year projection rate based on the data that was provided.

Commissioner Storey said that most people will complain on the commercial side of Solid Waste Assessment.

Mr. Jeff Rackley said they don't know the exact tonnage that a business would create. He said estimates were created based on the data provided.

Ms. Chairs spoke to the Board and said her garbage assessment is wrong. She said she shares a dumpster with the Cross City Library and others.

Commissioner Stephenson asked why a commercial operation is using a county dumpster. Ms. Chairs replied the city wouldn't pick up their blue dumpster, so she gave it back to them.

Manager Cannon said the data from the Town of Cross City was pulled from the Waste Pro contract. He said the data for the county was from the scale tickets.

Mr. Rackley said that any errors with the assessments can be fixed.

Ms. Encinosa informed the Board that they can make error adjustments.

Ms. Encinosa recommended the Board approve Resolution 2021-113 for the Fire Assessment. ***Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve Resolution 2021-113 for the Fire assessment. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.***

Ms. Encinosa recommended the Board approve Resolution 2021-114 for the Solid Waste Assessment.

***Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to approve Resolution 2021-114 for the Solid Waste Assessment. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.***

Dixie County Tax Collector, Michelle Cannon asked the Board about getting the tax roll from the Property Appraiser. She asked if all the assessments are included. She said in the past this process would start with the Property Appraiser and then Building and Zoning would add their data and then they would have the correct tax roll. She said she understands the Property Appraiser will not be in that same loop this year. She said her office can make corrections, but there needs to be a process and approvals and verifications for resident and commercial. She said there will still be corrections after the roll.

Ms. Encinosa said there is corrections of errors and omissions allowed in the county code. She said the Board can file the paperwork and do this.

**The Board recessed at 2:08 PM.**

**The Board reconvened at 2:38 PM.**

**KEITH SEGAR, SUWANNEE WATER AND SEWER**

Mr. Keith Segar was not present for this meeting.

**GREG BAILEY, NORTH FLORIDA PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

Mr. Greg Bailey appeared before the Board and informed them that they will need to hold another public hearing today for the CDBG projects.

He informed the Board that the Courthouse Security conceptual plans are wrapping up. He said he will be talking with everyone next week and bring this to the Board meeting.

Mr. Bailey informed the Board that they need to add two more people to the Citizens Advisory Task Force (CATF).

He recommended Ms. Debra Sweem And Mr. Paul Martin.

***Commissioner Hatch made the motion to add Ms. Sweem and Mr. Martin to the Citizens Advisory Task Force (CATF). Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.***

Mr. Bailey said they are working on the seawall grant. He informed the Board that the MIT grants are open, and they can apply for three.

He said the CDBG grant is separate from other two grants. He said the MIT grant is for the seawall and the Fire station. He said the CDBG and the CV grants are not open for applications yet.

***Commissioner Hatch made the motion to submit the seawall and the Fire station under the MIT. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.***

***Commissioner Mills made the motion to go back into a public hearing. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.***

**SHANNON WILLIAMS, CDBG GRANT**

Ms. Williams appeared before the Board and informed them this grant will open in October 2021. She said the county is eligible for up to \$750,000.00 in funds. She said these funds can be used for water and sewer and streets and drainage. She said they need citizen input for the projects.

Mr. Glenn Biggerstaff asked if these funds can be used for better Broadband access. Ms. Williams replied no.

Mr. Bailey said there is other money available for Broadband. He said that COVID money can be used for this.

Ms. Williams said they need to gather comments and information from the public and take this back to the County Manger and work on this.

A concerned citizen suggested they address water quality issues and the replacement of culverts

A concerned citizen suggested they address the need for streetlights along Hwy 349 for bicycles and pedestrians.

A concerned citizen suggested they address the flooded roads.

Mr. James Ward asked if the funds can be used to fix the boat ramp at the Fish House property in Suwannee.

Ms. Williams said boat ramps are handled with separate funding through FWC.

Commissioner Stephenson asked if they can be used for drainage.

Ms. Williams said yes. She said they have some photos of the flooded areas.

Mr. Bailey said they will need to have the Citizens Advisory Task Force (CATF) meeting at another time and bring the information to the Board.

***Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to move forward with the grant applications. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.***

***Commissioner Mills made the motion to go back into the Regular Commission Meeting. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.***

**JERED LIZOTTE, LOCKLEAR AND ASSOCIATES**

Mr. Bailey informed the Board that Mr. John Locklear was here today but had to leave. He said he will present his information to the Board. He said the Neely Hicks Road permit plans are complete and the punch list for Grady Hires will be done next week.

