

Regular Meeting

Commission Board Room
Dixie County Courthouse
214 NE Hwy 351, Cross City, FL 32628
September 07, 2023 – 5:30 PM

The Board meetings are audio recorded. The public can hear and participate in the meeting via conference call by dialing 1(917)900-1022 and enter code 32628.

COMMISSIONERS

Jody Stephenson, District 1, Vice Chairman
Daniel Wood, District 2
Mark Hatch, District 3
Jamie Storey, District 4, Chairman
David Osteen, District 5

STAFF

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

CALL TO ORDER

The Board Meeting/Workshop was called to order at 5:30 PM by Commissioner Storey.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG

The Invocation was led by Commissioner Storey and the Pledge to the American Flag was led by Commissioner Stephenson.

APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES

Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to approve Minutes from the Regular Meeting of August 17, 2023. Commissioner Osteen seconded. Board approved.

Commissioner Osteen made the motion to approve Minutes from the Emergency Meeting of August 27, 2023. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.

Commissioner Osteen made the motion to approve Minutes from the Emergency Meeting of September 01, 2023. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

VOUCHER APPROVAL

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

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

Dixie County Sheriff Darby Butler appeared before the Board and thanked everyone for their help and support during the storm and for being a united community. He said he will do everything possible to keep the county safe for the families, the children, and the businesses.

Sheriff Butler gave an overview of services provided to the county during the state of emergency. He said there has been 100 plus law enforcement who responded to the call and have been providing assistance in the county. (Citrus, Seminole, FWC, FHP, etc.) He said these officers are still working in the field however, they will be returning to their home county in phases. He said some of the first to arrive will be some of the first to leave. He said that Citrus County was also hit by this storm and those officers need to return home. He said Seminole County will be returning home as well. He said that FWC will remain in the coastal communities and continue to help patrol the waters and will be some of the last to leave. He informed the Board that the looters have been hitting the coastal community's day and night. He thanked his Deputies for working while dealing with their own storm related damages and power outages.

Sheriff Butler asked how soon another mission for state components could be mobilized if the need were to arise.

Emergency Management Chief Scott Garner replied within 24-48 hours.

Sheriff Butler informed the Board that the Town of Horseshoe Beach will be lifting the curfew on September 12, 2023. He requested the Board lift the curfew for Suwannee and Jena as well. He requested the Board allow the Sheriff to re-instate the curfew again if needed. He said he would communicate with the County Manager if this action is needed.

Chief Garner informed everyone that the "Boil Water Notice" has been lifted.

County Manager Duane Cannon requested the Board discontinue CURFEW RESOLUTION 2023-93 for Suwannee and Jena as of September 12, 2023 at 6:00 AM.

Commissioner Osteen made the motion to discontinue CURFEW RESOLUTION 2023-93 for Suwannee and Jena as of September 12, 2023 at 6:00 AM. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.

County Manager Duane Cannon requested the Board allow Sheriff Butler to re-instate CURFEW RESOLUTION 2023-93 for Suwannee and Jena as needed.

Commissioner Osteen made the motion to allow Sheriff Butler to re-instate CURFEW RESOLUTION 2023-93 for Suwannee and Jena as needed. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

Commissioner Osteen said he has some concerns with sailboats in the river.

Sheriff Butler said that the Lake City Office of FWC has staff to locate owners of derelict vessels. He said they are currently addressing this matter.

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.

Manager Cannon requested the Public Hearings, Resolutions, and Ordinances on this Agenda be tabled until September 18, 2023 due to the local state of emergency.

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to table the Public Hearings, Resolutions, and Ordinances on this Agenda until September 18, 2023 due to the local state of emergency. Commissioner Osteen seconded. Board Tabled.

Manager Cannon reminded everyone the Budget Meeting will be held on Monday, September 18, 2023 at 5:00 PM and the Regular Board Meeting will start at 5:30 PM on that same date.

APPLICATIONS for SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS

A petition by **Edward D. Bernd** 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 Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) zoning district, in accordance with the petition dated 07/17/2023 to be located on the property described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 12-09-13-4030-0012-0170, 427 NE 830 ST, Old Town, FL 32680.

(Commission District 1, Jody Stephenson) Tabled from 08-17-2023

A petition by **Mike Johnson** 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 Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) zoning district, in accordance with the petition dated 07/04/2023 to be located on the property described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 01-10-13-4512-0000-0840, 537 NE 791 ST, Old Town, FL 32680.

