

# **Emergency Meeting**

## ***Flooding on CR 353 and Task Force Discussion***

***Dixie County Courthouse, Commission Board Room  
214 NE Hwy 351, Cross City, FL 32628  
September 20, 2021 – 5:00 PM***

*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, via telephone  
Barbie Higginbotham, Clerk of Court  
Verna Wilson, Chief Deputy Clerk  
Della Rhymes, Asst. Chief Deputy Clerk

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The Board meeting was called to order at 5:00 Pm 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.

County Manager Duane Cannon appeared before the Board and informed them that the Task Force is requesting the Board's approval of a project to address flooding on CR 353. He said they want to help drain some water from Mathis Lake across the peanut field and connect with Cow Pond and then on to the Stephenson Property and out to Gornto Springs.

Commissioner Stephenson said the NRCS and Suwannee River Water Management District have been looking at this area too. He said that Mathis Lake is boiling like a spring.

Manager Cannon informed the Board that Mr. Kelby Sanchez is on his way to this meeting to speak about this project.

Division Chief Scott Garner appeared before the Board to request their approval of Resolution #2021-145 in support of the local State of Emergency Extension. He said it expires tomorrow.

County Attorney Michael Osteen verified that it is okay for the Board to do this today.

***Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to approve Resolution #2021-145 in support of the local State of Emergency extension. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.***

Commissioner Hatch said he has been riding with Mr. Jerry Chavous on his property looking at the water. He said they were trying to figure out where the water will go next. He said they need to get with Mr. Leon Wright and look at the Lidar maps.

Commissioner Stephenson said that both Mr. Kelby and Mr. Trey Sanchez said they will work with the Board to help with the issue.

Mr. Kelby Sanchez brought some maps for the Board to review of the area in question. He said the water in the fields is higher than the canal.

Manager Cannon asked if there was water over the Gornto Road.

Road Superintendent Stevie Hutchison said it has rained, but the road is not covered with water.

Commissioner Hatch asked how much digging it will take to tie all of this together.

Commissioner Stephenson said they are not sure what will happen on the other side of this project.

Mr. Sanchez cautioned that the wetlands cannot be disturbed. He said that they lease that property from Mr. Hancock for farming and they would need something to show the property owner from the county regarding this project.

Mr. Sanchez said he will supply the culvert for the project.

Manager Cannon asked why they must use a culvert.

Commissioner Stephenson replied to prevent more erosion.

*Commissioner Hatch made the motion for the County to furnish the 38 x 40-foot culvert for the work. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.*

*Commissioner Hatch made the motion for the County to dig the ditch. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.*

Mr. Stevie Hutchison informed the Board he will take the digging tractor from the Rock Pit and will install the culvert first thing tomorrow.

Mr. Sanchez said some trees will need to be removed and take some elevations of the area. He said they can drive equipment between the pivots for access.

Manager Cannon informed Mr. Sanchez the County will need a right of entry signed by the property owner.

Mr. Hutchison told the Board that they have some rock, but it is too wet to crush.

Commissioner Stephenson suggested the look into using crushed concrete to fill in some of these roads.

Manager Cannon said they are getting some boring samples from another property to see if there is rock.

Commissioner Stephenson suggested looking into purchasing materials from other places to use during this time of need.

Commissioner Mills said he would rather not have to buy outside materials.

Commissioner Stephenson said maybe another county may donate some materials to help.

Commissioner Stephenson said that once they start driving across the filed with the tractor do not stop or they will get stuck in the sand.

Commissioner Mills asked when they can start digging rock at the new property.

Manager Cannon replied possible the first week in October to drill the core samples and then do a survey and sign the contract with the landowner. He said they will also need a right of entry signed for the boring samples to be done. He said the cost may be around \$2,500.00.

Commissioner Hatch asked how soon they can have a contract drawn up for the property owner to sign.

Attorney Michael Osteen replied he can get one ready tomorrow.

Mr. Hutchison said the property owner would like the property corners to be located and for the county to maintain the road. He said they will need to get an easement from Four Rivers to haul rock out of that area. He said they will need to have a Port a Potty and a shed for the employees on the property to get certified and display the License number by the Highway.

Commissioner Hatch suggested they cancel the boring request and move forward with the new property acquisition.

Commissioner Hatch asked if anything can be done about the mailboxes along the roads. He suggested they turn around the mailboxes to face the main road and have the mail delivery person stay on the road.

Clerk Higginbotham said that they need to check with the postal service on that.

Manager Cannon said he will check with the postmaster about this. He reminded everyone about the next Board Meeting on September 27, 2021 at 5:30 PM for the Final Budget.

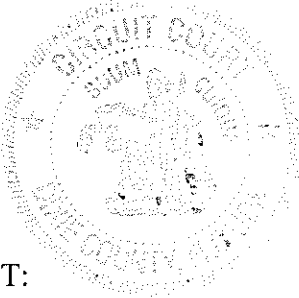
Director of EMS Darian Brown informed the Board that the Suwannee River is at moderate flood stage now.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS**

There were no comments or concerns expressed at this time.

**ADJOURN**

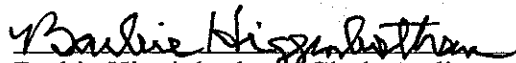
Commissioner Mills made the motion to adjourn at 5:49 PM. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA

ATTEST:

  
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Jamie Storey, Chairman

  
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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.*