

Regular Meeting

Commission Board Room
Dixie County Courthouse
214 NE Hwy 351, Cross City, FL 32628
January 05, 2023 – 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
District 5

STAFF

Duane Cannon, County Manager
Paul Gainey, Asst. County Manager
Martha McCaskill, Administrative Asst/Grant Coordinator
Chana Watson, County Attorney
Barbie Higginbotham, Clerk of Court
Verna Wilson, Chief Deputy Clerk
Della Rhymes, Asst. Chief Deputy Clerk
Brenda Royal, Chief Financial Officer

CALL TO ORDER

The Board Meeting/Workshop was called to order at 10:00 AM by Commissioner 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 Hatch.

APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES

Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to approve Minutes from the Regular Meeting of December 15, 2022. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

VOUCHER APPROVAL

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve the vouchers. Commissioner Wood 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 Stephenson. Seconded by Commissioner Wood. Board approved.

A petition by **James McNicol** requesting a **Special Exception** to be granted, as provided in 4.3.5 subparagraph (5) of the Dixie County Land Development Regulations to permit a wireless telecommunications tower in an ESA (Environmentally Sensitive Area) zoning district, in accordance with the petition dated 12/05/2022 to be located on the property described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 24-09-13-0000-4414-0101, 6320 NE Highway 349, Old Town, FL 32680. **Daniel H. Barron and Tracy L. Barron (Commission District 1, Jody Stephenson)**

Ms. Julie Herring appeared before the Board and read the Special Exception request made by James McNicol, Daniel H. Barron, and Tracy L. Barron. There was no opposition.

Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to approve the Special Exception requested by James McNicol, Daniel H. Barron, and Tracy L. Barron. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.

A petition by **John and Sheila Taylor** 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 in an ESA (Environmentally Sensitive Area) zoning district, in accordance with the petition dated 12/05/2022 to be located on the property described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 05-09-10-0244-0004-0360, 23 SW 720th Street, Steinatchee, FL 32359. **(Commission District 5)**
This property is located in Jena.

Ms. Julie Herring appeared before the Board and read the Special Exception request made by John and Sheila Taylor. There was no opposition.

Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to approve the Special Exception requested by John and Sheila Taylor. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

A petition by **Andrew J. Anderson** 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 in an AG (Agriculture) zoning district, in accordance with the petition dated 12/14/2022 to be located on the property described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 34-09-13-4490-0001-0010, 735 NE 642 ST, Old Town, FL 32680. **(Commission District 2, Daniel Wood)**

Ms. Julie Herring appeared before the Board and read the Special Exception request made by Andrew J. Anderson. There was no opposition.

Commissioner Wood made the motion to approve the Special Exception requested by Andrew J. Anderson. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.

A petition by **John and Colleen Dyals** 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 in an ESA (Environmentally Sensitive Area) zoning district, in accordance with the petition dated 12/13/2022 to be located on the property described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 16-13-12-2927-0000-0470, 20389 SE HWY 349, Old Town, FL 32680. (**Commission District 3, Mark Hatch**)

Ms. Julie Herring appeared before the Board and read the Special Exception request made by John and Colleen Dyals. There was no opposition.

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve the Special Exception requested by John and Colleen Dyals. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

A petition by **Glen and Jane Mcrae** located on the property described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 19-13-12-3266-0000-0320, 116 SE 890 Avenue, Old Town, FL 32680, to request a **variance** for a reduction of the rear setbacks to zero and the side setbacks down to seven (7) feet on both sides for the construction of a boat shed and fish cleaning station by the petition dated 12/07/2022 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**)

Ms. Julie Herring appeared before the Board and read the variance request made by Glen and Jane Mcrae. There was no opposition.

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve the variance requested by Glen and Jane Mcrae. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.

The motion to go out of the Public Hearing was made by Commissioner Stephenson. Seconded by Commissioner Hatch. Board approved.

RESOLUTION 2023-01

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 (5) OF THE DIXIE COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS TO PERMIT A WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS TOWER IN AN ENVIROMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREA (ESA) ZONING DISTRICT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PETITION DATED DECEMBER 5, 2022. **James McNicol, Daniel H. Barron, and Tracy L. Barron**

Ms. Julie Herring appeared before the Board and read Resolution 2023-01 in support of James McNicol, Daniel H. Barron, and Tracy L. Barron.

Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to approve Resolution 2023-01 in support of James McNicol, Daniel H. Barron, and Tracy L. Barron. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

RESOLUTION 2023-02

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) ZONING DISTRICT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PETITION DATED DECEMBER 5, 2022.

John and Sheila Taylor

Ms. Julie Herring appeared before the Board and read Resolution 2023-02 in support of John and Sheila Taylor.

Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to approve Resolution 2023-02 in support of John and Sheila Taylor. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

RESOLUTION 2023-03

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 (4) 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 DECEMBER 14, 2022.

Andrew J. Anderson

Ms. Julie Herring appeared before the Board and read Resolution 2023-03 in support of Andrew J. Anderson.

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve Resolution 2023-03 in support of Andrew J. Anderson. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.

RESOLUTION 2023-04

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) ZONING DISTRICT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PETITION DATED DECEMBER 13, 2022.

John and Colleen Dyals

Ms. Julie Herring appeared before the Board and read Resolution 2023-04 in support of John and Colleen Dyals.

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve Resolution 2023-04 in support of John and Colleen Dyals. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.

RESOLUTION 2023-05

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO APPROVE A VARIANCE TO BE GRANTED, AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 12.3.1 OF THE DIXIE COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, TO GRANT A VARIANCE FOR A REDUCTION WITHIN SECTION 4.7.7 RSF/MH SUBPARAGRAPH (2) OF REDUCTION OF REAR SETBACKS TO ZERO AND THE SIDE SETBACKS DOWN TO 7 FEET ON BOTH SIDE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A BOAT SHED AND FISH CLEANING STATION WHICH IS LOCATED IN A

RESIDENTIAL SINGLE FAMILY/MOBILE HOME AREA (RSF/MH) ZONING DISTRICT, AS PROVIDED IN THE PETITION DATED DECEMBER 7, 2022. **Glen and Jane Mcrae**

Ms. Julie Herring appeared before the Board and read Resolution 2023-05 in support of Glen and Jane Mcrae.

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve Resolution 2023-05 in support of Glen and Jane Mcrae. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

STEVE COPELAND, SUWANNEE WATER AND SEWER MANAGER

Mr. Copeland appeared before the Board and informed them that they are using their new system and accepting bill payments online as of today. He said they have 943 active accounts, installed 23 new pumps with seven (7) rebuilds and three (3) are waiting for installs. He said they are continuing to flush the lines for maintenance, and they have five (5) spray fields working. He said they have replaced 75 sprinklers and multiple pipes. He said that fields 1-5 are working and fields 6-12 will be the next to get working. He said the monitor wells have been removed from 13-22 cells. He would like to replace these and open more spray fields.

He said Mr. Kirkpatrick donated a 20x30 pole barn to them and they are using it for repairing pumps and storing equipment.

He said that Mr. Jamie Hope from the Florida Rural Water Association will be sending recommendations for them to get in compliance with the sewer plant. He has also offered to help a staff member study for a test next week.

Mr. Scott Pendarvis and Ms. Holly Houghton have both helped with their website.

He informed the Board of a main water line leaking by the bridge near Gateway Marina and said they will be fixing it Tuesday.

Commissioner Hatch thanked him and said their Board are working hard towards making some change.

GREG BAILEY, NORTH FLORIDA PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Mr. Bailey had nothing to discuss at this time.

JERED LIZOTTE, LOCKLEAR AND ASSOCIATES

Mr. John Locklear had nothing to discuss at this time.

CINDY BELLOT, LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Ms. Bellot informed the Board that all is well.

STEVE FREMEN, CODE ENFORCEMENT & VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER

Mr. Fremem had nothing to discuss at this time.

STEVE HUTCHISON, COUNTY ROAD SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Hutchison was not present for this meeting.

DWAYNE CHAUNCEY, MOSQUITO CONTROL DIRECTOR

Mr. Chauncey was not present for this meeting.

MICHAEL LATSON, SOLID WASTE DIRECTOR

Mr. Latson appeared before the Board and presented three quotes for the purchase of a Low Boy Trailer needed to haul their equipment to the roll off sites. He said the \$37,000.00 trailer was not in stock and they would have to wait, the \$40,169.00 trailer was ready for delivery from Mike's Trailers, and the third quote was for \$47,210.00.

County Manager Duane Cannon informed the Board that last year Solid Waste would have to borrow a low boy trailer from the Road Department. He said this item is budgeted for and the trailer can also be used for other departments if needed. He said he would recommend the Board approve the quote for \$40,169.00.

