

5:00 p.m.

The Suwannee County Board of County Commissioners met on the above date and time for a regular meeting and the following were present: Chairman Len Stapleton; Commissioner Don Hale; Commissioner Clyde Fleming; Commissioner Travis Land; and Commissioner Franklin White. Keith Gentry, Chief Finance Director; Logan Woods, Deputy Clerk; and Randy Harris, County Administrator, were also present. James W. Prevatt, Jr., County Attorney, was not present.

Chairman Stapleton called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. and asked Commissioner Fleming to lead the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

MINUTES:

The first item on the agenda was to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2021 Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Fleming moved to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2021 Regular Meeting as written. Commissioner White seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT:

The second item on the agenda was to approve payment of \$2,335,458.13 in processed invoices.

The third item on the agenda was approval of a Business Incentive Grant Application with Futch's Tractor Depot/Daryll Futch.

The fourth item on the agenda was approval of a SCOP Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation for design, construction, and construction engineering and inspection for road reconstruction of 80th Terrace and 139th Drive from the end of the pavement to Mitchell Road, and adoption of an enabling resolution. **(Agreement No. 2022-05 and Resolution No. 2022-02)**

The fifth item on the agenda was approval to hold the second meeting for the month of November on Monday, November 15, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. at the Judicial Annex.

The sixth item on the agenda was approval to purchase radio equipment to upgrade Fire Rescue's emergency mobile communications system from Mobile Communications America. Budgeted item.

The seventh item on the agenda was approval of an employee's donation of sick leave outside of normal County Rules and Regulations.

The eighth item on the agenda was authorization to purchase two Frazer Type I 14-foot ambulance modules on a 2022 Dodge Ram 4500 6.7 L Diesel Chassis from Frazer Ltd. as a sole source provider and two Stryker Power load/stretchers from Stryker Medical as a sole source provider. Budgeted items.

The ninth item on the agenda was authorization to re-chassis and refurbish two existing Frazer Type I 14-foot ambulance modules on a 2022 Dodge Ram 4500 6.7 L Diesel Chassis, work to be completed by Frazer Ltd. as a sole source provider, and purchase of two Stryker Power load/stretchers from Stryker Medical as a sole source provider. Budgeted items.

The tenth item on the agenda was adoption of a resolution proclaiming October 3-9, 2021 as "National 4-H Week" in Suwanee County. **(Resolution No. 2022-03)**

The eleventh item on the agenda was adoption of a resolution proclaiming October 16-23, 2021 as "Rodeo Roundup Week" in Suwanee County. **(Resolution No. 2022-04)**

The twelfth item on the agenda was authorization to file a pre-application for Federal Aviation Administration funding for construction phase: Rehabilitate Taxiway A and Taxiway Connectors at the Suwanee County Airport.

The thirteenth item on the agenda was award of a bid to Fortiline, Inc. d/b/a Fortiline Waterworks for purchase of polypropylene pipes for stormwater on an as-needed basis. (Bid Solicitation No. 2021-21, opened on October 5, 2021)

The fourteenth item on the agenda was award of a bid to Gulf Atlantic Culvert Company, Inc. for purchase of galvanized corrugated metal pipe on an as-needed basis. (Bid Solicitation No. 2021-22, opened

October 5, 2021)

Commissioner Land moved to approve consent items 2-14. Commissioner Hale seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

As it was not yet 5:05 p.m., Chairman Stapleton moved to General Business items.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

The seventeenth item on the agenda was to discuss, with possible Board action, final plat approval of Wellborn Oaks subdivision.

Ronald Meeks, Planning and Zoning Director, discussed the final plat and 8.29-acre subdivision located in Section 16, Township 3, Range 15 with access off County Road 10-A. He added that the plat was reviewed for compliance.

Commissioner Land moved to approve the final plat of Wellborn Oaks subdivision. Commissioner White seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

As it was now after 5:05 p.m., Chairman Stapleton returned to Time Specific items.

TIME-SPECIFIC ITEMS:

The fifteenth item on the agenda was at 5:05 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter could be heard, to hold a public hearing to discuss with possible Board action, adoption of an ordinance establishing revised fees for use of commercial garbage containers and service, repealing, and superseding prior and conflicting resolutions.

Chairman Stapleton opened the public hearings.

Mandy Frederickson, notary, swore in all those wishing to speak for both items fifteen and sixteen.

County Administrator Harris discussed the ordinance amendments: establishment of a policy that allowed for future amended rates via resolution, the changed schedule of rates for commercial lease cans,

and schedule of transfer and tipping fees.

Discussion ensued on the language included in the ordinance.

Chairman Stapleton opened the floor to public comments. There being none, Chairman Stapleton closed the floor to public comments.

