

Regular Meeting
Commission Board Room
Dixie County Courthouse
214 NE Hwy 351, Cross City, FL 32628
October 17, 2024 – 6:00 PM

The Board meetings are audio recorded. The public can hear and participate in the meeting via conference call by dialing 1(917)900-1022 and enter code 32628.

COMMISSIONERS

Jody Stephenson, District 1, Vice Chairman
Daniel Wood, District 2
Mark Hatch, District 3
Jamie Storey, District 4, Chairman
David Osteen, District 5

STAFF

John Jenkins, Assistant County Manager
Martha McCaskill, Administrative Asst/Grant Coordinator
Chana Watson, County Attorney
Barbie Higginbotham, Clerk of Court
Verna Wilson, Chief Deputy Clerk
Brenda Royal, Chief Financial Officer
Joannie Morse, Deputy Clerk
Victoria Darkow, Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

The Board Meeting/Workshop was called to order at 6:00 by Commissioner Jamie Storey.

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 Stephenson.

APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES

*Motion to approve 09-23-2024 Emergency Meeting-Hurricane made by Commissioner Osteen.
Seconded by Commissioner Stephenson. Board approved.*

*Motion to approve 09-25-2024 Emergency Meeting-Hurricane Helene made by Commissioner Osteen.
Seconded by Commissioner Wood. Board approved.*

*Motion to approve 10-06-2024 Emergency Meeting-Hurricane Milton made by Commissioner Osteen.
Seconded by Commissioner Stephenson. Board approved.*

VOUCHER APPROVAL

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

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

None were present.

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. Seconded by Commissioner Stephenson. Board approved.

APPLICATIONS for SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS

A petition by **DOBSON, ROSCOE & JOAN** requesting a **Special Exception** to be granted, as provided in Section 4.3.5 SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS of the Dixie County Land Development Regulations to permit one recreational vehicle (ESA) zoning district, in accordance with the petition dated 08/20/2023 to be located on the property as described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 17-08-14-6888-0003-0060 1503 NE 930th St, Old Town, FL 32680.4) (Commission District 1 Jody Stephenson)

Motion to table the Special Exception for Dobson, Roscoe and Joan until the next meeting on 11/07/2024 made by Commissioner Stephenson. Seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.

A petition by **Parrish W F Parrish Delores M C/O Billie Ann Hall** requesting a **Special Exception** to be granted, as provided in Section 4.7.5 SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS of the Dixie County Land Development Regulations to permit one recreational vehicle (RSF/MH) zoning district, in accordance with the petition dated 06/28/2024 to be located on the property as described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 30-13-12-2994-0003-5560 77 SE 908th Ave, Oldtown, FL 32680 (Suwannee); 0). (Commission District 3 Mark Hatch)

Motion to approve the special exception for Parrish W F Parrish Delores M C/O Billie Ann Hall made by Commissioner Hatch. Seconded by Commissioner Wood. Board approved.

Motion to go back to the Board made by Commissioner Osteen. Seconded by Commissioner Stephenson. Board approved.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION 2024-90

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO APPROVE A **SPECIAL EXCEPTION** TO BE GRANTED, AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 4.3.5 SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS OF THE DIXIE COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS TO PERMIT ONE RECREATIONAL VEHICLE IN AN

ENVIROMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREA (ESA) ZONING DISTRICT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PETITION DATED AUGUST 20, 2023. WHEREAS, **DOBSON, ROSCOE & JOAN** has filed a Petition requesting Dixie County Board of County Commissioners to grant a Special Exception as provided in Section 4.3.5 Special Exceptions of the Dixie County Land Development Regulations to permit one recreational vehicle in an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA), Zoning District, by Petition dated August 20, 2023; and WHEREAS, the recreational vehicle is to be located on Dixie County Parcel No.: 17-08-14-6888-0003-0060 (1503 NE 930th ST. Old Town, FL 32680).
(Commission District 1 Jody Stephenson)

Tabled until the next meeting on 11/07/2024

RESOLUTION 2024-91

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 SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS OF THE DIXIE COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS TO PERMIT ONE RECREATIONAL VEHICLE IN AN RESIDENTIAL SINGLE FAMILY/MOBILE HOME AREA (RSF/MH) ZONING DISTRICT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PETITION DATED JUNE 28, 2024. WHEREAS, PARRISH W F PARRISH DELORES M C/O BILLIE ANN HALL have filed a Petition requesting Dixie County Board of County Commissioners to grant a Special Exception as provided in Section 4.7.5 special exceptions of the Dixie County Land Development Regulations to permit one recreational vehicle in an Residential Single Family/Mobile Home Area (RSF/MH), Zoning District, by Petition dated 06/28/2024; and WHEREAS, the recreational vehicle is to be located on Dixie County Parcel No.: 30-13-12-2994-0003-5560 (77 SE 908th AVE, Old Town, FL 32680).
(Commission District 3 Mark Hatch)

Motion to approve Resolution 2024-91 made by Commissioner Hatch. Seconded by Commissioner Stephenson. Board approved.

