



Union County Board of County Commissioners
15 Northeast 1st Street, Lake Butler, FL 32054 • Phone: 386-496-4241 • Fax: 386-496-4810

**AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 19, 2024
6:00 P.M.**

NOTE: If any person decides to appeal any decision made with respect to any matter considered at this meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record for the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made

1. Meeting Called to Order.....Chairman Dobbs
2. Invocation and Pledge.....Commissioner Tallman
3. Public Comments
4. Report/ Discussion from Thomas Howell and Ferguson.....John Beall
5. Approval of Consent Agenda.....Chairman
 - Finance Report
 - Minutes: January 16, 2024 Regular Meeting, January 29, 2024 Special Meeting, February 1, 2024 Emergency Meeting and February 5, 2024 Emergency Meeting
 - Budget Amendment
6. Consideration of Special Exception 24-01, Mcarthy.....Chairman
7. Request from JUKKA to Dissolve the Recreation Board.....Fred Sirmones, Jr.
8. Recreation Board.....Mallory Southwell
9. 10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's and Community Outreach Bus (Brain Bus).....Donna Lee, Program Manager
10. Consideration of Payment for Past Due Employment Tax.....Michaela Clemons
11. Report from Department Heads
 - Lamar Griffis, Solid Waste Director**
 - Shelton Arnold, Jr., Road Department**
 - Mary Brown, Public Library**
 - Toby Witt, EMS Director**
 - Jim DeValerio, Extension Director**
12. Report Kellie Hendricks Rhoades, Clerk of Courts and Comptroller..... Clerk Rhoades
13. Report from Russell A. Wade III, County Attorney.....Attorney Wade
14. Report from County Commissioners
 - Donna Jackson, District 1**
 - Channing Dobbs, District 2**
 - Jimmy Tallman, District 3**
 - Mac Johns, District 4**
 - Willie Croft, District 5**
15. Adjournment

BOARD MEMBERS:

DONNA JACKSON, District 1 • CHANNING DOBBS, District 2 • JIMMY TALLMAN, District 3 • MAC JOHNS, District 4 • WILLIE CROFT, District 5

KELLIE HENDRICKS RHOADES
Clerk of Court/Comptroller

RUSSELL WADE
County Attorney

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA
CONSENT AGENDA
FEBURARY 19, 2024**

1. Minutes:

- January 16, 2024 Regular Meeting
- January 29, 2024 Special Meeting
- February 1, 2024 Emergency Meeting
- February 5, 2024 Emergency Meeting

2. Finance Report

- Checks submitted for approval of payment
- Additional bills submitted after processing

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 16, 2024

NOTE: If any person decides to appeal any decision made with respect to any matter considered at this meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record for the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made.

PRESIDING: Channing Dobbs, Chair

RECORDING: Reagan E. Robinson, Deputy Clerk

ATTENDING: Commissioner Willie Croft; Commissioner Mac Johns; Commissioner James A. Tallman; Commissioner Donna Jackson; James Williams, County Coordinator; Diane Hannon, Board Secretary; Russell A. Wade, County Attorney; Pamela Woodington, Finance Director

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chairman Dobbs called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Commissioner Tallman presented the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Asher Sullivan shared his concerns over the state of affairs within the Union County Board of County Commissioners. He explained his feelings that there are three or four individuals running the County. He noted the vitality of transparency and its absence in the Board. He also shared that the chairman should not have a sole choice to move the meeting location day of and that he'd like to see changes to the laws surrounding it. He discussed that these actions can lead to mistrust within the County. He suggested that the Board should respond to the allegations, an action which shows citizens that they're concerns are being taken seriously with immediate action. He closed by stating that embracing truth and justice will foster a community where every person feels heard and protected.

Hearing no further requests to speak, Chair Dobbs closed the floor to public comments.