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to purchase a Low Boy Trailer for the Solid Waste Department for \$40,169.00. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.

Mr. Latson informed the Board that they have been picking up the rental cans and dealing with some issues in relation to that. He said he has given out the numbers for Waste Pro and Pop Waste for potential customers.

Commissioner Hatch asked if some businesses are required to have a can for their business. He said if so, then work with them until they can get another can.

Commissioner Hatch asked about the rental cans for C&D waste and is this still available for customers.

Manager Cannon said these 20-yard cans are being used at the roll off sites.

Mr. Latson said he does place a C&D can as a hardship for burnt houses.

Commissioner Stephenson asked about the cans at the Horseshoe roll off site.

Mr. Latson said he has not addressed this yet.

Commissioner Stephenson asked if Waste Pro can service this area.

Mr. Latson said the Waste Pro representative said they do want the business. He said their representative has ordered extra cans for the extra business.

Manager Cannon said they will need to verify with the business owner if they have been able to get another rental can or not. He said they will leave the county rental can in place until then.

Commissioner Stephenson said they need to call and get another can.

Commissioner Hatch asked about the Board allowing the rental of C&D cans or not.

Building Official Leon Wright said it cost him \$680.00 to rent a C&D can.

Mr. Latson said the county charges \$300.00 for a 20-yard C&D can.

Commissioner Stephenson reminded everyone that the Board voted to terminate can rentals and use them to clean up the roll off sites.

Mr. Latson said they need more cans at the roll off sites.

Mr. Jeff Hardison, of Hardison Ink, asked for clarification if the C&D cans will remain at the roll off sites, but are not available for rent.

Commissioner Storey said that is correct.

LEON WRIGHT, BUILDING AND ZONING OFFICIAL

Mr. Wright appeared before the Board and addressed the application confusion. He presented the Board with a new application format to review along with a checklist for the applicant to use. He said this is the same for building a home or purchasing a mobile home.

Commissioner Hatch asked about the wind load requirements for older used mobile homes.

Mr. Wright said the Building Department will do a pre-inspection for older used mobile homes. He said they will travel to the site for \$1.00 per mile and \$100.00 fee to inspect the mobile home.

DARIAN BROWN, DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

Director Brown appeared before the Board and presented the results from their (ISO) Insurance Service Office evaluation.

He said the evaluation of the fire service is used to set insurance rates for homeowners and commercial customers. He said that water, sewer, and a fire department is needed for growth.

He said these ratings are done every five (5) years. He said on the scale from 1 to 10, 1 is the best and Dixie was rated 05/5X. He said they evaluate equipment, personnel, training records, dispatch capabilities, tracking of the units in service, and the water supply in the community.

He said the distance between fire stations is also evaluated.

Director Brown informed the Board that the Volunteer Fire staff has decreased over the last five (5) years. He said their communications system was also evaluated. He said they do not have a Communication Aided Dispatch (CAD) system, their dispatch runs through the Sheriff's Office.

He said the water supply was also a concern. The flow rate is based on what is being protected, houses versus commercial properties.

Commissioner Stephenson asked about the coverage provided for the coastal communities.

Director Brown replied they have fire stations with equipment on site and some volunteer staff and the paid staff can also be used to cover these areas.

He said that Horseshoe contracts with the county for coverage. He said that Horseshoe needs to apply for appropriations and upgrade their fire station. He said the current building cannot house staff. He said that Suwannee and Jena stations can house staff.

Director Brown said municipalities must either provide their own fire coverage or contract it out. He said that Cross City has their own Fire Department and has a separate ISO evaluation and inspection.

Director Brown requested the Board's approval to submit two (2) appropriations requests to the House and Senate for two (2) tankers at a cost of \$500,000.00 each.

Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to approve the submission of two (2) appropriations requests to the House and Senate for two (2) tankers at a cost of \$500,000.00 each. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

Director Brown informed the Board of the issue with re-chassis of the older ambulances. He said there are none available at this time. He said their fleet is made up of Dodges. He said that the Ford and Chevy gas powered models have several problems and they may have to wait.

Commissioner Stephenson asked how many miles is on the ambulance when they get a re-chassis.

Chief Scott Garner replied from 220,000 up to 250,000 miles.

Director Brown said the prices have also increased from \$135,000 to \$175,000.00 for re-chassis. He informed the Board that they also need new trucks due to the older boxes. He said the older boxes are from 2010. He said there are seven (7) ambulances in service. He said a new ambulance cost \$500,000.00.

