

# Regular Meeting

Commission Board Room  
Dixie County Courthouse  
214 NE Hwy 351, Cross City, FL 32628  
February 02, 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  
Della Rhymes, Asst. Chief Deputy Clerk  
Jacki Johnson, Chief Financial Officer  
Brenda Royal, Chief Financial Officer

## **CALL TO ORDER**

The Board Meeting 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 January 19, 2023. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.*

## **VOUCHER APPROVAL**

*Commissioner Hatch 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 Stephenson. Seconded by Commissioner Hatch. Board approved.*

**APPLICATIONS for SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS**

A petition by Stephen Riggs requesting a Special Exception to be granted, as provided in Section 4.3.5 Special Exceptions: number (4) Campgrounds of less than 100 campsites of the Dixie County Land Development Regulations ESA zoning district, in accordance with the petition dated 12/13/2022 to be located on the property described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 01-10-13-0000-4513-0001, 480 NE 242 Ave, Old Town, FL 32680.

**(Commission District 2, Daniel Wood) Tabled from 01-19-2023**

Building and Zoning official Leon Wright appeared before the Board and read the Special Exception request made by Stephen Riggs. There was opposition:

Mr. Stephen Riggs spoke to the Board and requested they approve 20 RV spots on his 28-acre property. He said he understands the public concern with traffic because the intersection of 791 and 242 has rendered his pasture useless due to people driving through his fence. He said there should not be any more noise created from this RV Park than the neighbors Guinea hens.

Commissioner Stephenson asked Mr. Riggs if he had opposed a neighbor requesting a Special Exception in the past for the same kind of business.

Mr. Riggs replied yes, he did oppose a five (5) acre tract being developed for an RV Park in his neighborhood.

Mr. Fred Bravo spoke to the Board and opposed the RV Park. He was concerned how the transient clientele would impact the environment and the security of the neighborhood.

Mr. Ron Harshman spoke to the Board and opposed the RV Park. He said he has exotic livestock and dogs to protect them. He doesn't want the campers to harass their animals.

Mr. Warren Barrow spoke to the Board and opposed the RV Park. He asked if there was a site plan, a specific goal or business plan. He questioned what happens if someone crashes a vehicle through Mr. Rigg's fence and into some of the campers. He said if the campers are mostly seniors on fixed incomes then there won't be a lot of income for the county.

Ms. Krista Cambell spoke to the Board and said this is an environmentally sensitive area. She asked if the septic system would be safe during times of flooding. She said the traffic on the roads will increase the dust in the air which is a health hazard. She said the county should limit campgrounds in the neighborhoods. She said the Board had denied her developing some camp sites on her property in the past, too.

Mr. Richard McDonald spoke to the Board and said the county needs to grow; however, Mr. Riggs has many hurdles to overcome. He said motor homes are classified as a heavy use vehicle and will impact the dirt road more than paved roads. He said this will require more maintenance to the road. He said the Board had also denied him developing campsites on a 10-acre site in the past.

Commissioner Stephenson said Mr. Rigg's property is not part of this subdivision.

*Commissioner Wood made the motion to deny the Special Exception request made by Stephen Riggs. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board denied.*

#### **APPLICATIONS for VARIANCES**

A petition by **George and Linda Wise** located on the property described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 19-13-12-2994-0003-3380, 15 SE 892 Avenue, Old Town, FL 32680, to request a **Variance** for a reduction of side setback from ten (10) feet to five (5) feet for placement of a storage shed, set back reduction to avoid tree removal, by the petition dated 01/13/2023 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)**

Mr. Wright appeared before the Board and read the Variance request made by George and Linda Wise. There was no opposition.

*Commissioner Wood made the motion to approve the Variance request made by George and Linda Wise. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.*

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

#### **RESOLUTION 2023-09**

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: NUMBER (4) CAMPGROUNDS OF LESS THAN 100 CAMPSITES OF THE DIXIE COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS IN AN ENVIROMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREA (ESA) ZONING DISTRICT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PETITION DATED DECEMBER 13, 2022. **Stephen Riggs Tabled from 01-19-2023**

*Resolution 2023-09 was not approved due to the Special Exception it supported being denied earlier in the meeting.*

**RESOLUTION 2023-11**

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 SIDE SETBACKS FROM TEN FEET TO FIVE FEET FOR PLACEMENT OF STORAGE SHED, SET BACK REDUCTION TO AVOID TREE REMOVAL WHICH IS LOCATED IN A RESIDENTIAL SINGLE FAMILY/MOBILE HOME AREA (RSF/MH) ZONING DISTRICT, AS PROVIDED IN THE PETITION DATED JANUARY 13, 2023. **George and Linda Wise**

Mr. Wright appeared before the Board and read Resolution 2023-11 in support of George and Linda Wise.

*Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve Resolution 2023-11 in support of George and Linda Wise. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.*

**DONNA LEE, ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION**

Ms. Lee appeared before the Board to inform them about services the Alzheimer's Association provides to 16 counties. She said she would like to focus on the rural counties and provide more information and support to families and caregivers. She said she made some contacts at the Cross City Library and would like to speak to more residents, groups, and at local gatherings. She said she would like to work with law enforcement, EMS, and fire to equip them with information and understanding of the disease. She would like to start a program in Dixie County and have workshops to help people with diagnosis, communication, estate planning, and insurance.

**STEVE COPELAND, SUWANNEE WATER AND SEWER MANAGER**

Mr. Copeland appeared before the Board and informed them the new computer system has been a success. He said this month they processed 159 payments, 53 ACH payments and sent out late notices for past due accounts. He said of the 105 meters read/checked, 63 need to be repaired. He said they are looking for a grant to fund the expense of changing over to radio read meters. He said the water main line was repaired at Corbin Bridge within 5-6 hours. He said they are ready for the 2021-2022 audit.

Commissioner Hatch thanked him, his staff, and the Suwannee Water and Sewer Board for all their hard work.

**GREG BAILEY, NORTH FLORIDA PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

Mr. Bailey appeared before the Board and informed them that the 362 and 364 construction project contracts are signed.

He said they will be finishing the revisions for the EOC Expansion project this week. He said they are working on the revisions for the Old Town Fire Station, too. He said the library roof repair is being evaluated. He said the CDBG project for 351A and 95 and 97 are waiting for DEO to review the contracts. The appropriations request for the sea wall and the Sheriff Evidence Building has been completed.

Commissioner Hatch clarified that 95 and 97 is the road to the Timbers Apartments and the next one to it.

**JERED LIZOTTE, LOCKLEAR AND ASSOCIATES**

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

**CINDY BELLOT, LIBRARY DIRECTOR**

Ms. Bellot appeared before the Board and thanked them for their support of the library.

**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. He was in a mosquito control training class.

**MICHAEL LATSON, SOLID WASTE DIRECTOR**

Mr. Latson was not present for this meeting. He was burning the site on Jack Roberts curve.

**LEON WRIGHT, BUILDING AND ZONING OFFICIAL**

Mr. Wright appeared before the Board and gave them an update on the scope of work for the Code Enforcement and Land Development Rules done by Mr. Gene Boles. He said some workshops and training will be needed. He presented a quote of \$13,750.00 for training and requested funding of the same.

*Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to approve \$13,750.00 for the training. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.*

Mr. Wright said these things should have been addressed in the past before the Board passed the Ordinance for the Code Enforcement Magistrate.

Chief Financial Officer Jacki Johnson asked for the price of the training.

Commissioner Storey replied \$13,750.00.

Ms. Sarah Ross asked about training for the Citizen Planning Board.

Mr. Wright said this is a different type of training for Building and Zoning and Code Enforcement employees. He said the Citizen Planning Board will be provided training later.

Mr. Wright said the county lost the Crab Trap Code Enforcement case through a second appeal due to conflicts within the Rule Book and the Code Enforcement Ordinance.

Ms. Barbara Cummings asked is it legal to have shipping containers on residential property.

**DARIAN BROWN, DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**

Administrative Chief Matt Furgeson appeared before the Board and informed them they had received appropriations for a tanker, and this will help the ISO and lower insurance rates for citizens. He also said they were able to get an ambulance chassis even though there is a nationwide shortage on commercial Dodge and Ford chassis. He said the match grant and department license renewal has been done.

Commissioner Hatch thanked the Medical Director for attending these Board meetings.

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

Mr. Pendarvis had nothing to discuss at this time.

**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 appeared before the Board and requested they approve the purchase of a \$150.00 full page advertisement for the Suwannee River Livestock Fair.

*Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to approve the purchase of a \$150.00 full page advertisement for the Suwannee River Livestock Fair. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.*

Ms. Crowley requested the Board approve the purchase of a banner for the Dixie County High School baseball team for \$125.00.

*Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to approve the purchase of a banner for the Dixie County High School baseball team for \$125.00. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.*

Ms. Crowley requested the Board approve the purchase of a banner for the Dixie County High School softball team for \$125.00.

*Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to approve the purchase of a banner for the Dixie County High School softball team for \$125.00. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.*

**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 execute the North Florida Professional Services (NFPS) Task Work Order for NE 82<sup>nd</sup> Ave. from NE 592<sup>nd</sup> St to US 19 in the amount of \$191,500.00 for Design/Engineering Services.

***Commissioner Wood made the motion to approve the execution of the NFPS Task Work Order for NE 82<sup>nd</sup> Ave. from NE 592<sup>nd</sup> St to US 19 in the amount of \$191,500.00 for Design/Engineering Services. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to execute the Locklear & Associates Task Work Order for NE 82<sup>nd</sup> Ave. from NE 592<sup>nd</sup> St to US 19 in the amount of \$119,479.00 for Construction Engineering Inspection (CEI) Services.

***Commissioner Wood made the motion to approve the execution of the Locklear & Associates Task Work Order for NE 82<sup>nd</sup> Ave. from NE 592<sup>nd</sup> St to US 19 in the amount of \$119,479.00 for CEI Services. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to accept the lowest quote for the cleanout of the Old Town (Hodge) 55A Canal System West of Hwy 349 to remove and install new culverts in the amount of \$140.00 per hourly rate with Dixie Dragline Service based on the Storm Water Task Force (SWTF) recommendations. He added that the Road Department is helping with these projects per the Board's approval.

***Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to approve accepting the lowest quote for the cleanout of the Old Town (Hodge) 55A Canal System West of Hwy 349 to remove and install new culverts in the amount of \$140.00 per hourly rate with Dixie Dragline Service based on SWTF recommendations. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to execute the FDOT Grant Agreement for CR 351 from SE 163<sup>rd</sup> St. to CR 351A resurfacing funding in the amount of \$3,000,000.00. He added this will continue the work down to the "Little Red Store" area and connect the Horseshoe Hwy.

***Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve the execution of the FDOT Grant Agreement for CR 351 from SE 163<sup>rd</sup> St. to CR 351A resurfacing funding in the amount of \$3,000,000.00. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval of **RESOLUTION 2023-12** in support of the FDOT Grant Agreement for CR 351 from SE 163<sup>rd</sup> St. to CR 351A resurfacing funding in the amount of \$3,000,000.00.

***Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to approve RESOLUTION 2023-12 in support of the FDOT Grant Agreement for CR 351 from SE 163<sup>rd</sup> St. to CR 351A resurfacing funding in the amount of \$3,000,000.00. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval of Amendment # 5 Time Extension for PTGA Runway 4-22 from March 31, 2023; to March 31, 2025. He added this is due to the design study for flooding in the area.

***Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve Amendment # 5 Time Extension for PTGA Runway 4-22 from March 31, 2023; to March 31, 2025. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval of RESOLUTION 2023-19 in support of Amendment # 5 Time Extension for PTGA Runway 4-22 from March 31, 2023; to March 31, 2025.

***Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve RESOLUTION 2023-19 in support of Amendment # 5 Time Extension for PTGA Runway 4-22 from March 31, 2023; to March 31, 2025. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to accept the bid for the sale of the portable office building located at the Health Department in the amount of \$650.00 from Ronnie Hunt. He added they will clean up the property after the building is removed.

***Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to approve the acceptance of the bid for the sale of the portable office building located at the Health Department in the amount of \$650.00 from Ronnie Hunt. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to advertise the Old Jail site for sealed bids. He requested the Board's direction on setting a minimum bid. He added that it has been appraised at \$80,000.00. He said he has been approached by someone wanting to purchase this property from the county.

Manager Cannon added that the Town of Cross City Manager is requesting half of this property be used by them or donated to them for a retention pond to help with flood water drainage.

Mr. Greg Bailey of North Florida professional Services informed the Board that the city does have grant funding for drainage improvements in this area. He said their choices are to have a holding area or pipe the water to the Nature Coast Trail which is more costly.

Commissioner Stephenson asked about the sewage water that came from the manholes during flooding when the plant was down. He expressed his concern over the aquifer being contaminated from a retention pond holding this drainage.

Commissioner Wood asked if decreasing the property by half will deter bidders.



Manager Cannon said the interested party would be okay with the Old Jail and half of the property if Cross City would fence and maintain the retention pond area.