Commissioner White moved to approve an ordinance establishing revised fees for use of commercial garbage containers and service, repealing, and superseding prior and conflicting resolutions. Commissioner Fleming seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. (Ordinance No. 2022-01)

The sixteenth item on the agenda was at 5:05 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter could be heard, to hold a public hearing to discuss with possible Board action, adoption of a resolution establishing revised fees for use of commercial garbage containers and service, repealing, and superseding prior and conflicting resolutions.

County Administrator Harris stated this was the actual resolution that would approve the changed schedule of rates for commercial lease cans and noted that there was a change from the information presented at the previous meeting regarding the monthly can costs in the updated schedule. He briefly discussed the increased monthly can costs.

Chairman Stapleton opened the floor to public comments. There being none, Chairman Stapleton closed the floor to public comments.

Commissioner Fleming moved to approve a resolution establishing revised fees for use of commercial garbage containers and service, repealing, and superseding prior and conflicting resolutions. Commissioner Land seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. (Resolution No. 2022- 05)

County Administrator Harris stated the effective date for the revised schedule of fees would be January 1, 2022 and current customers would be notified.

Chairman Stapleton closed the public hearings.

COMMISSIONERS ITEMS:

There were none.

COUNTY ATTORNEY ITEMS:

There were none.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

The seventeenth item on the agenda was to discuss, with possible Board action, final approval of Wellborn Oaks subdivision.

This item was already discussed.

The eighteenth item on the agenda was to discuss, with possible Board action, an additional position at the Conservation District.

Andy Jackson, 16906 CR 250, Live Oak, Soil and Conservation District Board Chairman, discussed the needed technical position at the Conservation District and noted funding for the position and additional truck would be provided by Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) grant funding and would not be any cost to the County. He further discussed the position.

Commissioner Hale felt that the position was needed and appreciated the work of the Conservation District employees.

Discussed ensued on the Conservation District's work, the position, and the grant.

Commissioner White moved to approve an additional position at the Conservation District.

Commissioner Fleming seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

The nineteenth item on the agenda was to discuss, with possible Board action, authorization to reapply for a State Appropriations Request for construction of a new Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

County Administrator Harris stated the application submitted the previous year for the \$2 million grant was not approved and that it could take several applications before the funding may be awarded.

Commissioner Land asked if the \$5 million grant for the hardened structure/pandemic building

could be combined with this request and have the new EOC within the hardened structure for it to be all in one building and if that would increase the chances of getting financial assistance. County Administrator Harris replied that although that would be ideal, there would be difficulty doing so due to the time limit to submit the application before grant deadline. He further discussed the difficulty of combining the items under the one grant request before the deadline.

Commissioner Land continued discussion over the benefit of having the EOC within the hardened structure and potential to increase chances of receiving funding. He also suggested placing the new EOC on the roughly 30 acres behind Coliseum and that water and sewer were already present in that area.

Discussion ensued on the grants and potentially combining the requests.

County Administrator Harris suggested setting aside funding to go with the State Appropriation request to show a local contribution, which could increase chances of being awarded the grant.

Discussion ensued on whether money was set aside for the project for the previous grant request, from where to fund the amount, and setting aside \$200,000 for the current application.

Commissioner Hale moved to approve reapplying for a State Appropriations Request for construction of a new Emergency Operations Center, and to set aside \$200,000 toward the grant as a local contribution by the County. Commissioner Land seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

The twentieth item on the agenda was to discuss, with possible Board action, authorization to apply for an African American Cultural and Historical Grant.

County Administrator Harris discussed the grant and that it could be used to help construct a building at the Douglass Center, which currently had \$170,000 set aside. He discussed how grant amounts were calculated and that a local match could increase the grant amount potentially received. County Administrator Harris suggested using the \$170,000 set aside as a contribution amount to request \$840,000 in grant funding; this would result in roughly \$1.10 million combined for construction of the Douglass Center building. He needed authorization to apply for the grant and include a \$170,000 local match.

Commissioner Fleming moved to approve applying for an African American Cultural and Historical Grant, along with a grant match of \$170,000. Commissioner White seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

County Administrator Harris thanked Robert Ford for his assistance with the grant application.

The twenty-first item on the agenda was to discuss, with possible Board action, authorization to obtain a soil report for the soccer field on 72nd Trace.

This item was pulled from the agenda for discussion at a later date.

The twenty-second item on the agenda was Additional Agenda Items.

There were four additional agenda items:

The first additional agenda item was authorization to enter negotiations with North Florida Professional Services, Inc. to provide Architectural and/or Engineering Services for a CDBG-CV construction project. (RFQ No. 2022-02, opened October 19, 2021).

County Administrator Harris stated that this item followed the Florida Statue guidelines regarding bid receipt and opening. He added that a special called meeting to approve a contract would be needed before November 1 once negotiations were completed.

Commissioner White clarified whether this was required for the grant application. County Administrator Harris replied it was part of the grant process.

