

Regular Meeting
Commission Board Room
Dixie County Courthouse
214 NE Hwy 351, Cross City, Fl 32628
January 04, 2024 – 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

Jody Stephenson, District 1, Vice Chairman
Daniel Wood, District 2
Mark Hatch, District 3
Jamie Storey, District 4, Chairman
David Osteen, District 5

STAFF

Paul Gainey, Acting Assignment County Manager
Martha McCaskill, Acting Assignment Asst. County Manager/
Administrative Asst/Grant Coordinator
Chana Watson, County Attorney
Barbie Higginbotham, Clerk of Court
Della J. Rhymes, Asst. Chief Deputy Clerk
Jacki Johnson, Chief Financial Officer
Brenda Royal, 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 Hatch and the Pledge to the American Flag was led by Commissioner Stephenson.

APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES

Commissioner Osteen made the motion to approve Minutes from the Regular Meeting of December 21, 2023. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.

VOUCHER APPROVAL

There were no vouchers presented for approval.

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 Osteen. Seconded by Commissioner Stephenson. Board approved.

APPLICATIONS for SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS

A petition by **Wayne Robert Dowler** requesting a Special Exception to be granted, as provided in Section 4.3.5 **Special Exceptions** of the Dixie County Land Development Regulations to permit one recreational vehicle in an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) zoning district, in accordance with the petition dated 11/30/2023 to be located on the property described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 30-10-14-0000-7019-0400, 251 SE HWY 317, Old Town, FL. 32680. **(Commission District 2, Daniel Wood) (Tabled from 12-21-2023)**

Building Official Leon Wright appeared before the Board and read the Special Exceptions request made by Wayne Robert Dowler. There was opposition.

Commissioner Wood made the motion to approve the Special Exception request made by Wayne Robert Dowler. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.

A petition by **Robert and Catherine Block** requesting a **Special Exception** to be granted, as provided in Section 4.4.5 Special Exceptions of the Dixie County Land Development Regulations to permit one recreational vehicle in a Agriculture (AG) zoning district, in accordance with the petition dated 09/26/2023 to be located on the property described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 25-10-13-0000-4908-0800, 340 SE 896th Street, Old Town, FL 32680. **(Commission District 2, Daniel Wood)**

Leon Wright appeared before the Board and read the Special Exception request made by Robert and Catherine Block.

Commissioner Wood made the motion to approve the Special Exception request made by Robert and Catherine Block. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.

A petition by **Dean Chambers** requesting a **Special Exception** to be granted, as provided in Section 4.4.5 Special Exceptions of the Dixie County Land Development Regulations to permit one recreational vehicle in a Agriculture (AG) zoning district, in accordance with the petition dated 12/13/2023 to be located on the property described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 06-10-13-0000-4525-0000, 425 NE 268th Ave, Old Town, FL 32680. **(Commission District 4, Jamie Storey)**

Leon Wright appeared before the Board and read the Special Exception request made by Dean Chambers.

Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to approve the Special Exception request made by Dean Chambers. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

APPLICATIONS for VARIANCES

A petition by **Kelly Keiser** to request a **Variance** for the property described as follows: Dixie County Parcel # 11-11-13-6674-0002-0140, 72 SE 827th Street, Old Town, FL 32680, for a reduction of front setbacks of 30 feet down to 20 feet for construction of new home by the petition dated 12/04/2023 which is located within Section 4.3.7 ESA subparagraph (1) of the Dixie County Land Development Regulations in accordance with section 12.3 Variance Procedures.

Leon Wright appeared before the Board and read the Variance request made by Kelly Keiser.

Commissioner Wood made the motion to approve the Variance request made by Kelly Keiser. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.

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

RESOLUTION 2023-128

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 SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS OF THE DIXIE COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS TO PERMIT ONE RECREATIONAL VEHICLE IN AN ENVIROMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREA (ESA) ZONING DISTRICT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PETITION DATED NOVEMBER 30, 2023.
Wayne Robert Dowler (Tabled from 12-21-2023)

Leon Wright appeared before the Board and read Resolution 2023-128 in support of Wayne Robert Dowler.

Commissioner Wood made the motion to approve the Resolution 2023-128 request made by Wayne Robert Dowler. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.