**CINDY BELLOT, LIBRARY DIRECTOR**

Ms. Cindy Bellot appeared before the Board and thanked them for their patience. She said the Library is hosting a Health and Wellness support group on Mondays at 5:30 PM.

**STEVE FREMEN, VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER**

Mr. Steve Fremen had nothing further to discuss.

Commissioner Mills asked about the status on the crab trap issue.

Mr. Fremen replied they are waiting on the Magistrate for an Order of Stay.

Attorney Pierce Kelley appeared before the Board on behalf of County Attorney Michael Osteen. He said they had a hearing last week and had received a Motion to Extend the Stay. He said the defendant argued that the Code Enforcement process took too long. He said the Magistrate will extend everything until October. He said that Judge Johnson has recused herself from hearing this case and that Judge Feagle will preside over the matter and decide on the appeal. He said this will be a one-hour hearing and should possible be resolved. He said the defendant can appeal the Order from Judge Feagle. He said the process is moving forward.

Commissioner Mills asked if they do another appeal how long that will take.

Attorney Kelley said the next appeal will be more difficult. He said that he believes that Judge Feagle will hear the case an issue an opinion quickly.

Commissioner Mills requested that he be notified of the next hearing so that he may attend.

Commissioner Hatch said the case has already been won by the county. He said they are now dealing with the appeal process.

Attorney Kelley said the Magistrate issued the Stay and then extended it.

**DWAYNE CHAUNCEY, MOSQUITO CONTROL DIRECTOR**

Mr. Dwayne Chauncey had nothing to discuss at this time.

**MICHAEL LATSON, SOLID WASTE DIRECTOR**

Solid Waste Director Michael Latson appeared before the Board and informed them that he has two trailer and a roll off truck down and needing repairs. He said they have a two-week waiting list for rental dumpsters because he had to use these at the roll off sites. He said they can accommodate the school requests.

Commissioner Stephenson asked if he had sent a dumpster to the Millican house fire. He asked how the attendants are doing with separating the C & D materials and sending people to the transfer station. He asked what the status is on the dump stickers.

Mr. Latson said he would prefer the stickers be purchased at the transfer station.

***Commissioner Hatch made the motion to have some dump stickers printed up. Commissioner Valentine seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon said he will get together with Mr. Latson and come up with a design for the dump stickers.

Commissioner Mills reminded Mr. Latson that he had instructed him to order five more dumpsters and he would pay for them himself. He said he did not tell him to put the rentals at the roll off sites.

Ms. Barbara Cummings asked about getting the trash stickers when you get your car tags. Commissioner Stephenson said there is not enough staff at the Tax Collector office to handle this.

Commissioner Hatch suggested they give them out at the roll off sites.

#### **LEON WRIGHT, BUILDING AND ZONING**

Building Official Leon Wright appeared before the Board and informed them that he has had a request from a citizen for a larger power pole. He said he will recommend that this be denied due to the rules. He said that larger poles turn into code enforcement issues later.

Mr. Robert Spurling spoke to the Board and said he applied for a Special Exception in April for a 60-amp pole. He said that he was never told he couldn't get a larger pole. He said he has a Motor Home and needs a grinder pump.

Commissioner Stephenson said these Special Exceptions are limited to a 60-amp pole.

Mr. Spurling said he Motor Home takes 50 amps to operate, plus the grinder pump and well take another 15 amps each. He said he doesn't want to trip the breakers.

Mr. Wright said he has gotten slammed on Facebook. He said he must enforce the rules and be fair to everyone.

***Commissioner Mills made the motion to deny the request for a larger power pole by Mr. Robert Spurling. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board denied this request.***

Mr. Wright requested to be excused from the meeting. He said he needs some time off because he has been putting in some long hours at the Building Department and has worked through his scheduled vacation.



Commissioner Stephenson thanked him for working through his vacation to help catch up on the back log of work in that department. He said the Board appreciates you and will get you some more money for the extra work.

Mr. Wright said he has been trying to get all the applications done.  
Commissioner Hatch thanked him.

Commissioner Mills expressed his thanks to Mr. Wright. He said that the Board does make decisions on some of the rules. He said this takes a lot of time and effort. He said they can't be changing the rules for all these Special Exceptions.