Commissioner Hatch asked if this property is of any value to the county if they did not sell or donate this. He said if they did donate this property to the city, a reverter clause would be in the contract.

Manager Cannon replied it is a burden and a liability.

County Attorney Chana Watson asked if the grant awarded to the Town of Cross City includes purchase money for the property. She advised the Board against allowing the use of the property to Cross City for a retention pond in this residential neighborhood with children. She said the county would be liable.

Mr. Bailey said he does not know; they should ask Fred Fox, who is the administrator.

Commissioner Storey said the county is currently experiencing dry times; however, a retention pond may overflow when high water flooding occurs. He said the problems in the past was the water could not flow.

Manager Cannon asked for clarification of the city's future plan.

Mr. Bailey said the city would pipe the water out of the area to the Nature Trail. He said they don't have enough money to do this now.

Manager Cannon requested the Board make a decision between the options presented.

*Commissioner Hatch made the motion to table this matter until the next night Board meeting of 02-16-2023. Commissioner Stephenson seconded with the stipulation that if donated to the city, there will be no contamination of the aquifer. Board tabled.*

Clerk Higginbotham suggested the Board sell the property and let the buyer and the city work something out.

Commissioner Hatch commented that a private seller may not have the best interest of the neighborhood residents at heart.

Attorney Watson said she will stipulate that a study be done, and restrictions be in the agreement if the property is donated to the city.

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval of the Cross City letter requesting property donation for the eastern half of the city block located on the Old Jail property.

*Commissioner Hatch made the motion to table this matter until the next night Board meeting of 02-16-2023. Commissioner Stephenson seconded with the stipulation that if donated to the city there will be no contamination of the aquifer. Board tabled.*

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to place a 20 yard can, on the Taylor County side; for the Fiddler Crab Festival on February 17-18, 2023, at the request of Good Times Motel and Marina. He added that they have done this in the past.

***Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to approve the placement of a 20 yard can, on the Taylor County side; for the Fiddler Crab Festival on February 17-18, 2023, at the request of Good Times Motel and Marina. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval for Storm Water Task Force (SWTF) to hold a Project Workshop to inform the public of completed projects and plans for future projects on Thursday, February 23, 2023; at 6:00 PM located at the Old Town School Board Meeting Room. This meeting will be facilitated and run by the SWTF.

***Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to approve Storm Water Task Force (SWTF) to hold a Project Workshop to inform the public of completed projects and plans for future projects on Thursday, February 23, 2023; at 6:00 PM located at the Old Town School Board Meeting Room. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.***

Commissioner Hatch said he would like to advertise so the public will attend this workshop.

***Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to advertise this SWTF workshop on the front page of local newspaper. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.***

Clerk Higginbotham suggested advertising the workshop on Facebook and online.

Commissioner Storey asked about the right-of-entry paperwork that is still needed. He said these people need to attend.

Manager Cannon said they can send a letter to these people requesting them to attend the SWTF workshop.

Mr. Jeff Hardison of Hardison Ink.com said the Board can advertise with him for \$400.00 per month.

***Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve to advertise the SWTF workshop with Hardison Ink. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon informed the Board the Sheriff has set Monday, February 13, 2023, as the effective date to begin using the new public entrance/exit located at the SE corner of the Dixie County Courthouse that faces NE 134<sup>th</sup> St. near the Women's Club.

Manager Cannon informed the Board on Thursday, January 26, 2023, the County Manager's office submitted four (4) requests for Appropriations and the Sheriff submitted one (1) request earlier in the week.

- a. Dixie County Flood & Stormwater Mitigation Phase II in the amount of \$4,000,000.00.
- b. Suwannee Seawall Improvement project in the amount of \$8,438,459.00.
- c. Fire Dixie County Tanker (2) purchase in the amount of \$1,300,000.00.
- d. Sheriff Critical First Responders Communications in the amount of \$2,700,000.00.
- e. Sheriff Office Evidence Building in the amount of \$2,887,500.00.

Manager Cannon informed the Board of a property available for sale in Suwannee that is adjacent to county owned property currently being used for boat trailer parking for \$150,000.00.

Manager Cannon informed the Board they are in the process of gathering a list and quotes to install GPS on all County vehicles.

Commissioner Stephenson clarified that the GPS in the county vehicles is for staff safety and accountability.

Manager Cannon informed the Board of an overview sheet of the Airport/Prison project.

Manager Cannon informed the Board they hauled 84 loads of lime rock out of the County Rock Pit for the month of January, 2023.

