

**Regular Meeting**  
***Dixie County Courthouse***  
***Commission Board Room***  
***214 NE Hwy 351, Cross City, FL 32628***  
***December 02, 2021 – 10:00 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  
Paul Gainey, Asst. 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 10:00 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.

**APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES**

*Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve the Minutes of the Final Budget Meeting of September 27, 2021. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.*

*Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting on Documents from 2020 of October 07, 2021. Commissioner Valentin seconded. Board approved.*

*Commissioner Mills made the motion to approve the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of October 07, 2021. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.*

**VOUCHER APPROVAL**

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

**CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS**

Dixie County Sheriff Darby Butler appeared before the Board Sheriff and informed him that he has requested an independent Audit for his office. He said this was an Intrusive Audit done by Powell and Jones. He said they are trying to clean up the finances and the ledger. He presented a check for excess funds of \$255,518.00 that was found in the 2019-2020 Audit. He presented another check from 2018 for an excess of \$7,335.19.

He requested that the Board receive these two checks from the Sheriff Office.

*Commissioner Hatch made the motion for the Board to accept the checks for \$255,518.00 and \$7,335.19. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.*

Sheriff Butler informed the Board found that some money had been requested from the Board in September of 2020 for \$240,000.00. He said this would have been in the 2019-2020 budget year. He said this requested money was held in Sheriff Office and was supposed to purchase vehicles. He said the vehicles were purchased, but not with this money. He said a Ford Motor Credit debt of \$117,388.46 was found.

Sheriff Butler said he would like to clean up the books by returning the \$255,518.00 to the Board and amending his budget by \$117,388.46 to clear up the Ford Motor Credit Debt.

*Commissioner Mills made the motion to allow the Sheriff to amend his budget by \$117,388.46 to clear up the Ford Motor Credit Debt. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.*

Commissioner Stephenson thanked the Sheriff for looking through his books and bringing this back money to the Board and the General Fund.

**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 Valentine. Seconded by Commissioner Mills. Board approved.*

A petition by **Gary & Cindy Blanton** requesting 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 (RSF/MH) zoning district, in accordance with the petition dated 09/17/2021 to be located on the property as described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 19-13-12-2952-000C-0060 (245 SE 240th St, Old Town, FL. 32680; 0). (Commission District 3, Mark Hatch) (Tabled 11-18-2021)

Mr. Leon Wright appeared before the Board and read the Special Exception request made by Gary and Cindy Blanton.

*Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve the Special Exception request made by Gary and Cindy Blanton. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.*

Commissioner Hatch said he has spoken with Mr. Sewell and he still opposes this.

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

#### **RESOLUTION 2021-172**

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 AN RESIDENTIAL SINGLE FAMILY/MOBILE HOME AREA (RSF/MH) ZONING DISTRICT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PETITION DATED SEPTEMBER 17, 2021. **Gary Blanton** (Tabled 11-18-2021)

Mr. Leon Wright appeared before the Board and read Resolution 2021-172 by title only in support of Gary and Cindy Blanton.

*Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve Resolution 2021-172 in support of Gary and Cindy Blanton. Commissioner Valentine seconded. Board approved.*

#### **JEFF FELLER, WELL FLORIDA COUNCIL**

Mr. Jeff Feller appeared before the Board to present some information about the Well Florida Council. He said this is one of 11 health councils in Florida. He said they are a non-profit organization formed in 1960. He said they cover 16 counties in Florida.

He said their Board of Directors are all appointed by the County Commissions that they serve.

He said Ms. Karen VanAernam is our representative from Dixie County.

He said they provide services through Healthy Start Coalition, the Rural Health Partnership and the Ryan White Services.

He informed everyone that Healthy Start provides free services to people in need from pregnancy up through age five. He said that Connect provides services for call in and screening for home visits. He also said that Nurse Family Partnership provides services for substance abuse mothers. He said the HIV Care and Ryan White Services. He said this is a free Federal Program since 1992. He said this is for people who don't have access to care. He said they can also get help with housing and rental assistance and utility assistance. He said the Community Initiative Group runs a Cancer Collaborative, Trauma Agency and more. He said they work to identify and find solution to pressing health issues.