County Attorney Chana Watson commented that the school system is looking into possibly purchasing some electric buses.

Commissioner Hatch proposed the Board partner with Gilchrist and Levy counties to request help from Tallahassee for an emergency center for our Tri County area to decrease the ambulance trips to Gainesville.

Director Brown informed the Board about the local medical facility that contracts with Medicare and Medicaid to provide services for this community. He said the facility is also required to provide Comprehensive Care and they do not. He said the current contract is held by an agency in Tallahassee. He said he had expressed his concerns to the agency already. He recommended the Board re-evaluate this contract because there are other providers who are interested in coming to our community who will provide Comprehensive Care. He said this would also cut back on ambulance trips to Gainesville.

Commissioner Stephenson asked who gave them the contract in the first place.

Director Brown said he does not know for sure; he assumes the state of Florida.

Commissioner Wood asked how soon the miles accumulate on the ambulances.

Director Brown replied four (4) ambulances run daily of seven (7). He said they are rotated for maintenance. He said they respond to assist other counties as well. He thanked the Board for all the positive changes they have made to provide funding and improvements for the EMS and Fire Departments. He informed the Board he will be at a conference in Daytona and then Orlando for the next two (2) Board meetings.

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

Mr. Pendarvis appeared before the Board to request their approval of the Fall Grant 911 System Maintenance Contract that has been awarded to the county. He said the agreement needs to be executed.

Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to execute the 911 System Maintenance Agreement. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

GAIL CARTER, INDIGENT CARE

Ms. Carter was not present for this meeting.

HOLLY HOUGHTON, COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT

Ms. Houghton was not present for this meeting.

ANGIE CROWLEY, HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATOR

Ms. Crowley had nothing to discuss at this time.

DUANE CANNON, COUNTY MANAGER

Manager Cannon appeared before the Board to request their approval of several items.

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to submit to the House and Senate Appropriations for ongoing funding of the Dixie County Storm Water Task Force flooding relief project.

Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to approve the submission to the House and Senate Appropriations for ongoing funding of the Dixie County Storm Water Task Force flooding relief project. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to appoint Dwayne Chauncey as Mosquito Control Director for FY 2022-2023.

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve the appointment of Dwayne Chauncey as Mosquito Control Director for FY 2022-2023. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to execute the SHIP repair reimbursement for Vicki Schmitt in the amount of \$10,500.00.

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve the execution of the SHIP repair reimbursement for Vicki Schmitt in the amount of \$10,500.00. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to move forward with the Task Work Order for North Florida Professional Services to provide engineering services for the Cross City Library roof repairs in the amount of \$19,000.00.

Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to approve moving forward with the Task Work Order for North Florida Professional Services to provide engineering services for the Cross City Library roof repairs in the amount of \$19,000.00. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to reallocate the remainder of the 1st Tranche of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) monies in the amount of \$173,000.00 toward CR 351 Canal System Project Phase I based off the Storm Water Task Force (SWTF) recommendation.

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve the reallocation of the remainder of the 1st Tranche of ARPA monies in the amount of \$173,000.00 toward CR 351 Canal System Project Phase I based off the SWTF recommendation. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to execute the Build/Buy America acknowledgement document for the DEP Dixie County Airport & Prison Abatement Grant.

Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to approve the execution of the Build/Buy America acknowledgement document for the DEP Dixie County Airport & Prison Abatement Grant. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

Manager Cannon requested the Board to assign a member to the Florida Crown Workforce Board and an alternate to the same.

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve Commissioner Stephenson as the member to the Florida Crown Workforce Board. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve Commissioner Storey as the alternate to the Florida Crown Workforce Board. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to advertise for sale the Old Landfill site approximately 80 acres located at 1087 NE 444th St. He said that 35 acres is the actual landfill site, and the rest is low lying land. He said this property does provide access to cleaning some of the canals.

County Attorney Chana Watson asked if the digging restrictions within the landfill would prohibit cleaning the canal.

Mr. John Locklear of Locklear and Associates said cleaning the canal would be permitted.

Commissioner Stephenson asked about liability for this property, if it is sold.

County Attorney Chana Watson replied that would be addressed with the purchaser and with DEP.

Commissioner Hatch made the motion for Attorney Watson to research this matter further before the Board makes a decision. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.