RESOLUTION 2024-01

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 OF THE DIXIE COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS TO PERMIT ONE RECREATIONAL VEHICLE IN AN AGRICULTURAL AREA (AG) ZONING DISTRICT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PETITION DATED SEPTEMBER 26, 2023.
Robert and Catherine Block

Leon Wright appeared before the Board and read Resolution 2024-01 in support of Robert and Catherine Block.

Commissioner Wood made the motion to approve the Resolution 2024-01 request made by Robert and Catherine Block. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.

RESOLUTION 2024-02

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 OF THE DIXIE COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS TO PERMIT ONE RECREATIONAL VEHICLE IN AN AGRICULTURAL AREA (AG) ZONING DISTRICT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PETITION DATED DECEMBER 13, 2023.

Dean Chambers

Leon Wright appeared before the Board and read Resolution 2024-02 in support of Dean Chambers.

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve the Resolution 2024-02 request made by Dean Chambers. Commissioner Osteen seconded. Board approved.

RESOLUTION 2024-03

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 OF THE DIXIE COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, TO GRANT A VARIANCE WITHIN SECTION 4.3.7 ESA SUBPARAGRAPH (1) OF THE DIXIE COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS FOR A VARIANCE FOR A REDUCTION OF FRONT SETBACKS OF 30 FEET DOWN TO 20 FEET FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NEW HOME WHICH IS LOCATED WITHIN SECTION 4.3.7. A ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREA (ESA) ZONING DISTRICT, AS PROVIDED IN THE PETITION DATED DECEMBER 4, 2023. **Kelly Keiser**

Leon Wright appeared before the Board and read Resolution 2024-03 in support of Kelly Keiser.

Commissioner Wood made the motion to approve the Resolution 2024-03 request made by Kelly Keiser. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.

Mr. Wright also brought forward an update on the LDR (Land Development Regulations). He received the review back from the law firm of Douglas and Douglas and has set up a meeting for Monday, January 08, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. with our legal department to go over the review. There are two (2) or three (3) more items to clarify, but these items are with enforcement procedure in compliance with Florida statute.

ORDINANCE 2023-11

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA AMENDING CHAPTER 24 OF THE DIXIE COUNTY CODE TO ADD A NEW SECTION 24-18 PROHIBITING SMOKING WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF DIXIE COUNTY PUBLIC PARKS, AND PUBLIC BEACHES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF ALL ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT HERewith; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION INTO THE DIXIE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

(Tabled from 12-07-2023) (First Reading was 12-21-2023) (This is the Second Reading)

County Attorney Chana Watson appeared before the Board and read Ordinance 2023-11 in support of prohibiting smoking within the boundaries of Dixie County public parks and public beaches.

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to approve Ordinance 2023-11 in support of prohibiting smoking within the boundaries of Dixie County public parks and public beaches. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

**KATRINA VANAERNAM AND SHEILA FRIERSON, DIXIE COUNTY
ANTI-DRUG COALITION**

Mrs. Sheila Frierson appeared before the Board and thanked them for having the confidence in the Dixie County Anti-Drug Coalition to give them the Opioid settlement dollars. She said they will be good stewards of that money. That money will allow them to provide prevention and recovery programs as well as treatment options for those still struggling with addiction.

Mrs. Frierson stated that people often ask how the program is monitored and what are the guidelines and does the program follow these guidelines. The program is audited annually by three organizations; The Lutheran Services of Florida and the Community Co-Alliance conduct desk audits and then a general audit is done by Powell and Jones-the 401C3 state certified CPAs that monitor the programs in our area. The audits are always available should anyone wish to look at these.

Lastly, since 2014 they have been providing a presentation called “Know the Law”- It’s available through the community schools-primarily the middle and high schools. It allows them to interact, understand and communicate with you as we express the laws necessary to be good citizens. It’s an evidence-based program. They are opening it up and having the first presentation to a community group, our local 4-H group, in the middle of January 2024. If anyone needs or wishes to have this program it is available as one of the many strategies, they do with the Opioid settlement dollars. Mrs. Katrina VanAernam spoke up and added that the program was written for the parents as well as the students.

STEVE COPELAND, SUWANNEE WATER AND SEWER MANAGER

Mr. Copeland was not present for this meeting.

