

Regular Meeting
Commission Board Room
Dixie County Courthouse
214 NE Hwy 351, Cross City, FL 32628
November 7, 2024 – 10:00 AM

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, 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
Victoria Darkow, Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

Jamie Storey called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG

The Invocation and Pledge to the American Flag was led by Commissioner Mark Hatch.

APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES

10/03/2024 Regular BOCC Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve 10/03/2024 Regular BOCC Meeting Minutes made by Commissioner Osteen. Seconded by Commissioner Stephenson. Board approved.

10/17/2024 Regular BOCC Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve 10/17/2024 Regular BOCC Meeting Minutes made by Commissioner Osteen. Seconded by Commissioner Wood. Board approved.

10/28/2024 Emergency Meeting to hire a consultant regarding Disaster Recovery

Motion to approve 10/28/2024 Emergency Meeting to hire a consultant regarding Disaster Recovery made by Commissioner Osteen. Seconded by Commissioner Hatch. Board approved.

VOUCHER APPROVAL

Motion to approve vouchers was made by Commissioner Osteen. Seconded by Commissioner Wood. Board approved.

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

Dixie County Sheriff Darby Butler informed the Board that his animal control deputy Mr. Tank Johnson resigned.

He asked the Board if they could amend his budget so that he could add another position for animal control and stated that the County is growing, and that one animal control officer is not enough. Sheriff Butler asked the Board to amend the budget by \$57,366.80.

Clerk Barbie Higginbotham stated that there is not money in the budget to add a secondary employee.

Commissioner Stephenson stated that they lost a substantial amount of money through tax revenue due to the hurricane destroying many coastal homes and that they don't have it in the budget.

The Board discussed and stated that they would hold a workshop to discuss the matter with Finance on Friday November 15th, 2024, at 5:00PM.

Attorney Chana Watson asked the Board if they could change the Regular Meeting date on November 21st, 2024, to November 19th, 2024.

Motion to hold an organizational meeting and to swear in elected officials on November 19th, 2024, at 5:00PM made by Commissioner Hatch. Seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.

Motion to amend the regular meeting date from November 21st, 2024, at 6:00PM to November 19th, 2024, at 6:00PM made by Commissioner Hatch. Seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.

Motion to hold a workshop on Friday, November 15th, 2024, at 5:00PM to discuss with the Finance Department for budget changes made by Commissioner Hatch. Seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.

Sheriff Butler stated that there was an issue at one of the County Buildings and that the investigation is ongoing.

He stated that there are allegations of trespassing and asked the Board for permission to trespass everybody involved that were in the County buildings.

Commissioner Hatch made a motion to allow Sheriff's office to trespass civilians involved in the issue at one of the County buildings if investigation proves guilt. Seconded by Commissioner Osteen. 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.

Motion to go into public hearing made by Commissioner Osteen. Seconded by Commissioner Wood. Board approved.

APPLICATIONS for SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS

A petition by **Brenda Williams** requesting a **Special Exception** to be granted, as provided in Section 4.4.5 SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS of the Dixie County Land Development Regulations to permit one recreational vehicle. ("AG" AGRICULTURE) zoning district, in accordance with the petition dated 10/04/2024 to be located on the property as described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 06-10-13-4525-0000-0250 628 NE 434th St, Old Town, FL 32680; 3). (COMMISSION DISTRICT 3 MARK HATCH)

Motion to approve the Special Exception for Brenda Williams made by Commissioner Hatch. Seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.

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 approve the Special Exception for Dobson, Roscoe & Joan made by Commissioner Stephenson. Seconded by Commissioner Hatch. Board approved.

APPLICATIONS for VARIANCE

A petition by **Richard Feagle** located on the property as described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 30-13-12-3596-0001-0080 (107 SE 218th St. Old Town, FL 32680 (Suwannee)) to request a **variance** for a Reduction of rear setback from 15' to 0' for construction of pole barn. by the petition dated 10/17/2024 which is located within Section 4.7.7 RSF/MH subparagraph (2) of the Dixie County Land Development Regulations in accordance with section 12.3 VARIANCE PROCEDURES. (COMMISSION DISTRICT 3 MARK HATCH)

Motion to approve the Variance for Richard Feagle made by Commissioner Hatch. Seconded by Commissioner Osteen. 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)

Motion to approve Resolution 2024-90 made by Commissioner Stephenson. Seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.

