

Final Millage Rate and Budget

Special Meeting

Commission Board Room

Dixie County Courthouse

214 NE Hwy 351, Cross City, FL 32628

September 19, 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

Mark Hatch, District 3 (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

Verna Wilson, Chief Deputy Clerk

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 5:30 PM by Commissioner Hatch.

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 Stephenson.

Commissioner Mills and Commissioner Storey were not present for this meeting.

RESOLUTION 2022-138

Final Millage Rate

Chief Financial Officer Brenda Royal appeared before the Board and read Resolution 2022-138 in support of the final millage rate.

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 \$661,218,281.00.

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

Commissioner Stephenson asked about the grants that the Sheriff had discussed at the last meeting.

County Manager Duane Cannon replied the Sheriff had informed the Board that he did not get the funding he had requested and would like to re-apply in the Spring.

Commissioner Stephenson asked about the audit that was just completed. He wanted to know how much money was in the accounts.

Chief Financial Officer Jacki Johnson replied \$5.7 million dollars. She said the carry forward money was \$4.4 million dollars for the 2022 budget which left a balance of \$1.3 million to the good. She discussed with the Board increased expenses and grant reimbursement and state revenue. She said the YTD revenue in General Fund is \$11,711,753.00 and the YTD expenditure is \$13,607,736.00. She said that more grant money is coming and more state revenue. She said November 30 is the deadline for reimbursing the previous physical year, plus a 60-day grace period to move the money back into the accounts.

Commissioner Stephenson asked if the next audit will reflect an opposite trend.

Ms. Johnson said this depends on expenditures and revenue. She said the county is more current on records and funds than they have been in the past.

County Manager Duane Cannon explained the process of balancing the budget by estimating revenue and decreasing expenditures.

Ms. Johnson said the fund balance should be the reserve for projects. She said the county depends on grant money for projects and must pay up front and get reimbursed later.

Commissioner Stephenson said he would like for the county to be in the position of having reserves for projects.

Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to approve Resolution 2022-138 in support of the final millage rate. Commissioner Valentine seconded. Board approved at 5:47 PM.

RESOLUTION 2022-139

Final Budget

Chief Financial Officer Brenda Royal appeared before the Board and read Resolution 2022-139 in support of the final budget.

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 asked how much of this money consisted of grants.

Ms. Royal replied \$25 million.

Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to approve Resolution 2022-139 in support of the final budget. Commissioner Valentine seconded. Board approved at 5:49 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Ms. Shirley Path asked what exactly is the general fund.

Ms. Johnson replied the General Fund covers all the operations of the county, from county administrative, salaries, constitutional officers, county departments, etc. She said that the Transportation Fund is funded by the gas tax for the upkeep of the county roads.

Ms. Path asked how they determine which roads get paved.

Ms. Johnson replied the Board creates a list of roads they want to pave.

Commissioner Stephenson said the roads are paved with grants and the list the Board creates is submitted to FDOT for final approval. He said this process can take five years and the quotes and estimates change over time and delays occur when they have to get approval for additional funding.

Ms. Path asked if property taxes affect the General Fund.

Ms. Johnson replied indirectly.

Ms. Path stated the county needs more homes built versus campers.

Commissioner Hatch said they are addressing this issue with campers. He said that the land which has campers on it will have to pay the \$300.00 Special Exception renewal fee and all the same assessments that a property with a home on it would have to pay.

Ms. Sandy Coleman asked when 349 and 369 will get paved.

Manager Cannon said the county has surveyed and have the right-of-way entries on this road per the FDOT requirement. He said that FDOT has to choose the road from the five-year list the Board has created. He said they have denied it prior, however the Board still has it on their list.

Commissioner Hatch said that millings can be put down on some roads as a base to help until they can get approval for resurfacing or paving.

Ms. Sandy Coleman asked where is the money that the Governor has given the county.

Manager Cannon replied the county has not received any money yet.

Commissioner Hatch explained that the county needs \$10 million dollars in reserve to fund projects and then FDOT has 45 days to reimburse the county.

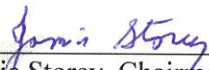
ADJOURN

Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to adjourn at 6:08 PM. Commissioner Valentine seconded. Board approved.

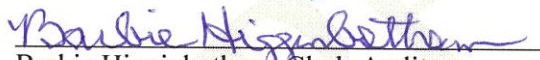


BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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.