GREG BAILEY, NORTH FLORIDA PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Mr. Bailey stated regarding the EOC, they submitted the modification for the storm water system to include the new addition to the Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) last month. They are finalizing that and as soon as the permit gets in then they will be able to advertise that work.

- Old Town Fire Station will be open for bid January 16, 2024, they had a couple of addendums they were working on.
- Library roof repair- They are finalizing specifications on that and working with Attorney Chana Watson on agreements needed to be able to access that property.
- The 95th and 97th Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) project- They are about 30 percent through the plans on this. This should come along fast, there are not a whole lot of options with those roads, just construction details for the main part.
- Hal Chaires Road- They submitted last month to Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and still haven’t heard anything from them. It takes a little while and with the holidays it takes even longer.
- Sheriff’s evidence building- They provided the first draft of the floor plan to the Sheriff’s Office. The Sheriff’s staff is reviewing and once reviewed will get with him to go over the details.

JOHN LOCKLEAR, LOCKLEAR AND ASSOCIATES

Mr. Locklear was not present for this meeting.

CINDY BELLOT, LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Mrs. Bellot was not present at this meeting.

STEVE FREMEN, CODE ENFORCEMENT & VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER

Mr. Fremen stated in reference to the property behind the Methodist Church, the Department of Environmental Protection was contacted yesterday, and compliance letters will be sent to the two (2) property owners. The property owners are not the people causing the mess on the property but are the owners. They will give them four (4) months to comply and after that the law enforcement side will take effect. They will do a site visit next week to inform the guy on the property that this is coming. Before the process can continue the state must do their part.

STEVE HUTCHISON, COUNTY ROAD SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Hutchison was not present at this meeting.

DWAYNE CHAUNCEY, MOSQUITO CONTROL DIRECTOR

Mr. Chauncey was not present at this meeting.

TIM JOHNSON, SOLID WASTE DIRECTOR

Mr. Johnson was not present at the meeting.

LEON WRIGHT, BUILDING AND ZONING OFFICIAL

Mr. Wright stated that on December 27, 2023, Building and Zoning had a meeting with our regional FEMA office, and they have assigned what they are calling a “long-term damage support team member” to Dixie County for one year. This person will be in the county and in and out of the Building and Zoning Office and will be an auditor for compliance. Mr. Wright stated that the FEMA office already did the initial review for compliance, and we passed with exceptionally high standards. The County Managers office will be getting some kind of notification from the state on that audit as well. If anyone gets notification that someone is taking pictures of their property, the photographer can do this from the road, but the landowner needs to understand that the FEMA team member/photographer is there to audit them and to check for compliance.

Commissioner Hatch asked if this is part of the money that FEMA gave out to see if people complied with what they had on their paperwork.

Mr. Wright replied no, it is because the county was in the landfall area of Hurricane Idalia. They assigned four (4) people to four (4) different areas to look for substantial damage and non-permitted work and even permitted work with compliance.

DARIAN BROWN, DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

Mr. Brown presented the budget report for October and November which shows a deposit of \$281,455.42. The goal for her is to collect \$100,000.00 a month and she is well over budget on collections. Mr. Brown said please keep in mind that funds come and go with Medicare and Medicaid and all their timeframe schedules but reports from years past for this time of year (Oct-Dec) have shown that these months usually are the slow months with \$40,000.00 to \$60,000.00 collection amounts. Mr. Brown stated they are getting ready to start with the bids for the Old Town Fire Station and moving forward with the

Emergency Operations Center (EOC) expansion soon. They ordered two trucks and a chassis. Their tanker is almost finished, and they will be calling to find out the date it will arrive.

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

Mr. Pendarvis stated that he had nothing to bring before the board for this meeting.

GAIL CARTER, INDIGENT CARE

Mrs. Carter was not present for this meeting.

HOLLY HOUGHTON, COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT

Mrs. Houghton was not present for this meeting.

ANGIE CROWLEY, HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATOR

Mrs. Crowley was not present for this meeting.

PAUL GAINNEY, ACTING ASSIGNMENT COUNTY MANAGER

Mr. Gainey requested Board approval of the NE 272nd (Willow Hole Road) center line painting by Jenkins Painting, Inc in the amount of \$4,110.00.