**RUSS MCCALLISTER, TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

Mr. Russ McCallister appeared before the Board to inform them about the success of the TDC. He said they are made up of volunteer staff. He said since forming this agency 10 years ago, visitors have brought \$600,000.00 in tax money to the county from their efforts. He said that \$.03 of every dollar spent went towards making this possible. He said that calculates to 20 million dollars that visitors have spent in Dixie County.

Mr. McCallister requested the Board to consider and approve the hiring a part time person to help with the TDC. He said this would be paid for by the TDC and not from the General Fund money. He said this position would be managed by the County Manager and the TDC.

Commissioner Stephenson clarified that the position would be funded by the TDC.

Mr. McCallister replied yes. He said half of the money collected goes to the Board and the other half is used by the TDC for other projects and to fund this new position.

Commissioner Hatch thanked Mr. Mc Callister and his wife, Kaye and their staff for all their hard work.

***Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve the hiring of a part time person to help with the TDC. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.***

**KEITH SEGAR, SUWANNEE WATER AND SEWER MANAGER**

Mr. Keith Segar appeared before the Board and informed them that tomorrow will be his last day of work. He said he has submitted his resignation. He said he has been there going on five years.

Commissioner Hatch and Commissioner Storey both thanked him for his service to the community.

Commissioner Hatch said they had a meeting on Monday about the possibility of the Suwannee Water and Sewer being managed by a private company.

Mr. Segar said they had an Emergency Meeting of the Board to discuss replacing him. He said that Mr. Clark had invited members from an outside contractor to attend this meeting and they gave their presentation to the Board. He said that his staff is concerned about their jobs.

He said the contractor had asked for their Budget and other information so they could come up with their cost to take over. He said this will be presented at the meeting on December 13, 2021 at 6:00 PM. He said that many people are upset about this matter of outside control.

Commissioner Stephenson asked if they have advertised for his position.

Mr. Segar said yes. He said that he has five weeks of PTO and he will be on call thru January 07, 2022. He said that his staff will be there to help anyone who needs assistance.

Commissioner Mills asked if things had run smoothly under his management.

Mr. Segar said there were some issues that they worked out. He said they have increase compacity and got some storage equipment updates and training.

Commissioner Mills asked if they could promote from within the office without going to an outside company taking over.

Mr. Segar said this Board has control over the Suwannee Water and Sewer Board.

Commissioner Hatch thanked him for cross training his staff.

Commissioner Mills asked about Mr. Matt Frierson taking over his job.

Mr. Segar said he is the lead operator. He said they had discussed this and he was going to speak with the Chairman about the matter.

**GREG BAILEY, NORTH FLORIDA PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

Mr. Greg Bailey had nothing to discuss at this time.

**MATHEW AND LETITIA GRANNEMAN**  
**BUILDING AND ZONING**

Attorney Osteen said they have been removed from the Agenda. He said that he and Mr. Wright have a meeting with them next Tuesday at 2:00 PM.

**JERED LIZOTTE, LOCKLEAR AND ASSOCIATES**

Mr. Walker was present and had nothing to discuss at this time.

**CINDY BELLOT, LIBRARY DIRECTOR**

Ms. Cindy Bellot appeared before the Board and informed them that Three Rivers Board meeting will be Thursday at 3:00 PM at the Cross City Library. She said the Managers of the Libraries will meet the week after that.

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

Mr. Steve Fremem appeared before the Board and informed them the next Code Enforcement Hearing will be held next Wednesday at 1:30 PM.

**STEVE HUTCHISON, COUNTY ROAD SUPERINTENDENT**

Mr. Steve Hutchison was not present for this meeting.

County Attorney Michael Osteen spoke on the matter of the Road Superintendent, Mr. Steve Hutchison. He said that he is still on administrative leave with pay. He said the Chairman has been working with Attorney Jason Taylor regarding this matter.

