

Regular Meeting

Commission Board Room
Dixie County Courthouse
214 NE Hwy 351, Cross City, FL 32628
May 04, 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

Daniel Wood, District 2
Mark Hatch, District 3
Jamie Storey, District 4, Chairman
David Osteen, 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 Hatch and the Pledge to the American Flag was led by Commissioner Osteen.

APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES

Commissioner Osteen made the motion to approve Minutes from the Building and Zoning Workshop of April 20, 2023. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

Commissioner Osteen made the motion to approve Minutes from the Regular Meeting of April 20, 2023. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.

VOUCHER APPROVAL

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

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

None were present.

PUBLIC HEARING: THE PUBLIC HEARING MAY BE CONTINUED TO ONE OR MORE FUTURE DATES. ANY INTERESTED PARTY IS ADVISED THAT THE DATE, TIME, AND PLACE OF ANY CONTINUATION OF THE PUBLIC HEARING SHALL BE ANNOUNCED DURING THE PUBLIC HEARING AND THAT NO FURTHER NOTICE CONCERNING THE MATTERS WILL BE PUBLISHED.

The motion to go into the Public Hearing was made by Commissioner Osteen. Seconded by Commissioner Wood. Board approved.

APPLICATIONS for SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS

A petition by **James and Cynthia Harris** 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 Agriculture (AG) zoning district, in accordance with the petition dated 12/16/2022 to be located on the property described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 10-10-13-4546-000B-0260, 1352 NE 644 ST, Old Town, FL 32680. **(Commission District 2, Daniel Wood)**

Building and Zoning Official Leon Wright appeared before the Board and read the Special Exception request made by James and Cynthia Harris. There was opposition.

Commissioner Wood made the motion to approve the Special Exception requested by James and Cynthia Harris. Commissioner Osteen seconded. Board approved.

A petition by **Jacqueline Vega, agent for Robert L. Tuttle**, requesting a **Special Exception** to be granted, as provided in Section 4.14.5 (Special Exceptions) #10 Child Care Centers Located within a Commercial Intense zoning district, in accordance with the petition dated 04/05/2023 to be located on the property as described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 24-10-13-0000-4878-1603, 127 SE 349 HWY, Old Town, FL 32680. **(Commission District 2, Daniel Wood)**

Mr. Wright appeared before the Board and read the Special Exception request made by Jacqueline Vega, agent for Robert L. Tuttle. There was no opposition.

Commissioner Wood made the motion to approve the Special Exception requested by Jacqueline Vega, agent for Robert L. Tuttle. Commissioner Osteen seconded. Board approved.

APPLICATIONS for VARIANCES

A petition by **Dale Colson** located on the property as described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 19-13-12-2952-000G-0060, 46 SE 870 AVE, Old Town, FL 32680 to request a **Variance** to exceed the non-habitable boat house limit of 500 square feet to 2,616 square feet for the construction of a 41 foot by 52 foot boat house with a 22 foot by 22 foot non habitable storage room built above the boat house by the petition dated 03/30/2023 which is located within Section 4.7 RSF/MH of the Dixie County Land Development Regulations.

(Commission District 3, Mark Hatch)

Tabled from 04-20-2023

Mr. Wright appeared before the Board and read the Variance request made by Dale Colson. There was no opposition. He said this is a large boathouse with non-habitable storage space above.

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve the Variance requested by Dale Colson. Commissioner Osteen seconded. Board approved.

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

RESOLUTION 2023-44

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO APPROVE A SPECIAL EXCEPTION TO BE GRANTED, AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 4.4.5 OF THE DIXIE COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS TO PERMIT ONE RECREATIONAL VEHICLE IN AN AGRICULTURAL AREA (AG) ZONING DISTRICT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PETITION DATED DECEMBER 16, 2022.

James and Cynthia Harris

Mr. Wright appeared before the Board and read Resolution 2023-44 in support of James and Cynthia Harris.

Commissioner Wood made the motion to approve Resolution 2023-44 in support of James and Cynthia Harris. Commissioner Osteen seconded. Board approved.