Commissioner Wood made the motion to approve NE 272nd (Willow Hole Road) center line painting by Jenkins Painting, Inc in the amount of \$4,110.00. Commissioner Osteen seconded. Board approved.

Mr. Gainey requested Board approval of the SHIP Rehab Reimbursement for Robert Doxtater Jr. in the amount of \$20,791.30.

Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to approve SHIP Rehab Reimbursement for Robert Doxtater Jr. in the amount of \$20,791.30. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.

Mr. Gainey requested Board approval to add SREC to the Workshop on Thursday Jan 18, 2024, and to change the time to 4:30 pm to discuss SHIP funds received in the amount of \$3,423,000.00 through the Hurricane Housing Replacement Program (HHRP) for the damage caused by Hurricane Idalia.

Commissioner Osteen made the motion to approve add SREC to the Workshop on Thursday Jan 18, 2024, and to change the time to 4:30 pm to discuss SHIP funds received in the amount of \$3,423,000.00 through the Hurricane Housing Replacement Program (HHRP) for the damage caused by Hurricane Idalia. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.

Mr. Gainey requested Board approval to cancel the Taxilane T-Hangar Design Passero TWO 23-15A Amendment # 1 in the amount of \$26,810.00.

Commissioner Osteen made the motion to approve to cancel the Taxilane T-Hangar Design Passero TWO 23-15A Amendment # 1 in the amount of \$26,810.00. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.

Mr. Gainey requested Board approval to execute the Design & Construction of the new hangar building Passero TWO 23-14A Amendment # 1 in the amount of \$26,810.00.

Commissioner Osteen made the motion to approve to execute the Design & Construction of the new hangar building Passero TWO 23-14A Amendment # 1 in the amount of \$26,810.00. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Board approved.

Mr. Gainey requested Board approval to sign the letter of support for NFEDP 2024 Regional Rural Development Grant

Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to approve to sign the letter of support for NFEDP 2024 Regional Rural Development Grant. Commissioner Osteen seconded. Board approved.

Mr. Gainey presented the following information items:

- The Small County Coalition will be held Tuesday, January 16, 2024, at 5:15-7:15 P.M. at Sittig Hall, 301 S Bronough St, Tallahassee.
- There will be a BOCC/Cross City joint meeting held at Cross City, City Hall on Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at 5:00 P.M.
- A Workshop will be held on Thursday, January 18, 2024, at 4:30 P.M. at the BOCC meeting room to discuss the community center fees.
- The Rural County Days Legislative Networking Reception will be held on Wednesday, January 24, 2024, at 6:00-8:00 P.M. at the Double Tree Hilton downtown in Tallahassee. Tickets for all five (5) Commissioners, the County Manager and the Assistant County Manager have been purchased.

Mr. Gainey stated there have been some phone calls from employees concerning the payroll deductions that have ended with some of our insurance vendors, mostly Aflac and Liberty National. He wanted to clear up any questions and provided information regarding the workshop with Brad Hoard. In this workshop, a solution of bringing all those policies available through Standard was discussed. This would make Liberty National and Aflac a non-offered vendor through the BOCC and would stop the payroll deductions for those services. He stated in the BOCC meeting immediately following the workshop the Board approved to accept the additional employee insurance benefits packets for the 2023 fiscal year, which would stop payroll deductions from Liberty National. Mr. Gainey stated this should have happened in October of 2022, but it did not. In October of this year (2023) the HR director sent an email to the Finance Office informing them that effective October 01, 2023, Liberty National would no longer be payroll deducted and was voted on by the Board back in 2022. Employees affected were contacted by Liberty National letting them know that payroll deductions had stopped, and their policies were in jeopardy of cancellation. Mr. Gainey provided a letter from the Liberty National Representative waiving the fees for the last three (3) months and information on how policy holders can continue benefits by setting up bank drafts from their personal accounts. Mr. Gainey said that all this information was provided to the affected employees.

Commissioner Hatch asked how many other Commissioners received phone calls concerning this issue.

Most all the Commissioners had received at least one call and Commissioner Osteen stated he had about ten (10) calls.

