

# Regular Meeting

Commission Board Room  
Dixie County Courthouse  
214 NE Hwy 351, Cross City, FL 32628  
September 01, 2022 – 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  
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  
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 Valentine and the Pledge to the American Flag was led by Commissioner Mills.

## APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES

*Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve Minutes from the Regular Meeting of August 04, 2022. Commissioner Valentine seconded. Board approved.*

*Commissioner Valentine made the motion to approve Minutes from the Regular Meeting of August 18, 2022. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.*

## VOUCHER APPROVAL

*Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to approve the vouchers. Commissioner Valentine 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 Mills. Seconded by Commissioner Hatch. Board approved.*

A petition by **Heather D. Cowburn** 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 07/27/2022 to be located on the property described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 11-08-13-0000-3676-0105, 1201 NE 910 Avenue, Branford, FL 32008.

**(Commission District 1, Jody Stephenson) Tabled from 08-18-2022**

Ms. Julie Herring appeared before the Board and read the special exception request made by Heather D. Cowburn.

Commissioner Stephenson said these folks are going to apply for a building permit instead.

*Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to deny the special exception requested by Heather D. Cowburn. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board denied.*

A petition by **Leonard Larsen** 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 a (ESA) zoning district, in accordance with the petition dated 07/05/2022 to be located on the property as described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 02-10-13-4513-000C-0080, 476 NE 212th Ave, Old Town, FL 32680).

**(Commission District 2, W.C. Mills)**

Ms. Julie Herring appeared before the Board and read the special exception request made by Leonard Larsen. There was no opposition.

*Commissioner Mills made the motion to approve the special exception requested by Leonard Larsen. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.*

A petition by **Christine Myrick and Johnny Smith** 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 07/07/2022 to be located on the property as described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 33-09-13-4492-0000-0060, 776 NE 558 St, Old Town, FL 32680). **(Commission District 4, Jamie Storey)**

Ms. Julie Herring appeared before the Board and read the special exception request made by Christine Myrick and Johnny Smith. There was no opposition.

**Commissioner Mills made the motion to approve the special exception requested by Christine Myrick and Johnny Smith. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.**

A petition by **Michael Driscoll** located on the property as described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 25-09-09-0041-0000-0280, 23 SW 294th Ave, Steinhatchee, FL 32359, to request a variance for a reduction of setbacks from 25 feet to 10 feet at rear of home to allow for new construction of residence. By the petition dated 07/27/2022 which is located within Section 4.17 Planned Residential Development (PRD) of the Dixie County Land Development Regulations in accordance with section 12.3 variance procedures.

**(Commission District 5, James Valentine)**

Ms. Julie Herring appeared before the Board and read the variance request made by Michael Driscoll. There was no opposition. This property is in Jena.

***Commissioner Valentine made the motion to approve the variance requested by Michael Driscoll. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.***

A petition by **William Norris** located on the property as described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 25-09-09-0041-0000-0090, 20 SW 290th Ave. Steinhatchee, FL 32359, to request a variance for a reduction of setbacks in rear from 25' to 10' by the petition dated 08/03/2022 which is located within Section 4.17 Planned Residential Development (PRD) of the Dixie County Land Development Regulations in accordance with section 12.3 variance procedures.

**(Commission District 5, James Valentine)**

Ms. Julie Herring appeared before the Board and read the variance request made by William Norris. There was no opposition. This property is in Jena.

***Commissioner Valentine made the motion to approve the variance requested by William Norris. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.***

A petition by **Edward and Cherie Manning** located on the property as described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 31-09-13-4482-0000-0210, 555 NE 396th St, Old Town, FL 32680, to request a variance for a new construction of 24x30 open pole barn by the petition dated 08/12/2022 which is located within Section 4.4.7 agriculture subparagraph (1) of the Dixie County Land Development Regulations in accordance with section 12.3 variance procedures.

**(Commission District 5, James Valentine)**

Ms. Julie Herring appeared before the Board and read the variance request made by Edward and Cherie Manning.

Commissioner Mills said this address is wrong and it is not located in Old Town.

***Commissioner Valentine made the motion to table the variance requested by Edward and Cherie Manning due to the address discrepancy. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board tabled.***

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

**RESOLUTION 2022-113**

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 JULY 27, 2022.