RESOLUTION 2024-97

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO APPROVE A SPECIAL EXCEPTION TO BE GRANTED, AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 4.7.7 SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS OF THE DIXIE COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS TO PERMIT REDUCTION OF REAR SETBACK FROM 15' TO 0' FOR CONTRUCTION OF POLE BARN IN AN (RSF/MH) ZONING DISTRICT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PETITION DATED OCTOBER 17, 2024. WHEREAS, **RICHARD FEAGLE** have filed a Petition requesting Dixie County Board of County Commissioners to grant a Special Exception as provided in Section 4.7.7 RSF/MH subparagraph (2) of the Dixie County Land Development Regulations in accordance with Section 12.3 VARIANCE PROCEDURES WHEREAS, the **Reduction Of Rear Setback from 15' to 0' for construction of a pole barn**, by the petition dated 10/17/2024 to be located on Dixie County Parcel No.: 30-13-12-3596-0001-0080 (107 SE 218th ST, Old Town, FL 32680).
(Commission District 3 Mark Hatch)

Motion to approve Resolution 2024-97 made by Commissioner Hatch. Seconded by Commissioner Wood. Board approved.

RESOLUTION 2024-98

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 OF THE DIXIE COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS TO PERMIT ONE RECREATIONAL VEHICLE IN AN AGRICULTURAL AREA (AG) ZONING DISTRICT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PETITION DATED OCTOBER 4, 2024. WHEREAS, **BRENDA WILLIAMS** has filed a Petition requesting Dixie County Board of County Commissioners to grant a Special Exception as provided in Section 4.4.5 of the Dixie County Land Development Regulations to permit one recreational vehicle in an Agricultural (AG) Zoning District, by Petition dated October 4, 2024; and WHEREAS, the recreational vehicle is to

be located on Dixie County Parcel No.: 06-10-13-4525-0000-0250 (628 NE 434th St, Old Town, FL 32680).
(Commission District 3 Mark Hatch)

Motion to approve Resolution 2024-98 made by Commissioner Hatch. Seconded by Commissioner Wood. Board approved.

DANIEL PHILMON-REGARDING ISSUE WITH COUNTY ROLL-OFF SITE EMPLOYEE

Mr. Daniel Philmon informed the Board that on September 23rd, 2024 he was approached by a dump site employee and was told he would be trespassed from the dump if he did not have his sticker in the window.

Mr. Philmon stated that he keeps the sticker in his door panel and that he was told he would be expelled for two (2) years if he didn't have it in view.

Commissioner Hatch stated that he would go over their policies and procedures with said employee.

Mr. Philmon identified the employee as Keith Murray.

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

Mrs. Shiela Frierson stated that November is National Homeless Youth Awareness Month and presented an informative packet to the Board.

She stated that in 2021 to 2022 the homeless youth rates had gone up to 106 students, while the prior years were only 48 students.

She stated that there is a program available called "Credible Minds" where the public can scan a QR code and can get resources.

Mrs. Frierson stated that Mrs. Michelle Snyder provides housing to the community and has an office within the coalition.

STEVE COPELAND, SUWANNEE WATER AND SEWER MANAGER

Commissioner Hatch stated that Mr. Steve Copeland resigned and that they are advertising for a new manager.

He stated that Mr. Jimmy Lamb turned in his resignation and would like to appoint Mr. Pat Miles until the next Suwannee Water and Sewer Board election.

Commissioner Hatch made a motion to appoint Mr. Pat Miles on the Suwannee Water and Sewer Board until the next election. Commissioner Osteen seconded. Board approved.

GREG BAILEY, NORTH FLORIDA PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Mr. Kellan Bailey updated the Board on the following projects which included:

EOC (Emergency Operations Center) He stated that the concrete slab was poured, and it is coming along.
Old Town Fire Station – He stated that project was moving along.

Sheriff's Evidence Building – He stated that they are finalizing the Water Management District and permit modification submittal.

CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) – He stated that they received approval and are scheduling a meeting for next week before they advertise for bid.

Mr. Bailey informed the Board that the EOC reviewed the building plans on the two (2) new Fire Stations and that the survey is done on Station Six (6) in Horseshoe Beach and that they are scheduling the survey for Station Three (3).

Mr. Bailey stated that he had the projects submitted for the Restore Act Funds.

JOHN LOCKLEAR, LOCKLEAR AND ASSOCIATES

Mr. John Locklear updated the Board on the following projects which included:

Hal Chaires Road – He stated that the contractor received the notice to proceed and should start at the end of November.