(Commission District 2, Daniel Wood)

A petition by **Benjamin P. Lundquest** 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 Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) zoning district, in accordance with the petition dated 07/28/2023 to be located on the property described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 26-09-13-4462-0000-0060, 519 NE 355 AVENUE, Old Town, FL 32680.

(Commission District 2, Daniel Wood)

A petition by **Robert And Veronica Groth** 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 08/02/2023 to be located on the property described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 11-10-13-4548-0000-0190, 781 NE 173rd Ave, Old Town, FL 32680.

(Commission District 2, Daniel Wood)

A petition by **Juan and Elizabeth Lazo** requesting a **Special Exception** to be granted, as provided in Section 4.7.5 Special Exceptions of the Dixie County Land Development Regulations to permit one recreational vehicle in a Residential Single Family/Mobile Home (RSF/MH) zoning district, in accordance with the petition dated 08/11/2023 to be located on the property described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 30-13-12-0000-3495-0000, 58 SE 199 ST, Old Town, FL 32680. **(Commission District 3, Mark Hatch)**

A petition by **Andrea and Kathleen Orlow** 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 Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) zoning district, in accordance with the petition dated 08/15/2023 to be located on the property described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 36-10-13-0000-5648-7800, 1109 SE HWY 317, Old Town, FL 32680. **(Commission District 2, Daniel Wood)**

APPLICATIONS for VARIANCES

A petition by **Charles Allison (Agent, Carly Gray)** located on the property as described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 30-13-12-3596-0003-0110, 324 SE 218th ST, Old Town, FL 32680 to request a **Variance** for a reduction of side setbacks from 10 feet to one (1) foot on East side for construction of new boat shed by the petition dated 08/03/2023 which is located within Section 4.7.7 Residential Single Family/Mobile Home (RSF/MH) subparagraph (2) of the Dixie County Land Development Regulations in accordance with section 12.3 Variance Procedures. **(Commission District 3, Mark Hatch)**

APPLICATIONS for AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

CPA 23-01, an application by Josiah D. Ronco, as agent for OHM Springs, Inc., to amend the Future Land Use Plan Map of the Comprehensive Plan by changing the future land use classification from RESIDENTIAL, LOW DENSITY (less than or equal to 2 dwellings unit per acre) to COMMERCIAL on the property described, as follows:

A parcel of land lying in Section 24, Township 10 South, Range 13 East, Dixie County, Florida. Being more particularly described, as follows: Lot 14 of the Greenwood Estates an unrecorded subdivision being more particularly described, as follows: Commence at the Northwest corner of Government Lot 8; thence North 11°15'26" West 34.48 feet to the Southerly right-of-way line of U.S. Highway 19/27A/98 (State Road 55); thence South 54°48'36" East 622.46 feet, along Southerly right-of-way line of said U.S. Highway 19/27A/98 (State Road 55) to the Point of Beginning; thence South 00°08'49" East 367.66 feet; thence South 54°48'36" East 76.91 feet; thence North 35°11'24" East 300.00 feet to the Southerly right-of-way line of said U.S. Highway 19/27A/98 (State Road 55); thence North 54°48'36" West 289.30 feet, along the Southerly right-of-way line of said U.S. Highway 19/27A/98 (State Road 55) to the Point of Beginning.

Containing 1.24 acre, more or less.

APPLICATIONS for AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING ATLAS OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS

Z 23-03, an application by Josiah D. Ronco, as agent for OHM Springs, Inc., to amend the Official Zoning Atlas of the Land Development Regulations, by changing the zoning district from RESIDENTIAL, (MIXED) SINGLE FAMILY/MOBILE HOME-1 (RSF/MH-1) to COMMERCIAL, INTENSIVE (CI) on the property described, as follows:

A parcel of land lying in Section 24, Township 10 South, Range 13 East, Dixie County, Florida. Being more particularly described, as follows: Lot 14 of the Greenwood Estates an unrecorded subdivision being more particularly described, as follows: Commence at the Northwest corner of Government Lot 8; thence North 11°15'26" West 34.48 feet to the Southerly right-of-way line of U.S. Highway 19/27A/98 (State Road 55); thence South 54°48'36" East 622.46 feet, along Southerly right-of-way line of said U.S. Highway 19/27A/98 (State Road 55) to the Point of Beginning; thence South 00°08'49" East 367.66 feet; thence South 54°48'36" East 76.91 feet; thence North 35°11'24" East 300.00 feet to the Southerly right-of-way line of said U.S. Highway 19/27A/98 (State Road 55); thence North 54°48'36" West 289.30 feet, along the Southerly right-of-way line of said U.S. Highway 19/27A/98 (State Road 55) to the Point of Beginning.