**Heather D. Cowburn (Tabled from 08-18-2022)**

*Resolution 2022-113 was denied due to the special exception request it supported being denied earlier in the meeting.*

**RESOLUTION 2022-121**

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 ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREA (ESA) ZONING DISTRICT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PETITION DATED JULY 5, 2022. **Leonard Larsen**

Ms. Julie Herring appeared before the Board and read Resolution 2022-121 in support of Leonard Larsen.

*Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve Resolution 2022-121 in support of Leonard Larsen. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.*

**RESOLUTION 2022-122**

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 JULY 7, 2022.

**Christine Myrick and Johnny Smith**

Ms. Julie Herring appeared before the Board and read Resolution 2022-122 in support of Christine Myrick and Johnny Smith.

*Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve Resolution 2022-122 in support of Christine Myrick and Johnny Smith. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.*

**RESOLUTION 2022-123**

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 SETBACK FROM 25 FEET TO 10 FEET AT REAR OF HOME TO ALLOW CONSTRUCTION OF NEW RESIDENCE WHICH IS LOCATED IN AN PLANNED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT (PRD) ZONING DISTRICT, AS PROVIDED IN THE PETITION DATED JULY 27, 2022. **Michael Driscoll**

Ms. Julie Herring appeared before the Board and read Resolution 2022-123 in support of Michael Driscoll.

*Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve Resolution 2022-123 in support of Michael Driscoll. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.*

**RESOLUTION 2022-124**

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 SETBACK FROM 25 FEET TO 10 FEET AT REAR OF HOME TO ALLOW CONSTRUCTION OF NEW RESIDENCE WHICH IS LOCATED IN AN PLANNED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT (PRD) ZONING DISTRICT, AS PROVIDED IN THE PETITION DATED AUGUST 3, 2022. **William Norris**

Ms. Julie Herring appeared before the Board and read Resolution 2022-124 in support of William Norris.

*Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve Resolution 2022-124 in support of William Norris. Commissioner Valentine seconded. Board approved.*

**RESOLUTION 2022-125**

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 NEW CONSTRUCTION OF 24X30 OPEN POLE BARN WHICH IS LOCATED IN AN AGRICULTURAL (AG) ZONING DISTRICT, AS PROVIDED IN THE PETITION DATED AUGUST 12, 2022. **Edward and Cherie Manning**

*Resolution 2022-125 was tabled by the Board due to the variance request it supported being tabled earlier in the meeting due to an address discrepancy.*

**SUWANNEE RIVER ECONOMIC COUNCIL**

County Manager Duane Cannon informed the Board that the SHIP Annual Report has been submitted.

**DAVID CAPO, STORM WATER TASK FORCE**

Mr. David Capo, a 45-year resident of Dixie County, appeared before the Board to give a presentation of the recent work done by the Storm Water Task Force. He thanked and acknowledged everyone that played a role in this project from the county level up to the state level. He said several of them have donated their equipment and their labor to this project: Board of County Commissioners, Dwight Knight Farms, Sanchez Farms, FDOT, Bascom Southern and Mr. Kevin St. Laurent, the Dixie County Road Department.

He said that Dixie County has not had this much rain since 1948. He said in August a state of emergency was declared and the task force was created a few weeks later. He said that in November the county approved \$770,000.00 ARPA funds for Storm Water Mitigation. He said the county received 60 inches of rain in less than 100 days. He said that Cross City Correctional Facility was evacuated due to flooding. He said the task force began cleaning the canals and installing culverts to get the water flowing out of the affected area.

He said they contacted Senator Jennifer Bradley, Representative Chuck Clemons, and Governor Desantis and asked for financial aid. He said the Governor awarded \$2.7 million dollars to this project. He said that Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) gave the county a special exemption so work could be done.

He said that Blue Rok was also contracted in July to help with this project

He said that Bascom Southern and SRWMD approved 12 miles of easement so work could be done. He said to continue working on private property they need permission from the landowners.

Commissioner Storey thanked everyone for their hard work.

County Manager Duane Cannon added that the county has applied ARPA money to this project, the Gradeall was purchased by the Board and over 27 culverts have been addressed in the flooded community. He said 250 loads of sediment have been removed from the 10 ditches in Old Town. He said the Board has also applied for multiple grants.

