

**Regular Meeting**  
***Dixie County Courthouse***  
***Commission Board Room***  
***214 NE Hwy 351, Cross City, FL 32628***  
***February 03, 2022 – 10:00 AM***

*While adhering to the CDC Guidelines and following State of Florida Executive Orders: 20-51 Establishing Response Protocol, 20-52 declaring a Public Health Emergency, 20-69 regarding Local Government Public Meetings and the Dixie County Emergency Declaration 2020-29. The Board will meet and limit access by staff and the public to the meeting room. The Board meetings are audio recorded. The public can hear and participate in the meeting via conference call by dialing 1(917)900-1022 and enter code 32628.*

**COMMISSIONERS**

Jody Stephenson, District 1  
W. C. Mills, District 2, Vice Chairman  
Mark Hatch, District 3  
Jamie Storey, District 4, Chairman  
James Valentine, District 5

**STAFF**

Duane Cannon, County Manager  
Paul Gainey, Asst. County Manager  
Martha McCaskill, Administrative Asst/Grant Coordinator  
Michael Osteen, County Attorney  
Barbie Higginbotham, Clerk of Court  
Verna Wilson, Chief Deputy Clerk  
Della Rhymes, Asst. Chief Deputy Clerk  
Jacki Johnson, 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 Valentine and the Pledge to the American Flag was led by Commissioner Mills.

**APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES**

None were presented for approval.

**ACCEPT COMMISSION MINUTES**

*Commissioner Hatch made the motion to accept Minutes from the Regular Meeting of July 16, 2020. Commissioner Valentine seconded. Board approved.*

*Commissioner Mills made the motion to accept Minutes from the Regular Meeting of August 06, 2020. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.*

*Commissioner Hatch made the motion to accept Minutes from the Regular Meeting of August 20, 2020. Commissioner Valentine seconded. Board approved.*

**VOUCHER APPROVAL**

*Commissioner Mills 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 Hearings was made by Commissioner Mills. Seconded by Commissioner Stephenson. Board approved.*

A petition by ***Carmen Merchan*** 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 12/26/2021 to be located on the property as described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 05-10-13-4523-0000-0090 485 NE 262 Avenue, Old Town, FL 32680; 0). (Commission District 4, Jamie Storey) **Tabled 01-20-2022**

Building Official Leon Wright appeared before the Board and read the special exception request made by Carmen Merchan.

*Commissioner Mills made the motion to approve the special exception request made by Carmen Merchan. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.*

A petition by ***Len Stapleton*** 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 zoning district, in accordance with the petition dated 12/29/2021 to be located on the property as described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 24-09-13-0000-4405-0100 380 NE 835th Street, Old Town, FL 32680; 0).  
***(Commission District 1, Jody Stephenson)***

Building Official Leon Wright appeared before the Board and read the special exception request made by Len Stapleton.

*Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to approve the special exception request made by Len Stapleton. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.*

A petition by **Thomas C. Mosiman** 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 zoning district, in accordance with the petition dated 01/06/2022 to be located on the property as described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 35-09-13-4502-0002-0130 2236 Ne 272nd Avenue, Old Town, FL 32680; 0). (**Commission District 2, W.C. Mills**)

Building Official Leon Wright appeared before the Board and read the special exception request made by Thomas C. Mosiman.

**Commissioner Mills made the motion to approve the special exception request made by Thomas C. Mosiman. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.**

A petition by **Danny & Christine Dickens** 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 zoning district, in accordance with the petition dated 01/13/2022 to be located on the property as described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 02-10-13-4513-000E-0110 525 Ne 250th Avenue, Old Town, FL 32680; 0). (**Commission District 2, W.C. Mills**)

Building Official Leon Wright appeared before the Board and read the special exception request made by Danny & Christine Dickens.

**Commissioner Mills made the motion to approve the special exception request made by Danny & Christine Dickens. Commissioner Valentine seconded. Board approved.**

A petition by **Gail Pinizzotto** located on the property as described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 36-09-13-4500-0000-0180 (470 NE 899 Street, Old Town, FL 32680) to request a **variance** for a 36X36 pole barn for RV by the petition dated 01/11/2022 which is located within Section 4.3.7 ESA subparagraph (1) of the Dixie County Land Development Regulations in accordance with Section 12.3 variance procedures. (**Commission District 1, Jody Stephenson**)

Building Official Leon Wright appeared before the Board and read the variance request made by Gail Pinizzotto.

**Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to approve the variance request made by Gail Pinizzotto. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.**

A petition by **Kevin Ohmer** located on the property as described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 19-13-12-3266-0000-0100 (162 Se 228th Street. Suwannee, Fl 32692) to request a **variance** for a reduction of side setbacks to 5 feet, reduce rear setbacks to 5 feet, reduce front set back to zero for a canter levered porch with parking below by the petition dated 01/14/2022 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**)

Building Official Leon Wright appeared before the Board and read the variance request made by Kevin Ohmer.

*Commissioner Hatch made the motion to table the variance request made by Kevin Ohmer. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board tabled.*

*The motion to go out of Public Hearings and back into the Board Meeting was made by Commissioner Mills. Seconded by Commissioner Valentine. Board approved.*

**RESOLUTION 2022-18**

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 26, 2021.

**Carmen Merchan, Tabled 01-20-2022**

Building Official Leon Wright appeared before the Board and read Resolution 2022-18 in support of the special exception request made by Carmen Merchan.

*Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve Resolution 2022-18 in support of the special exception request made by Carmen Merchan. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.*

**RESOLUTION 2022-22**

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 29, 2021.

**Len Stapleton**

Building Official Leon Wright appeared before the Board and read Resolution 2022-22 in support of the special exception request made by Len Stapleton.

*Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to approve Resolution 2022-22 in support of the special exception request made by Len Stapleton. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.*

**RESOLUTION 2022-23**

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 JANUARY 06, 2022.

**Thomas Mosiman**

Building Official Leon Wright appeared before the Board and read Resolution 2022-23 in support of the special exception request made by Thomas Mosiman.

*Commissioner Mills made the motion to approve Resolution 2022-23 in support of the special exception request made by Thomas Mosiman. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.*

**RESOLUTION 2022-24**

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 JANUARY 13, 2022.

**Danny and Christine Dickens**

Building Official Leon Wright appeared before the Board and read Resolution 2022-24 in support of the special exception request made by Danny and Christine Dickens.

*Commissioner Mills made the motion to approve Resolution 2022-24 in support of the special exception request made by Danny and Christine Dickens. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.*

**RESOLUTION 2022-25**

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 36X36 POLE BARN FOR RV WHICH IS LOCATED IN AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREA (ESA) ZONING DISTRICT, AS PROVIDED IN THE PETITION DATED JANUARY 11, 2022. **Gail Pinizzotto**

Building Official Leon Wright appeared before the Board and read Resolution 2022-25 in support of the variance request made by Gail Pinizzotto.

*Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to approve Resolution 2022-25 in support of the variance request made by Gail Pinizzotto. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.*

**RESOLUTION 2022-26**

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 OF SIDE SET BACKS TO 5 FEET, REDUCE REAR SET BACKS TO 5 FEET, REDUCE FRONT SET BACK TO ZERO FOR A CATERLEVERED PORCH WITH PARKING BELOW, WHICH IS LOCATED WITHIN SECTION 4.7.7, A RESIDENTIAL, (MIXED) SINGLE FAMILY/MOBILE HOME (RSF/MH) ZONING DISTRICT, AS PROVIDED IN THE PETITION DATED JANUARY 14, 2022. **Kevin Ohmer**

*Resolution 2022-26 was tabled due to the variance request being tabled earlier.*

**ANDREA DZIWULSKI, FOSTER CARE**

Ms. Andrea Dziwulski appeared before the Board. She informed them she is an Outreach Recruitment Specialist for the Foster Care and Adoption Program. She said that Dixie County has 11 cases of children who were placed in foster care. She said these children have been moved out of county and out of the school district because there aren't any foster or adoptive homes in Dixie County. She said there is a need for local placement. She encouraged everyone to help spread the word.

**SUWANNEE WATER AND SEWER MANAGER**

Commissioner Hatch said the Board is in place and everyone is doing well.