RESOLUTION 2023-45

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO APPROVE A SPECIAL EXCEPTION TO BE GRANTED, AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 4.14.5 OF THE DIXIE COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS #10 CHILD CARE CENTERS IN AN COMMERCIAL INTENSE (CI) ZONING DISTRICT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PETITION DATED APRIL 5, 2023.

Jacqueline Vega, agent for Robert L. Tuttle

Mr. Wright appeared before the Board and read Resolution 2023-45 in support of Jacqueline Vega agent for Robert L. Tuttle.

Commissioner Wood made the motion to approve Resolution 2023-45 in support of Jacqueline Vega, agent for Robert L. Tuttle. Commissioner Osteen seconded. Board approved.

RESOLUTION 2023-42

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 WITHIN SECTION 4.7.5 SUBPARAGRAPH (16)(1)(1) OF THE DIXIE COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS FOR A VARIANCE TO EXCEED THE NON-HABITABLE BOAT HOUSE LIMIT OF 500 SQUARE FEET TO 2,616 SQUARE FEET FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 41 FOOT BY 52 FOOT BOAT HOUSE WITH A 22 FOOT BY 22 FOOT NON HABITABLE STORAGE ROOM BUILT ABOVE THE BOAT HOUSE WHICH IS LOCATED WITHIN SECION 4.7.7. A RESIDENTIAL SINGLE FAMILY/MOBILE HOME AREA (RSF/MH)

ZONING DISTRICT, AS PROVIDED IN THE PETITION DATED MARCH 30, 2023. **Dale Colson**
Tabled from 04-20-2023

Mr. Wright appeared before the Board and read Resolution 2023-42 in support of Dale Colson. There was no opposition.

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve Resolution 2023-42 in support of Dale Colson. Commissioner Osteen seconded. Board approved.

Dixie County Anti-Drug Coalition

Ms. Katrina Van Aernam informed the Board about the Dixie Rural Community Opioid Response Program and Recovery Community Organization. She said they have eight (8) people on staff covering two (2) facilities.

She informed everyone of a Mental Health and Substance Misuse Summit in Ocala, FL scheduled for May 18, 2023. She said in 2012 statistics showed that Dixie County had 85 percent higher Mental, Physical, and Emotional Disability than the whole state of Florida. She invited all to attend the summit.

Ms. Sheila Frierson spoke to the Board about the DEA alert on the drug Xylazine. She said this is a veterinarian tranquilizer. She said it is not a controlled substance and it is being mixed with Fentanyl. Xylazine can cause necrosis, coma, or a fatal overdose in humans. There is no antidote for Xylazine. Ms. Frierson said that Fentanyl is also being pressed into fake pills like OxyContin, Xanax, Adderall and others. Fentanyl can cause coma and respiratory failure leading to death.

She invited everyone to the Town Hall Meeting being held on June 28, 2023 at Ruth Rains Middle School from 11:00 AM until 2:00 PM meeting. The topic for discussion will be Delta 8 which is THC oil level 25 mixed in gummies. She said these are being sold in Dixie County.

STEVE COPELAND, SUWANEE WATER AND SEWER MANAGER

Mr. Copeland appeared before the Board and informed them that Mr. Talmadge Strickland has resigned from Seat 5. He requested the Board accept Mr. Strickland's resignation. He also requested that Mr. Ben West be appointed to Seat 1.

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to accept the resignation of Mr. Talmadge Strickland from Seat 5. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to appoint Mr. Ben West to Seat 1. Commissioner Osteen seconded. Board approved.

He said the SWSB is looking at the Suwanee Water and Sewer District Ordinance to make suggestions for revisions. He said they have five (5) installations that are still pending, and they continue to flush the lines. He said they did not have any overflow during the last storm. He informed the Board the backhoe needs repair. He said the estimate from Certified Hydraulics was for \$13,000.00. He said they will get other estimates for the work. He said that Spray Field # 6 is being repaired and the three (3) water pumps are online and working well. He said an electrician fixed the broken transfer switch for the water plant temporarily for a cost of \$1,500.00. He said other companies have estimated this replacement to cost \$15,000.00 to \$20,000.00. He said parts are 40-60 weeks delayed.