Commissioner Storey addressed Facebook misinformation.

Commissioner Mills addressed how his interview with TV20 was represented incorrectly.

Commissioner Mills said the Storm Water Task Force was instrumental in getting funding from Tallahassee.

Commissioner Stephenson said that the county has not received any money from Tallahassee yet. He said as they complete the work, they will get reimbursed. He said they still need right-of-entries from the public to continue the work.

Commissioner Hatch said every Board member has their strengths and there is a lot of behind the scenes work that happens within the community from the citizens as well.

Community support. And involvement.

#### **SUWANNEE WATER AND SEWER MANAGER**

Mr. Steve Copeland appeared before the Board and introduced himself as the new General Manager. He informed the Board that after attending several meetings he concluded that the Suwannee Water Plant was very dysfunctional. He said after he voiced his concerns he was encouraged to apply for the job. He said he has been in office for two weeks now. He said they have done some preventative maintenance by blowing out the lines and removing sediment. He said they have no new installs for this month.

Commissioner Hatch thanked him.

#### **GREG BAILEY, NORTH FLORIDA PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

Mr. Bailey was not present for this meeting.

#### **JERED LIZOTTE, LOCKLEAR AND ASSOCIATES**

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

#### **CINDY BELLOT, LIBRARY DIRECTOR**

Ms. Bellot was not present for this meeting.

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

Mr. Fremen had nothing to discuss at this time.

**STEVE HUTCHISON, COUNTY ROAD SUPERINTENDENT**

Mr. Hutchison was not present for this meeting.

**DWAYNE CHAUNCEY, MOSQUITO CONTROL DIRECTOR**

Mr. Chauncey was not present for this meeting.

**MICHAEL LATSON, SOLID WASTE DIRECTOR**

Solid Waste Director Michael Latson appeared before the Board and informed them they have passed their annual inspection.

Manager Cannon said they are working on the loading ramp safety issue.

**LEON WRIGHT, BUILDING AND ZONING OFFICIAL**

Building Official Leon Wright appeared before the Board and informed them that Mr. Jason Jean has been approved for his provisional license.

**DARIAN BROWN, DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**

Director of Emergency Services Darian Brown appeared before the Board and informed them that Ms. Lola Butler has resigned and her last day will be September 30, 2022. He said that Ms. Melissa Sumrall will be the new business manager.

He requested the Board's approval of the following Resolutions:

**Resolution 2022-126** Designating Melissa Sumrall as Dixie County's authorized Medicaid Signer for Dixie County Emergency Services.

*Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve Resolution 2022-126 Designating Melissa Sumrall as Dixie County's authorized Medicaid Signer for Dixie County Emergency Services. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.*

**Resolution 2022-127** Designating Darian Brown as the Authorized Grant Official for Emergency Services.

*Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve Resolution 2022-127 Designating Darian Brown as the Authorized Grant Official for Emergency Services. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.*

**Resolution 2022-128** Designating Melissa Sumrall as Dixie County's Authorized Emergency Medical Billing Coordinator.

*Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve Resolution 2022-128 Designating Melissa Sumrall as Dixie County's Authorized Emergency Medical Billing Coordinator. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.*

Director Brown said it was necessary to update these records due to changes in staff over the years.

Director Brown discussed with the Board the prior approved \$1.00 pay raise for his staff based on the state mandate effective as of October 01, 2022. He said this will need to be made effective as of September 19, 2022 due to pay period deadlines.

*Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve the \$1.00 pay raise to be effective September 19, 2022 due to the pay period deadlines. Commissioner Valentine seconded. Board approved.*

Director Brown informed the Board that based on some grants they have applied for and state guidelines they had a compliance inspection from the State Fire Marshall's Office of their internal procedures and policies. He said this was done three years ago and they have corrected the issues as a result of that inspection, and they passed the current inspection. He said they have applied for two state grants and was awarded both. For the Safety and Prevention Grant, they were awarded \$9,123.46 for 37 pairs of gloves and 37 hoods. For the Operational Grant, they were awarded \$20,767.50 for 5 sets of turn out gear. He said these have a 10-year life span and were last replaced in 2012 with funds from the AFG Grant.