**GREG BAILEY, NORTH FLORIDA PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

Mr. Greg Bailey appeared before the Board and gave an update on the Courthouse renovations. He said the upgrades have been sent out for bids. He said they will be due next Thursday, February 10, 2022. He said the paving of the back parking lot at the Courthouse is moving forward. He said they are working on the CDBG surveys for 95 and 97. He said that 362 and 364 side drains have been added to the work. He said this will be submitted to FDOT for approval soon.

Manager Cannon asked if the road was 90 percent prepared for review.

Mr. Bailey replied yes.

Commissioner Stephenson asked about funding for expanding the meeting room or building a new one.

Mr. Bailey replied he is looking; and he will have an answer by the next Board meeting.

**JERED LIZOTTE, LOCKLEAR AND ASSOCIATES**

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

**CINDY BELLOT, LIBRARY DIRECTOR**

Ms. Cindy Bellot appeared before the Board and requested they renew Ms. Alphine James' contract.

*Commissioner Hatch made the motion to allow Ms. Bellot to execute the contract renewal for Ms. Alphine James. Commissioner Valentine seconded. Board approved.*

Ms. Bellot informed the Board that someone from Senator Rubio's office will be at the Dixie County Public Library on Thursday, February 17, 2022 from 1:00 PM until 2:30 PM.

**STEVE FREMEN, CODE ENFORCEMENT & VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER**

Mr. Fremen had nothing to discuss at this time.

Commissioner Mills asked for an update on the crab trap code enforcement case.

County Attorney Michael Osteen replied they are still waiting on the order from the Judge.

**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 was not present for this meeting.

**LEON WRIGHT, BUILDING AND ZONING OFFICIAL**

Mr. Leon Wright spoke to everyone as a positive advocate for the foster care and adoption program. He said that he and his family has worked with them.

Attorney Osteen asked Mr. Wright about the Eric Griffis licensing issue.

Mr. Wright said he will not sign off on that. He said the Construction Licensing Board have met and discussed this issue and agree with him. He said that Mr. Griffis did not take a state licensing test. He said he has a county license through Taylor County. He said they are two different things. He said Mr. Griffis must follow the same rules as other contractors.

Attorney Osteen said that he has licenses with several other counties. He said Mr. Griffis will be here for the next Board meeting. He said Mr. Griffis has asked if the Board can vote to approve his license request.

Mr. Wright said he will resign his position as Building Official if the Board votes in favor of Mr. Griffis.

**DARIAN BROWN, DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**

Chief Matt Ferguson informed the Board that they have picked up the re chassis truck from Texas. He said this purchase was made possible with a state grant from last year.

**GAIL CARTER, INDIGENT CARE**

Ms. Carter was not present for this meeting.

**HOLLY HOUGHTON, COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT**

Ms. Houghton had nothing to discuss at this time.

**ANGIE CROWLEY, HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATOR**

Ms. Crowley had nothing to discuss at this time.

**DUANE CANNON, COUNTY MANAGER**

Manager Cannon introduced Mr. Matt Pierson with the Suwannee River Economic Council.

Mr. Pierson appeared before the Board and informed everyone that the SREC has managed the SHIP program for Dixie County since 2014. He presented an amendment to increase the levels of funding for the housing assistance plan. He said the income levels would be raised by \$10,000.00 and the new home purchase would be raised to \$225,000.00. He said that Dixie County receives \$350,000.00 from the state.

\*Moderate Income – from \$15,000.00 up to \$25,000.00

\*Low Income – from \$20,000.00 up to \$30,000.00

\*Very Low Income – from \$25,000.00 up to \$35,000.00

\*Increase the appraised value amount for home purchase up to \$225,000.00

Commissioner Stephenson said he would like to see this money be used to help more of the elderly residents.

Commissioner Hatch said he would like to help young people buy a home. He asked how the wage an hour increase mandate to \$15.00 would affect these levels.

Mr. Pierson said the poverty guidelines have not changed.

Manager Cannon said these increases would affect the eligibility of the applicants. He said the levels can be changed.

Mr. Pierson said they can change at any time if the Board chooses or remain the same. He reminded the Board that the cost of materials is higher.