Commissioner Hatch stated that he was displeased that the employees were not notified from our office prior to the discontinuation of the payroll deductions. He stated that he is ok with whichever way is easier for the employee.

Commissioner Osteen asked how many employees have that type of policy.

Mr. Gainey replied around seven (7) employees. He added the policies and premiums did not change; the only change was the premium will be deducted from the policy holder's personal bank account.

Commissioner Osteen said the biggest complaint he received is that the premium is deducted once a month instead of twice a month and that it's now taxed, whereas, before it was not.

Mr. Brown stated the EOC staff were notified beforehand by email of the change.

Commissioner Stephenson asked how much it costs the county to have the insurance payroll deducted.

Mr. Gainey explained the process of how the bills would have to go to the HR Department to be processed and then sent to the finance office to set up payroll deductions.

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to have the insurance payroll deducted to help the employee. Commissioner Stephenson seconded.

Mr. Gainey asked if the county plans to offer this service back to those same employees who have already made the changes.

Clerk of Court Barbie Higginbotham stated it's already been corrected.

Commissioner Stephenson said he is in favor of giving the employees the option of payroll deduction.

Attorney Chana Watson explained that pre-taxed means the insurance premium comes out before taxes are taken out of the employee's paycheck.

Commissioner Osteen said he would like to help the employees; however, it may be difficult to change back to payroll deductions.

Mr. Gainey stated his concern is that the county has entered into a new contract with the other insurance companies.

Commissioner Stephenson stated he wishes to withdrawal his motion after getting more information concerning the taxes.

Attorney Watson suggested meeting with Mr. Brad Hoard again since it's been almost a year since the last meeting.

Commissioner Storey stated the original motion is dead due to lack of votes.

Commissioner Stephenson made the motion to have Mr. Hoard attend the next Board meeting. Commissioner Osteen seconded. Board approved.

Commissioner Wood stated that he is not voting on payroll deduction until he gets more information.

Commissioner Hatch asked how many workshops are set up for Thursday.

Mr. Gainey replied there is a workshop with the Suwannee River Economic Council and The Community Center Fee Schedule.

Commissioner Hatch also inquired about the resilience schedule.

Mr. Gainey replied that he spoke to Mr. Scott Garner this morning. Mr. Garner stated that the only grant for resiliency is for flooding and sea-level rising, and he has found nothing for roads and anything of that nature.

Mr. Garner stated that if any of the Board is aware of a grant that provides this type of funding, please let him know and he will be happy to do the research.

Commissioner Hatch said he would get with Mr. Garner later and point him in the right direction.

Commissioner Hatch asked Mr. Gainey if the letter of support for the city regarding the purchase of the depot property has been prepared.

Mr. Gainey replied the city was supposed to provide the county with the information to place on county letterhead. In turn the county would provide a letter of support to the city when ready to make an offer to The Department of Environmental Protection. The county has not received this information yet.

Commissioner Hatch suggested this be discussed in the next Workshop with the Town of Cross City Council.

CHANA WATSON, COUNTY ATTORNEY

County Attorney Chana Watson stated that mediation is going on right now on the lawsuit that David Scott filed against the Board of County Commissioners regarding the accident near Suwannee Gardens involving our county driver and the motorcycle driver. Hopefully they will reach a settlement today. If not resolved today, then the lawsuit will move towards a trial.

Attorney Watson stated in December of 2022 the body of Ms. Nicole Darling was found and has been at the Medical Examiner's office this entire time. The Medical Examiner has reached out to the County for

the removal of her body. The County has a contract with the Medical Examiner and the local funeral home to pick up and dispose of indigent bodies if there is no next of kin. Mrs. Darling has next of kin (her mother). The next of kin must sign for the release of the body to Goodings Funeral Home; however, Ms. Darling's mother doesn't want to release to Goodings, but instead wants the body to go to Gainesville. Attorney Watson recommended the Board move forward with an order issued by the County Judge to have the body released to Goodings.

Attorney Watson stated the County does not have a Resolution or Ordinance in place that she has found through her research. She would like to have the Board establish a procedure and outline this process. Attorney Watson stated according to Florida Statute 406.52 The Board of County Commissioners may by Resolution or Ordinance in accordance with applicable laws and rules prescribe policy and procedures for the burial or cremation of the entire unclaimed remains of an indigent person whose death occurred or whose remains were found in the county.

Attorney Watson recommended the Board give direction, by Resolution or Ordinance, to pick up the body from cold storage and dispose of Ms. Darling's body.

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to direct the County Attorney to establish an indigent body procedure by Resolution or Ordinance, and also to pick up Ms. Darling's body from The Medical Examiner and dispose of the same. Commissioner Osteen seconded. Motion approved.

BARBIE HIGGINBOTHAM, CLERK OF COURT

Clerk Higginbotham stated she had nothing to bring before the Board at this time.

COUNTY COMMISSION ITEMS

Commissioner Wood wished everyone a happy new year.

Commissioner Hatch wished everyone a happy new year.

Commissioner Osteen wished everyone a happy new year. He informed everyone that he is still dealing with a sailboat issue in the Steinhatchee River. He has been dealing with Taylor County and has also had a meeting with FWC and made a complaint with the Coast Guard in Yankeetown. He hopes to resolve the issue soon.

Secondly, Commissioner Osteen requested to address the power being ran out to the roll-off site in Jena before summer. He said it will cost approximately \$13,000.00.

Commissioner Osteen made the motion to run power to the Jena roll-off site. Commissioner Hatch seconded. Board approved.

Commissioner Wood-stated that this would cost a lot of money.

Commissioner Storey stated the county will need power at these sites for the new compactors that will be purchased one at a time.

Mr. Gainey said it should be a phase approach and that the total cost will be around \$45,000.00 for one site.

Commissioner Stephenson said he was under the impression that once we got the compactors, we could reduce some of the roll-off sites we have in the county.

Commissioner Stephenson wished everyone a happy new year and he stated that he hopes that we can make it through this year without a disaster.

Commissioner Storey wished everyone a happy new year and reminded the meeting attendees to state their names before speaking to the Board so that the press and others know who is speaking.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

W.C Mills addressed the Board concerning improvements to the roll-off sites. He presented the Board with a check for approximately \$39,850.00 from scrap metal sales. Mr. Mills asked why this money can't be devoted to the Solid Waste Services. He states that all other funds are budgeted for other things, and he thinks this is money that isn't budgeted.

Mrs. Jacki Johnson, from the Finance Department, stated that the money from scrap metal goes into the Solid Waste Fund. It offsets the costs of running solid waste operations which includes special assessment, some fees collected and general fund that subsidizes the solid waste operations yearly. She said solid waste is far from being self-sufficient even with the extra revenue from scrap metal. All the money being collected goes right into solid waste operations; nothing goes to general funds.

Clerk Higginbotham thanked Mr. Mills for presenting the revenue from the scrap metal.

Commissioner Storey also thanked Mr. Mills for the same and said it has been around \$70,000.00 in total that has been received from scrap metal.

Ms. Cathy Block thanked the county for all the roll-off sites. She stated that she owns a house in Alabama which has very few drop-off sites. She suggested the Board consider where people will put the trash if the county cuts back on roll-off sites and the mess this may create.

Commissioner Stephenson stated enforcement makes the difference.

Ms. Block asked if inmate labor is still used to pick up trash.

Commissioner Hatch said they were picking up trash on Hwy 55A yesterday. He said no sooner than the area had been cleaned, it was full of litter again.

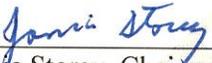
Mrs. Karen VanAernam spoke up and promoted Cross City Restore and Renew and encouraged everybody to do their part in helping pick up litter and not grow weary in doing good. She encouraged all the County Commissioners to attend the BOCC and Town Council Workshop coming up on January 17, 2024. She also reminded the Board that Cross City Restore and Renew is having a meeting next Friday, January 12, 2024, and she thanked the Board for their contribution and support.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Hatch made the motion to adjourn at 11:07 AM. Commissioner Wood seconded. Board approved.

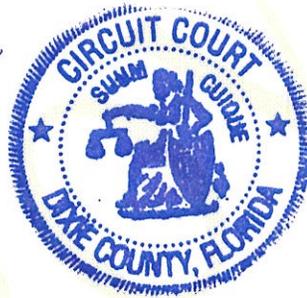
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA

ATTEST:



Jamie Storey, Chairman


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.