HMGP (Hazard Mitigation Grant Program)– He stated that they completed the permit applications for Horseshoe Beach and Shired Island.

Mr. Locklear informed the Board that he would be meeting with Mrs. Cindy Bellot tomorrow for discussion on the money for a new library.

CINDY BELLOT, LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Mrs. Cindy Bellot informed the public that the Dixie County Public Library still has plenty of seeds for anybody that would like some.

She stated that she is still getting ready for inventory and working out issues with the system.

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 stated that he has been renting a front-end loader for the rock pit for \$5,000 a month and asked the Board if they could go ahead and purchase one.

He stated that he had Beard Equipment Representative, Mark Litherland present for quotes.

The Board had discussion and stated that they would come back to Mr. Hutchison at the end of the meeting once Mr. Litherland ran some numbers.

TIM JOHNSON, SOLID WASTE DIRECTOR

Commissioner Hatch commended Mr. Tim Johnson for going above and beyond for the community.

LEON WRIGHT, BUILDING AND ZONING OFFICIAL

Mr. Leon Wright had nothing to bring to the Board.

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

Mr. Scott Pendarvis stated that he needed Board approval on the two (2) grants that they had applied for.

Motion to approve and sign the 911 System Maintenance Grant Agreement Contract in the amount of \$46,245.80 dollars was made by Commissioner Stephenson. Seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.

Motion to approve and sign the 911 System Refresh Grant Agreement Contract in the amount of \$154,156.94 dollars was made by Commissioner Stephenson. Seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.

KAY MCCALLISTER, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Mrs. Kay McCallister updated the Board on some of the businesses in Horseshoe Beach that are back open since Hurricane Helene.

Bills Fish Camp – She stated that they have RV sites open and are close to having rooms ready.

Jasmine Breeze RV Park – They are fully operational and in business.

Suwannee Marina – They are back open for breakfast and lunch.

Salt Creek Restaurant – Starting this Thursday Salt Creek Restaurant will be serving outdoors starting at 4:00PM while they rebuild.

Croft Seafood – She stated that they are open and are selling fresh oysters.

Mr. JD Nobles informed the Board that Lacey's Place in Horseshoe Beach is open for business and stated that she serves breakfast lunch and dinner.

Mrs. McCallister stated that Good Times Marina is rebuilding but that it will be a while.

She stated that she is sending a post card out with a survey on it to see what is open and that she will put it on the website.

She informed the Board that Visit Florida is giving the Tourism Council a grant for advertising worth \$160,000.00. She stated that Jesse Samply is doing the marketing videos for overnight businesses. Mrs. McCallister presented a video to the Board that is on visitdixie.com.

DARIAN BROWN, DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

Chief Scott Garner presented updates to the Board and stated that Christmas in Dixie will be December 13th, 2024, from 6:00PM to 9:00PM at Roy Ward Little League Field.

Chief Garner presented a graph to the Board breaking down the areas DOT (Department of Transportation) has cleared from hurricane debris. He stated that the State of Florida has hired Roads Inc. to clean up the debris, and that they also hired two (2) monitoring companies to follow the trucks and take pictures.

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 was not present at the meeting.

JOHN JENKINS, ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER

Action Items:

1. Request Board approval of the SHIP Repair Reimbursement for Darrell Corbin in the amount of \$24,775.00.

Motion to approve the SHIP Repair Reimbursement for Darrell Corbin in the amount of \$24,775.00 made by Commissioner Osteen. Seconded by Commissioner Wood. Board approved.

2. Request Board of the SHIP Rehab Reimbursement for Lillie Blocker in the amount of \$21,794.80.

Motion to approve the SHIP Rehab Reimbursement for Lillie Blocker in the amount of \$21,794.80 made by Commissioner Osteen. Seconded by Commissioner Hatch. Board approved.

3. Request Board approval to execute Resolution 2024-94 in support of Supplement 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 Resolution 2024-94 in support of Supplement 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 Supplemental Agreement # 1 for NE 82ND Ave from NE 592ND St to SR 55 (US 19) Advance Pay Request.

Motion to approve and execute the Supplemental Agreement # 1 for NE 82ND Ave from NE 592ND St to SR 55 (US 19) Advance Pay Request made by Commissioner Wood. Seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.

5. Request approval to execute Resolution 2024-101 in support of NE 82ND Ave from NE 592ND St to SR 55 (US 19) Advance Pay Request.

Motion to approve and execute Resolution 2024-101 in support of NE 82ND Ave from NE 592ND St to SR 55 (US 19) Advance Pay Request made by Commissioner Wood. Seconded by Commissioner Stephenson. Board approved.