Attorney Osteen said that Mr. Jason Taylor of the Krizner Group had sent an email. He read from the email and said Attorney Taylor has suggested they meet next Thursday from 10:00 Am until 12: PM and hold a special hearing on this matter with the parties involved. He said that Commissioner Stephenson is also represented by his own Attorney, Stan Griffis in this matter. He said that Mr. Hutchison can get legal council if he wants to.

Commissioner Mills asked if he was still on suspension. He said he wants Mr. Hutchison to come back to work until the issue is settled.

***Commissioner Mills made the motion to allow Mr. Steve Hutchison to come back to work as the Road Superintendent until the issue is settled. Commissioner Valentine seconded. Board approved.***

***Commissioner Stephenson said he opposed to this.***

Commissioner Storey asked if the Board wanted to hold the special meeting on the matter.

***Commissioner Stephenson made the motion for the special meeting be held.***

Attorney Osteen said it would be improper for Commissioner Stephenson to make a motion and vote on this matter.

***Commissioner Stephenson said he will rescind his motion.***

Commissioner Mills asked what is this special meeting going to accomplish.

Attorney Osteen said that Attorney Taylor has recommended termination.

Attorney Osteen began to read the email from Attorney Jason Taylor of the Krizner Group. He said they handle all employment investigation and employment law. He said that currently the Board is over all the Department Heads until the new Employee Handbook is adopted and then the County Manager will be over the Department Heads.

Attorney Osteen said the County Manager was a witness to the incident.

Attorney Osteen said that Attorney Taylor referred to a prior investigation done by the Krizner Group on Mr. Hutchison.

Commissioner Mills interrupted and said the prior investigation was not valid. He said he objects to this being referenced. He said that incident was a disgruntled employee made a statement that he was sexual harassed. He said this was determined to be false. He said the investigation should be established by all the facts. He said that no one asked what led up to this incident.

Attorney Osteen continued with stating there have been public records request on the prior incident. He said there was a written reprimand and a training class was required. He said there was action taken for this incident.

Attorney Osteen continued to read the email aloud. He said the prior investigation found he was not compliant with the conduct expected of a Department Head. He said the email stated, based upon the information provided, the conduct of Commissioner Stephenson should be reported to the Florida Ethics Commission. He said the Board cannot discipline an elected official. He said a criminal investigation is also being done. He said Attorney Taylor stated in the email that paid administrative leave is not necessary.

Commissioner Storey said the States Attorney Office has said this may take them another two weeks for their determination on the matter.

Commissioner Mills said he feels the special meeting is not necessary.

Commissioner Stephenson asked if everyone had read all the submitted information in the report. He said he wants to read what Mr. Hutchison had submitted.

Commissioner Mills said he won't support firing someone for standing up for themselves.

Attorney Osteen asked for clarification there will not be a hearing and no disciplinary measures.

Commissioner Storey asked the members of the Board what action they wanted to take for disciplinary measures. He asked what if this happens again. He asked what will the Board chose to do. He asked what if this happens with another employee.

Commissioner Stephenson said he wants to go on record and stated that he went to the County Yard prior and was called out to fight prior by Mr. Hutchison. He said he reported this to the County Manager. He said if they continue to work him that will put him in that same environment. He said he will continue to stand up for the people.

***Commissioner Mills made the motion for no hearing and no disciplinary measures. Commissioner Valentine seconded. Board approved.***

Attorney Osteen said the Krizner Group has informed the Board if the go against this advice and something happens in the future it can create liability for the county. He said that all this information will be brought up again.

**DWAYNE CHAUNCEY, MOSQUITO CONTROL DIRECTOR**

Mr. Duane Chauncey was not present.

**MICHAEL LATSON, SOLID WASTE DIRECTOR**

Mr. Michael Latson appeared before the Board and requested a roll off driver to be able to work four cans for ½ day. He said this will be overtime. He said this will cost \$300.00 per can.