Director Brown discussed the ISO evaluation of the Fire Department, which effects insurance rates for businesses and homeowners. He said that water, sewer and fire are a necessary part of infrastructure for growth. He said the water system is also evaluated and makes up 40 percent of the ISO evaluation. He said that Big Bend, Cross City, Fanning Springs, Horseshoe and Suwannee all provide water to help them fight fires. He said communications and the amount of staff and their training is also evaluated. He said their last evaluation was scored at a 5x (1 is the best and 10 is the worst). He said that members of the county Fire Department staff also work with the Town of Cross City Fire Department. He said their ISO evaluation was 3x.

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

Mr. Pendarvis informed the Board that work on the new phone system is moving forward.

**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 discussed the employee insurance open enrollment dates. They are as follows: September 13, 14, and 15. Several Insurance representatives will be here from 8:00 AM until 4:00 PM to go over information with employees.



**DUANE CANNON, COUNTY MANAGER**

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

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval **Resolution 2022-129** for the FDOT Bridge Delivery & Design Alternatives for CR 357 Shired Creek & CR 357 California Swamp bridges.

***Commissioner Mills made the motion to approve Resolution 2022-129 for the FDOT Bridge Delivery & Design Alternatives for CR 357 Shired Creek & CR 357 California Swamp bridges. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to void the contract with DDD Construction and Site Work, LLC for the Dixie County Cross City Flood Management Improvements at Ruth Rains Middle School due to bid bond issues.

***Commissioner Mills made the motion to approve voiding the contract with DDD Construction and Site Work, LLC for the Dixie County Cross City Flood Management Improvements at Ruth Rains Middle School due to bid bond issues. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to re-advertise for the Dixie County Cross City Flood Management Improvements at Ruth Raines Middle School.

***Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to approve the re-advertisement for the Dixie County Cross City Flood Management Improvements at Ruth Raines Middle School. Commissioner Valentine seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval of the County Holiday schedule as presented.

***Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to approve the County Holiday schedule as presented. Commissioner Valentine seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval of the selection of an Engineering firm for the oversight of the DEP Dixie County Airport & Prison Flood Abatement Grant. He said this was applied for last year and approved. He recommended Locklear and Associates

***Commissioner Mills made the motion to approve Locklear and Associates for the Engineering firm for the oversight of the DEP Dixie County Airport & Prison Flood Abatement Grant. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval for the Task Order to provide Engineering Services for the Airport & Prison Area Stormwater Improvements. He recommended Locklear and Associates

***Commissioner Mills made the motion to approve Locklear and Associates to provide Engineering Services for the Airport & Prison Area Stormwater Improvements. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to accept the Dixie County SHIP Annual Report for the close out of FY 2019-2020 and the Interim year 2020-2021 as presented.

***Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to approve the Dixie County SHIP Annual Report for the close out of FY 2019-2020 and the Interim year 2020-2021 as presented. Commissioner Valentine seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval of Amendment 1 to the Airport Canal System Project Phase I contract between Dixie County and Blue Rok, Inc to add a Long Reach Excavator (comparable to the HX300LR) for the hourly rate of \$310.00 of the required equipment portion of the contract based off the SWTF recommendation.

***Commissioner Mills made the motion to approve Amendment 1 to the Airport Canal System Project Phase I contract between Dixie County and Blue Rok, Inc to add a Long Reach Excavator (comparable to the HX300LR) for the hourly rate of \$310.00 of the required equipment portion of the contract based off the SWTF recommendation. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval for the Tax Collector to designate a parking spot in the new parking lot by the City Park for the purpose of administering Driver License tests.

***Commissioner Mills made the motion to approve the Tax Collector to designate a parking spot in the new parking lot by the City Park for the purpose of administering Driver License tests. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon informed the Board that all County offices will be closed for the Labor Day Holiday on Monday, September 05, 2022.

Manager Cannon informed the Board there will be a Community Connection Dialogue Meeting held on September 06, 2022, from 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM at the School Board Meeting Room in Old Town. He said this is an opportunity for the public to engage participants in a dialogue about the flood risks in Dixie County. The presenters are from Mississippi State University and they are requesting all BOCC, SWTF and County Manager members to be present as representatives in the efforts to relive the flooding issues. He said refreshments will be provided by MSU.