6. Request Board approval to execute the contract for CR 349 from Dead End in Suwannee to beginning of New Pavement on CR 349 between Dixie County and Anderson Columbia CO., Inc. in the amount of \$7,423,449.29.

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

7. Request Board approval to execute Supplemental Agreement # 2 for CR 349 Advance Pay Request.

Motion to approve and execute Supplemental Agreement # 2 for CR 349 Advance Pay Request made by Commissioner Hatch. Seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.

8. Request Board approval to execute Resolution 2024-102 in support of CR 349 Advance Pay Request.

Motion to approve and execute Resolution 2024-102 in support of CR 349 Advance Pay Request made by Commissioner Hatch. Seconded by Commissioner Stephenson. Board approved.

9. Request Board approval to execute the Notice of Award for CR 351 from SE 163 St to CR 351A to Anderson Columbia Co., Inc. in the amount of \$2,398,960.10.

Motion to approve and execute the Notice of Award for CR 351 from SE 163 St to CR 351A to Anderson Columbia Co., Inc. in the amount of \$2,398,960.10 made by Commissioner Osteen. Seconded by Commissioner Wood. Board approved.

10. Request Board approval to execute the contract for CR 351 from SE 163 St to CR 351A between Dixie County and Anderson Columbia Co., Inc. in the amount of \$2,398,960.10.

Motion to approve and execute the contract for CR 351 from SE 163 St to CR 351A between Dixie County and Anderson Columbia Co., Inc. in the amount of \$2,398,960.10 made by Commissioner Osteen. Seconded by Commissioner Stephenson. Board approved.

11. Request Board approval to execute the Notice to Proceed for CR 351 from SE 163 St to CR 351A to Anderson Columbia Co., Inc.

Motion to approve and execute the Notice to Proceed for CR 351 from SE 163 St to CR 351A to Anderson Columbia Co., Inc made by Commissioner Osteen. Seconded by Commissioner Stephenson. Board approved.

12. Request Board approval to execute Supplemental Agreement # 1 for CR 351 Advance Pay Request.

Motion to approve and execute Supplemental Agreement # 1 for CR 351 Advance Pay Request made by Commissioner Stephenson. Seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.

13. Request Board approval to execute Resolution 2024-103 in support of CR 351 Advance Pay Request.

Motion to approve and execute Resolution 2024-103 in support of CR 351 Advance Pay Request made by Commissioner Osteen. Seconded by Commissioner Wood. Board approved.

14. Request Board approval to execute Supplemental Agreement # 4 for NE 592ND Advance Pay Request.

Motion to approve and execute Supplemental Agreement # 4 for NE 592ND Advance Pay Request made by Commissioner Stephenson. Seconded by Commissioner Hatch. Board approved.

15. Request Board approval to execute Resolution 2024-104 in support of NE 592ND Advance Pay Request.

Motion to approve and execute Resolution 2024-104 in support of NE 592ND Advance Pay Request made by Commissioner Hatch. Seconded by Commissioner Stephenson. Board approved.

16. Request Board approval to execute 22FRP81 Amendment # 2 for the Dixie County Airport and Prison Flood Abatement Grant reducing the grant amount to \$150,000.00.

Motion to approve and execute 22FRP81 Amendment # 2 for the Dixie County Airport and Prison Flood Abatement Grant reducing the grant amount to \$150,000.00 made by Commissioner Osteen. Seconded by Commissioner Hatch. Board approved.

17. Request Board approval to continue the Annual Maintenance Services Agreement with Anser Advisory (GSG) for the Fire, Solid Waste and Mosquito Control Assessment Program in the amount of \$20,500.00.

Motion to approve to continue the Annual Maintenance Services Agreement with Anser Advisory (GSG) for the Fire, Solid Waste and Mosquito Control Assessment Program in the amount of \$20,500.00 made by Commissioner Osteen. Seconded by Commissioner Stephenson. Board approved.

18. Request Board approval to purchase 5 – 36”x40’ culverts and 10 – 48”x40’ culverts in the amount of 74,382.00 based on SWTF recommendation.

Motion to approve and purchase 5 – 36”x40’ culverts and 10 – 48”x40’ culverts in the amount of 74,382.00 based on SWTF recommendation made by Commissioner Osteen. Seconded by Commissioner Stephenson. Board approved.

19. Request Board approval to apply for the Rural Community Development Revolving Loan Program for financial assistance to purchase property located in the industrial area near the Airport.