**LEON WRIGHT, BUILDING AND ZONING OFFICIAL**

Mr. Leon Wright had nothing to discuss at this time.

**DARIAN BROWN, DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**

Mr. Scott Garner appeared before the Board and requested the Board change the rotation of the State of Emergency requests from Tuesday to Thursday. He requested that either the Chairman or the County Manager approve these. He said he spoke with the Attorney and if they stay within the seven-day window everything is okay.

*Commissioner Mills made the motion to change the rotation of the State of Emergency requests from Tuesday to Thursday. He requested that either the Chairman or the County Manager approve these for the flooding. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.*

**GAIL CARTER, INDIGENT CARE**

Ms. Gail carter was not present for this meeting.

**HOLLY HOUGHTON, COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT**

Ms. Holly Houghton appeared before the Board and informed them of the local Soil and Water Conservation Board email. She said they have helped secure funding in the past. He said there is a bill in legislature to abolished this and control would be shifted to the SRWMD.

Commissioner Stephenson said this also helps farmers. He said he would not want to lose this Board.

Manager Cannon said the money would still be available through SRWMD.

Ms. Houghton said this additional Board is a good thing to have established.

*Commissioner Hatch made the motion for the County Manager to draft a letter of support of the local Soil and Water Board and have the Chairman sign this. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.*

Ms. Houghton said this is a 21-page document and turns everything over to the SRWMD.



Ms. Houghton informed the Board that there are three pages left to do for the new Employee Handbook. She said the Krizner Group will review. She said it may be ready for adoption by the Board in January of 2022. She recommended marking amendments and Resolutions of support. She said that Ms. Rhymes, in the Clerk's office, helped her find a lot of supporting documentation.

**ANGIE CROWLEY, HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATOR**

Ms. Crowley appeared before the Board and informed them that they are very close on the County Employee Policy and Procedure Handbook. She said she has a list of employees with HSA accounts that need to be addressed.

**DUANE CANNON, COUNTY MANAGER**

County Manager Duane Cannon appeared before the board to request their approval of several items.

Manager Cannon requested the Board approve to execute the contract between Dixie County and the Suwannee River Economic Council to administer the SHIP program on behalf of Dixie County for FY 2022. He said that Mr. Matt Pierson would like to move forward with this.

***Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to execute the contract between Dixie County and the Suwannee River Economic Council to administer the SHIP program on behalf of Dixie County for FY 2022. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon requested the Board approve to execute the Amendment to the Cross City Airport Design and Rehab Runway 4-22 for the additional increased funds in the amount of \$420,000.00 and the updated project scope. He said the increase is based on the flooding of the runway.

***Commissioner Mills made the motion to execute the Amendment to the Cross City Airport Design and Rehab Runway 4-22 for the additional increased funds in the amount of \$420,000.00 and the updated project scope. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon requested the Board approve to execute Resolution 2021-186 in support of the Amendment to the Cross City Airport Design and Rehab Runway 4-22 for the additional increased funds and the updated project scope.

***Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve Resolution 2021-186 in support of the Amendment to the Cross City Airport Design and Rehab Runway 4-22 for the additional increased funds and the updated project scope. Commissioner Valentine seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon requested the Board approve to execute the time extension for CR 351 A/NE 223 Ave from US Hwy 19 to the Nature Coast State Trail. The expiration date is December 31, 2021 and will be extended to December 31, 2022.

***Commissioner Hatch made the motion to execute the time extension for CR 351 A/NE 223 Ave from US Hwy 19 to the Nature Coast State Trail. The expiration date is December 31, 2021 and will be extended to December 31, 2022. Commissioner Valentine seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon requested the Board approve Resolution 2021-187 in support of the time extension for CR 351 A/NE 223 Ave from US Hwy 19 to the Nature Coast State Trail. The expiration date is December 31, 2021 and will be extended to December 31, 2022.

***Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve Resolution 2021-187 in support of the time extension for CR 351 A/NE 223 Ave from US Hwy 19 to the Nature Coast State Trail. The expiration date is December 31, 2021 and will be extended to December 31, 2022. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon requested the Board approve to execute the right of way agreement, for SW 94 Avenue to access the rock pit site, between the Four Rivers Timber Company and the Dixie county Board of County Commissioners.

***Commissioner Valentine made the motion to execute the right of way agreement, for SW 94 Avenue to access the rock pit site, between the Four Rivers Timber Company and the Dixie county Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon informed the Board that the new rock pit is certified, and mining can move forward. He said they need to finish the survey and draft the legal description and agreement.

Manager Cannon requested the Board approve the Commissioner Committee assignments. He said Commissioner Valentine the representative to the Big Bend Water Authority and Commissioner Mills will be the alternate.

***Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve the Commissioner Committee assignments. He said Commissioner Valentine the representative to the Big Bend Water Authority and Commissioner Mills will be the alternate. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon requested the Board approve DSI and the Storm Water Task Force to move forward with preparing a project to be advertised and completed under the ARPA funding program as approved in the implementation plan.

***Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve DSI and the Storm Water Task Force to move forward with preparing a project to be advertised and completed under the ARPA funding program as approved in the implementation plan. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon requested the Board approve placing lime rock under the shelter at the Church of Christ for the community food drive. He said that eight or ten loads of lime rock may be needed.

Attorney Osteen said there is a valid public purpose for this.

***Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to approve placing lime rock under the shelter at the Church of Christ for the community food drive. He said that eight or ten loads may be needed. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon requested the Board approve to allow Ms. Suzanne Gaus to park her food truck in one of the front Courthouse parking lots on Tuesday from 10:30 AM until 4:00 PM. He said she is self-sustained.

***Commissioner Hatch made the motion to allow Ms. Suzanne Gaus to park her food truck in one of the front Courthouse parking lots on Tuesday from 10:30 AM until 4:00 PM. Commissioner Mills seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon requested the Board approve the maintenance map on 592 street for the correction of the right of way as maintained by the county. He said this is a LAP project with FDOT to widen Chavous Road. The road goes around an oak tree when it was originally built.

***Commissioner Mills made the motion to approve the maintenance map on 592 street for the correction of the right of way as maintained by the county. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon requested the Board approve to donate a load of dirt to the New Prospect Church Cemetery because a grave has caved in.

***Commissioner Valentine made the motion to approve to donate a load of dirt to the New Prospect Church Cemetery because a grave has caved in. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.***

Commissioner Hatch said the Board should do this for any cemetery in the future.

***Commissioner Valentine made the motion to approve to donate a load of dirt to the any cemetery in the future because a grave has caved in. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.***

Manager Cannon informed the Board that the county employee safety luncheon will be held at the School Board Meeting Room in Old Town on December 16, 2021 from 11:00 AM until 3:00 PM. He said the Commissioners will help cook.

Commissioner Hatch said he would like each member of the Board to donate \$100.00.

Manager Cannon informed the Board that he has submitted a grant application for the Airport in the amount of \$22,000.00 for costs related to operations, personnel, cleaning, sanitizing, janitorial services and combating the spread of pathogens due to COVID.

**MICHAEL OSTEEN, COUNTY ATTORNEY**

County Attorney Michael Osteen discussed some questions that were posed by the Clerk's office regarding Board Meeting Procedure and Protocol.

Attorney Osteen said the Board Minutes are summarized versus verbatim. He said the Clerk has asked if they wish to continue this procedure. He said the minutes are summarized as recommended by AGO 82-47. He said they are also audio recorded. He said the public can request the audio recordings.

Attorney Osteen said the audio recordings of the Board Meetings are made available to the public upon Public Records Request. He said the Clerk has asked if the Board wants to post the audio recordings of the Meetings online along with the approved summarized Minutes. He said some counties have a live feed of their meetings.

Commissioner Stephenson asked if this would be easier for the Clerk if they were posted online. Asst. Chief Deputy Clerk Della Rhymes replied they can do both.

