

**Special Meeting**  
**Tentative Budget**  
Commission Board Room  
Dixie County Courthouse  
214 NE Hwy 351, Cross City, FL 32628  
September 08, 2022 – 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  
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/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 Valentine and the Pledge to the American Flag was led by Commissioner Mills.

Chief Financial Officer Brenda Royal appeared before the Board and read **Resolution 2022-130** in support of the Tentative Millage Rate and then requested their approval of the same.

Ms. Royal said the gross taxable value for operating purposes not exempt from taxation within Dixie County has been certified by the County Property Appraiser to the Board of County Commissioners as \$661,218,281.

Ms. Royal said the tentative operating millage rate for the fiscal year commencing October 01, 2022, shall be 9.8000 mills in the General Fund, 3.2000 mills in the Emergency Medical Services Fund, and .5000 mills in the Library and Recreation Fund. The total Fiscal Year operating millage rate is 13.5000 mills, which is an increase over the rolled back rate of 11.7900 mills by 14.5 %.

***Commissioner Mills made the motion to approve Resolution 2022-130 in support of the Tentative Millage Rate. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved at 5:33 PM.***

Commissioner Hatch asked for Ms. Royal to clarify that the \$661,218,281 is not the county budget.

Ms. Royal said that is correct, it is not the budget.

Ms. Royal read **Resolution 2022-131** in support of the Tentative Budget and then requested the Board's approval of the same.

Ms. Royal said the Board of County Commissioners of Dixie County, Florida, set forth the appropriations and revenue estimate for the budget of fiscal year 2022-2023 in the amount of \$66,324,326.00.

Ms. Royal said the tentative budget for the Fiscal Year commencing October 01, 2022 is for the General Fund, Communications (F&F), County Ordinance 2004-03, Court Facilities Fund, Cross City Airport Fund, Fire District Fund, Recreation/Library Fund, County Transportation Trust Fund, SHIP Fund, Solid Waste Fund, Emergency Medical Services Fund, Law Enforcement Trust Fund, Emergency 911 System and Impact Fee Fund.

***Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve Resolution 2022-131 in support of the Tentative Millage Rate. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved at 5:36 PM.***

County Manager Duane Cannon requested Board approval to accept the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) for the Sheriff's Department in the amount of \$45,952.00. This is being presented tonight because of time constraints to apply.

***Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to approve the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) for the Sheriff's Department in the amount of \$45,952.00. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon requested the Board to appoint a Chairman for the Thursday, September 15, 2022, 6:00 PM Regularly scheduled BOCC Meeting. He said the Chairman and Vice Chairman will both be absent.

***Commissioner Mills made the motion to approve Commissioner Hatch to serve as Chairman for the Thursday, September 15, 2022, 6:00 PM Regularly scheduled BOCC Meeting. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon requested the Board to appoint a Chairman for the September 19, 2022, 5:30 PM Final Budget Hearing Meeting. He said the Chairman and Vice Chairman will both be absent.

***Commissioner Mills made the motion to approve Commissioner Hatch to serve as Chairman for the September 19, 2022, 5:30 PM Final Budget Hearing Meeting. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.***

Commissioner Hatch asked how much of the budget money consists of grants.

Manager Cannon replied there is an increase of \$21 million in various grants to cover the following projects:

- Two fire stations
- NE 82nd Avenue, from NE 592nd Street to SR 55 (US 19) (Hal Chaires Road)
- CR 351 South, from .25 miles North of SE 163rd St to CR 351 A. (Horseshoe Hwy)
- CR 349 from the end of CR 349 South to the beginning of the new pavement on CR 349 South (Suwannee Hwy)

He said there is no revenue that has been gained.

Commissioner Stephenson asked about the 340 project.

Manager Cannon explained how the Board chooses road projects and then submits them to FDOT who then selects from the list and prioritizes the road projects. He said that FDOT doesn't prioritize the importance of the same roads as the Board does.

Commissioner Mills said he would like to add the Alton Land Road to the list of road projects.

Manager Cannon said the Board normally makes the list around November.

Commissioner Stephenson said that many of the county roads and intersections are grown up with weeds and the grass needs to be mowed.

Manager Cannon agreed the county is behind in mowing.

Commissioner Mills said the flooding around the country is caused by rainfall.

Director of Emergency Services Darian Brown informed the Board that the county will be receiving another four to six inches of rain. He said there is a possibility of storm surge and higher tides due to the two hurricanes in the Atlantic.

County Attorney Chana Watson updated the Board on the Opioid suite settlement.

She said the following six groups will be paying out money from the settlement to the state of Florida:

- Jansen will pay \$894,000.00 over 18 years
- Teva will pay \$94,000.00 over 15 years
- Walgreens will pay \$324,000.00 over 18 years
- CVS will pay \$229,000.00 over 18 years
- Endo will pay \$30,000.00 in a lump sum
- Allergen will pay \$65,000.00 over 11 years

Commissioner Stephenson asked if this money has any stipulations on what it can be spent on.

Attorney Watson said yes, and that she will get an itemized list. She said that Endo has filed bankruptcy. She said the county will receive portions of these funds beginning in the next few weeks. She said that the Department of Children and Families (DCF) has been appointed as the conservatorship overseeing the money for all small counties with less than 300,000 people.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS**

There were no comments or questions from the public at this time.

**ADJOURN**

*Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to adjourn at 6:00 PM. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.*



ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

*Barbie Higginbotham*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Barbie Higginbotham, Clerk-Auditor

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

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

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