Containing 1.24 acre, more or less.

RESOLUTION 2023-70

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO APPROVE A SPECIAL EXCEPTION TO BE GRANTED, AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 4.3.5 SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS 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 JULY 17, 2023.

Edward D. Bernd Tabled from 08-17-2023

RESOLUTION 2023-83

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO APPROVE A SPECIAL EXCEPTION TO BE GRANTED, AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 4.3.5 SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS 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 JULY 4, 2023.

Mike Johnson

RESOLUTION 2023-84

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO APPROVE A SPECIAL EXCEPTION TO BE GRANTED, AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 4.3.5 SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS 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 JULY 28, 2023. **Benjamin P. Lundquest**

RESOLUTION 2023-85

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 AUGUST 2, 2023. **Robert and Veronica Groth**

RESOLUTION 2023-86

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO APPROVE A SPECIAL EXCEPTION TO BE GRANTED, AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 4.7.5 SUBPARAGRAPH (13) OF THE DIXIE COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS TO PERMIT ONE RECREATIONAL VEHICLE IN AN RESIDENTIAL SINGLE FAMILY/MOBILE HOME AREA (RSF/MH) ZONING DISTRICT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PETITION DATED AUGUST 11, 2023. **Juan and Elizabeth Lazo**

RESOLUTION 2023-87

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO APPROVE A SPECIAL EXCEPTION TO BE GRANTED, AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 4.3.5 SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS 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 AUGUST 15, 2023.

Andrea and Kathleen Orlow

RESOLUTION 2023-88

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 4.7.7 RSF/MH SUBPARAGRAPH (2) OF THE DIXIE COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS FOR A VARIANCE FOR A REDUCTION OF SIDE SET BACKS FROM 10 FEET TO ONE FOOT ON EAST SIDE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BOAT SHED 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 AUGUST 3, 2023. **Charles Allison (Agent, Carly Gray)**

RESOLUTION 2023-89

PZ/LPA CPA 23-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA, SERVING AS THE PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD OF DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND THE LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY OF DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RELATING TO AN AMENDMENT OF 50 OR LESS ACRES OF LAND TO THE FUTURE LAND USE PLAN MAP OF THE DIXIE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, PURSUANT TO AN APPLICATION BY THE PROPERTY OWNER OF SAID ACREAGE, UNDER THE AMENDMENT PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED IN SECTIONS 163.3161 THROUGH 163.3248, FLORIDA STATUTES; AS AMENDED; PROVIDING FOR CHANGING THE FUTURE LAND USE CLASSIFICATION FROM RESIDENTIAL, LOW DENSITY (LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO 2 DWELLINGS UNIT PER ACRE) TO COMMERCIAL OF CERTAIN LANDS WITHIN THE UNINCORPORATED AREA OF DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA; REPEALING RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Josiah D. Ronco, as agent for OHM Springs, Inc.,

RESOLUTION 2023-90

PZ/LPA Z 23-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA, SERVING AS THE PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD OF DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND SERVING ALSO AS THE LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY OF DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOMMENDING TO THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA, APPROVAL OF AN AMENDMENT OF LESS THAN TEN CONTIGUOUS ACRES OF LAND TO THE OFFICIAL ZONING ATLAS OF THE DIXIE COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, AS AMENDED, PURSUANT TO AN APPLICATION BY THE PROPERTY OWNER OF SAID ACREAGE; PROVIDING FOR REZONING FROM RESIDENTIAL, (MIXED) SINGLE FAMILY/MOBILE HOME-1 (RSF/MH-1) TO COMMERCIAL, INTENSIVE (CI) OF CERTAIN LANDS WITHIN THE UNINCORPORATED AREA OF DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA; REPEALING ALL RESOLUTIONS IN

CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE
Josiah D. Ronco, as agent for OHM Springs, Inc.,

