

Workshop
Gulf Coast Consortium Project
Dixie County Courthouse
Commission Board Room
214 NE Hwy 351, Cross City, FL 32628
November 04, 2021 – 9:00 AM

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
Della Rhymes, Asst. Chief Deputy Clerk
Jacki Johnson, Chief Financial Officer

CALL TO ORDER

The Board meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM 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.

County Manager Cannon welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Mr. Greg Bailey and Mr. Kellan Bailey from North Florida Professional Services. He informed the Board that they will be discussing the BP oil spill money. He said that Dixie County can use some of the money to work on some projects.

Mr. Greg Bailey appeared before the Board and informed them that Dixie County has five State Expenditure Plan (SEP) projects that this money can be used on. They are as follows:

1. Horseshoe Beach Working Waterfront, estimate \$2,929,642.00
2. Shired Island Park Beach Nourishment and Living Shoreline, estimate \$2,002,054.00
3. Dixie County Oyster Restoration, estimate \$1,056,107.00
4. Coastal Public Access Program, estimate \$1,491,243.00
5. Coastal Septic to Sewer Project Conversion Program, estimate \$5,139,244.00

Manager Cannon informed the Board that the ARMY Corp of Engineers was closer to completion of the Turn Basin and the Channel Dredging Project, which falls under the Working Waterfront Project.

Commissioner Stephenson asked how much does the county have invested.

Mr. Bailey replied nothing. He said some of these projects were started under the former County Manager, Tim Alexander.

Commissioner Hatch added that some may fall under former County Commissioner, Ronnie Edmonds and former County Manager, Mike Cassidy as well.

Mr. Bailey said there is a process to make amendments to this plan.

Mr. Bailey said they can use the money for the Shired Island Park Project to construct bathrooms, address parking and camping issues as well as purchase additional property for the park.

Commissioner Stephenson said his family owns some property down there and some of the pavilions are on their property.

Commissioner Hatch said they must constantly rebuild the beach area.

Mr. Bailey said he is concerned that their project estimate is too old and will fall short due to inflation.

Mr. Bailey said the Board can use the money for the Oyster Restoration Project and re seed beds and build more beds. He said the need to determine what areas need to be done over others.

Manager Cannon said they had originally discussed from Horseshoe to Shired. He said the Board can change the scope of the work.

Commissioner Stephenson asked if this has been submitted.

Mr. Bailey replied that other issues have been put in front of this. He said there are five projects allocated and the next step is to prepare the application for the money, then get approved, and get the money released to the county.

Commissioner Storey clarified that the paperwork must be done to move forward.

Commissioner Stephenson asked if the amend the projects will that affect the allocation of the money.

Mr. Bailey replied it will delay the process, but they will not lose the money.

Commissioner Valentine said he would like to put in a dock at Shired Island.

Commissioner Mills said they have previously discussed the Oyster Restoration of the county and

It needs to cover both Suwannee and Horseshoe.

Mr. Bailey informed the Board that the money for the Coastal Public Access Project can be used for the following projects:

The Rocky Creek Boat Ramp Parking, Storm Water Treatment, Freeman Tract Pedestrian Bridge and Watchtower, the Cow Creek Bridge removal and new bridge installation, and a Kayak Launch.

Mr. Bailey said the money for the Coastal Septic to Sewer Project can be used in Jena to remove septic systems and extend the sewer collection to include Old Town and Suwannee or build a new plant in Horseshoe for sewer.

Mr. Bailey informed the Board that they can make changes to this plan annually. However, it would be for next fall because the deadline has already passed. He said he understands that the ditch work is also a concern, however restrictions may apply to this.

Commissioner Stephenson said he would like to do projects that benefit Dixie County and not other counties. He said he would like a sewer plant in Suwannee and Horseshoe.

Commissioner Hatch said that parts of Old Town are connected to Fanning Springs for city water.

Mr. Bailey said there are current restrictions for infrastructure projects limiting them to 25 percent of the funds.

Commissioner Stephenson said there was supposed to be a water plant in Old Town to link them to Suwannee and to Cross City. He said this did not happen. He said that Jena currently gets city water from Steinhatchee, which is Taylor County and Old Town gets city water from Fanning Springs.

Manager Cannon informed the Board that there is 12 million dollars allocated in a state fund waiting for them to apply for.

Mr. Bailey said these five projects have been approved and if the Board changes their mind they may be delayed.

Commissioner Hatch said that inflation may cost the Board to lose three of these projects.

Commissioner Stephenson said he would be hesitant to change the projects started by other Commissioners.

Mr. Bailey informed the Board that they can get sewer funding from other sources.

The Board discussed the five projects.

They discussed the Horseshoe Beach Working Waterfront Project and the Shired Island Park Beach Nourishment and Living Shoreline Project. They discussed adding Suwannee to the Dixie County Oyster Restoration Project. They discussed the Rocky Creek Boat Ramp Parking, Storm Water Treatment, Freeman Tract Pedestrian Bridge and Watchtower, the Cow Creek Bridge removal and new bridge installation for the Coastal Public Access Program. The Board discussed dropping the Coastal Septic to Sewer Project Conversion Program.

Mr. James Ward asked if the Board would be interested in some property he owns in Suwannee for public use.

Commissioner Hatch requested he put together a proposal for the Board to review.

Manager Cannon informed the Board that there are 16 bridge structures in the county, and some are red flagged by FDOT.

Commissioner Mills asked if the money for the fifth project can be used elsewhere.

Mr. Bailey informed the Board they can decide in the Regular Board Meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

There were no comments or concerns expressed at this time.

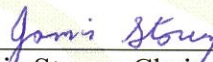
ADJOURN

Commissioner Mills made the motion to adjourn at 9:44 AM. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.

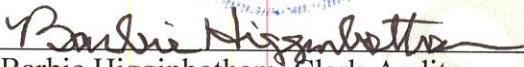
ATTEST:



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA



Jamie Storey, Chairman



Barbie Higginbotham, Clerk-Auditor

PLEASE BE ADVISED that if a person 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.