**DARIAN BROWN, DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**

Director of Emergency Services Darian Brown appeared before the Board and thanked them for everything. He informed the Board that the county has had five to eight inches of rain in seven days and to expect three to four more tomorrow. He said the river will crest in the next few days. He informed the Board that they had received a call from North Florida Regional Hospital notifying them that they cannot accept anymore patients at this time because they are unable to give oxygen to patients. He said they are having to transfer patients to other hospitals, and they need more ambulances to do this. He said if Dixie County were to participate in these transfers they would be reimbursed. He said that Shands is still receiving patients and they can transport to other hospitals if necessary.

Director Brown informed the public and the Board that they would use the Assessment money to hire more staff and get newer equipment. He said he would like to ask the Board to consider getting a three to five-year loan to purchase a Fire truck.

***Commissioner Mills made the motion to get a loan for a Fire truck. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.***

Commissioner Hatch asked how much a Ladder Truck cost.

Director Brown replied 1.5 million dollars and you need six people to operate it.

He said they can handle a two-story building fire now. However, they don't have anything that can handle a fire at the new hotel in Fanning Springs.

He said that there is a shortage of volunteer fire man across the state. He said the three coastal communities generate less than 200 calls versus 5,000 calls in town plus floods, hurricanes, and other natural disasters.

Commissioner Mills said the assessment will allow the county to hire more staff and get new equipment. He said right now the call load doesn't warrant manning all the coastal sites full time. He said that Old Town has a large population and the Fire Station is in bad shape.

Commissioner Hatch said the coastal communities are very busy during scallop season and with holiday traffic.

**GAIL CARTER, INDIGENT CARE**

Ms. Gail Carter had nothing to discuss at this time.

**HOLLY HOUGHTON, COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT**

Ms. Holly Houghton had nothing to discuss at this time.

**ANGIE CROWLEY, HUMAN RESOURCES SUPERVISOR**

Human Resource Supervisor, Angie Crowley appeared before the Board to request support for the Quarterback Club and advertise on a new banner.

*Commissioner Hatch made the motion to purchase a new advertisement banner from the Quarterback Club. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.*

Mr. Matt Ferguson expressed his thanks to the Board for their support. He said he has a contact at a print shop, and they said they can print the dump stickers within seven to ten days.

**DUANE CANNON, COUNTY MANAGER**

County Manager Duane Cannon appeared before the Board to discuss several matters.

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to execute the 2021-2022 Small County Consolidated Waste Grant for Dixie County in the amount of \$93,750.00.

*Commissioner Mills made the motion to approve the 2021-2022 Small County Consolidated Waste Grant. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.*

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to execute the Task Order for Design Engineering Services, Bidding, Contract Procurement for Darabi and Associates for the CR 340 from SR 349 to Suwannee River Bridge Widening and Re-Surfacing Road Project.

*Commissioner Mills made the motion to approve the Task Order for Design Engineering Services, Bidding, Contract Procurement for Darabi and Associates for the CR 340 from SR 349 to Suwannee River Bridge Widening and Re-Surfacing Road Project. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.*

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to execute the Task Work Order for NFPS to conduct CEI Services for the CR 340 Road Project.

*Commissioner Mills made the motion to approve the Task Work Order for NFPS to conduct CEI Services for the CR 340 Road Project. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.*

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to execute the Task Order for Design Engineering Services for NFPS for the NE 362<sup>nd</sup> Ave & 364<sup>th</sup> Ave from NE 594<sup>th</sup> St to SR 349 Widening and Re-surfacing Road Project.

***Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve the Task Order for Design Engineering Services for NFPS for the NE 362<sup>nd</sup> Ave & 364<sup>th</sup> Ave from NE 594<sup>th</sup> St to SR 349 Widening and Re-surfacing Road Project. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to execute the Task Order for CEI Services for Locklear & Associates for the NE 362<sup>nd</sup> Ave & 364<sup>th</sup> Ave from NE 594<sup>th</sup> St to SR 349 Widening and Re-surfacing Road Project.

***Commissioner Mills made the motion to approve the Task Order for CEI Services for Locklear & Associates for the NE 362<sup>nd</sup> Ave & 364<sup>th</sup> Ave from NE 594<sup>th</sup> St to SR 349 Widening and Re-surfacing Road Project. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to execute the Change Order for Darabi & Associates for the Neely Hicks SE 633<sup>rd</sup> St from CR 55A to US 19 in the reduced amount of (\$4,241.48). Removal of one side drain from the scope.

***Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve the Change Order for Darabi & Associates for the Neely Hicks SE 633<sup>rd</sup> St from CR 55A to US 19 in the reduced amount of (\$4,241.48). Removal of one side drain from the scope. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to execute the Notice of Completion for the Neely Hicks SE 633<sup>rd</sup> St from CR 55A to US 19 Resurfacing Road Project.

Commissioner Hatch said he is not happy with this hump in the road.

***Commissioner Mills made the motion to approve the Notice of Completion for the Neely Hicks SE 633<sup>rd</sup> St from CR 55A to US 19 Resurfacing Road Project. Commissioner Valentine seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to execute the FAA Grant for the Cross City Airport to Rehabilitate Taxiway A – Design in the amount of \$139,520.00. This will need to be signed electronically by Chairman Jamie Storey and attorney Michael Osteen.

***Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve the FAA Grant for the Cross City Airport to Rehabilitate Taxiway A – Design in the amount of \$139,520.00. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to execute the Task Work Order for CEI Services for Passero Associates for the Cross City Airport Taxiway A Project.

*Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve Task Work Order for CEI Services for Passero Associates for the Cross City Airport Taxiway A Project. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.*

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to execute the Task Work Order for Engineering Services for NFPS for the NE 592<sup>nd</sup> St Maintained ROW Map.

*Commissioner Mills made the motion to Task Work Order for Engineering Services for NFPS for the NE 592<sup>nd</sup> St Maintained ROW Map. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.*

Manager Cannon said he has checked into the idea of a carnival and has reached out to Crystal Blackwell, who is the contact for the carnival that was set up in the City of Newberry. He said he has sent an emailed but has had no response.

Manager Cannon reminded everyone of the Equipment Auction to be held at the Dixie County Public Works Yard this Saturday August 07, 2021 at 9:00 AM. He said people need to register at 8:00 AM.

**MICHAEL OSTEEN, COUNTY ATTORNEY**

Attorney Pierce Kelley had nothing to discuss at this time.

**BARBIE HIGGINBOTHAM, CLERK OF COURT**

Clerk of Court Barbie Higginbotham appeared before the Board to inform them that Ms. Jacki Johnson is out with her husband who had a heart attack.

She said the Auditors are here and Mr. Powell is working on finishing up with the Board Audit and is working on the Department Audits. She expects him to finish by September.

**COUNTY COMMISSION ITEMS**

Commissioner Valentine had nothing more to discuss.

Commissioner Hatch reminded everyone back in 2009 when the wells were going dry. He said the Aquifer Recharge Projects were started and then in 2015 and 2016 the county started to experience flooding issues. He said that somehow and somewhere something was altered. He said they need to establish good line of communication with the Suwannee River Water Management District. He said he felt the gates on the culverts should be done away with. He suggested someone from the Board meet with SRWMD.

Commissioner Mills recommended Commissioner Stephenson for this job.

Commissioner Stephenson commented that he had to get permission to open these gates. He said someone needs to be responsible for doing the job and held accountable.

Commissioner Hatch said the county has over 30 people flooded.

Commissioner Stephenson said he will go to the SRWMD meetings.

Manager Cannon suggested they schedule a meeting for the Director of the SRWMD, Hugh Thomas to come over and meet with Commissioner Stephenson at the County Managers office.

Commissioner Mills said the water table is full and they can't hold more water. He said the water table must be lower to handle the rain.

Commissioner Stephenson said that all the pipes coming this way are blocked.

Commissioner Mills commented on the assessment and said this is not a personal decision or a political decision. He said this must be done. He said if the assessments of people's property are wrong then the errors will be corrected.

Commissioner Stephenson said the county must help people with this flooding.

Director Brown informed the Board that Chris Dooley had called him and said there may be another round of payments for the firefighters from the state and possible some re payment for the volunteers

***Commissioner Hatch made the motion to move the next Commission Meeting back to the School Board Meeting Room. Commissioner Valentine seconded. Board approved.***

Commissioner Hatch requested the Approved Board Minutes be published in the local newspaper.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS**

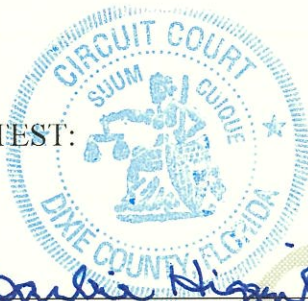
A concerned citizen said this is the first meeting they have attended, and she thanked the Board for being so candid.


**ADJOURN**


Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to adjourn at 4:00 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.*