GREG BAILEY, NORTH FLORIDA PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Mr. Bailey appeared before the Board and informed them the Geo Tech has been received for the EOC and the Old Town station. He said they are reviewing the Storm Water Analysis around the station. He said they are working on the agreements for the CDBG application with the County Manager. He said the survey for Hal Chairs Road has been completed.

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 with all three (3) libraries and they have a full Summer schedule planned for all of them. She said more parent participation is needed.

Ms. Bellot stated the roof still leaks.

Mr. Bailey said they are working with the contractors on re-locating the AC units.

STEVE FREMEN, CODE ENFORCEMENT & VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER

Mr. Fremen was away at training.

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. Wright had nothing to discuss at this time.

DARIAN BROWN, DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

Director Brown appeared before the Board and requested they sign the Spring 911 Grant.

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to accept and sign the Spring 911 Grant. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

Director Brown gave them an update on the appropriations for the Tanker. He said that one (1) will be budgeted for \$650,000.00. He said that will leave \$165,000.00 for equipment to be purchased. He said the next two (2) months his staff will be busy with meetings, conferences, and vacations that have been scheduled. He said the county is in a state of extreme drought and have already had a couple of wildfires this season. He said no burn authorizations have been issued for the past several weeks. He said the Vocational Program at the Dixie County High School will be moving forward as soon as August 10, 2023. He said there is enough interest for two (2) classes and he is speaking with the college about dual enrollment.

Director Brown invited everyone to the Friday, May 19, 2023 Pre-Hurricane Season kick-off at 11:00 AM and lunch will be served.

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

Mr. Pendarvis was not present for this meeting.

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 allow Shelbi Lindee, Dixie County High School Coach, to conduct a Soccer Camp at Roy Ward Little League Field under SK Soccer, from July 10, 2023, through July 21, 2023.

Commissioner Osteen made the motion to allow Shelbi Lindee, Dixie County High School Coach, to conduct a Soccer Camp at Roy Ward Little League Field under SK Soccer, from July 10, 2023, to July 21, 2023. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval for W.W. Gay to replace pipes at the jail coming from both 2" PRVs to the parallel 2" BFP down line in the amount of \$8,961.61.

Commissioner Osteen made the motion to approve for W.W. Gay to replace pipes at the jail coming from both 2" PRVs to the parallel 2" BFP down line in the amount of \$8,961.61. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to purchase two (2) – 36" x 40' culverts for the Butler Cemetery Stormwater Project based off the Storm Water Task Force recommendation.

Commissioner Osteen made the motion to approve the purchase of two (2) – 36" x 40' culverts for the Butler Cemetery Stormwater Project based off the Storm Water Task Force recommendation. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval of the Second Amendment of the NW Hwy 358 (Old 19) Ditch Cleanout Project Phase I, to add mowing on both sides of NW Hwy 358, approximately nine (9) miles, by the contractor, and One (1) Excavator, with zero turn radius with mulching head, at the cost of \$207.25 per hour based off the Storm Water Task Force recommendation.

Commissioner Osteen made the motion to approve of the Second Amendment of the NW Hwy 358 (Old 19) Ditch Cleanout Project Phase I, to add mowing on both sides of NW Hwy 358, approximately nine (9) miles, by the contractor, and One (1) Excavator, with zero turn radius with mulching head, at the cost of \$207.25 per hour based off the Storm Water Task Force recommendation. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to execute the FAA Design Only Grant Agreement for the Construction of Taxi lanes for the T-Hangars in the amount of \$85,500.00.

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to execute the FAA Design Only Grant Agreement for the Construction of Taxi lanes for the T-Hangars in the amount of \$85,500.00. Commissioner Osteen seconded. Board approved.

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to execute the FDOT Grant Agreement for CR 349 from the end of CR 349 South to the beginning of new pavement on CR 349 South in the amount of \$7,210,626.00.

