

# Regular Meeting

Commission Board Room

Dixie County Courthouse

214 NE Hwy 351, Cross City, FL 32628

October 05, 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**

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 Gainey, Asst. County Manager

Martha McCaskill, Administrative Asst/Grant Coordinator

Chana Watson, County Attorney

Barbie Higginbotham, Clerk of Court

Della J. 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 Stephenson.

## **APPROVAL OF COMMISSIONER MINUTES**

*Commissioner Osteen made the motion to approve Minutes from the Emergency Meeting of September 15, 2023. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.*

*Commissioner Osteen made the motion to approve Minutes from the Final Budget Meeting of September 18, 2023. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.*

*Commissioner Osteen made the motion to approve Minutes from the Regular Meeting of September 18, 2023. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.*

**VOUCHER APPROVAL**

Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to approve the vouchers. Commissioner Osteen 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 Wood. Seconded by Commissioner Osteen. Board approved.***

**APPLICATIONS for SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS**

A petition by **Bassil Al Rubaie** 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 08/22/2023 to be located on the property described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 08-08-14-6871-0002-0070, 133 NE 967 ST, Branford, FL 32008. **(Commission District 1, Jody Stephenson)**

Building and Zoning Official Leon Wright appeared before the Board and read the Special Exception request made by Bassil Al Rubaie. There was opposition.

Commissioner Stephenson asked the owner what his plans are for the future.

Mr. Al Rubaie said he would like to put a RV there.

Mr. Stephenson mentioned a Code Enforcement Complaint regarding sheds on the property.

Mr. Al Rubaie said he did not know that was not allowed.

Mr. Stephenson said he would not approve this request and recommended the owner get some building plans and permits. He said the property is low.

***Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to deny the Special Exception request made by Bassil Al Rubaie. Commissioner Osteen seconded. Board denied.***

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)**

**Tabled from 09-07-2023, 09-18-2023**

Mr. Wright appeared before the Board and read the Special Exception request made by Mike Johnson. There was opposition.

Commissioner Wood said the owner has made significant improvements to the property and has plans to build a home.

*Commissioner Wood made the motion to approve the Special Exception request made by Mike Johnson. Commissioner Osteen seconded. Board approved.*

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) Tabled from 09-07-2023, 09-18-2023**

Mr. Wright appeared before the Board and read the Special Exception request made by Juan and Elizabeth Lazo. There was opposition.

Commissioner Hatch said he had spoken with several neighbors and the issues could not be resolved.

Ms. Elizabeth Lazo asked why this has been denied. She said she wants to put a RV there for a year until she decides what her plans for the future are.

*Commissioner Hatch made the motion to deny the Special Exception request made by Juan and Elizabeth Lazo. Commissioner Osteen seconded. Board denied.*

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

#### **RESOLUTION 2023-105**

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 22, 2023.

**Bassil Al Rubaie**

**10-05-2023**

**(Commission District 1, Jody Stephenson)**

Resolution 2023-105 was denied due to the Special Exception it supported being denied earlier in the meeting.

**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**  
(Commission District 2, Daniel Wood) Tabled from 09-07-2023, 09-18-2023

Mr. Wright appeared before the Board and read **Resolution 2023-83** in support of the Special Exception request made by Mike Johnson.

*Commissioner Wood made the motion to approve **Resolution 2023-83** in support of the Special Exception request made by Mike Johnson. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.*

**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 A RESIDENTIAL SINGLE FAMILY/MOBILE HOME AREA (RSF/MH) ZONING DISTRICT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PETITION DATED AUGUST 11, 2023. **Juan and Elizabeth Lazo**  
(Commission District 3, Mark Hatch) Tabled from 09-07-2023, 09-18-2023

**Resolution 2023-86** was denied due to the Special Exception it supported being denied earlier in the meeting.

Building Official Leon Wright appeared before the Board to discuss the contract renewal for North Central Florida Planning Council (NCFPC) which had been tabled at the last Board Meeting. He said he has not been happy with their services in the past. He said they have restructured the LDR's with the help of Mr. Gene Boles. He presented some pros and cons from another company, JB Pro, who provides similar services. He said they propose a fixed fee schedule to the customers and no cost to the county. He said Dixie County currently pays \$13,500.00 to NCFPC. He said they will also provide training for the Local Planning Board that is being implemented. He reminded everyone of the Code Enforcement Case the county had recently lost. He said the NCFPC has not provided support when needed.

Mr. Scott Koons, Executive Director of the North Central Florida Planning Council (NCFPC), appeared before the Board. He said they serve 12 counties and has worked with Dixie County over 30 years. He said they also coordinate the Transportation Disadvantaged Program through the Suwannee River Economic Council (SREC). He said they have handled 13 Comprehensive Plan and Rezoning projects for the county last year. They handle text amendments and map changes. He said they re-evaluate the Comp Plan every seven years and worked on the new Property Rights Element both of which are mandated by the state. He said the county is compliant with both. He said they did not assist with the Code Enforcement Case/lawsuit.

Commissioner Stephenson asked if this contract would affect any of the other services NCFPC provides for the county.

Mr. Koons said the Transportation for the Disadvantaged Program is state funded and is a separate program.

Commissioner Hatch asked how many transport trips they have provided for Dixie County.

Mr. Koons said he will get that information.

Commissioner Hatch said he has not been happy with the services provided by NCFPC for a long time. Commissioner Stephenson said he felt the NCFPC had provided good service.

Commissioner Osteen said he approved a dock and an ice machine for the Special Exception request which lead to the Code Enforcement Case/lawsuit.

Mr. Wright clarified the language on the Special Exception was specific and itemized. He said the Appellate Court Judge said there was a procedural issue with the inconsistency between the LDR's and Code Enforcement. He said this should have been re-structured back in 2001 when the Florida Building Code was adopted.

Mr. Wright said he has requested training from NCFPC multiple times and never received any.

*Commissioner Hatch made the motion to deny the contract renewal for North Central Florida Planning Council (NCFPC). Commissioner Wood seconded.*

Commissioner Stephenson asked how another service provider would be paid.

Mr. Wright said a fixed fee schedule would be implemented for the customers to pay for the service.

Commissioner Hatch clarified that the taxpayers, as a whole, should not have to pay for an individuals' project.

Ms. Kathy Ebaugh, AICP and Director of Planning for JB Pro (James Brown Professional Group), appeared before the Board to inform them of services they could offer to the county. She said they would be an addition to the county staff to answer questions or attend hearings. She said they would provide detailed staff reports for better understanding of the code and the projects. She said a fee schedule would be implemented for the customer.

Commissioner Stephenson questioned the fee schedule presented.

Ms. Ebaugh replied that is an example from several surrounding counties. She said one would be created for Dixie based on their needs.

County Attorney Chana Watson questioned a letter presented representing current county and city clients. Ms. Ebaugh replied they offer and provide multiple services to multiple clients based on their needs. She said they also offer engineering, planning, landscaping, architecture, surveying and GIF services.

Commissioner Hatch recommended the vote on the NCFPC contract renewal.

*Commissioner Hatch made the motion to deny the contract renewal for North Central Florida Planning Council (NCFPC). Commissioner Wood seconded. Board denied. Commissioner Stephenson was opposed.*

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

Clerk of Court Barbie Higginbotham appeared before the Board and presented a flyer for the Dixie Opioid Response – Community Town Hall Meeting to be held on October 19, 2023 from 11:30 AM until 1:00 PM at the Cross City Woman’s Club. She said she has attended these meetings before, and they are very informative.

**STEVE COPELAND, SUWANNEE WATER AND SEWER MANAGER**

Mr. Steve Copeland appeared before the Board and presented the Manager’s Report. He thanked Emergency Management Chief Scott Garner and Commissioner Hatch for all their help in Suwannee. He said they currently have 947 active accounts however; he does expect this number to decrease. He said the water plant is now working at 100 percent. He informed the Board that some of the fire hydrants were damaged with the storm clean up and water meters were broken due to driving over them. He said the sewer plant is now working at 100 percent. He said 950 grinder pumps were damaged due to salt water. He said full time residents have been given first priority for repairs and they should be starting more repairs on Monday. He said they have purchased a vacuum trailer vacuum to help clean out the sewer system. He said they have had to estimate billing twice due to the storm. He said the on-call staff has been working at least 65 hours overtime. He said the Suwannee Water and Sewer District Board (SWSD) voted to suspend services for damaged or destroyed homes for one (1) year without payment. He said after the year they will start billing them again. He informed the Board that their current year Audit is ready.

Commissioner Hatch thanked Mr. Copeland and his staff for all their hard work.

Chief Garner informed everyone that the state will pay \$4.5 million dollars for damage to the water and sewer system in Suwannee plus another \$1.8 million dollars for labor costs.

**GREG BAILEY, NORTH FLORIDA PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

Mr. Greg Bailey appeared before the Board and presented a status report of several projects:

- The construction on 362 and 364 is progressing.
- They are completing the fire protection system on the new fire station.
- The CDBG application environmental report is being reviewed.
- The internal review for 82 and Hal Chairs is ongoing and then FDOT will review.
- The contractor is at 90 percent completion for the punch list on CO RD 340. He said the pavement was extended to the bridge and the joint will be addressed.

Mr. Bailey said they will meet with the Sheriff and the County Manager about the evidence room. Manager Cannon said this was the appropriations funding from last year.

Mr. Bailey informed everyone that repairs that can be tied to Hurricane Idalia could possibly be funded. He recommended they look at facilities and issues. He said there is resiliency money and other funding available for eligible projects.

Commissioner Stephenson requested Mr. Bailey look at some areas on Co Rd 340.

Commissioner Hatch said the Storm Water Task Force is concerned about fallen trees affecting the canal/waterways on company land due to the storm.

Manager Cannon said they can clean this out and apply for reimbursement funding.

Commissioner Hatch said the channel markers in the coastal towns need to be addressed and replaced. He expressed his concern with the state of the roads in Suwannee.

Mr. Bailey said documentation is needed to prove this was a result of the hurricane.

Chief Garner said private property is a problem due to canal/waterway ownership. He does not recommend doing this.

Mr. Bailey said you may have to get a grant in the future for funding these repairs.

Commissioner Hatch said these blockages can cause the water to back up in town.

Mr. Bailey said you can map the areas and put together an application for discussion. He said they had discussed this with Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) last month and addressed how blocked waterways create artificial floods.

**JOHN LOCKLEAR, LOCKLEAR AND ASSOCIATES**

Mr. John Locklear appeared before the Board and presented a status report of several projects:

- The striping on Palm Drive is being done today.
- The 90 percent estimate was submitted to FDOT this morning for the design for 351.
- They can reach out to DEP for the Coastal Resilient Program and look for future funding.

**CINDY BELLOT, LIBRARY DIRECTOR**

Ms. Bellot said all is well. However, she would appreciate some more room.

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

Mr. Fremen was away for 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.

**TIM JOHNSON, SOLID WASTE DIRECTOR**

Mr. Johnson was not present for this meeting.

**LEON WRIGHT, BUILDING AND ZONING OFFICIAL**

Building Official Leon Wright thanked the Board for their support. He said he can get some information together for discussion at the next meeting.

Attorney Watson said they will need to go through the advertising process before choosing planning services.

Manager Cannon agreed.

Mr. Wright asked how to handle the requested road closure in Jena.

Attorney Watson said she understands that Mr. John Lamb is willing to withdraw his request for density change if the road is left open. She said this is a plated subdivision. She said the number of homes would be reduced; however, they would be larger, which would create more tax revenue.

Mr. John Lamb said he needs the road open. He said he examined the records prior to purchasing the property and the Plat says this road is public forever.

Commissioner Osteen said he would like to close the road because it has never been used.

Mr. Wright asked how to legally proceed.

Commissioner Wood said he looked at this road and there are shackles hanging from the power lines which could be potentially hazardous.

Mr. Wright said he has an application to close this road; however, it has not been processed due to questions about the legality to do so. He said this has been reviewed by the attorney. He said the developer has agreed to a compromise if the road can remain open.

Commissioner Hatch asked if it is legal to close the road.

Attorney Watson stated the question is if the road can be closed on a plated subdivision. She said there is a procedure for this request; however, there is opposition and it could possibly go to court. The road is public even though it may not have been used. She does not recommend closing the road.

Mr. Lamb asked about removing the fence from the roadway.

Mr. Wright said Code Enforcement will address this if a complaint is filed.

Mr. Lamb said he will not ask for a higher density and would like to move forward with the project.

Mr. Wright said that the density change application by John Lamb Jr., as agent for TopAJena, LLC will be withdrawn.

Mr. Wright asked when they can advertise for planning services.

Manager Cannon said they will work on the advertisement tomorrow and will run the advertisement for two (2) weeks.

Mr. Wright said it has been busy in the Building Department. He commented that several homes were lost to the storm.

#### **DARIAN BROWN, DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**

Emergency Management Chief Scott Garner presented some information to the Board. Statistics show about 25 people are coming to the Disaster Recovery Center (DRC), located at the Cross City Library, daily for assistance with FEMA. Statistics show the FDOT \$6 million dollar contract for road debris removal is about 95 percent completed for the first pass. He said a secondary pass will be done. This is at no cost to the county.



Chief Garner discussed the \$2.5 million dollar contract for the C & D debris removal from Horseshoe and Suwannee to be hauled to Aucilla. He said Horseshoe has been completed and Suwannee is at 95 percent completion. Once the contract is completed the contractors will be leaving. He asked the Board how to handle C & D waste after that.

***Commissioner Hatch made the motion to go back to normal operations, after a final inspection has been done by Chief Garner and Manager Cannon, no C & D waste will be accepted at the roll off sites. Commissioner Osteen seconded. Board approved.***

Chief Garner informed the Board that FEMA has allocated \$5 million plus dollars to Dixie County residents for rental assistance, repair and replacement of homes. The Grinder Pumps for Suwannee have arrived. There is some discord between the state and the contractors on who will give the orders for the installations. The Comfort Stations are being removed from Suwannee on Wednesday. The DRC in Cross City will be extended and open for 30 more days. The mobile DRC will continue to rotate between Horseshoe, Suwannee and Jena every four (4) days.

Chief Garner said there is a FEMA Housing Mission for 130 Dixie County residents. He said the FEMA trailers cannot be in a flood zone and must be in an RV Park with municipal water and sewer. Unfortunately, most RV Parks within the county are full.

Chief Garner requested the Board approve to extend the Local State of Emergency (LSE).

***Commissioner Osteen made the motion to extend the Local State of Emergency. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.***

***Commissioner Osteen made the motion to approve LSE Resolution 2023-111. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.***

***Commissioner Osteen made the motion to approve LSE Resolution 2023-110. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.***

Chief Garner informed the Board that local farmers can also speak to someone at the Cross City Library regarding losses due to storm.

Chief Garner said he and the County Manager and Finance will be meeting with FEMA, next week, for PW and damage inventory.

Chief Garner informed the Board about the Community Disaster Loan which helps small governments with their Budget. He said they will meet with Finance next week to discuss. Chief Garner said the FEMA trailers are for homeowners who lost their primary home due to the storm. The trailer must be returned after 18 months.

Commissioner Stephenson asked about local contractors helping with the storm clean up. Chief Garner replied this is a FDOT contract.

Attorney Watson requested the Board approve LSE Resolution 20223-106.

***Commissioner Osteen made the motion to approve LSE Resolution 2023-106. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.***

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

Mr. Pendarvis had nothing to discuss at this time.

**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**

County Manager Duane Cannon appeared before the Board and requested their approval of several items:

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to allow the 4-H group to put up fall decorations on the Courthouse grounds.

***Commissioner Osteen made the motion to approve the 4-H group to put up fall decorations on the Courthouse grounds. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to purchase a 2023 Chevy Silverado 1500 LT in the amount of \$51,100.00.

***Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve to purchase a 2023 Chevy Silverado 1500 LT in the amount of \$51,100.00. Commissioner Osteen seconded. Board approved.***

Request Board approval of the NCFRPC Agreement between Dixie County and the Planning Council for the Local Government Comprehensive Planning Services FY 2024 had been denied earlier in the meeting.

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval of the NCFRPC Agreement between Dixie County and the Planning Council for the Annual Monitoring of Hazardous Waste Generators FY 2024.

***Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve the NCFRPC Agreement between Dixie County and the Planning Council for the Annual Monitoring of Hazardous Waste Generators FY 2024. Commissioner Osteen seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to continue the Annual Maintenance Services Agreement with Answer Advisory (GSG) for the Fire, Solid Waste, and Mosquito Control Assessment Program.

***Commissioner Osteen made the motion to approve to continue the Annual Maintenance Services Agreement with Answer Advisory (GSG) for the Fire, Solid Waste, and Mosquito Control Assessment Program. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to advertise for Roll-Off Trash Hauling Services on an as needed basis for Solid Waste.

***Commissioner Osteen made the motion to approve to advertise for Roll-Off Trash Hauling Services on an as needed basis for Solid Waste. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval for road/driveway repairs at the following addresses:

County Attorney Chana Watson reminded everyone regarding the State of Emergency Procedure they have put in place to address these repairs.

1. 209 NE 573 Street

Manager Cannon said this would take 15 loads of lime rock. He recommended this one be approved based on the assessment.

***Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve road/driveway repairs to be made at 209 NE 573 St due to it not being accessible by emergency vehicles. Commissioner Osteen seconded. Board approved.***

2. 255 NE 545 Avenue

Manager Cannon said this would take four (4) loads of lime rock.

***Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve road/driveway repairs to be made at 255 NE 545 Ave. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.***

3. 484 SE 601 Street

Manager Cannon said this would take two (2) loads of lime rock.

***Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve road/driveway repairs to be made at 484 SE 601 St. Motion died for lack of a second.***

Attorney Watson recommended this road/driveway not be approved for repairs.

***Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to deny road/driveway repairs be made at 484 SE 601 St. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board denied. Commissioner Hatch was opposed.***

4. 4775 SE Hwy 349

Manager Cannon said this would take six (6) loads of lime rock.

***Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve road/driveway repairs to be made at 4775 SE Hwy 349. Motion died for lack of a second.***

Attorney Watson recommended this road/driveway not be approved for repairs.

***Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to deny road/driveway repairs to be made at 4775 SE Hwy 349. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board denied Commissioner Hatch was opposed.***

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to get quotes to clean out canal systems from storm debris based off the Storm Water Task Force (SWTF) recommendation

***Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to approve to get quotes to clean out canal systems from storm debris based off the Storm Water Task Force (SWTF) recommendation. Commissioner Osteen seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to consider raising the fees for C & D at the Transfer Station. The current C & D fees are \$35.00 per ton for clean and \$70.00 per ton for dirty.

***Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve C & D Fees at the Transfer Station to be raised to \$150.00 per ton for the dirty fee beginning on October 05, 2023. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon presented the following information to the Board:

He said on Wednesday, September 27, 2023, they submitted five (5) House/Senate Appropriations requests:

- Flood and Stormwater Mitigation Phase II
- Sheriff Evidence Building
- EMS Maintenance Facility
- Tax Collector Office Expansion
- New Library

Manager Cannon said the County offices will be closed October 09, 2023, in observance of the Columbus Day Holiday.

Manager Cannon announced that Re-Organizational Meeting of the BOCC will be held on November 16, 2023, at 6:00 PM. They will be making nominations for the Chairman and Vice Chairman positions.

Manager Cannon reminded the Board that the new BOCC Committee Members Assignments will be reviewed and approved at the December 02, 2023, 10:00 AM Board Meeting. He said the list has been provided for their review.

Manager Cannon informed the Board the Forestry Annual Report was in their packet for review.

Clerk of Court Barbie Higginbotham reminded everyone of the Delegation Meeting which will be held on October 30, 2023 at 11:00 AM in the Board Meeting Room at the Courthouse.

**CHANA WATSON, COUNTY ATTORNEY**

County Attorney Chana Watson appeared before the Board and informed them she has completed the 5-acre deed for Sheriff and that she is still working on several more Ordinances per their requests.

Attorney Watson requested the Board to reaffirm several items to clean up old records.

***The Board reaffirmed the following 2019 Resolutions:***

- Resolution 2019-01, Emergency Declaration Extension, approved on 1/3/2019 by Commissioner Hatch and seconded by Commissioner Osteen, Missing Clerk Signature and Seal.

***Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to reaffirm Resolution 2019-01. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board Reaffirmed.***

- Resolution 2019-58, Special Exception for Michael and Brandy Smith, approved on 08/01/2019 by Commissioner Higginbotham and seconded by Commissioner Osteen, Missing Clerk Signature and Seal.

***Commissioner Hatch made the motion to reaffirm Resolution 2019-58. Commissioner Osteen seconded. Board Reaffirmed.***

- Resolution 2019-59, Smokey Bear 75 B-Day Proclamation, approved on 08/01/2019 by Commissioner Higginbotham and seconded by Commissioner Osteen, Missing Clerk Signature and Seal.

***Commissioner Osteen made the motion to reaffirm Resolution 2019-59. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board Reaffirmed.***

- Resolution 2019-75, Fire Assessment, approved on 09/12/2019 by Commissioner Hatch and seconded by Commissioner Storey, Missing Clerk Signature and Seal.

***Commissioner Osteen made the motion to reaffirm Resolution 2019-75. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board Reaffirmed.***

- Resolution 2019-76, Solid Waste Assessment, approved on 09/19/2019 by Commissioner Storey and seconded by Commissioner Hatch, Missing Clerk Signature and Seal.

***Commissioner Osteen made the motion to reaffirm Resolution 2019-76. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board Reaffirmed.***

- Resolution 2019-77, Carry Forward 911 Fees, approved on 09/12/2019 by Commissioner Hatch and seconded by Commissioner Storey, Missing Clerk Signature and Seal.

***Commissioner Wood made the motion to reaffirm Resolution 2019-77. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board Reaffirmed.***

- Resolution 2019-78, Tentative Millage Rate, approved on 09/12/2019 by Commissioner Storey and seconded by Commissioner Higginbotham, Missing Clerk Signature and Seal.

***Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to reaffirm Resolution 2019-78. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board Reaffirmed.***

- Resolution 2019-79, Tentative Budget, approved on 09/12/2019 by Commissioner Hatch and seconded by Commissioner Storey, Missing Clerk Signature and Seal.

***Commissioner Osteen made the motion to reaffirm Resolution 2019-79. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board Reaffirmed.***

- Resolution 2019-90, Variance for John and Kimberly Celona, approved on 10/17/2019 by Commissioner Hatch and seconded by Commissioner Osteen, Missing Chairman Signature and Clerk Signature and Seal.

***Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to reaffirm Resolution 2019-90. Commissioner Osteen seconded. Board Reaffirmed.***

- Resolution 2019-98, Apology to Seminole Tribe, approved on 11/07/2019 by Commissioner Hatch and seconded by Commissioner Osteen, Missing Clerk Signature and Seal.

***Commissioner Wood made the motion to reaffirm Resolution 2019-98. Commissioner Osteen seconded. Board Reaffirmed.***

- Resolution 2019-105, Second Amendment Sanctuary, approved on 12/05/2019 by Commissioner Higginbotham and seconded by Commissioner Osteen, Missing Clerk Signature and Seal.

***Commissioner Osteen made the motion to reaffirm Resolution 2019-105. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board Reaffirmed.***

Attorney Watson requested the Board to reaffirm the following BOCC Meeting Minutes from 2019:

***The Board reaffirmed the following 2019 Minutes:***

- 01/03/2019 Regular Meeting, approved 01/17/2019, Commissioner Osteen and Commissioner Storey, the DRAFT is Missing Chairman and Clerk Signatures and Seal.

***Commissioner Osteen made the motion to reaffirm 01/03/2019 Regular Meeting. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board Reaffirmed.***

- 01/17/2019 Regular Meeting, approved 02/07/2019, Commissioner Higginbotham and Commissioner Osteen, the DRAFT is Missing Chairman and Clerk Signatures and Seal.

***Commissioner Osteen made the motion to reaffirm 01/17/2019 Regular Meeting. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board Reaffirmed.***

- 02/07/2019 Regular Meeting, approved 02/21/2019, Commissioner Higginbotham and Commissioner Osteen, the DRAFT is Missing Chairman and Clerk Signatures and Seal.

***Commissioner Osteen made the motion to reaffirm 02/07/2019 Regular Meeting. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board Reaffirmed.***

- 02/21/2019 Regular Meeting, approved 03/07/2019, Commissioner Osteen and Commissioner Storey, the DRAFT is Missing Chairman and Clerk Signatures and Seal.

***Commissioner Osteen made the motion to reaffirm 02/21/2019 Regular Meeting. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board Reaffirmed.***

- 03/07/2019 Regular Meeting, approved 03/21/2019, Commissioner Higginbotham and Commissioner Osteen, the DRAFT is Missing Chairman and Clerk Signatures and Seal.

***Commissioner Wood made the motion to reaffirm 03/07/2019 Regular Meeting. Commissioner Osteen seconded. Board Reaffirmed.***

- 03/21/2019 Regular Meeting, approved 04/04/2019, Commissioner Osteen and Commissioner Storey, the DRAFT is Missing Chairman and Clerk Signatures and Seal.

***Commissioner Osteen made the motion to reaffirm 03/21/2019 Regular Meeting. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board Reaffirmed.***

- 03/21/2019 Workshop Airport Plan, approved 04/04/2019, Commissioner Osteen and Commissioner Storey, the DRAFT is Missing Chairman and Clerk Signatures and Seal.

***Commissioner Osteen made the motion to reaffirm 03/21/2019 Workshop Airport Plan. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board Reaffirmed.***

- 04/04/2019 Regular Meeting, approved 04/18/2019, Commissioner Storey and Commissioner Mills, the DRAFT is Missing Chairman and Clerk Signatures and Seal.

***Commissioner Osteen made the motion to reaffirm 04/04/2019 Regular Meeting. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board Reaffirmed.***

- 04/18/2019 Regular Meeting, approved 05/02/2019, Commissioner Higginbotham and Commissioner Osteen, the DRAFT is Missing Chairman and Clerk Signatures and Seal.

***Commissioner Osteen made the motion to reaffirm 04/18/2019 Regular Meeting. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board Reaffirmed.***

- 05/02/2019 Regular Meeting, approved 05/16/2019, Commissioner Osteen and Commissioner Hatch, the DRAFT is Missing Chairman and Clerk Signatures and Seal.

***Commissioner Osteen made the motion to reaffirm 05/02/2019 Regular Meeting. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board Reaffirmed.***

- 05/16/2019 Regular Meeting, approved 06/06/2019, Commissioner Osteen and Commissioner Higginbotham, the DRAFT is Missing Chairman and Clerk Signatures and Seal.

***Commissioner Osteen made the motion to reaffirm 05/16/2019 Regular Meeting. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board Reaffirmed.***

- 05/16/2019 Workshop-Horseshoe Canal Dredging, approved 06/06/2019, Commissioner Osteen and Commissioner Storey, the DRAFT is Missing Chairman and Clerk Signatures and Seal.

***Commissioner Wood made the motion to reaffirm 05/16/2019 Workshop-Horseshoe Canal Dredging. Commissioner Osteen seconded. Board Reaffirmed.***

- 6/06/2019 Regular Meeting, approved 06/20/2019, Commissioner Osteen and Commissioner Hatch, the DRAFT is Missing Chairman and Clerk Signatures and Seal.

***Commissioner Osteen made the motion to reaffirm 6/06/2019 Regular Meeting. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board Reaffirmed.***

- 06/20/2019 Regular Meeting, approved 07/03/2019, Commissioner Storey and Commissioner Osteen, the DRAFT is Missing Chairman and Clerk Signatures and Seal.

***Commissioner Osteen made the motion to reaffirm 06/20/2019 Regular Meeting. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board Reaffirmed.***

- 07/03/2019 Regular Meeting, approved 07/18/2019, Commissioner Mills and Commissioner Osteen, the DRAFT is Missing Chairman and Clerk Signatures and Seal.

***Commissioner Osteen made the motion to reaffirm 07/03/2019 Regular Meeting. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board Reaffirmed.***

- 07/18/2019 Regular Meeting, approved 08/01/2019, Commissioner Osteen and Commissioner Storey, the DRAFT is Missing Chairman and Clerk Signatures and Seal.

***Commissioner Osteen made the motion to reaffirm 07/18/2019 Regular Meeting. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board Reaffirmed.***

- 08/01/2019 Regular Meeting, approved 08/15/2019, Commissioner Osteen and Commissioner Storey, the DRAFT is Missing Chairman and Clerk Signatures and Seal.

***Commissioner Osteen made the motion to reaffirm 08/01/2019 Regular Meeting. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board Reaffirmed.***



- 09/05/2019 Workshop Special Assessment, approved 10/17/2019, Commissioner Osteen and Commissioner Storey, the DRAFT is Missing Chairman and Clerk Signatures and Seal.

***Commissioner Wood made the motion to reaffirm 9/05/2019 Workshop Special Assessment. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board Reaffirmed.***

- 09/05/2019 Regular Meeting, approved 09/19/2019, Commissioner Higginbotham and Commissioner Hatch, the DRAFT is Missing Chairman and Clerk Signatures and Seal.

***Commissioner Osteen made the motion to reaffirm 09/05/2019 Regular Meeting. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board Reaffirmed.***

- 09/12/2019 Tentative Budget Meeting, approved 10/17/2019, Commissioner Osteen and Commissioner Storey, the DRAFT is Missing Chairman and Clerk Signatures and Seal.

***Commissioner Wood made the motion to reaffirm 09/12/2019 Tentative Budget Meeting. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board Reaffirmed.***

- 09/19/2019 Regular Meeting, approved 10/17/2019, Commissioner Osteen and Commissioner Storey, the DRAFT is Missing Chairman and Clerk Signatures and Seal.

***Commissioner Osteen made the motion to reaffirm 09/19/2019 Regular Meeting. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board Reaffirmed.***

- 09/24/2019 Final Budget Meeting, approved 10/17/2019, Commissioner Osteen and Commissioner Storey, the DRAFT is Missing Chairman and Clerk Signatures and Seal.

***Commissioner Osteen made the motion to reaffirm 09/24/2019 Final Budget Meeting. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board Reaffirmed.***

- 10-03-2019 Regular Meeting, approved 10/17/2019, Commissioner Osteen and Commissioner Storey, the DRAFT is Missing Chairman and Clerk Signatures and Seal.

***Commissioner Osteen made the motion to reaffirm 10-03-2019 Regular Meeting. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board Reaffirmed.***

- 10/17/2019 Regular Meeting, approved 11/07/2019, Commissioner Hatch and Commissioner Osteen, the DRAFT is Missing Chairman and Clerk Signatures and Seal.

***Commissioner Wood made the motion to reaffirm 10/17/2019 Regular Meeting. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board Reaffirmed.***

- 11/07/2019 Regular Meeting, approved 11/21/2019, Commissioner Higginbotham and Commissioner Osteen, the DRAFT is Missing Chairman and Clerk Signatures and Seal.

***Commissioner Osteen made the motion to reaffirm 11/07/2019 Regular Meeting. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board Reaffirmed.***

- 11/21/2019 Regular Meeting, approved 12/05/2019, Commissioner Hatch and Commissioner Storey, the DRAFT is Missing Chairman and Clerk Signatures and Seal.

