

Regular Meeting

Commission Board Room
Dixie County Courthouse
214 NE Hwy 351, Cross City, FL 32628
December 01, 2022 – 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

Daniel Wood, District 2,
Mark Hatch, District 3
Jamie Storey, District 4, Chairman

STAFF

Duane Cannon, County Manager
Paul Gainey, Asst. County Manager
Martha McCaskill, Administrative Asst/Grant Coordinator
Chana Watson, County Attorney
Barbie Higginbotham, Clerk of Court
Della Rhymes, Asst. Chief Deputy Clerk
Jacki Johnson, Chief Financial Officer
Brenda Royal, Chief Financial Officer

CALL TO ORDER

The Board Meeting/Workshop was called to order at 10:00 AM by Commissioner Storey.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG

The Invocation was led by Commissioner Storey and the Pledge to the American Flag was led by Commissioner Hatch.

ANNUAL ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD

County Manager Duane Cannon appeared before the Board and announced the Re-Organization of the Board.

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to entertain a motion for the BOCC Chairman.

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to nominate Jamie Storey to serve as BOCC Chairman. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to entertain a motion for the BOCC Vice Chairman.

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to nominate Jody Stephenson to serve as BOCC

Vice Chairman. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to accept and continue the regularly scheduled BOCC meetings on the 1st Thursday of the month at 10:00 AM and the 3rd Thursday of the month at 6:00 PM for FY 2023. A list was provided.

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to accept and continue the regularly scheduled BOCC meetings on the 1st Thursday of the month at 10:00 AM and the 3rd Thursday of the month at 6:00 PM for FY 2023. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

Manager Cannon informed the Board they will be requesting the Board's approval of the Commissioners Committee Assignments at the December 15, 2022, night meeting. A list was provided.

Manager Cannon said District 5 is still pending the Governor's decision. He said the assignments for District 5 will need to be covered by sitting members. A list was provided.

Commissioner Daniel Wood was assigned to sit on the Big Bend Water Authority Committee.

APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES

There were no minutes presented for the Board's approval.

VOUCHER APPROVAL

These were approved later in the meeting.

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 Hatch. Seconded by Commissioner Wood. Board approved.

A petition by **John and Linda Touchton** located on the property as described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 19-13-12-2930-0000-0100, 75 SE 210th Street, Old Town, FL 32680, to request a **variance** for a reduction of the front setbacks from 25 feet to ten feet, a reduction of the side setback from 10 feet to 5 feet and a reduction of the rear setback from 15 feet to 5 feet for a new home by the petition dated 10/31/2022 which is located within Section 4.7.7 RSF/MH subparagraph (2) of the Dixie County Land Development Regulations in accordance with section 12.3 Variance Procedures. (**Commission District 3, Mark Hatch**)

Building Official Leon Wright appeared before the Board and read the Variance request made by John and Linda Touchton. There was no opposition.

Commissioner Hatch clarified this is for a new home to be built.

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve the Variance request made by John and Linda Touchton. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

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

RESOLUTION 2022-170

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 REDUCTION WITHIN SECTION 4.7.7 RSF/MH SUBPARAGRAPH (2) OF FRONT SETBACKS FROM 25 FEET TO 10 FEET, A REDUCTION OF SIDE SETBACK FROM 10 FEET TO 5 FEET AND A REDUCTION OF REAR SETBACK FROM 15 FEET TO 5 FEET FOR NEW HOME WHICH IS LOCATED IN AN RESIDENTIAL SINGLE FAMILY/MOBILE HOME AREA (RSF/MH) ZONING DISTRICT, AS PROVIDED IN THE PETITION DATED OCTOBER 31, 2022. **John and Linda Touchton**

Building Official Leon Wright appeared before the Board and read Resolution 2022-170 in support of John and Linda Touchton.

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve Resolution 2022-170 in support of John and Linda Touchton. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

Mr. George Buckner of Central Florida Electric appeared before the Board to update them on their new service, Fiber by Central Florida. He said they will be providing this to Duke Energy customers too. He said there are three (3) plans to choose from which range in price from \$49.00 to \$99.00. He said phase I will begin in 2023 for Chiefland, Trenton, Bell and then to North Dixie County. He said it will take three (3) to four (4) years to complete. He said that any funding available from Dixie County would be appreciated.

Ms. Karen Van Aernam appeared before the Board and updated them on the Cross City Restore and Renew program. She said they have partnered with the Dixie County Anti-Drug Coalition. She thanked the Board and public for their involvement with the Turkey Trot. She said they are moving forward with Christmas decorations around town. She said the volunteers are pressure washing and edging the curbs and sidewalks and landscaping through town. She invited everyone to the tree lighting ceremony at City Hall on Friday, December 02 at 5:30 PM. She said there will be music and refreshments. She said they are promoting a Pay It Forward event Saturday, December 03 at 8:30 AM at the Cottage Café, the Dixie Diner, and the Cypress Inn. She requested the patrons tip extra to bless the servers.

A citizen asked if there was a program in place for families in need during Christmas.

Commissioner Storey asked them to speak with him and the County Manager after the meeting to coordinate.

STEVE COPELAND, SUWANNEE WATER AND SEWER MANAGER

Mr. Steve Copeland appeared before the Board and informed them they have 943 active accounts. He said they have four (4) new installs waiting on permits and electric or water. He said they have been flushing lines for maintenance.

He informed the Board they have addressed and resolved several issues within the office:

- They are getting a new external hard drive, new computers, a new operating system and a new fire wall. (The Operating and Accounting computer crashed, and the backup was not working.)
- The Board members have now been paid to current for 2022.
- The Quick Books system is now up to date and reconciled from August of 2021.
- The Deposit Account is current and reconciled from the past seven (7) years.
- The system is being updated with the county's 911 addresses.

He said he is looking into some cutbacks with leases and ATT phone services. He said they have had some Call Center issues and they will possibly be changing companies.

Commissioner Hatch thanked them for being pro-active.

GREG BAILEY, NORTH FLORIDA PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Mr. Greg Bailey appeared before the Board and informed them of the two (2) bids that were received on November 22, for NE 362 and NE 364 Avenue from Anderson Columbia and Walker Construction. He said both bids were over and additional funding has been requested from FDOT.

Manger Cannon said these projects are on Palm Drive.

Mr. Bailey said the CDBG application is moving forward with the completion of the punch list.

JERED LIZOTTE, LOCKLEAR AND ASSOCIATES

Mr. John Locklear had nothing to discuss at this time.

CINDY BELLOT, LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Ms. Bellot was not present for this meeting.

STEVE FREMEN, CODE ENFORCEMENT & VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER

Mr. Fremem had nothing to discuss at this time.

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.

MICHAEL LATSON, SOLID WASTE DIRECTOR

Mr. Latson appeared before the Board and informed them of a hardship case needing a dumpster.

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve a dumpster for Ms. Lori Fowler as a hardship case. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

Ms. Lori Fowler thanked the Board for their help.

Manager Cannon informed the Board they are looking into purchasing a Low Boy trailer and a Trash Compactor for this department. He said he will bring the quotes to the Board for their review and approval.

LEON WRIGHT, BUILDING AND ZONING OFFICIAL

Mr. Wright appeared before the Board and added that Ms. Lori Fowler is dealing with four (4) campers on one (1) lot, without power. He said this is not an RV Special Exception case.

Mr. Wright reminded the Board of their review of the rough draft of the LDR procedure. He said the restructuring includes removing building code items from land code items. He said these need their own technical manual.

Mr. Wright said that he will meet with Mr. Steve Fremen and Mr. Gene Boles today at 3:30 PM to work on the manual for Code Enforcement. He said there are currently three (3) different conflicting rules and regulations to follow and this is confusing. He said that compliance is the goal.

Mr. Wright added that the Lori Fowler case is a Code Enforcement issue.

County Attorney Chana Watson said there is a judgement on this property.

Mr. Wright said the fines have already exceeded the property value.

Attorney Watson informed the Board of another case in Suwannee.

DARIAN BROWN, DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

Admin. Chief Matt Furgeson invited everyone to the Christmas in Dixie on December 16, 2022 at the High School from 6:00 until 9:00 PM.

He thanked the Board for their contribution to help feed the Veterans in the community.

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

Mr. Pendarvis appeared before the Board and informed them of the Broadband issue. He said the cell service has been increasing from 2g, 3g 4g and now 5g. He said they had set up a program years ago for ambulances to transfer EKG information to the hospital from the monitor on the truck. He said the current cell service hinders the ability to do this. He would like to resolve this by having a Hot Spot for the computer and monitor on each ambulance.

Mr. Pendarvis informed the Board that The Florida Association of Rural County EMS offers a grant for \$105,000.00 to pay for these upgrades. He presented a quote for \$18,290.00 and said this will be reimbursed from this grant. He requested their approval to move forward.

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve moving forward with the quote of \$18,290.00 for the Hot Spot upgrades on each ambulance which will be reimbursed by the Florida Association of Rural County EMS grant. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

Mr. Pendarvis informed the Board that the new generator is being installed at the Shamrock Tower and the Server Room at the Courthouse is under construction.

Mr. Pendarvis informed the Board that the Voice Over IP Phone System is in place in the County Manager's Office, Building and Zoning Office, and the UF Extension Office. He said the Courthouse will be next on the list.

Mr. Pendarvis said the fiber for the Road Department has been permitted by the Town of Cross City. He said they will be activated the first of the year.

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

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

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval for an Administrative Day on December 30, 2022, for all Full-Time BOCC employees, following suit with Governor Ron DeSantis' announcement of the closing for state offices on this day.

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve an Administrative Day on December 30, 2022, for all Full-Time BOCC employees. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval for a Goal Day for County Employees on December 29, 2022. He said there have been no long-term worker comp claims for the period of July 01, 2022 - Present.

Commissioner Wood made the motion to approve a Goal Day for County Employees on December 29, 2022. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to utilize North Florida Professional Services to provide engineering services to evaluate the Cross City Library re-roof project. He said this has been budgeted for.

Commissioner Wood made the motion to approve to utilize North Florida Professional Services to provide engineering services to evaluate the Cross City Library re-roof project. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to execute the Notice of Award to Anderson Columbia for the CR 340, Widening and Resurfacing Road Project in the amount of \$2,945,483.27.

Commissioner Wood made the motion to approve to execute the Notice of Award to Anderson Columbia for the CR 340, Widening and Resurfacing Road Project in the amount of \$2,945,483.27. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to execute the request of the SHIP assistance purchase of a home for Brittany Gaddis in the amount of \$20,000.00.

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve to execute the request of the SHIP assistance purchase of a home for Brittany Gaddis in the amount of \$20,000.00. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval to move forward with the Worthmann Roofing Exhaust Fans Change Order in the amount of \$64,891.54 for the jail roof to replace the existing exhaust fans. He said the BOCC is responsible for half and the Sheriff's Department is responsible for the other half.

Commissioner Wood made the motion to approve to move forward with the Worthmann Roofing Exhaust Fans Change Order in the amount of \$64,891.54 for the jail roof to replace the existing exhaust fans. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.

Dixie County Sheriff Darby Butler spoke to the Board and thanked them for moving forward with the jail roof project. He said this has been needed for a long time. He said this is a build on site project and the contractor has done a great job with the change orders and keeping with the timeline. He said the new exhaust fans will provide safety for inmates and employees and a cost savings to the county. He said that future inspections of the jail facility will be more intrusive and if they can be proactive with improvements and repairs it would be best.

Sheriff Butler confirmed his office will pay for ½ of the \$64,891.54 for the jail roof to replace the existing exhaust fans from the Inmate Housing Fund.

Commissioner Storey thanked the County Manager and his team for working to save money on the jail roof project.

Manager Cannon requested the Board's approval for the Addendum to the Farm Lease at the Cross City Airport and Former Landfill between Dixie County and Southwest Cattle Company, LLC modifying the number of acres to add 75.770 acres. He said they will spray the fence on the North end, maintain the roads and mow when needed.

Commissioner Hatch requested they spray the fence on the South side too.

Manager Cannon said he will negotiate the additional terms.

Commissioner Wood made the motion to approve negotiations of additional terms for the Addendum to the Farm Lease at the Cross City Airport and Former Landfill between Dixie County and Southwest Cattle Company, LLC modifying the number of acres to add 75.770 acres. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.

Commissioner Hatch said they should move the fence from the canal near the Animal Control Facility. He asked if the Airport Committee need to be informed of this.

Manager Cannon said he will schedule a meeting with them.

Manager Cannon presented the Division of Forestry request for the Board's approval to allow the Road Department staff to help with the Outdoor Operation Freedom Event in Dixie County from January 10-12, 2023.

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve the Division of Forestry request to allow the Road Department staff to help with the Outdoor Operation Freedom Event in Dixie County from January 10-12, 2023. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

Manager Cannon informed the Board that on December 15, 2022, a safety luncheon will be held at the School Board building in Old Town for the Road Dept, Solid Waste, Building and Zoning, Mosquito Control, Ag Extension Office and Administrative Staff from 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM.

CHANA WATSON, COUNTY ATTORNEY

Commissioner Hatch asked if the William Rantz road closure issue had been resolved.

Attorney Watson replied it has been corrected and is ready to sign.

BARBIE HIGGINBOTHAM, CLERK OF COURT

Chief Financial Officer Brenda Royal requested the Board's approval of the vouchers and the new Report format.

COUNTY COMMISSION ITEMS

Commissioner Wood had nothing to discuss at this time.

Commissioner Hatch welcomed Commissioner Wood to the Board.

Commissioner Storey welcomed Commissioner Wood and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He requested the public let them know about families needed help at Christmas.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Ms. Mary Goodrich spoke to the Board and asked for an update on the canals and culverts.

Manager Cannon said they are finalizing the canal system at the airport. He said they are working on advertisements for bids for the Old Town residential canal system from Hwy 351 North through the Hammock area into the River Swamp East of Hwy 349. He said after the Board's approval it will be advertised the first of the year however, it may be Spring before a contractor would be awarded the job. He said 20 more culverts have been selected to be washed out and cleared of obstructions.

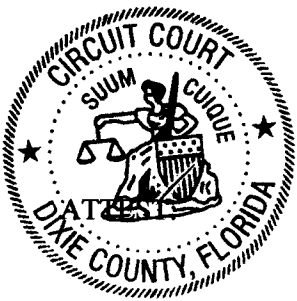
Commissioner Wood asked for a list of the 44 right of entries that are still needed.

Ms. Sheila Frierson from the Dixie County Anti-Drug Coalition spoke to the Board and informed them they are partnering with the Rural Community Opioid Program and hosting a celebration to be held in the Save A Lot parking lot on December 10, 2022. She said children can meet Santa and get a stocking. She said there will be free food and a live band playing music. She said their goal is to show the community you can celebrate without the use of substance and alcohol.

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

ADJOURN

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to adjourn at 10:57 AM. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

Jami Storey

Jami Storey, Chairman

Barbie Higginbotham

Barbie Higginbotham, Clerk-Auditor

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

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

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