Mr. Leon Wright stated that the Building and Zoning Department has processed 445 applications since the beginning of the month. He stated that one of the demo permits were for the owner of Good Times Marina. He stated that they are here tonight to let the Board know that they plan on rebuilding, and that it will be an elevated structure.

Mr. Wright stated that there will be a Local Planning Agency Meeting scheduled for next month.

Representative of Good Times Marina, Mr. Robert Judd informed the Board that they have exciting plans for the future and that they had invested money into a food truck to feed the community.

KATRINA VANAERNAM AND SHIELA FRIERSON, DIXIE COUNTY ANTI-DRUG COALITION

Mrs. Katrina VanAernam was not present for the meeting.

KAY MCCALLISTER, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Mrs. Kay McCallister stated that the Tourism took a big hit and that they are focusing on marketing on Highway 19. She stated that they are partnering with Levy and Gilchrist County to market the trails and cycling and that she is trying to help out the local businesses with marketing.

Mrs. McCallister stated that they are offering grants for videos and that Jesse Samply does the local website videos and social media marketing.

The Board discussed allowing RVs to use the County Boat Ramps for the Fiddler Crab Festival on February 14th-16th 2025, but it was suggested that the Board wait to make a motion until they find out if the festival will still take place.

Mrs. McCallister spoke about the ordinance for the Air B&Bs that the Board signed a year ago. She asked that if someone signed up and their Air B&B got destroyed during a hurricane, would they get a refund or to waive all the fees?

Mrs. Barbie Higginbotham stated that it would be better to refund their money.

DARIAN BROWN, DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

Chief Darian Brown updated the Board on a few items.

He stated that during Hurricane Debby one of their ambulances wrecked and that it was covered under insurance. He stated that the insurance adjustor only gave them enough money to repair the box and not strip all of the equipment out. He stated that they will have a considerable amount of money left over from the repairs and asked the Board if he could move forward with buying another ambulance in Texas.

Chief Brown informed the Board that they had negotiated with the landowner in Horseshoe Beach for Station Six (6). He stated that the owner had asked for a survey and if the County would put a road in next to the property so that they will have access to their backroad. Chief Brown stated that Attorney Watson is working on the contract

He stated that he and Chief Garner are meeting with the landowner for Station Three (3) and that Mr. Greg Bailey feels they will have sufficient funds to replace the Station instead of trying to repair it, but that they will need a different parcel of land as this one is not big enough.

Chief Brown stated that the EOC (Emergency Operations Center) is moving rapidly and are working on electrical.

Chief Brown stated that they received the funding for the Horseshoe Beach Park repairs, with the exception of the 12 ½ percent.

Chief Brown stated that the Department of Transportation is moving along and that the State of Florida has contracted Ashbriitt Construction to pick up all waterborne debris.

STEVE COPELAND, SUWANNEE WATER AND SEWER MANAGER

Commissioner Hatch stated that Mr. Steve Copeland submitted his resignation and will be leaving around the end of November.

GREG BAILEY, NORTH FLORIDA PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Mr. Greg Bailey was not present at the meeting.

JOHN LOCKLEAR, LOCKLEAR AND ASSOCIATES

Mr. John Locklear had nothing to bring to the Board.

CINDY BELLOT, LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Mrs. Cindy Bellot thanked the Board for their support and stated that it means a lot to her. She informed the Board that she ran an inventory report and stated that there are over 38,000 items in the library not including the Jena and Suwannee Libraries.

Mrs. Bellot informed the Board that she is making plans for the Nature Coast Art & Nature Festival for March 8, 2025.

Mrs. Bellot stated that Mrs. Jane Connors will be working at the Cross City Library.

STEVE FREMEN, CODE ENFORCEMENT & VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER

Mr. Steve Fremem had nothing to bring to the Board.

STEVE HUTCHISON, COUNTY ROAD SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Steve Hutchison was not present at the meeting.

TIM JOHNSON, SOLID WASTE DIRECTOR

Mr. Tim Johnson stated that he needed equipment.

Commissioner Stephenson told Mr. Johnson to get some quotes and that they will discuss it.

Commissioner Hatch commended Mr. Johnson and his crew on cleaning up the coastline.

LEON WRIGHT, BUILDING AND ZONING OFFICIAL

Mr. Leon Wright presented earlier in the meeting.

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

Mr. Scott Pendarvis had nothing to bring to the Board.

GAIL CARTER, INDIGENT CARE

Mrs. Gail Carter was not present at the meeting.