Commissioner Land moved to approve entering negotiations with North Florida Professional Services, Inc. to provide Architectural and/or Engineering Services for a CDBG-CV construction project. (RFQ No. 2022-02, opened October 19, 2021). Commissioner Hale seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

County Administrator Harris reiterated that a contract would be brought back for Board approval.

The second additional agenda item was award of a contract to Fred Fox Enterprises for Grant Administration of a CDBG-CV project. Budget impact: to be funded from grant proceeds. (RFP No. 2022- 01,

opened October 19, 2021)

County Administrator Harris stated this item was also a required step for the grant application and briefly discussed the grant administration; he noted Fred Fox was the highest ranked company.

Chairman Stapleton questioned whether the cost for the two items would be paid for after receipt of the grant or if the County had to pay even if grant was not received. County Administrator Harris replied there would be no cost unless the grant was awarded.

Commissioner Fleming moved to approve awarding of a contract to Fred Fox Enterprises for Grant Administration of a CDBG-CV project. Budget impact: to be funded from grant proceeds. (RFP No. 2022-01, opened October 19, 2021). Commissioner Land seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. (Agreement No. 2022-06)

Much discussion ensued on the bid process and Request for Qualifications procedure, tabulation of the companies who submitted proposals, all the work that would be done by the companies, as well as the complicated nature and extensive documentation associated with the grant.

The third additional agenda item was authorization to purchase a 2018 truck from the Sheriff's Office in the amount of \$23,000 for Public Works. Budgeted item. County Administrator Harris briefly discussed the truck.

Commissioner White moved to approve the purchase of a 2018 truck from the Sheriff's Office in the amount of \$23,000 for Public Works. Budgeted item. Commissioner Fleming seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

The fourth additional agenda item was approval of a Task Order with North Florida Professional Services, Inc. for plans and bid specifications associated with modifications to the entrance of the Tax Collector/Property Appraiser Building. Budget impact: to be paid from BOCC Professional Services line.

Chairman Stapleton discussed issues with handicap access at the Tax Collector/Property Appraiser Building and detailed how he felt the access could be improved.

Discussion ensued on improving handicap access and potential plans in the future to redo the entire Tax Collector/Property Appraiser building or relocate those offices to a different location.

Commissioner Land moved to approve a Task Order with North Florida Professional Services, Inc. for plans and bid specifications associated with modifications to the entrance of the Tax Collector/Property Appraiser Building. Budget impact: to be paid from BOCC Professional Services line. Commissioner Hale seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. (Agreement No. 2022-07)

The twenty-third item on the agenda was public concerns and comments. [Filling Comment Card required and forwarded to Chairman or County Administrator. Individual speakers from audience allowed three (3) minutes and a single representative or spokesperson allowed seven (7) minutes to speak following recognition by Chairman and must speak from the podium – one (1) trip to podium].

Jimmy Norris, Economic Development Director, discussed in detail the process of meeting with businesses and all the issues encountered when having potential buyers tour the sawmill, all of which was documented and submitted to the State. As a result, Suwannee County and Binderholz received the Florida Economic Development Council's 2021 Deal of the Year Award in the rural category.

Valerie Philmore, 705 6th Street, Live Oak, discussed her history living in Suwannee County and stated that she was a manager of an Internet café that had been shut down within the County. She felt that it was unfair her café was shut down, as she hired credible employees and illegal issues that occurred at other internet cafes did not occur at her establishment. Ms. Philmore further questioned how the gambling that occurred at cafes was different than other types of gambling in grocery stores, gas stations, etc. and questioned why her Internet café was closed.

The twenty-fourth item on the agenda was Administrator's comments and information.

County Administrator Harris reiterated that another special called meeting would be required before November 1 for the grant.

The twenty-fifth item on the agenda was Board Members' inquiries, requests, and comments.

October 19, 2021
Regular Board Meeting
Judicial Annex
Live Oak, Florida

Commissioners White and Hale had nothing to discuss.

Commissioner Fleming congratulated Fire Chief Eddie Hand for being on the cover of a magazine.


Commissioner Land thanked Mr. Norris and other County staff for their work on the sawmill.

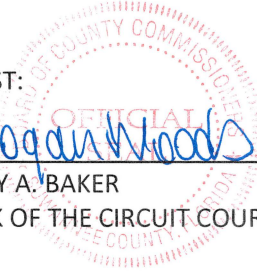
Chairman Stapleton commented on Ms. Philmore's concerns.

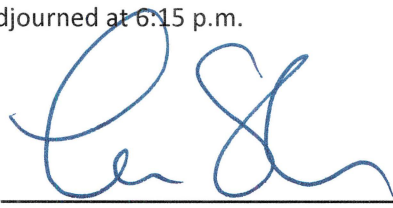
Commissioner Land moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Hale seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

ATTEST:


_____, DC
BARRY A. BAKER
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT





LEN STAPLETON, CHAIRMAN
SUWANNEE COUNTY BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS