

**Regular Meeting**  
*Dixie County Courthouse*  
*Commission Board Room*  
*214 NE Hwy 351, Cross City, FL 32628*  
*October 21, 2021 – 6:00 PM*

*While adhering to the CDC Guidelines and following State of Florida Executive Orders: 20-51 Establishing Response Protocol, 20-52 declaring a Public Health Emergency, 20-69 regarding Local Government Public Meetings and the Dixie County Emergency Declaration 2020-27. The Board will meet and limit access by staff and the public to the meeting room. 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  
Martha McCaskill, Administrative Asst/Grant Coordinator  
Michael Osteen, County Attorney  
Barbie Higginbotham, Clerk of Court  
Verna Wilson, Chief Deputy Clerk  
Della Rhymes, Asst. Chief Deputy Clerk  
Jacki Johnson, Chief Financial Officer

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Board meeting was called to order at 6:00 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 Hatch.

**APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES**

*Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve Minutes from the Meeting of September 02, 2021. Commissioner Valentine seconded. Board approved.*

**VOUCHER APPROVAL**

*Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to approve the vouchers. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.*

## CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

There was nothing discussed at this time.

***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 Hearings was made by Commissioner Stephenson. Seconded by Commissioner Hatch.***

A petition by **Gregory Hartman** requesting a **Special Exception** to be granted, as provided in Section 4.4.5 subparagraph (9) of the Dixie County Land Development Regulations to permit one recreational vehicle (A4) zoning district, in accordance with the petition dated 08/30/2021 to be located on the property as described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 33-09-13-4492-0000-0830 411 NE 542 Street, Old Town, FL. 32680; 0).

**(Commission District 4, Jamie Storey) Tabled from 10-07-21**

Mr. Leon Wright appeared before the Board and read the Special exception request made by Gregory Hartman.

***Commissioner Hatch made the motion to table the Special Exception requested by Gregory Hartman. Commissioner Valentine seconded. Board approved.***

A petition by **Anna Wendt** located on the property as described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 19-13-12-2952-000G-0030 (20 SE 867 Avenue. Old Town, FL 32680) to request a **variance** for a Metal Barn To Park RV Under-RV **Approved Resolution #2021-107** by the petition dated 08/30/2021 which is located within Section 4.7.7 RSF/MH-2 subparagraph (2) of the Dixie County Land Development Regulations in accordance with section 12.3.1.1 procedures.

**(Commission District 3 Mark Hatch)**

***Tabled from 10-07-21***

Mr. Leon Wright appeared before the Board and read the variance request made by Anna Wendt.

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

A petition by **Robert D. Reed** requesting a **Special Exception** to be granted, as provided in Section 4.3.5 subparagraph (4) of the Dixie County Land Development Regulations to permit one recreational vehicle (ESA4) zoning district, in accordance with the petition dated 09/01/2021 to be located on the property as described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 16-13-12-2927-0000-1050 10 SE 340 STREET, OLD TOWN, FL. 32680; 0).

**(Commission District 3, Mark Hatch)**

Mr. Leon Wright appeared before the Board and read the Special Exception request made by Robert Reed.

***Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve the Special Exception requested by Robert Reed. Commissioner Valentine seconded. Board approved.***

***The motion to go out of Public Hearings and back into the Board Meeting was made by Commissioner Stephenson. Seconded by Commissioner Hatch.***

**RESOLUTION 2021-150**

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO APPROVE A SPECIAL EXCEPTION TO BE GRANTED, AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 4.4.5 SUBPARAGRAPH (9) OF THE DIXIE COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS TO PERMIT ONE RECREATIONAL VEHICLE IN AN AGRICULTURAL (A4) ZONING DISTRICT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PETITION DATED AUGUST 30, 2021. ***Greg Hartman***  
***Tabled from 10-07-21***

***Commissioner Hatch made the motion to table Resolution 2021-150. Commissioner Valentine seconded. Board approved.***

**RESOLUTION 2021-156**

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO APPROVE A VARIANCE TO BE GRANTED, AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 12.3.1 OF THE DIXIE COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS TO GRANT A VARIANCE FOR A METAL BARN TO PARK RV UNDER-RV APPROVED RESOLUTION #2021-107, WHICH IS LOCATED WITHIN SECTION 4.7.7 A RESIDENTIAL, (MIXED) SINGLE FAMILY/MOBILE HOME (RSF/MH-2) ZONING DISTRICT, AS PROVIDED IN THE PETITION DATED AUGUST 30, 2021. ***Anna Wendt*** ***Tabled from 10-07-21***

Mr. Leon Wright appeared before the Board and read Resolution 2021-156 to the Board by title only.

***Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve Resolution 2021-156 in support of Anna Wendt. Commissioner Valentine seconded. Board approved.***

**RESOLUTION 2021-163**

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO APPROVE A SPECIAL EXCEPTION TO BE GRANTED, AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 4.3.5 SUBPARAGRAPH (4) OF THE DIXIE COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS TO PERMIT ONE RECREATIONAL VEHICLE IN AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREA (ESA/4) ZONING DISTRICT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PETITION DATED SEPTEMBER 01, 2021.  
**Robert D. Reed**

Mr. Leon Wright appeared before the Board and read Resolution 2021-163 to the Board by title only.

***Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve Resolution 2021-163 in support of Anna Wendt. Commissioner Valentine seconded. Board approved.***

**ORDINANCE 2021-13**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA AMENDING CHAPTER 30, ARTICLE II, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA ENTITLED COURT COSTS AND FEES, BY AMENDING SECTION 30-34 THEREOF BY INCREASING THE ASSESSED IMPOSITION OF THE \$15.00 SURCHARGE SHOWN THEREIN TO \$30.00; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE DIXIE COUNTY CODE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. ***(First Reading)***

County Attorney Michael Osteen appeared before the Board and read Ordinance 2021-13 to the Board.

***Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve Ordinance 2021-13. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.***

**GAYLE RYAN, ELDER OPTIONS**

Ms. Gayle Ryan, from the Board of Directors of Elder Options, appeared before the Board to introduce their CEO, Ms. Krista Griffis.

Ms. Krista Griffis said they provide assistance to 16 counties in Florida. She said they have many resources available to the elderly. She said they are funded through State and Federal funds. She said one of their main goals is to keep seniors in their homes versus an institutional setting. She said they work with the Suwannee River Economic Council as well which provide transportation to doctor appointments and meals at home. They also help with Rent and Utility Assistance, Legal Assistance and Job Placement and Training. She said that SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) also helps with Medicare questions and counseling. She said they also have Community and Education programs available. She said they also have a program to address elder abuse. She said their depression management program has also been very helpful to the public. She said all the programs they provide are evidence based and have been vetted and proven through research to help.

**GREG BAILEY, NORTH FLORIDA PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

Mr. Kennon Bailey appeared before the Board to discuss several projects. He spoke about the Gulf Coast Restoration Money from the BP oil spill. He said that five projects were submitted in the past. He said they need to put together a list. He suggested they set up a Workshop so they can discuss the criteria and drop some projects from the list if the Board wants to do this. He said they have 12 months to amend the current list.

County Manager Duane Cannon informed the Board that they may be able to use some of this money for other things now.

*Commissioner Hatch made the motion to set a Workshop on November 04, 2021 at 9:00 AM. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.*

**JERED LIZOTTE, LOCKLEAR AND ASSOCIATES**

Mr. Lizotte was not present for this meeting.

**CINDY BELLOT, LIBRARY DIRECTOR**

Ms. Bellot had nothing to discuss at this time.

Commissioner Storey thanked her for everything she does.

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

Mr. Steve Fremem had nothing to discuss at this time.

Commissioner Storey thanked him for everything she does.

**STEVE HUTCHISON, COUNTY ROAD SUPERINTENDENT**

Mr. Steve Hutchison was not present for this meeting.

**DWAYNE CHAUNCEY, MOSQUITO CONTROL DIRECTOR**

Mr. Dwayne Chauncey was not present for this meeting.

Manager Cannon said he is spraying for mosquitos.

**MICHAEL LATSON, SOLID WASTE DIRECTOR**

Mr. Michael Latson was not present for this meeting.

Manager Cannon said he is out due to illness in family.

**LEON WRIGHT, BUILDING AND ZONING OFFICIAL**

Building Official; Leon Wright appeared before the Board and informed them that last year was busy and this year has surpassed those numbers. He said that 1201 permits have been issued which is double since last year. He presented a flyer that will be mailed out for the Special Exception renewals reminders.

Commissioner Hatch said the flyer is a great idea.

Mr. Wright said he will need help from the County Attorney and the Planning Council regarding parcels of land getting new parcel numbers assigned in recorded subdivisions. He said once the subdivision is recorded the parcels cannot change. He said you cannot get a building permit for this re numbered parcel.

County Attorney Michael Osteen said that the someone got a survey done, and then split up a piece of property into eight lots through the Property Appraisers Office. He said these new lots don't meet the zoning regulations. He said the LDR stipulate the criteria for zoning. He said a legal process should have been followed and it should have come before the Board to be

approved. He said that someone has purchased a lot and put in a well and a driveway before talking to anyone and cannot build on this lot.

Commissioner Hatch asked about another parcel of land.

Attorney Osteen said there was a person who had one vacant lot in a recorded subdivision. He said they wanted to split the lot in half for two separate people. He informed them this cannot be done due to the regulations and zoning of that subdivision.

Mr. Wright said more of these situations have been coming to light lately as people come in for permits.

Mr. Wright reminded the Board about the issue with Mr. Eckenberg's property. He said the previous owner had a power pole issued and he does have the permit paperwork. He said they cannot find a Resolution to support this. He said there was a code enforcement issue and a structure fire in July 2020 at this location.

Mr. Jeff Eckenburg spoke to the Board and said he purchased in April of 2020. He said the RV permit was issued in 2003 for the prior owner. He said he also has the application for the building permit from 2003 and the power was turned on in 2003. He said the fire occurred July 30, 2020 and burnt down the pole barn and camper and electric panel and meter. He said this was an accidental fire. He said that he needs a Resolution of support from 2003.

Mr. Wright said there is no documentation that this was properly advertised and passed with a Resolution.

Attorney Osteen recommended the Board waive the \$300.00 fee and re advertise this so that Mr. Eckenburg can get power.

Commissioner Hatch said this will fall under a renewal every year.

Mr. Eckenburg said he don't want to have to jump through hoops.

Commissioner Stephenson said he will need to do all that everyone else does.

***Commissioner Hatch made the motion to have Mr. Wright walk Mr. Eckenburg through the process and waive the application fee. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.***

Attorney Osteen recognized Mr. Denny George from Central Florida Electric in the audience.

Mr. Wright said that Extreme Broadband had in a previous meeting wanted/identified eight locations and have submitted 15 locations for various work. They have met the site plan requirements and the have been approved for commencement of work. He said they must now

deal with the electric company. They have, as of today, submitted three more locations to Building and Zoning.

**Mr. Denny George** spoke to the Board and read a letter aloud and into the record. (See attached letter, specifically the last three paragraphs)

He said this is a long story. He said that Extreme Broadband stopped paying the attachment fees to Central Florida Electric and installed 175 poles in the county right of way which then created many code violations. He said that most of these have now been fixed. He said they were previously involved in a lawsuit with Extreme Broadband and that Judge Johnson had issued an Injunction Order in regards to this matter. He said that Building and Zoning has now issued more permits for Extreme Broadband to set additional poles or move poles. He said this conflicts with the Right of Way Ordinance that has been passed by the county. He said C. FL. Electric have presented options to Extreme Broadband in the past to settle this issue. He said that Extreme Broadband has rejected those options. He said that many discussions between the county and Extreme Broadband and Central Florida Electric have been to no avail. He said that no legal action is planned at this time, but respectfully advises the county that they will remind the courts of past actions and attempts by them to resolve the matter if a lawsuit were to be filed.

Commissioner Stephenson asked if they have agencies that regulate the power lines. Mr. George said yes, and that code enforcement is up to Dixie County.

Attorney Osteen said this has been an ongoing issue with poles being in the Dixie County right of way. A lawsuit was filed between Central Florida Electric and Extreme Broadband. He said the county was notified of the poles and he could not find an easement on record for the Holt's to place these poles in the right of way. He said that Ms. Holt had asked then Board Chairman Hatch to sign an easement for her. Attorney Osteen said he advised against doing this. He then wrote a legal opinion for the Board. He said Ms. Holt produced a letter from one county Commissioner giving her permission. He said he feels the legal process was not followed and approved by the whole Board. Ms. Holt then filed suit against Mr. Osteen, Mr. Alexander, Mr. Wright and the Board of Commissioners. He said the county hired Attorney Dale Scott and he has been representing the county in the suit.

Mr. Leon Wright said Extreme Broadband was issued a Stop Work Order. He said the county then passed an Ordinance to address future issues. He said the dispute is between the two utility companies.

Commissioner Stephenson said that all these violations are being sent to Mr. Wright for review. He said that Mr. Wright is not looking for violations, he was notified of violations.

Attorney Osteen said that Judge Johnson had given permission to Central Florida Electric to remove Extreme Broad band from their poles.

Mr. George said they could have done that but felt it would be unsafe to do so. He said they were in negotiations with Ms. Holt to fix the issues.

Commissioner Stephenson said the county has been involved in this lawsuit and it has cost the county money because the rate was raised on the Holt's for their line attachment to the electric poles.

Mr. George said that was before his time, however the rate was valid and reasonable at \$4,000.00 per year.

Mr. George said they will do what they can to help with the cleanup of the ditches. He said to contact them when needed.

Commissioner Hatch asked Mr. George about the right of way clearing and chipping and blowing this in the ditch. He said this is stopping up the culverts.

Mr. George said they had a contractor who did this, but they have since stopped. He will check with the right of way department.

Commissioner Storey added that they should not be chipping it into people's yards either.

Mr. Wright said he has been to court three times and had to fulfill a lot of public records request and aggravation. He said the State has told him that he has no jurisdiction in the matter.

Mr. George said it was the other company that took the county to court.

#### **RICHARD POWELL, AUDITOR**

Mr. Richard Powell appeared before the Board to speak about the Audit. He presented copies for the Board. He said due to prior transitions they made sure to look over everything this year. He said that all the Constitutional Officers and county staff agreed with their report and that they were good numbers. He said they should be able to move forward with timely audits.

He said that a county audit is a separate audit of the Board and all Constitutional Officers and then a combination of all the reports.

He said they have reviewed reports with staff, the Chairman and the Constitutional Officers last week. He said this is the formal presentation tonight.

#### **Page 3 and 4**

He discussed the 4 levels of the Audit Standards of Procedures.

He said the Financial Statements are an accurate reflection of how the county stood at the end of the year and of the practices through the year.

#### **Page 15, Balance Sheet**

Total Fund balances:

#### **General Fund**

Assets \$4,395,132.00

Liabilities \$1,571,484.00

Cash Reserve \$2,823,648.00

He said this cash reserve fund is at 21 percent and should be increased to 25 to 30 percent when possible.



**Ems Fund**

Assets \$2,144,226.00

Liabilities \$456,163.00

Cash Reserve \$949,723.00

He said this fund is at the 30 percent level.

**County Transportation Trust Fund**

Assets \$1,535,432.00

Liabilities \$1,431,598.00

Cash Reserve is negative \$169,175.00

He said this should be increased by 1 million dollars.

**Other Governmental Funds**

Assets \$3,635,286.00

Liabilities \$1,851,768.00

Cash Reserve \$1,305,282.00

**Total Reserves** are \$4,909,478.00

**Page 17, Revenues, Expenditures and Changes**

Net Change in Fund Balances:

**General Fund**

negative \$1,313,659.00

**Ems Fund**

negative \$273,592.00

**County Transportation Trust Fund**

\$702,778.00

**Other Governmental Funds**

\$962,078.00

**Total Reserves**

\$77,605.00

**Page 20 Joint Ventures**

Aucilla Landfill Assets \$2,586,617.00

He said this partnership was a good decision.

**Page 27, Capital Assets**

Assets \$74,464,529.00

Depreciation \$37,456,267.00

\*He said the county is average or slightly better standing due to grant funding.

**Page 28, Long Term Liabilities**

Balance \$21,158,794.00

He spoke about the Florida Pension Plan. He said the actual short-term debt of the county is small at around \$700,000.00. He said the county had numerous large grants in progress at the end of the year. This could have caused the 3.5 million difference in the numbers between the 2019 audits. He said that he audited all the grant work this year.

**Page 63, Federal and State grants**

\$2,053,380.00 plus \$3,974,045.00.

\*He said the county had about 6 million in grants. He said it is important for these to be billed and collected timely.

**Page 67, Management Letter of Audit Findings**

He said there are still five findings that have not been addressed since 2016. He said in the 2017 and 2018 audit there were about 10-15 things that needed to be addressed.

**Page 69, Compliance Report**

He informed the Board of the audit procedures.

**Page 70, Compliance Report**

He said they are required to audit the management of the 911 state funds.

**Page 71, Auditor's Report of Internal Control**

He spoke about the Government Auditing Standards.

**Page 73**

He spoke about the equivalent report of the Federal single Audit which was required because of the Cares Act funding.

**Page 75-76**

He spoke about the equivalent report of the State grant.

**Page 77-79**

Status of uncleared findings for prior years.

2017-001-Preparation of Financial Records. There was no sufficiently skilled staff to be responsible for this task. The new Clerk hired a CPA to do this.

2017-002-Segregation of Duties. There was not enough staff in the Finance office. The new Clerk has brought in more staff and has better systems and processes.

2017-003-Physical inventory of Tangible Assets. There was not enough staff to do this. The new Clerk performed a comprehensive physical inventory. Needs to adjust the records.

2017-004-Excessive access to financial reporting and I T systems by finance staff. Not enough staff to handle this segregation of duty. Needs to be addressed.

2017-005-The Recreation and Library Fund had a negative fund balance.

There are six other funds that have a negative balance. Needs to be addressed.

2017-010- SHIP-Compliance with Subrecipient Monitoring.

There was not enough staff to do this. Suwannee River Economic Council (SREC) is a sub recipient. He reviewed how the county approves and write checks compared to other counties. They are re classified and a Contractor. No issues with this.

Mr. Powell said the Clerk and the Sheriff had some findings.

Commissioner Storey clarified for everyone that the county did not lose 3.5 million dollars. He said this was a mix up of the paperwork from one year to the next year.

Ms. Johnson informed the Board that the 2021 Audit will be on time.

Commissioner Hatch thanked the Clerk and the County Manager and their staff for all their hard work.

Mr. Powell informed the Board he will send the documents to the Auditor General tomorrow.

Commissioner Stephenson said he understands that the audit is based on the records that they had. He asked if more records were available would the findings have changed.

Mr. Powell said they looked at everything they possibly could.

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

Director Brown appeared before the Board to request their approval of the EMS Holiday Schedule. He said that his road staff work 24-hour shifts. He requested the Board modify Christmas and Easter so that his staff can get Holiday Pay.

*Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve the modification of the Christmas and Easter Holiday Pay for the EMS and Fire road staff. Commissioner Valentine seconded. Board approved.*

Director Brown requested the Board approve to allow the transport rates to be increased to comply with the Medicaid requirements.

*Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to approve to raise the transport rates. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.*

Director Brown informed the Board that they would like to work with a collection agency to help with the billing, collections and write offs. He said they charge a percentage, of the collections recovered, for their services.

Commissioner Stephenson asked how long they will try to collect in house.

Director Brown said he would need to speak with Mr. Furgeson and Ms. Lola Butler about this.

Commissioner Hatch said he doesn't like collection agencies but doesn't want to write off the money either.

*Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to move forward with collections. This motion died due to lack of a second.*

Commissioner Hatch said he would like to see some numbers before he votes on this.

Director Brown informed the Board that two of his staff were caught in a roof collapse but were able to get out. He said their new Medical Director was not on duty but came in to tend to them at the hospital.

#### **GAIL CARTER, INDIGENT CARE**

Ms. Carter was not present

**HOLLY HOUGHTON, COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT**

Ms. Houghton had nothing to discuss at this time.

**ANGIE CROWLEY, HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATOR**

Ms. Crowley had nothing to discuss at this time.

**DUANE CANNON, COUNTY MANAGER**

Manager Cannon appeared before the Board to request their approval on several items.

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval for the SHIP Satisfaction/Release of Lien for Hazel Driggers in the amount of \$3,125.39. He said the original lien in 2017 was for \$15,626.95 and the property is being sold in the 4<sup>th</sup> year of the SHIP Lien Agreement. He said only 20% of the lien amount is required to be paid.

***Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve the SHIP Satisfaction/Release of Lien for Hazel Driggers in the amount of \$3,125.39. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to execute the Engineers Certificate of Compliance for the Grady Hires Road (SW 820<sup>th</sup> from CR 361 to CR 358). He said the punch list is complete and the invoices are in the vouchers to be paid.

***Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve to execute the Engineers Certificate of Compliance for the Grady Hires Road (SW 820<sup>th</sup> from CR 361 to CR 358). Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to execute the contract with Worthmann LLC Roofing in the amount of \$256,088.02 for the jail roof repair. He said this has a 25-year warranty Galvalume and should be completed in February.

***Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to execute the contract with Worthmann LLC Roofing in the amount of \$256,088.02 for the jail roof repair. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to execute the contract with DSI to provide administrative assistance to the county for the ARPA Grant monies.

***Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve to execute the contract with DSI to provide administrative assistance to the county for the ARPA Grant monies. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to move forward with the John Deere Excavator financing with Capital City Bank who provided the lowest interest rate at 1.96% fixed 5-year term.

***Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve to move forward with the John Deere Excavator financing with Capital City Bank. Commissioner Valentine seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon requested the Board decide the starting point for the Gradall or allow the Road Superintendent to decide where to start the work.

Commissioner Stephenson said the areas must be evaluated.

Commissioner Storey said that the Watson Subdivision is draining, however the Hammock area still has standing water.

Manager Cannon reminded everyone that this equipment is only for cleaning ditches and cannot get off the road.

Commissioner Stephenson said to start in the worst areas first.

Manager Cannon recommended allowing the Road Superintendent to evaluate the need at his discretion.

Commissioner Hatch said he wants to clean from the Dixie County Jail and the Rollison property and the Airport Canal and work back from Hwy 349.

Ms. Mary Goodrich asked if they have a trained operator to work the equipment.

Mr. Leon Wright asked about the Ordinance for driveways culverts.

Commissioner Stephenson said these culverts are not up to standards.

Mr. Wright said the Road Department inspects the culverts.

Manager Cannon said the Commissioners have historically overridden the need for a culvert.

Attorney Osteen recommended the Board needs to change size of culvert material in the Ordinance.

Manager Cannon requested the Board approve obtaining a survey for the five-acre tract of land for the County Rock Pit.

***Commissioner Hatch made the motion to obtain a survey for the 5-acre tract of land for the County Rock Pit. Commissioner Valentine seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon informed the Board that they are reviewing and updating the County Contracts according to the BOCC decision to not renew County Contracts on an automatic basis. He said the Attorney Contract is up for renewal in November. He said they have four MOU's on active

projects lasting from three to five years. He said they can review these annually if the Board would like to.

Attorney Osteen said they will have everything ready for review at the November meeting.

Manager Cannon said they have spoke to all the Post Offices in Dixie County regarding the mailbox placement. The results are as follows:

Cross City Post Office – All mailboxes face street side,

Old Town Post Office – The Postmaster would need areas of concern that impede water flow in order to evaluate if the mailboxes can be turned. This is to maintain the safety of his drivers. It will be reviewed on a case by case basis. Individuals will have to apply to the Postmaster for approval.

Steinhatchee Post Office – Not able to turn boxes to roadside.

Commissioner Hatch said this is a huge cost to county.

***Commissioner Hatch made the motion to not allow any more limerock to be put in for mailbox turn offs. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon informed the Board they are in the process of submitting the required forms to the House and Senate for the Delegations review of the Dixie County Stormwater Task Force Projects. He said they hope to be able to get some funding.

Manager Cannon informed the Board that the Department of Health has notified us of Red Tide around Shired Park and the Coon Island area. We will post the information at Shired Boat Ramp and Shired Island Park.

#### **MICHAEL OSTEEN, COUNTY ATTORNEY**

Attorney Osteen had nothing to discuss at this time.

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

Clerk Higginbotham thanked Powell and Jones and everyone involved for helping with the Audit.

Clerk Higginbotham requested to purchase a copier for the Tax Deed Office. She said it will be used for Board Business and Tax deeds.

***Commissioner Valentine made the motion to purchase the copier for the Tax Deed Office. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.***

#### **COUNTY COMMISSION ITEMS**

Commissioner Valentine had nothing more to discuss.

Commissioner Hatch expressed his concern with renting the Community Buildings. He said that Ms. Teresa Fowler and Ms. Linda Williams can't clean them.

Manager Cannon said he will look into that.

Manager Cannon informed the Board that the Town of Cross City may accept the Woman's Club back and possibly the Train Depot Building. He said that City Manager John Driggers will ask the Town Council.

Commissioner Hatch asked about the maintenance involved in the Community Buildings. Manager Cannon said they will look at this again.

Commissioner Stephenson had nothing more to discuss.

A lady from the audience asked about fixing some driveways.

Commissioner Storey said they have turned in some addresses.

Manager Cannon said a right of entry is needed and Ems and the Road Department will evaluate the need and the availability and cost of materials.

Commissioner Storey said nothing can be fixed until water dries up.

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

Ms. Diane Vanhook asked about dividends from the electric company. Attorney Osteen referred her to Mr. Denny George.

Ms. Mary Goodrich asked if the county had received any money from the American Rescue Fund.

Manager Cannon replied the county has received 50 percent of money and it has not been spent yet.

**ADJOURN**

*Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to adjourn at 8:32 PM. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.*

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA

ATTEST:



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

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

**PLEASE BE ADVISED** that if a person decided 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.*