ORDINANCE 2023-07

AN ORDINANCE OF DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE PLAN MAP OF THE DIXIE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, AS AMENDED; RELATING TO AN AMENDMENT OF 50 OR LESS ACRES OF LAND, PURSUANT TO AN **APPLICATION, CPA 23-01**, BY THE PROPERTY OWNER OF SAID ACREAGE, UNDER THE AMENDMENT PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED IN SECTIONS 163.3161 THROUGH 163.3248, FLORIDA STATUTES, AS AMENDED; PROVIDING FOR CHANGING THE FUTURE LAND USE CLASSIFICATION FROM RESIDENTIAL, LOW DENSITY (LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO 2 DWELLINGS UNIT PER ACRE) TO COMMERCIAL OF CERTAIN LANDS WITHIN THE UNINCORPORATED AREA OF DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. **Josiah D. Ronco, as agent for OHM Springs, Inc.**

ORDINANCE 2023-08

AN ORDINANCE OF DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING ATLAS OF THE DIXIE COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, AS AMENDED; RELATING TO AN AMENDMENT REZONING OF LESS THAN TEN CONTIGUOUS ACRES OF LAND, PURSUANT TO AN **APPLICATION, Z 23-03**, BY THE PROPERTY OWNER OF SAID ACREAGE; PROVIDING FOR REZONING FROM RESIDENTIAL, (MIXED) SINGLE FAMILY/MOBILE HOME-1 (RSF/MH-1) TO COMMERCIAL, INTENSIVE (CI) OF CERTAIN LANDS WITHIN THE UNINCORPORATED AREA OF DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
Josiah D. Ronco, as agent for OHM Springs, Inc.

ORDINANCE 2023-06

Suwannee Water and Sewer District (Second Reading)

County Attorney Chana Watson appeared before the Board and read ORDINANCE 2023-06 by title only in support of the Suwannee Water and Sewer District Board.

Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to approve the ORDINANCE 2023-06 in support of the Suwannee Water and Sewer District Board. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

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

KATRINA VANAERNAM AND SHEILA FRIERSON, DIXIE COUNTY ANTI-DRUG COALITION

Ms. Van Aernam and/or Ms. Frierson was not present for this meeting.

STEVE COPELAND, SUWANNEE WATER AND SEWER MANAGER

Mr. Copeland was not present for this meeting.

GREG BAILEY, NORTH FLORIDA PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Mr. Kellan Baily appeared before the Board and informed the Board they have been assessing the damages to the coastal roads and drainage structures. He said the assessment of the Shired Island Highway has been completed. He said that three (3) appropriations request have been submitted for the EMS Maintenance Facility, the Cross City Library, and the Tax Collector's Office expansion. He said the seawall in Suwannee has also been submitted.

JOHN LOCKLEAR, LOCKLEAR AND ASSOCIATES

A representative of Locklear and Associates appeared before the Board and informed them of the status of Palm Drive.

Manager Cannon said that Locklear and Associates has provided some drone footage of the storm devastation.

CINDY BELLOT, LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Manager Cannon informed everyone that FEMA has met with 65 applicants at the Cross City Library.

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.

TIM JOHNSON, SOLID WASTE DIRECTOR

Mr. Johnson was not present for this meeting.

LEON WRIGHT, BUILDING AND ZONING OFFICIAL

Mr. Wright was not present for this meeting.

DARIAN BROWN, DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

Director Brown appeared before the Board and expressed his thanks to all his staff for working the extra hours during the storm.

Chief Garner informed the Board of the supplies the county has distributed to the different Point of Distributions (PODS).

- 167 pallets of water
- 144 pallets of MRE's
- 25 pallets of snacks
- 47 pallets of cleaning and hygiene kits

Chief Garner requested the Board approve RESOLUTION 2023-96 to extend the local state of emergency.

Commissioner Osteen made the motion to approve RESOLUTION 2023-96 to extend the local state of emergency. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

Chief Garner informed the Board that the Town of Suwannee has 957 grinder pumps that will have to be replaced due to saltwater damage. He said they will keep the “Comfort Stations” (showers and toilets) in the community of Suwannee. He said the ones will be pulled from Jena and Horseshoe. He said 1,000 residents have signed up for Disaster Recovery. He said FEMA will be rotating representatives between Suwannee, Horseshoe, and Jena to help residents sign up.

Chief Garner requested the Board approve a local waiver to fix the Shired Island road pending the County Attorney’s review. He said the current quote is over 2 million dollars. He said this will waive the county’s obligation to match funding for the repairs.

Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to approve a local waiver to fix the Shired Island road pending the County Attorney’s review. Commissioner Osteen seconded. Board approved.

Chief Garner informed the Board about Hurricane Lee in the Atlantic Ocean.