REPORT/DISCUSSION FROM THOMAS HOWELL & FERGUSON

Mr. John Beall presented the TH&F report and updated the Board on the reviewed December financial packet. The Board then asked if the new Commissioner from District 1, Donna Jackson, would like to serve on the Procurement Policy Revision Committee. She happily accepted the offer, excited to put her experience in the area to work.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Dobbs noted a supposed discrepancy about his vote on a motion regarding concrete for the Agriculture Education Building at the in the previous month's minutes. He noted that he voted in the negative, rather than positively as the minutes stated. Commissioner Jackson explained that she had spoken to Clerk Rhoades regarding the procurement of condensed reports from Finance for the Board to review so they can know what they are approving. Mrs. Woodington discussed an additional bill for the purchase of ambulance decals.

Commissioner Tallman then moved to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes (pending changes) and Finance Report. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Jackson moved to receive a listing of checks that have been paid each month along with the current bills being presented for approval along with the cash balance in each account. Commissioner Tallman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

REQUEST FROM JUKKA FOR RECREATION DEPARTMENT DOCUMENTS

Ms. Mallory Southwell, Secretary of the Recreation Board, acknowledged the accusations of mismanagement made by individuals within the County. She provided records proving the information to be false. She stressed the fact that the board is nothing more than volunteers. Records are kept of the final decision making, but not discussions. Ms. Southwell stressed that if anyone has questions or concerns please contact the Recreation Board, they will be happy to discuss their decisions with them.

CONSIDERATION OF FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY AND COLB

Mr. Williams discussed the agreement and noted its importance to the City and building permits. Attorney Wade noted that on page 4, in paragraph 7 an option had not been selected. He explained the options before suggesting they select either option A or B.

Commissioner Tallman moved to adopt the interlocal agreement with the revision of the term clause. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF BOCC BOARD/GRANT COMMITTEES

Mr. Williams discussed Commissioner Jackson serving on boards and grant committees. She accepted positions on the Purchasing Policy Committee, North Florida Regional Planning Council and its Oversight Committee (both acquired from Commissioner Tallman), and all of former Commissioner Ryan Perez's positions on numerous grant committees, as well as an empty position on the FRDP Grant Committee. Chair Dobbs assumed Commissioner Tallman's position on the Agriculture Education Building Committee and a position as an alternate on the Small County Coalition.

Commissioner Johns discussed two ethics complaints filed against him and how one was due to his position on the Suwannee River Economic Council (SREC) Transportation Board. Commissioner Johns stated that he did his due diligence to research the complaints and found that one was made because he services SREC's vehicles at his automotive repair shop. He stated that the complaint read that it was filed by Jimmy Williams on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners, which the Board quickly denied. Commissioner Jackson volunteered to assume Commissioner Johns' position on the SREC Transportation Board.

Commissioner Jackson moved to accept the changes to the BOCC Boards and Committees. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF MERIDIAN'S FUNDING AGREEMENT FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE SERVICES

Mr. Williams explained resolved issues with the check for \$15,000 and contract for mental health and substance use services. Mrs. Woodington clarified details of the issue. **Commissioner Jackson moved to approve and sign the contract and Commissioner Croft seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

CONSIDERATION OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AWARENESS WEEK PROCLAMATION

Attorney Wade read a proclamation declaring January 19 through 25 Hazardous Materials Awareness Week. **Commissioner Croft moved to sign the proclamation. Commissioner Tallman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

DISCUSSION OF UNION COUNTY VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

Mr. Williams explained the assessment and its purpose, providing information regarding the scope for work that would be needed to improve waterways and road work mitigation. Commissioner Jackson asked if the County had

been awarded a grant to fund the assessment. Mr. Williams confirmed that \$300,000 had been awarded for the purpose.

REPORT FROM COUNTY COORDINATOR AND DEPARTMENT HEADS

Mr. Williams addressed the addendum agenda, first sharing that HR had released the top three candidates to fill the Solid Waste Director position. Before voting on the candidates, Chair Dobbs suggested that the Board interact with the candidates using an interview format. Commissioner Johns agreed, noting that they needed more time, as they were only made aware that three had been selected at one o'clock that afternoon. Discussion ensued regarding a policy change that would require HR to do a better job of informing the public and Commissioners about a job opening in the County. **Commissioner Tallman moved to hold a special meeting January 26 at noon to interview candidates for the Solid Waste Director position. Commissioner Johns seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

Mr. Williams then updated the Board on road reports and the Providence Fire Station, as well as other happenings within the County and State.