***Commissioner Wood made the motion to reaffirm 11/21/2019 Regular Meeting. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board Reaffirmed.***

- 12/05/2019 Regular Meeting, approved 12/19/2019, Commissioner Osteen and Commissioner Storey, the DRAFT is Missing Chairman and Clerk Signatures and Seal.

***Commissioner Osteen made the motion to reaffirm 12/05/2019 Regular Meeting. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board Reaffirmed.***

- 12/19/2019 Regular Meeting, approved 01/09/2020, Commissioner Higginbotham and Commissioner Storey, the DRAFT is Missing Chairman and Clerk Signatures and Seal.

***Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to reaffirm 12/19/2019 Regular Meeting. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board Reaffirmed.***

**BARBIE HIGGINBOTHAM, CLERK OF COURT**

Clerk of Court Barbie Higginbotham appeared before the Board and thanked the Finance team for all their hard work since 2021.

Chief Financial Officer Brenda Royal appeared before the Board and presented a \$6,655.00 Budget Salary Increase for the Supervisor of Elections.

***Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to approve the \$6,655.00 Budget Salary Increase for the Supervisor of Elections. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.***

Chief Financial Officer Brenda Royal appeared before the Board Brenda and presented a \$11,844.08 Budget Salary Increase for the Tax Collector.

***Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve the \$11,844.08 Budget Salary Increase for the Tax Collector. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.***

Chief Financial Officer Jacki Johnson presented a booklet for the 2023-2024 Budget overview to the Board for their review.

**COUNTY COMMISSION ITEMS**

Commissioner Wood expressed his thanks to everyone who has assisted with the clean-up efforts in District 2. He thanked the Solid Waste Department, the Road Department and the Sheriff.

Commissioner Hatch expressed his thanks to everyone who has assisted with the clean-up efforts in District 3. He requested they take a look at the roads in Suwannee, the channel markers, McGriff Pass and the Shired Island Road.

Manager Cannon said he will submit the request on Shired Island Road.

Commissioner Hatch inquired about the cost of lime rock production. He said the Rock Crusher costs the county. He requested a cost analysis on the Rock Crusher as well.

Manager Cannon said he will look into the cost of lime rock production and a cost analysis of the Rock Crusher.

Commissioner Osteen said he attended a Workshop in Taylor County regarding sail boats in waterways. He suggested they enact an Ordinance to address this problem.

Attorney Watson said she will work together with the Taylor County Board Attorney on this matter.

Commissioner Stephenson thanked everyone for their help with the storm clean up. He thanked the Building and Zoning Department for all their extra efforts.

Commissioner Stephenson said he wanted to go back over the list of private driveways presented for repairs. He said he would like to re-vote on 255 NE 545 Ave due to the assessment that it is accessible to emergency vehicles.

#2 request for road repairs at 255 NE 545 Ave.

County Attorney Chana Watson recommended this road/driveway not be approved for repairs due to the assessment. She said the vote will need to be repealed.

*Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to repeal the vote on 255 NE 545 Ave.*

*Commissioner Wood seconded. Board repealed the vote.*

*Commissioner Hatch opposed.*

County Attorney Chana Watson recommended a motion to deny road/driveway repairs at 255 NE 545 Ave be made.

*Commissioner Wood made the motion to deny road/driveway repairs to 255 NE 545 Ave.*

*Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board denied.*

*Commissioner Hatch opposed.*

Commissioner Storey thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He thanked all the citizens, residents and neighbors for helping each other in this time of crisis.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS**

Mr. John Jones spoke to the Board and said he has been staying in an RV Park; however, he has ordered a home to be placed on his land.

The Board recommended he speak with Building and Zoning for further instructions.

Ms. Mary Goodrich requested everyone be aware of scammers advertising their services for home repairs.

Commissioner Storey announced that the SHIP program is taking applications for roof damages.

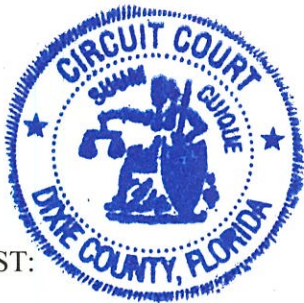
Clerk Higginbotham said that some folks are taking advantage of FEMA funding.

Commissioner Hatch said there is some confusion with the SHIP program on funds allocated to mobile homes with storm related damages versus pre-existing damages. He said this program needs to be looked over again.

Ms. Weinghart thanked her neighbors for helping her remove fallen trees in her driveway.

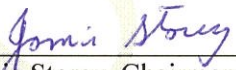
**ADJOURN**

*Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to adjourn at 12:35 PM. Commissioner Osteen seconded. Board approved.*



ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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.*