HOLLY HOUGHTON, COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT

Mrs. Holly Houghton was not present at the meeting.

ANGIE CROWLEY, HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATOR

Mrs. Angie Crowley had nothing to bring to the Board.

JOHN JENKINS, ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER

Action Items:

1. Request Board approval to purchase the updated AWOS System from DBT Transportation Services for the Cross City Airport in the amount of \$59,425.00 using LATCF Grant funds.

Motion to purchase the updated AWOS System from DBT Transportation Services for the Cross City Airport in the amount of \$59,425.00 using LATCF Grant funds. Made by Commissioner Osteen. Seconded by Commissioner Wood. Board approved.

2. Request Board approval to execute the Catastrophic Inmate Medical Insurance for FY 2024 - 2025 in the amount of \$35, 136.00.

Motion to approve and execute the Catastrophic Inmate Medical Insurance for FY 2024 - 2025 in the amount of \$35, 136.00. Made by Commissioner Wood. Seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.

3. Request Board approval to execute Supplemental Agreement # 1 for CR 349 from Dead End in Suwannee to beginning of New Pavement on CR 349 in the amount of \$546,878.51.

Motion to approve and execute Supplemental Agreement # 1 for CR 349 from Dead End in Suwannee to beginning of New Pavement on CR 349 in the amount of \$546,878.51. Made by Commissioner Hatch. Seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.

4. Request Board approval to execute the Task Work Order from Locklear to provide CEI for CR 349 from Dead End in Suwannee to beginning of New Pavement on CR 349 in the amount of \$334,055.00.

Motion to approve and execute the Task Work Order from Locklear to provide CEI for CR 349 from Dead End in Suwannee to beginning of New Pavement on CR 349 in the amount of \$334,055.00. Made by Commissioner Hatch. Seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.

5. Request Board approval to execute the Notice of Award for CR 349 from Dead End in Suwannee to beginning of New Pavement on CR 349 to Anderson Columbia, Inc. in the amount of \$7,423,449.29.

Motion to approve and execute the Notice of Award for CR 349 from Dead End in Suwannee to beginning of New Pavement on CR 349 to Anderson Columbia, Inc. in the amount of \$7,423,449.29. Made by Commissioner Hatch. Seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.

Information Items:

1. The Notice to Proceed has been issued to Anderson Columbia, Inc. for NE 82nd Ave which began Oct 14, 2024.

Mr. John Jenkins stated that the County should figure out how to design the park and thought it would be a good idea to purchase portable restrooms for easy removal for storms.

Mr. Jenkins stated that the location for the temporary debris storage is being staged at Mr. George Edwards property in Jena, the Park in Horseshoe Beach and the Suwannee Marina.

CHANA WATSON, COUNTY ATTORNEY

Attorney Chana Watson asked the Board if they could make a motion to lift the curfew in the coastal communities.

Motion to lift the curfew in the coastal communities made by Commissioner Hatch. Seconded by Commissioner Stephenson. Board approved.

Attorney Watson informed the Board that she had received some applications for housing and had given out 34 campers so far. She provided a spreadsheet to the Board and stated that there is an agreement the applicants have to sign to take liability off of the County.

BARBIE HIGGINBOTHAM, CLERK OF COURT

Mrs. Barbie Higginbotham thanked the Board for helping the community.

COUNTY COMMISSION ITEMS

Commissioner Hatch stated to keep everybody in their prayers and stated that Horseshoe Beach and Suwannee have devastating damage.

He stated that they will be having a trunk or treat on October 26th, 2024, at Glen Dyals Park in Suwannee.

Commissioner Osteen stated that he is helping the community as much as he can and to call him or come see him if anybody needs help.

Commissioner Storey stated that the answer to all problems is Jesus Christ and to keep praying.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

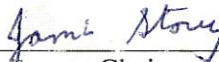
The Board set a date for interviews for the County Manager position on Thursday, October 24th, 2024, at 9:00 AM.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Osteen seconded. Board approved.

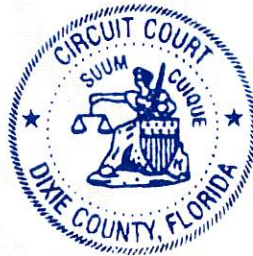
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA

ATTEST:



Jamie Storey, Chairman


Barbie Higginbotham, Clerk-Auditor



PLEASE BE ADVISED that if a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearings, he/ she will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose, he/ she will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

“Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact (352) 486-4931 (Voice & TDD) or via Florida Relay Service at (800) 955-8771.”

The Board meets the first Thursday of each month at 10:00 AM and the third Thursday of each month at 6:00 PM. Individuals that would like to be placed on the agenda should call Barbie Higginbotham, Clerk of Court, by 4:00 PM on the Friday Preceding the Board meeting, at (352) 498-1200.