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

**CHANA WATSON, COUNTY ATTORNEY**

Attorney Watson appeared before the Board and informed them of the costs of filing code enforcement cases with the Clerk of Court. She said the fee is \$1,000.00 per case and they have 6-10 more cases that need to be filed. She asked if this expense was budgeted.

Commissioner Stephenson asked if the Board can recoup the money.

Attorney Watson said she will ask the court to grant reimbursement of the fees.

Commissioner Hatch asked where the money is from the recent property sale.

Attorney Watson said that was a code enforcement case and they did get the money.

Attorney Watson asked for the budgeted allowance for filing fees.

Manager Cannon said the Board approved \$20,000.00 for Code Enforcement Fees. He said they can use this amount and then re-evaluate the need for more funding. He said the money is disbursed from the General Fund.

**BARBIE HIGGINBOTHAM, CLERK OF COURT**

Clerk Higginbotham appeared before the Board and expressed her thanks to Chief Deputy Clerk Della Rhymes for all the work she does as the Clerk to the Board. She informed the Board that all the Board Minutes for 2022 are approved and the Minutes, Meeting Audio, and State of Emergencies Resolutions are current and posted on the Clerk's website. She said the Ordinances, Resolutions, and Proclamations are also current and the Ordinances have been submitted to Tallahassee and Municode. She said the Ordinances from 1971 to 2021; Resolutions from 1963 to 2021; Proclamations from 1997 to 2021 have all been scanned into the Clerk's Electronic System for research purposes. She said 66 Tax Deeds were processed for Auction, three (3) properties were sold from the List of Lands, and three (3) properties were Escheated from the List of Lands to the BOCC. She said she is currently reconciling and balancing the Tax Deeds Unclaimed Funds Account. She said she is proud to have her and her team as employees.

Attorney Watson, Martha McCaskill, and Commissioner Storey thanked her for assisting them when needed.

Clerk Higginbotham said Ms. Rhymes has been searching through several boxes that were labeled for destruction and has found a 1967 letter from Washington D. C. certifying and donated the first flag flown over the Dixie County Courthouse. She said she will have this displayed in the Clerk's office.

Chief Financial Officer Jacki Johnson appeared before the Board and presented the Budget recap for review and questions.

Manager Cannon said they will be reviewing budget with department heads next week on Tuesday.

Ms. Johnson said they are preparing for the next budget process. She said they have been having some difficulty with Munis. She said normally you should be able to print out W2 and 1099 information; however, this has not been possible with the upgrade. She requested they look into getting a better system for accounting.

Commissioner Stephenson said he had recommended that in the beginning.

Ms. Johnson said it was not possible at that time due to other issues.

Clerk Higginbotham said the Board previously approved the purchase of an \$8,000.00 printer and this has not been spent yet. She said they have reached out to get assistance from a company that works with small counties.

Commissioner Hatch said the audit and the records were behind, and now that things are caught up, they can move forward with acquiring a newer system.

Commissioner Stephenson thanked the Finance Department for all their help. He informed the public that a local lumber mill had gotten a loan through the county and paid it back in full. However, they needed another loan for upgrades and were denied due to the shape of the county's finances.

Clerk Higginbotham said the Finance team is dedicated.

**COUNTY COMMISSION ITEMS**

Commissioner Wood expressed his thanks for all the help he has been given as a new Commissioner.

Commissioner Hatch had nothing to discuss at this time.

Commissioner Stephenson said the shoulders on 353 aka Governor Hill Lake Road need to be addressed. He asked about placing millings on it instead of lime rock. He asked if widening may be possible. He said the Gornto Spring bank erosion needs to be addressed.

Manager Cannon said they met the engineer this week and will meet again in two weeks and apply for funding for the Gornto Spring erosion issue.

Commissioner Stephenson said the tile repair at the community center looks good.

Commissioner Storey thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS**

Mr. Paul Greenwell of the Steinhatchee Stingray Recreational Association spoke to the Board about fixing up DTRAC on Hwy 358 in Jena. He suggested raising money to help with projects like grading and placing grass seed over the unfinished area and moving the heliport. He said there is an issue with security and vandalism.

Commissioner Hatch recommended he work with Manager Cannon.

**ADJOURN**

***Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to adjourn at 11:58 AM. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.***

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA

ATTEST:



*Jamie Storey*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jamie Storey, Chairman

*Barbie Higginbotham*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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.***