Commissioner Mills said if they change the income levels, they won't be able to help as many people.

Mr. Pierson told them the county helped purchase one house last year. He said that most of the money went to help people with repairs.

Commissioner Hatch said the last SHIP house was built in 2009.

Ms. Nina Johnson addressed the Board and asked who to contact for more information on this.

Commissioner Hatch said that the Suwannee River Economic Council has a local office near the Dixie County Jail.

Commissioner Mills said they need to think about this more and research before they vote. He said he wants to see the list of people waiting for help and compare that to new homes wanted to be purchased.

Commissioner Hatch said he would like to help some young people who are just starting out in life.

Mr. Pierson you can increase the property values for the county if you buy a new house.

Commissioner Mills said you can't get financing for repairs as easily as buying a new home. He said that repair should be handled first and then if any money is left, they can address down payments on new home purchases.

Commissioner Stephenson said he would like to help the elderly and those on a fixed income.

Mr. Pierson said they also need more contractors to participate in this program.



Mr. Pierson said the county did not get any money from the state last year due to the delayed audit. He said there are less applicants now, but they do keep track of all the applications.

Commissioner Storey requested a list of people needing help from SHIP.

\*Request Board approval to accept the SHIP, LHAP (Local Housing Assistance Plan) as presented.  
***The Board did not vote on this.***

\*Request Board approval to execute Resolution 2022-28 in support of the Dixie County SHIP LHAP Plan (Local Housing Assistance Plan). Increase the award amounts for purchase assistance:

Moderate Income – from \$15,000.00 up to \$25,000.00

Low Income – from \$20,000.00 up to \$30,000.00

Very Low Income – from \$25,000.00 up to \$35,000.00

Increase the appraised value amount for home purchase up to \$225,000.00

***The Board did not vote on this.***

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to advertise for sealed bids of some Board owned properties as presented. He said they have some interest from the public. He said in the past the Board has opted not to sell these county owned properties unless someone was interested. He recommended they accept sealed bids without a minimum limit. He said the properties are vacant.

Commissioner Stephenson said he would like to offer the use of some county properties, like the old Dixie County Jail, as a possibility for use by a business. He said these could be leased.

County Attorney Michael Osteen added that several of these properties were escheated to the county through the Tax Deed Auction process. He said the property taxes were not paid and they went to auction and were not bid on. He said they are then placed on the List of Lands and after being on this list for a period of time they are escheated to the county. He said most of these properties are not desirable or non-conforming properties. He said the majority of these properties would only benefit the neighbor.

Commissioner Hatch said most of these lots are less than an acre. He suggested they notify the neighbors of the sale.

Attorney Osteen said they will be advertised.

***Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to advertise the properties for sale and post them.***

***Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval for Commissioner Mark Hatch to sit on the Canvassing Board for Dixie County for the Primary and General Elections of 2022.

***Commissioner Mills made the motion to approve Commissioner Mark Hatch to sit on the Canvassing Board for Dixie County for the Primary and General Elections of 2022. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval for Commissioner Jody Stephenson to be the Alternate of the Canvassing Board for Dixie County for the Primary and General Elections of 2022.

***Commissioner Mills made the motion to approve Commissioner Jody Stephenson to be the Alternate of the Canvassing Board for Dixie County for the Primary and General Elections of 2022. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to execute the Task Order for Engineering Services with Locklear & Associates for the Airport Canal Stormwater Improvements in the amount of \$9,500.00.

***Commissioner Mills made the motion to execute the Task Order for Engineering Services with Locklear & Associates for the Airport Canal Stormwater Improvements. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to allow the County Manager to negotiate a contract amount with the apparent low bidder of the Dixie County Cross City Flood Management Improvement Project. He said this has been advertised twice over the course of a couple of months. He said that Suwannee River Water Management District provided \$200,000.00 for this mitigation. He said that all bids were funding over the amount. He said he has asked SRWMD to look for more funding for this project. He said he would like to accept the lowest bidder and negotiate some in kind work. He said the shortfall amount is \$61,603.00. He said that SRWMD told him they may be able to cover \$40,000.00 and the county would have to cover the balance.

***Commissioner Mills made the motion for the County Manager to move forward with negotiations with the lowest bidder on this Dixie County Cross City Flood Management Improvement Project. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon informed the Board that the tile flooring removal and the new carpet flooring installation in the Courthouse to coincide with the Courthouse Renovations towards the end of the month. He said they have been renting rugs to cover broken tiles, which is expensive.

Manager Cannon informed the Board that all the items for Ms. Robin Rouse and the Road Clean Up Crew have been purchased and received.

Manager Cannon informed the Board that the Grade-all crew has cleaned out 82 loads of ditch material on the following roads:  
Purvis Landing, NE 230<sup>th</sup> Ave, NE 489<sup>th</sup> St, NE 219<sup>th</sup> Ave and several other County Roads.

Manager Cannon informed the Board that 218 loads have been hauled out of the new rock pit since it opened.

Manager Cannon informed the Board that if the culverts are delivered next week, the Road Department will close Old Hwy 19, from the Jena turn off to Hines Road, to replace culverts.

Ms. Benita Corbin addressed the Board and said her road, 311 Ave in Jena, has needed a culvert installed for years.  
Commissioner Valentine agreed that it does need to be fixed.

Manager Cannon informed the Board that the Solid Waste Department has hauled 8 loads to Greenville this week. He added that the Red Mack Truck is being used and is on the road.

**MICHAEL OSTEEN, COUNTY ATTORNEY**

County Attorney Michael Osteen appeared before the Board and informed them that he has reviewed the County Employee Policy and Procedures Manual and will prepare a Resolution to support the same for final adoption at the next Board meeting.

Attorney Osteen updated the Board on the Opioid lawsuit. He said this is a 65 million dollar proposed settlement in the state of Florida. He said that each county will get some of the funds based on their population. He estimated that Dixie County should receive \$22,823.81.

*Commissioner Mills made the motion to execute a participation agreement and accept the funds. Commissioner Valentine seconded. Board approved.*

Ms. Robin Rouse asked what will the money be used for.

Attorney Osteen replied it has not been earmarked yet. He said the Board will decide how to earmark this when they get the money. He said that typically this is used for Emergency Services and Law Enforcement.

Someone from the audience asked if the jail and prison population is also counted for the county population.

Commissioner Mills said they should be if they are counted in the census.

**BARBIE HIGGINBOTHAM, CLERK OF COURT**

Clerk of Court Barbie Higginbotham appeared before the Board and requested some lime rock for the Cross City Veneer Mill Road. She said they have used their incinerator for the destruction of old records which has saved the county a lot of money compared to other methods of destruction.

She presented a quote from the Shredit Company of \$1,000.00 plus dollars for 45 cubic feet. She said 142 cubic feet of Board records and 420 cubic feet of Clerk records were incinerated in 2021. This year they have burned 42 cubic feet of Board records and 60 cubic feet of Clerk records for an overall saving of over \$14,000.00.

*Commissioner Mills made the motion to approve the lime rock for the Veneer Mill Road. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.*

Chief Financial Officer Jackie Johnson appeared before the Board and presented a financial report as of February 02, 2022. She said that 28 percent of the General Fund Budget has already been spent. She said this report will be provided monthly for the Board.

Asst. Chief Deputy Della Rhymes appeared before the Board and presented the quote from Municode for updating and hosting the County Ordinances online. She said the purpose is to provide easy access to the information for the public. She said the quote is \$7,188.00 based on everything that has been submitted. She said that everything will be current except for 2020 which is not included in the submissions because that year is still being addressed.

*Commissioner Hatch approved to pay Municode for their services. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.*

Commissioner Hatch asked about the Littering Ordinance.

Ms. Rhymes replied that Ordinance 2008-01 is in effect and was recorded with Tallahassee the same year as adoption.

Manager Cannon recommended that the state statute be used over the county ordinance. Attorney Osteen said the county ordinance only covers civil, whereas the state statute has criminal charges that could be imposed.

Manager Cannon asked if the Board wanted to have both the county ordinance and the states statute on the sign.

Commissioner Hatch instructed both to be printed on the signs.

### **COUNTY COMMISSION ITEMS**

Commissioner Valentine had nothing to discuss at this time.

Commissioner Hatch addressed the condition of the road by the County Yard. He requested an engineer look at this and see if some impact fee can be used to fix this. He said this is heavily traveled by trucks and school buses.

Manager Cannon asked about the possibility of the LHAP being used for a safety project on this road.

Mr. Greg Bailey replied this road would be eligible.

Manager Cannon recommended this be placed on the five-year plan.

Commissioner Hatch informed the Board that their expense account is getting low. He said there is a cake auction for a child that passed away recently, and the Suwannee River Livestock Fair is also coming up. He recommended they give \$100.00 each for the cake auction.

The Board agreed.

Attorney Osteen said that on Thursday, February 10, 2022 he and Mr. Ryan Bell will be selling BBQ dinners for \$10.00 each to help raise money for the family of the same child.

Commissioner Stephenson said he hopes the county can get in better financial standing at some point.

Commissioner Mills said he would also like the county to not depend on grants to fund projects within the county.

Ms. Jackie Johnson said the group needs to talk about how to raise some more money for the county. She said they need to put some plans in place. She said there are some ways to raise money that are provided by statute. She said property and home ownership also needs to increase.

Commissioner Stephenson suggested any extra money be used for shortfalls.

Ms. Johnson said in addition to that the Board needs to think about Budget and have some Workshops to look at revenue and expenses and put together a plan. She said that everyone needs to be involved and informed, not just a few people. She said they need more money in fund balance because there is no rainy-day money.

Commissioner Hatch said there are several 50/50 or 25/75 grants they cannot apply for because they do not have the funds to match.

Ms. Johnson agreed and added that you must have the money up front for reimbursement grants. She said that Manager Cannon and Ms. Martha McCaskill have done a great job this past year with collecting grant funds owed to the county. She said that EMS also does a good job with their grants. She said these needs to be collected as soon as possible. She said in the past this was hindered and delayed due to the lack of information flow from the Finance Department. She said they have all implemented a better system.

Commissioner Stephenson asked about the rental status of the airport hangers. He inquired about taking on a low interest loan to get this up and running.

Commissioner Hatch said the airport hangers and the Cross City airport is underutilized.

Manager Cannon said they have 11 hangers rented and have eight people on the waiting list for hangers. He said he is getting some cost estimates from two companies that build the hangers. He said the T-Hangers rent for \$280.00 monthly.

Ms. Martha McCaskill said they have a box hanger (60 x 60) available for \$700.00 monthly. She said they are advertising this at the airport.

Commissioner Mills asked about the equipment for Ms. Robin Rouse. He asked how many volunteers she had for the road clean up crew.

Ms. Rouse answered six volunteers and said they do this work on Sundays.

Commissioner Mills said he wished she had more help and thanked her for her efforts.

Commissioner Mills announced that he will not be seeking re-election to the Commission Board. He said it has been a pleasure to serve for over seven years now and he will retire in November. He said his decision is based solely on his health issues.

Commissioner Storey thanked everyone for another good Board meeting. He said the Board has been asked to sponsor a banner for the Dixie County High School Baseball team. He said the cost is \$150.00.

***Commissioner Mills made the motion to purchase the banner from the Commissioner's Expense Account. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.***

Commissioner Hatch welcomed Ms. Brenda Royal to the Clerk's Finance staff. He thanked Commissioner Mills for his service to the county.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS**

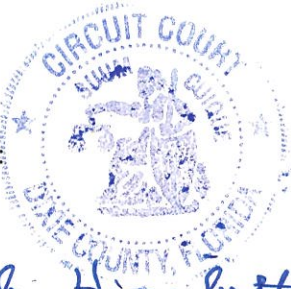
Ms. Benita Corbin thanked the Board for having a good meeting. She said that she appreciated the Board being respectful, working together, and dressed appropriately.


Ms. Mary Goodrich requested an update on the Grade-all activity. Manager Cannon repeated the information that was given earlier.

**ADJOURN**

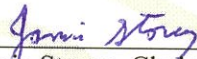
Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to adjourn at 11:35 AM. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.

ATTEST



  
Barbie Higginbotham, Clerk-Auditor

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA

  
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Jamie Storey, Chairman

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

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

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