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to execute the FDOT Grant Agreement for CR 349 from the end of CR 349 South to the beginning of new pavement on CR 349 South in the amount of \$7,210,626.00. Commissioner Osteen seconded. Board approved.

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to execute **Resolution 2023-46** in support of the FDOT Grant Agreement for CR 349 from the end of CR 349 South to the beginning of new pavement on CR 349 South.

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to execute Resolution 2023-46 in support of the FDOT Grant Agreement for CR 349 from the end of CR 349 South to the beginning of new pavement on CR 349 South. Commissioner Osteen seconded. Board approved.

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to partner with the Town of Cross City in the amount of \$7,500.00 for the 2023 Duke Energy Florida Economic Development Grant Application pending Grant Award. He said this is for the next budget year.

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to partner with the Town of Cross City in the amount of \$7,500.00 for the 2023 Duke Energy Florida Economic Development Grant Application pending Grant Award. Commissioner Osteen seconded. Board approved.

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to accept the lowest quote for fencing around retention pond on the Cross City Flood Mgmt. Improvement (RRMS) Project from Rollison Fencing in the amount of \$6,200.00.

Commissioner Osteen made the motion to accept the lowest quote for fencing around retention pond on the Cross City Flood Mgmt. Improvement (RRMS) Project from Rollison Fencing in the amount of \$6,200.00. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to accept the highest bid for the Surplus Cross Belt Magnet piece of equipment from D&L Contracting in the amount of \$5,002.00.

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to accept the highest bid for the Surplus Cross Belt Magnet piece of equipment from D&L Contracting in the amount of \$5,002.00. Commissioner Osteen seconded. Board approved.

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to accept the highest bid for the County owned property at the old landfill site submitted at \$10,100.00 above highest bidder for a total amount of \$115,100.00 by Dixie Green Acres, LLC. He said this is a uniquely worded bid and he did seek legal counsel regarding the same. He said advertisements and bid requirements may need to be more restrictive in the future.

Commissioner Osteen asked if the bid is legal.

County Attorney Chana Watson replied her research could not find anything that would determine the bid to be illegal. She said their advertisement did not specify that a total value amount must be stated. She gave the Board several options:

- She said the Federal Bid Procurement Manual stated the Board can reject an irregular bid if it gave the bidder a competitive advantage over other bidders.
- The Board can reject this bid and accept the next highest bid.
- The Board can reject all the bids and start the whole process over for lack of clarity in the bid invitation.
- The Board can choose not to sell the property at all.

Mr. Gene Higginbotham spoke to the Board and said he spoke with several bidders and no one has seen a bid like this before. He said the bid is irresponsible and should be rejected. He said his bid was for \$105,000.00 for the property. He requested the Board throw the Bid from Dixie Green Acres, LLC out due to the unfair advantage over other bidders.

Attorney Watson said she had spoken to several other attorneys as well, and everyone came to the same conclusion/options that she has presented to the Board.

Commissioner Osteen made the motion to accept the bid from Dixie Green Acres, LLC. Commissioner Hatch seconded.

Commissioner Hatch said he doesn't like this situation. However, nothing can be found to say this bid is illegal and the county needs the money.

Attorney Watson repeated the options for the Board.

Commissioner Hatch said this bid process will need to be fixed for the future. He reminded everyone this property is a DEP closed dump site.

Mr. Higginbotham said he spoke to several Commissioners about this property prior to the decision to sell. He said the Board should keep this for future use by the county to burn debris. He said this is far away from the airport and residential areas.

Commissioner Storey asked if there was any other large property owned by the county.

Manager Cannon said the county also owns 100 acres at the Department of Corrections Training Facility. He said these are the two (2) largest tracts of land owned by the county. He said he does not know the requirements for a burn curtain.

Mr. John Locklear said there are setbacks required and should be at least 20 acres or more.

Attorney Watson said there are aviation laws and restrictions that would apply near the Cross City Airport.