Chief Garner stated the people that were here to assist at the EOC from Palm Beach and Polk County along with Palatka and St Johns helped tremendously.

County Attorney Chana Watson said she has a letter drafted for the DEP regarding ownership of the coastal canal system. She said they have gathered documentation from 2016 for reference and support.

Attorney Watson read RESOLUTION 2023-97 drafted to allow the clean-up of Hurricane Idalia debris from all the coastal canals.

Manager Cannon recommended and Attorney Watson requested the Board approve RESOLUTION 2023-97 for the clean-up of Hurricane Idalia debris from all the coastal canals.

Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to approve RESOLUTION 2023-97 for the clean-up of Hurricane Idalia debris from all the coastal canals. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

Commissioner Stephenson said this is a priority for the fisherman. He questioned who will clean all the trash in the woods and marsh.

Manager Cannon said they will clean up the highways first and then the canals. He said this may take several months. He said they will discuss the matter with the state.

Clerk of Court Barbie Higginbotham asked how they are tracking the free fuel that is being distributed in Horseshoe to non-residents and/or volunteers.

Chief Garner replied this is a mission, called a “Milk Run”, through the state and is monitored through the vendor and the state. He said the operator should be taking a photo of the auto tag, the persons ID, and the auto or containers that are being filled.

Director Brown informed the Board that there were several ambulances from out-of-state that have helped provide services to the residents. He said they requested a state strike team and received five (5) more fire engines and three (3) tankers. He said they had approximately 40 additional people to assist throughout the community. (Palatka, High Springs, Clay County state strike teams). He said the calls for ambulances have tripled so they will keep the extra ambulances and staff to continue with assistance. He said the local water systems are operational and the fire engines, tankers and staff will be returning to their homes soon.

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

Mr. Scott Pendarvis appeared before the Board and requested the Board's approval of the 911 Fall Grant for \$57,688.00.

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve the 911 Fall Grant for \$57,688.00. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

GAIL CARTER, INDIGENT CARE

Ms. Carter was not present for this meeting.

HOLLY HOUGHTON, COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT

Ms. Houghton was not present for this meeting.

ANGIE CROWLEY, HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATOR

Ms. Crowley was not present for this meeting.

DUANE CANNON, COUNTY MANAGER

Manager Cannon appeared before the Board and thanked everyone for their support and assistance over the past 10-12 days. He said the Dixie County communities and residents are very resilient. He said it has been impressive to see the staff do what they have been trained to do. He said this storm event has been an eye opener and teaching moment for him.

Manager Cannon updated the Board on the FMIP Property Insurance. He said it has been assessed at \$800,000.00 worth of damage to the County Parks and County Boat Ramps. He said he will be moving forward with addressing this matter.

Manager Cannon said the bids for the FDOT debris removal from the right of ways closed today. He said they should have some agreements soon. He said they are also working with DEP and moving towards an agreement addressing the debris cleanup from the canals.

Commissioner Hatch expressed his thanks to the County Manager for all his hard work.

Commissioner Storey also thanked Assistant County Manager Paul Gainey for his hard work.

CHANA WATSON, COUNTY ATTORNEY

Attorney Watson appeared before the Board and expressed her thanks to the Board.

She shared a comment from someone who said, "they had never seen recovery from a storm of this magnitude this quick." She said we are brothers, sisters and each other's keepers, when one hurts, we all hurt, and this speaks volumes of our community.

She informed the Board she has drafted an Ordinance for No Smoking in the County Parks. She requested the Board direct her to move forward with advertising if this is what they want to do. She said if the Ordinance is enacted by the Board a sign would be posted at the County Parks similar to the sign at the Little League Field.

Commissioner Osteen made the motion to move forward with the advertisement of the No Smoking in County Parks Ordinance. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

Attorney Watson clarified the Ordinance is No Tobacco in County Parks and this would be advertised and have a first and second reading.

BARBIE HIGGINBOTHAM, CLERK OF COURT

Clerk Higginbotham appeared before the Board and expressed her pride in Dixie County and the residents, volunteers and communities that have come together to help each other.

COUNTY COMMISSION ITEMS

Commissioner Wood said he was very impressed with the EOC and their staff.

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to appoint Mr. Allan Clark to the Suwannee Water and Sewer Board. Commissioner Osteen seconded. Board approved.

Commissioner Hatch expressed his thanks to everyone.

Commissioner Osteen expressed his appreciation for the overwhelming support of Dixie County. He said this has been a blessing.