Manager Cannon notified the Board that there was a name change on the Farm Lease Contract at the Cross City Airport and Former Landfill from Southwest Cattle Company, LLC to Rocking K Cattle Co. He said the contractor changed their business name in 2017.

Attorney Watson said the signed contract does have the correct name on it.

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to allow the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebrations to be held at the Courthouse steps and parking lot on January 16, 2023.

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to allow the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebrations to be held at the Courthouse steps and parking lot on January 16, 2023. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

Manager Cannon asked if any Board members would be participating in the parade and/or the festivities.

Commissioner Hatch made the motion that each Board member donate \$50.00 to help pay for costs associated with this event. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.

Manager Cannon requested the Board chose a road for millings placement from the CR 340 project. He submitted the top three choices for maintenance issues per the Road Department.

- a. Joe Bell Road (NE 900th St) / NE 999th Ave – Total 3 miles from CR 340 to SR 349
- b. NE 696th St (Ward Cemetery Road) – Total 1.3 miles (1.1-mile haul)
- c. Log Landing (NE 709th Ave) – Total 3.1 miles (3.2-mile haul)

Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to place millings on the Log Landing Road up to the Joe Bell Road. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.

Manager Cannon informed the Board of the Dixie Legislative Delegation Hearing Friday, January 13, 2023, at 10:00 AM in the BOCC Meeting Room.

Commissioners Storey, Hatch, and Wood said they can attend the meeting.

Manager Cannon informed the Board the road department has moved operations back to the County Rock Pit on CR 351 and are continuing to dig rock while the water levels are low. He said they have begun clearing another property the Board owns for an alternate location to dig rock.

Commissioner Hatch reminded everyone that the Cross City Town Council will need to make the decision to close CR 351 in front of the courthouse for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day festivities.

Commissioner Hatch asked if a meeting had been set to discuss the fence placement along an area of the Airport Canal with the Airport Committee. He recommended the meeting be held on January 26 or 27.

Manager Cannon said he would get something scheduled.

CHANA WATSON, COUNTY ATTORNEY

County Attorney Chana Watson appeared before the Board and said she will have some items ready for discussion at the next Board meeting.

BARBIE HIGGINBOTHAM, CLERK OF COURT

Clerk of Court Barbie Higginbotham appeared before the Board to inform them of additional fraudulent checks on the Vendor Account. She said that most of them have been caught, unfortunately an \$8,000.00 check cleared the account yesterday. She said another report will be filed with the Sheriff's Office and the bank. She said they have discussed closing this account.

Chief Deputy Clerk Verna Wilson said the bank has suggested not closing the account but adding more security features.

Commissioner Stephenson asked who is investigating this matter.

Clerk Higginbotham said it is like a handful of mail was stolen and only the names on the checks are being changed.

Chief Financial Officer Brenda Royal added that the first fraudulent checks were from a batch sent out in April and May. She said this new batch is from the November batch sent to local vendors.

Chief Deputy Clerk Verna Wilson said the Finance Department will also begin using different methods for added security.

Commissioner Stephenson asked if the bank is covering the fraudulent checks.

Chief Deputy Clerk Verna Wilson replied yes; however, some may take more time than others.

Chief Financial Officer Brenda Royal said there is \$11,000.00 so far that is outstanding.

Manager Cannon asked what is needed from the Board to change the account

Clerk Higginbotham said that had already been discussed; however, they are not going to do that yet.

Commissioner Stephenson asked about putting the vendors on a direct deposit system to eliminate the fraud.

Commissioner Hatch asked for verification of the voucher report. He asked if the remaining budget total is quarterly or annual.

Chief Financial Officer Brenda Royal replied it is for the year.

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

COUNTY COMMISSION ITEMS

Commissioner Wood had nothing to discuss at this time.

Commissioner Hatch had nothing to discuss at this time.

Commissioner Stephenson informed everyone that Purvis Landing is looking good, and he thanked the new park attendants.

Commissioner Stephenson said he would like to meet with Suwannee River Water Management about the erosion at Gornto Springs. He said this issue needs to be addressed and resolved.

Commissioner Storey thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Ms. Barbara Cummings asked about the Governor filling the vacant District 5 position on the Board.

Commissioner Storey said the County Manager has been checking up on this continuously.

Commissioner Stephenson said the current Board members will continue to look after District 5.

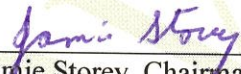
ADJOURN

Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to adjourn at 11:49 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 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.