Mr. Higginbotham said the county is not allowed to burn at the Transfer Station because the Board had previously asked.

***Commissioner Osteen made the motion to accept the bid from Dixie Green Acres, LLC. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.
Commissioner Wood voted yes.
Commissioner Storey voted yes.***

Manager Cannon requested the Board's direction on the Budget Planning/Preparation for FY 2023/2024 Budget year. He presented the following:

- Workshop to review Fund by Fund
- Line-item Budget review
- Proposed Raises
- Health Savings Account vs. Flex Spending Account
- Special Project requests by Commissioners

He said the County Manager Office staff and the Finance Department staff will work on the Budget. He said several hours go into the Budget Process every year. He said the Board previously discussed raising the pay scale up to the Federal Regulated minimum wage of \$12.00 and Department Heads and administrative staff will be increased by an additional \$2.00. He recommended the FSA over the HSA for the employee insurance because this will save the county some money. He said that Special Project for the Districts need to be budgeted for to cut down on confusion.

Commissioner Hatch agreed with the FSA for employee insurance. He said they need the following for Special Projects:

- An over the road truck for the Solid Waste Department
- Some equipment for crushing rock
- Replace the limb mower

Commissioner Osteen suggested a limb mower with a mulch head.
Commissioner Storey suggested a limb mower with an extension arm saw.

Chief Financial Officer Jackie Johnson recommended road projects that are not SCRAP or SCOP eligible is a Special Project item.

Commissioner Hatch said he wants to do the roads in Suwannee because they don't have enough surface area or right of way for FDOT projects.

Mr. Greg Bailey said if you can coordinate the Suwannee projects with the 349 project you will save money on the mobilization of equipment.

Commissioner Hatch said he does not want to schedule a Workshop to go over line items. He said he is good with giving raises. He said that some Special Projects may be spontaneous and not able to be planned for. He said renting the Community Buildings needs to be addressed. He recommended they look at these again. He said the hours of operation of the roll off sites needs to be addressed. He said they may need to offset labor costs.

Manager Cannon said everyone can do better. He said the termination of the garbage can rentals was for the better.

Commissioner Hatch said he would like to see a report on this.

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to advertise for the metal to be picked up from the roll off sites. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

Attorney Watson recommended a RFP.

Commissioner Osteen asked what the county is making off the metal being picked up now. Manager Cannon replied nothing. He said this was a verbal agreement between the Board and the contractors and nothing has been consistent. He recommended the Board advertise for bids on the metal pick up from the roll off sites and get a written contract.

Commissioner Hatch wants millings set aside from the 349 Project for the road to the Water Plant in Suwannee and the roll off site in Suwannee. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

Chief Financial Officer Jackie Johnson said the Finance Department needs to know the priorities of the BOCC.

Mr. Greg Bailey said more grant opportunities are available if you can plan ahead and meet the cycles before they close.

Commissioner Hatch asked about FEMA helping with the seawall in Suwannee.

Ms. Johnson asked about grant opportunities for the County Parks.

Mr. Bailey replied yes.

Ms. Johnson said more revenue can be generated if the Horseshoe and Shired Island County Parks were upgraded and were better organized.

Commissioner Storey suggested the Little League field be addressed. He said it is packed with people and parking is limited. He said people are parking along the road all the way out to Hwy 19. He asked if it could be moved to the 20 acres at Hudson versus the seven (7) acres in town.

Commissioner Osteen said the overflow is going to the Hudson Ball field for practice and games. He said this needs to be updated.

Attorney Watson commented on the Newberry Complex.

Commissioner Hatch said he would like to move the Horseman's Association, too, and open the Industrial Park to businesses.

Mr. Bailey informed the Board the Technical Planning Assistance Grant just closed out two weeks ago. He said this could have been utilized.

Commissioner Hatch said they have some grant money for the Little League field, and they need to verify there are no conflicts with the funding.

Manager Cannon informed the Board of the following scheduled items:

- May 18, 2023, Chairman Jamie Storey will be absent from the BOCC Meeting.
- May 19, 2023, Pre-Hurricane Season meeting at the EOC starting at 11:00 AM.
- June 14, 2023, Wednesday at 2:00 PM the Workshop with the Cross City Council/ BOCC at the Cross City Public Library.
- June 27-30, 2023, FAC Conference in Orlando, FL for all Commissioners.

Manager Cannon informed the Board that the Twin Lakes Canal Cleanout mulching started on Monday.

Manager Cannon informed the Board the CR 358 Ditch Cleanout started on Monday and this road is under full road closure. He stated the contractor was assaulted by a citizen because of the road closure.

Commissioner Hatch asked about the Adopt a Road Program. He said he would like to utilize this for Hwy 55A.

Commissioner Storey thanked the County Manager staff, the County Attorney and the Finance staff for all their help with all the projects and paperwork.

CHANA WATSON, COUNTY ATTORNEY

Attorney Watson appeared before the Board and updated them on the SHIP Foreclosure. She said the sale was stopped; however, the owner has another sale pending and they may possibly get some money from that sale.

Attorney Watson said the Dixie County School Board is swapping their Meeting Room in Old Town for a property in Suwannee in exchange for help with a road project from the High School to the Middle School. She said they would like to work out an agreement to assist with hauling or donating rock for the road. She said the School Board has a grant, but not enough funding for the whole project. She said this road could be an evacuation route for the schools and would also have restricted access. She said the School Board meets next week and she would like to present them with some information.

Commissioner Hatch said he would help them within reason. He asked if the road is rocked, instead of being paved, who will keep up with the cost of maintenance.

Attorney Watson said she would like to present to the School Board an agreement from the BOCC to assist with clearing the land and providing a dump truck and/or equipment with a driver and provide some rock and maintain the road until paved.

Attorney Watson said she will be having Attorney Kyle Felty cover the BOCC meetings for her in her absence. She said he is experienced in Real Estate Law and would be very helpful with Code Enforcement cases, too.

Attorney Watson said she has prepared the deed on the Jemlands property, that was sold by the county, to be recorded by the Clerk. She will also prepare the deed from the Dixie Green Acres, LLC bid voted on today.

Commissioner Hatch asked about the Special Acts matter.

Attorney Watson said they need to be more specific with square footage and seating requirements.

Mr. Dane Gilbert said he has acquired a liquor license for the Suwannee Belle Restaurant.

Attorney Watson said others will have to deal with the ATF rule of 2,500 square footage and 150 seating.

Mr. Gilbert said a lot of small restaurants are on a septic system so the allowed seating is already small.

Commissioner Hatch recommended they look at the Resolution drafted by the Town of Horseshoe. He said it states 2,500 square footage and 50 for seating.

Attorney Watson said she will prepare a Resolution for the Special Act by the next BOCC meeting.

BARBIE HIGGINBOTHAM, CLERK OF COURT

Clerk Higginbotham appeared before the Board and said they will be scheduling Budget Meetings with Department Heads.

Chief Financial Officer Brenda Royal presented the Budget Recap Report through April 30, 2023.

She said there are still grant funds to be received and Tax Sale Revenue in May.

COUNTY COMMISSION ITEMS

Commissioner Wood had nothing to discuss at this time.

Commissioner Hatch requested prayer for Commissioner Stephenson’s family.

Commissioner Osteen asked about a sign on the Historic Homesite of Junius and Olive Downing being replaced.

Commissioner Storey said he will return on May 20, 2023.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Director Brown informed the Board he will meet with Mr. Greg Bailey about the funding for replacing the 349/351 Rescue 3 Station. He agrees the Industrial Park needs to be improved to generate more revenue.

Ms. Katrina Van Aernam informed the Board that Cross City Restore and Renew had been working at the Courthouse, Post Office, and City Hall.

Jacqueline Vega, agent for Robert L. Tuttle, thanked the Board for the approval of the Day Care Facility.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Osteen made the motion to adjourn at 11:45 AM. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA

ATTEST:



Jody Stephenson

Jody Stephenson, Vice-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.