Commissioner Stephenson said he is thankful that there was no loss of life during this storm.

Commissioner Storey expressed his thanks to everyone.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

American Red Cross, Michael Hesbach

Mr. Hesbach said he has been here since Tuesday from South Carolina. He apologized for mistakenly closing the emergency shelter early. He said they reopened the Trail Riders Club as a shelter. He said they have walked the coastal communities of Suwannee and Horseshoe and taken photos for damage assessment. He said they have completed \$15,000.00 in assessments across Florida and Georgia. He said 1/3 of these damaged homes are in Horseshoe Beach. He said they will start providing individual assistance on September 13, 2023.

Mr. Bob Kliple asked if the canals cleanup will be extended to the channels.

Attorney Watson said she will clarify this.

Manager Cannon said NOAA, the Coast Guard, and the ARMY Corp of Engineers will assess the need for the channels and turn basins being cleaned up.

Mr. Bob Kliple asked about the need for the electric poles being raised higher.

Commissioner Hatch replied this is a FEMA code requirement. He said the panel will need to be raised to base flood elevation.

Pastor Carolyn Oglesby of the Jena Pentecostal Holiness Church thanked the Board and others for their help and support in Jena. She said they opened their church for residents of the community during the storm and have been providing food and supplies since then. She thanked the County Manager and the EOC staff for all their assistance. She said several State Representatives and Senators have been to the area to view the damage to the community. She said they have been blessed with supplies, food and volunteers. She said there are so many people from everywhere that have helped during this time of need.

Commissioner Storey and Manager Cannon expressed their thanks to her.

Commissioner Osteen commented that Ms. Oglesby treats everyone like family.

Director Brown said the resiliency of the county is because of people like her.

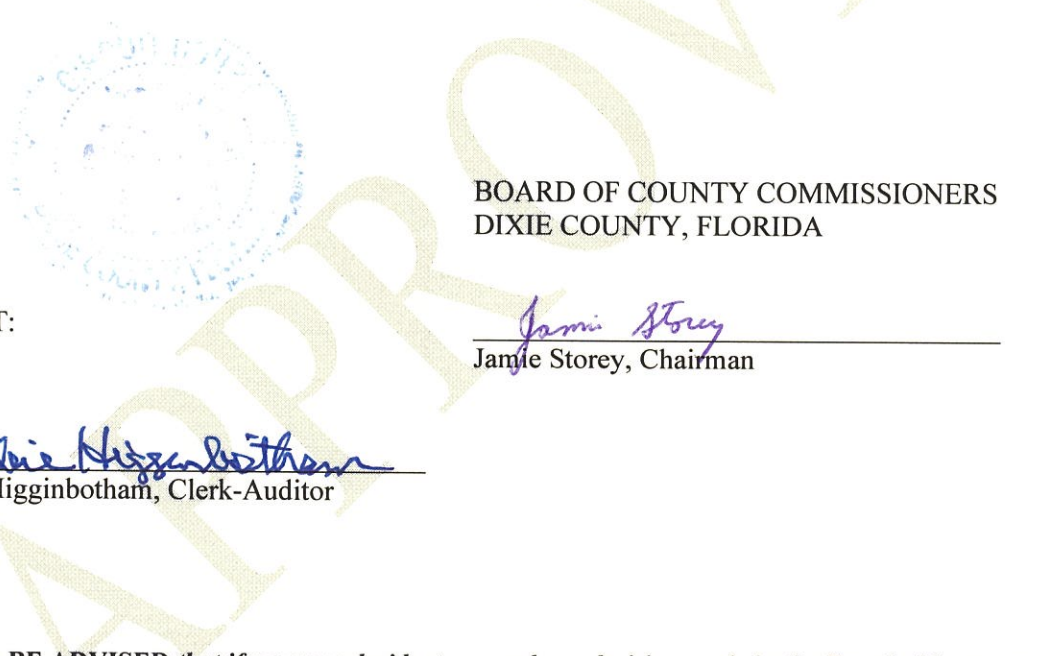
Mr. James Ward Boat spoke to the Board and said they can continue to use the boat ramp on his property.

Manager Cannon said Mr. Ward has allowed them to set up supplies on this property for Horseshoe.

Commissioner Hatch said being able to utilize this pavilion has been an asset to the community.


ADJOURN

Commissioner Osteen made the motion to adjourn at 6:46 PM. Commissioner Stephenson 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.