Manager Cannon reminded everyone of the following scheduled meeting:

- September 08, 2022, Tentative Budget Hearing at 5:30 PM at the Courthouse.
- September 15, 2022, Regular BOCC Meeting at 6:00 PM at the Courthouse.
- September 19, 2022, Final Budget Hearing at 5:30 PM at the Courthouse.

Manager Cannon informed the Board that the Brushy Creek ROE (Right of Entry) letters have been resent. He said there are 46 more residents who have not returned their ROE forms out of 115 letters.

#### **CHANA WATSON, COUNTY ATTORNEY**

County Attorney Chana Watson appeared before the Board and updated them on the School Board Meeting Room and the Suwannee property. She said the Delta survey is done for the School Board Meeting Room in Old Town and they are still working on the survey for Suwannee.

Attorney Watson said she has filed the proper documents for the lawsuit filed for the SHIP property foreclosure.

Attorney Watson said the county will be receiving money from the Opioid lawsuit. She said it will go to General fund and then be transferred accordingly as needed.

Commissioner Hatch asked if this Opioid lawsuit settlement funds can be used for drug prevention in the future.

Attorney Watson replied that some finds will be received on a state level and others on a federal level.

#### **BARBIE HIGGINBOTHAM, CLERK OF COURT**

Clerk Higginbotham appeared before the Board and informed them the Finance Department has some information for them.

Ms. Jacki Johnson informed the Board they have received the drafted Audit Report.

She said they will meet with Mr. Powell and the Chairmen to discuss the draft next week. She said the report shows a big improvement. She said there were eight funds that were negative in 2020. She said they currently have only three funds that are negative. She said there were four findings for the Board, and one was resolved by hiring an IT person.

She said they are working on getting the Fixed Asset Inventory done this year and then there will only be two findings. She said the Clerk's portion of the audit was good.

She said Mr. Powell will possibly give his report to the Board on September 15, 2022.

Asst. Chief Deputy Clerk Della Rhymes reminded the Board of the VAB Organizational Meeting on September 22, 2022 at 9:00 AM and informed the Board that the homestead position on the Value Adjustment Board is still vacant.

#### **COUNTY COMMISSION ITEMS**

Commissioner Valentine had nothing to discuss at this time.

Commissioner Hatch requested the Board members stay after the meeting to sign paperwork.

Commissioner Stephenson asked about the county helping Mr. Wayne Varnes with his driveway.

Manager Cannon asked for an explanation.

Commissioner Hatch said the right of way area would need a separate bill.

Commissioner Stephenson discussed an issue with an RV parked at Gornto Springs. He said this person has stayed longer than the time allowed and has taken over the Pavilion with clutter. He also requested the Board also address the bank erosion at Gornto Springs. He said the fence is falling down and the dock hinges are broken.

Manager Cannon said the Road Department is working on this.

Attorney Watson said an agreement needs to be created by the Board and signed by the campers which outlines the expectations, responsibilities and consequences.

Manager Cannon said all the parks have trouble with campers staying beyond the time limit.

Commissioner Hatch said the on-site park attendants need to do their job and address this problem.

Commissioner Mills had nothing to discuss at this time.

Commissioner Storey thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

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

A lady from the audience spoke to the Board about the amount of trash left behind by campers at the parks.

Ms. Johnson said the ideal scenario would be for the parks to have a reservation system and the ability to accept credit card payments for rent.

Commissioner Stephenson asked about the expenses and revenue for the county parks.

Manager Cannon said Dixie County residents can camp in a tent for \$8.00 and \$10.00 for an RV per night and non-residents pay \$20.00.

Commissioner Stephenson said this needs to be addressed.

Manager Cannon said this can be evaluated. He said the rental prices had been raised in the past and then lowered.

Ms. Crowley said she would like to accept credit card payments for the Community Center rentals too.

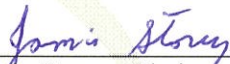
**ADJOURN**


*Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to adjourn at 11:40 AM. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.*



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA

ATTEST:

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

  
Barbie Higginbotham, Clerk-Auditor

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

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

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