Commissioner Hatch said he is okay with the audio being posted online as well as the approved summarized minutes.

Clerk Higginbotham said this would be done after the minutes have been approved by the Board.

Attorney Osteen said if someone wants information or items to be included as "part of the record" the Clerk requests that copies of the materials be provided to the Clerk prior to the meeting. He said the Clerk has asked if these items are to be marked as attachments or exhibits. Attorney Osteen answered yes he would recommend this.

Attorney Osteen said the Clerk has asked what the procedure for changes or revisions to the Minutes is after they have been approved.

Attorney Osteen said this will need to come back before the Board.

Attorney Osteen said the Clerk has asked what the procedure for video recording of the meetings is. He said the Clerk has asked what is the procedure for those who don't want to be videoed or recorded.

Attorney Osteen said there is a form to be approved by the Chief Judge of the Third Circuit for recording.

Attorney Osteen said the Clerk has asked about Public Records Request. He said these are not always free. He said the Clerk can charge the statutory fees for copies.

**BARBIE HIGGINBOTHAM, CLERK OF COURT**

Clerk Higginbotham appeared before the Board and said there was scrivener's error in the September 02, 2021 approved minutes and she requested the Board approve the revision to be made.

*Commissioner Valentine made the motion to correct the scrivener's error to the minutes of September 02, 2021. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.*

Asst. Chief Deputy Clerk Della Rhymes informed the Board that the 2018 and 2019 Ordinances have been submitted to Municode. She said they are still working on 2020 Documents.

The Board thanked the Clerk and her staff.

**COUNTY COMMISSION ITEMS**

Commissioner Valentine had nothing further to discuss.

Commissioner Hatch said he will attend the Water Board meeting on December 13, 2021 meeting in Suwannee. He instructed the EMS staff to let people know that the EMS station in Old Town is closed and direct them to the new location.

Chief Roy Bass said he will do this.

Chief Ferguson informed everyone that on December 17, 2021, the Christmas in Dixie event will be held at the High School from 5:00 PM until 8:00 PM.

He said on December 14, 2021 the EMS and Fire employees will hold their Christmas Party at the Suwannee Belle Restaurant at 7:00 PM. He said the employees pay for this themselves.

Commissioner Stephenson said he feels the EMS should handle some things differently. He asked the Chairman to be able to address everyone as a citizen later.

Commissioner Mills thanked everyone for working to get things current and working on the budget.

Commissioner Storey expressed his thanks to everyone.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS**

Mr. Javonte Teague spoke to the Board and invited everyone to City Hall on December 13, 2021 from 5:00 PM until 6:00 PM.

He informed the Board that he can lobby for them on the House Bill that Ms. Houghton mentioned earlier in the meeting about the Soil and Water Conservation Board. He said that he can deliver the Board's letter of support to Tallahassee.

He said that Senator Bradley does have flooding packets put together and they may get some help from the state.

Ms. Karen VanAernam spoke to the Board and thanked everyone for the Turkey Trot event success. She said they raised \$13,600.00 and there is more to come. She said this will be used for beautification of the town and cleanup of the community.

Ms. Robin Rouse spoke to the Board about the former charges on Mr. Hutchison. She said that he did not attend the correct training class.

Manager Cannon said he is not aware of this.

Ms. Rouse also spoke about the 38 loads of dirt and said the Board is responsible.

Commissioner Hatch said he called the Road Department and the County Manager about that matter.

Ms. Mary Goodrich spoke to the Board and said that she feels that he shouldn't lose his job. She said that Mr. Hutchison should possibly get anger management or probation.


Commissioner Stephenson appeared before the Board and thanked everyone. He said they are all under scrutiny and in the public eye. He said he hopes they can work together and help the citizens and be fair to everyone.

**ADJOURN**


Commissioner Hatch made the motion to adjourn at 11:50 AM. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.



ATTEST:

  
Barbie Higginbotham, Clerk-Auditor

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

**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.*