Motion to approve and apply for the Rural Community Development Revolving Loan Program for financial assistance to purchase property located in the industrial area near the Airport made by Commissioner Osteen. Seconded by Commissioner Hatch. Board approved.

20. Request Board approval to update the applications for the 5-year Road Project Plan with FDOT for the following and add one more road. CR 358 has been programmed for 2028.

- SE 71st Ave, SE 265th ST, SE 269th St from CR 351 S to SE 60th Ave
- NE 349th Ave, NE 765th Ave, NE 356th Ave from SR 349 to NE 399th Ave

Commissioner Osteen made the motion to add CR 358 – SW 661 ST to Beginning of CR 361 at the caution light to the 5-Year Road Project Plan with FDOT. Seconded by Commissioner Hatch. Board approved.

Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to keep NE 349th Ave, NE 765th Ave, NE 356th Ave from SR 349 to NE 399th Ave on the 5-Year Road Project Plan with FDOT. Seconded by Osteen. Board approved.

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to keep SE 71st Ave, SE 265th ST, SE 269th St from CR 351 S to SE 60th Ave on the 5-Year Road Project Plan with FDOT. Seconded by Osteen. Board approved.

21. Request Board to approve the funding for the Anti-Drug Coalition FY 2024-2025 in the amount of \$50,000.00.

Motion to approve the funding for the Anti-Drug Coalition FY 2024-2025 in the amount of \$50,000.00 made by Commissioner Stephenson. Seconded by Commissioner Hatch. Board approved.

Information Items:

1. Reminder County Offices will be closed on Nov 11, 2024, in observance of Veteran's Day.
2. Requesting from the Board to determine what fund to use to pay the School Board Shelter Invoices totaling \$71,070.69.

The Board decided to have discussion about the School Board Shelter Invoice on Friday, November 15th at 5:00PM at the workshop.

3. The motor for Leon's truck will cost approximately \$4,500.00.

Mr. Jenkins informed Mr. Wood that the lights at Joe Anderson Park should be coming soon.

Commissioner Osteen made a motion to approve the Florida Crown Workforce. Seconded by Commissioner Hatch. Board approved.

Commissioner Hatch stated for the Veterans Day Parade he bought 160 hotdogs and will be grilling in front of the Supervisor of Elections office at 11:30 AM.

CHANA WATSON, COUNTY ATTORNEY

Attorney Watson stated that the County had interviews yesterday and that the Board needed to hire a County Manager.

Commissioner Osteen stated that he felt that Mr. Jenkins needs to learn some more and that it is nothing against him, but that they need someone right now to hit the ground running.

Commissioner Osteen made a motion to hire Brad Brady as County Manager. Commissioner Storey seconded the motion. The Board opposed and went into discussion.

Commissioner Storey stated that he would be happy with either Mr. Jenkins or Mr. Brady.

Clerk Barbie Higginbotham stated that she sat in on the County Manager interviews and, in her opinion, there was only one that was qualified and that it was Mr. Brad Brady.

Commissioner Stephenson stated that he had asked Mrs. Martha McCaskill who would be best for their office.

The Board discussed and could not come to a unanimous vote on hiring Mr. Brad Brady as County Manager.

Commissioner Storey stated that due to lack of votes the motion died.

Commissioner Hatch made a motion to hire Mr. John Jenkins as County Manager. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

Commissioner Hatch made a motion to advertise for Assistant County Manager. Commissioner Osteen seconded. Board approved.

Attorney Watson stated that she had received a Memorandum of Agreement from the State of Florida in regard to the trailers and asked for a motion from the Board to approve the signing. She stated that its similar to the first Memorandum of Agreement and puts the total trailer count at 85. She stated that she will confirm the VIN numbers as she receives the trailers. Attorney Watson informed the Board that Mrs. Katie Hammer sent the first batch trailer titles out and that they have not arrived yet.

Commissioner Osteen made a motion to sign the Emergency 1206 with Savinaucious pending attorney review. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.

Commissioner Stephenson made a motion to sign the Memorandum of Agreement with the State of Florida for the travel trailers. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.

BARBIE HIGGINBOTHAM, CLERK OF COURT

Chief Financial Officer Brenda Royal asked the Board for a motion to sign the annual State Aide to Libraries Grant.

Commissioner Osteen made a motion to approve and sign the annual State Aide to Libraries Grant. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.

COUNTY COMMISSION ITEMS

Commissioner Wood congratulated Mr. John Jenkins on his new County Manager position.

Commissioner Hatch stated that Christmas in Suwannee will be December 7, 2024, at 5:00PM

Commissioner Hatch made a motion to donate 500 dollars to Christmas in Suwannee. Commissioner Osteen seconded. Board approved.

Commissioner Hatch stated that he would like to paint the restrooms before December 7th and asked Mr. Jenkins to get with Steve Hutchison to schedule the painting.

Commissioner Hatch asked for clarity on the point of contact for FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency)

Chief Garner stated that the Board went under contract with a consultant that works for the County. He asked who the Board would like for the grants.gov portal for Hurricane Helene.

Mr. James Sowinsky stated that Grant management is in their scope of services within the agreement that the Board signed with Liberty Partners.

Mr. Jasion Benoit of Savinaucious stated that usually the County Manager's office is the point of contact and that the Board can add additional contacts.

Commissioner Jamie Storey clarified that they hired Savinaucious for 60 days for the exploratory call and that after the 60 days after proper advertisement the County would have to rehire them.

Commissioner Storey stated to put one of the requirements in the advertisement for Assistant Manager that they need to have knowledge of grants.

FEMA Response Representative Mrs. Rebecca Baker stated that the County Official would have to be the point of contact for the County so that there is transparency. She stated that a consultant would be able to do the leg work.

Administrative Asst/Grant Coordinator Martha McCaskill asked for Mrs. Nicki Black and Mr. Benoit of Savinaucious to meet with her at 4:00PM after the meeting to have a better understanding of how the point of contact works.

Mr. Benoit stated that the deadline to apply for disaster assistance for Hurricane Debby is December 2, 2024.

Commissioner Hatch welcomed Mr. Jenkins aboard and thanked Mr. Larry Downs Jr. and Mr. Finn for coming.

Commissioner Osteen congratulated Mr. Jenkins.

Commissioner Stephenson made a motion to require all department heads to attend the BOCC meetings. Commissioner Hatch seconded the motion. Board approved.

Commissioner Stephenson asked Mr. Jenkins to run numbers on all of the departments for comparisons before the Workshop on November 15th, 2024.

Commissioner Wood stated that the caution light off 27th and Chavous Road needs to be repaired.

Mrs. McCaskill stated that she has made the calls and that wiring needs to be replaced, but that they are working on it.

Commissioner Storey stated that the meeting was good.

Mr. Litherland stated that the finance amount for the new front-end loader for the County Road Department would be \$159,668.00. He stated that the interest rate would be 5.2 %

Commissioner Osteen made a motion to purchase the front-end loader for the County Road Department pending on interest rates from the bank, discussion with Finance and wants to bring back to the Board on November 19th, 2024. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. JD Nobles asked for clarification on the cleanup of road debris.

Chief Garner stated that County wide clean up would be completed within the next 30 days

Mr. Nobles asked Mr. Bailey about Fire Station Six (6) and if the plans were to extend the 5000 feet.

Mr. Bailey stated that yes, they are just weighing options and gathering information.

Mr. Nobles reminded everyone of the Town Meeting in Horseshoe Beach at 6:00PM.

Mrs. Karen VanAernam informed the Board of the Annual Dixie County Turkey Trot. She asked the Board for their support and stated that any funds raised for the Turkey Trot goes to Cross City Restore and Renew Organization.

Mrs. VanAernam said that she would like to invite everybody on December 7th to the tree lighting in Suwannee at Glen Dyals Park. Mrs. VanAernam stated that they will be decorating for Christmas in Cross City on December 2 and December 3, 2024. She stated that the tree lighting will be December 6, 2024.

Commissioner Storey made a motion to give 500 dollars out of the BOCC Account to the 2024 Annual Turkey Trot. Commissioner Osteen seconded. Board approved.

Mr. Larry Downs, Jr. with Mission Obvious LLC, gave a summary of his company and explained that his company is for the purpose of stating the obvious regarding government entities.

Mr. Downs thanked the Commissioners for letting him speak.

Mr. Downs had opposition from a public attendee that stated he shouldn't be allowed to speak when he is not from the County.

Commissioner Stephenson stated that Mr. Downs has freedom of speech, and this is a public meeting.

Mr. Downs wife, Alice Downs, stated that Dixie County has been wonderful and appreciate the hospitality. She said her husband is very passionate about what he does and that they are not here to cause any trouble.

ADJOURN

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

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA





Jody Stephenson, Chairman
Mark Hatch, Vice 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.