Mrs. Kim Hayes, Solid Waste Director, updated the Board on the roll off truck. She shared that the County is first on the list to receive a truck sometime in February or March. She closed by thanking everyone the impact they've had on her life during her tenure as Solid Waste Director. Commissioner Tallman thanked Mrs. Hayes and wished her all the best.

Commissioner Johns spoke in place of Mr. Toby Witt, EMS Director. He informed the Board of the resignation of Fire Chief Paul McDavid and the election of Volunteer Fire Chief Micky Foster. He noted that this position would continue to be filled by a volunteer in the future.

Mr. Jim DeValario, UF/IFAS Extension Director, updated the Board on the office's annual evaluation and shared that the University of Florida was working on obtaining a hard line for internet at the Agriculture Extension Building. He closed by informing the Board of a mixed hardwood tree giveaway on January 19.

REPORT FROM KELLIE RHOADES HENDRICKS, CLERK OF COURTS AND COMPTROLLER

Due to Clerk business in Tallahassee, Clerk Rhoades was unable to attend the meeting. In her place Mrs. Woodington noted that the Clerk's Office would miss Mrs. Hayes and noted her accomplishments while in the position of Solid Waste Director.

REPORT FROM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Jackson shared that she was excited to be a part of the Board and work with everyone.

Chair Dobbs welcomed Commissioner Johns and Mr. Foster, before noting the asset Mrs. Hayes had been to the County and how much he would miss her.

Commissioner Tallman welcomed Commissioner Jackson and thanked Mrs. Hayes for all she'd done Countywide. Commissioner Johns welcomed Commissioner Jackson and thanked her for the role she will play in helping the Board interpret financial information. He then thanked Mrs. Hayes and noted that he'd like her assistance in the interview process on the 26th. Commissioner Johns noted that from day one he challenged a few things that were going on within the Board and County, which also challenged Mr. Williams. He acknowledged the fighting he'd noticed between the Board Office and the Clerk's Office and between the Board Office and other governmental offices, and stated that he was doing what he felt was right by questioning these situations. He explained the

Regular Meeting
January 16, 2024

backlash standing up has caused him, now having a fight on his own hands. He reiterated that the ethics complaint was filed by Jimmy Williams on behalf of the Board, which lead him to believe that it was not the Commissioners' doing but rather Mr. Williams overstepping his boundaries. Commissioner Johns stated that the Commissioners aren't puppets, they're elected officials and Mr. Williams is a hired employee. He closed by stating that a fight with him is a fight with his district. **Commissioner Johns closed by moving that Mr. Williams be terminated as County Coordinator.** Commissioner Croft shared that he wasn't disagreeing with Commissioner Johns, but wanted to read the State Attorney's report in the coming week before making a decision. **Commissioner Johns' motion died due to lack of a second.**

Commissioner Croft welcomed Commissioner Johns and Mr. Foster, and thanked Mrs. Hayes for her service to the County.

Seeing no further business, Chair Dobbs adjourned the meeting by general consent at 7:10 P.M.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Channing Dobbs, Chairman

Kellie Hendricks Rhoades, Clerk of Courts

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA
SPECIAL MEETING
JANUARY 29, 2024

NOTE: If any person decides to appeal any decision made with respect to any matter considered at this meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record for the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made.

PRESIDING: Channing Dobbs, Chair

RECORDING: Reagan E. Robinson, Deputy Clerk

ATTENDING: Commissioner Willie Croft; Commissioner Mac Johns; Commissioner James A. Tallman; Commissioner Donna Jackson; James Williams, County Coordinator; Diane Hannon, Board Secretary; Russell A. Wade, County Attorney; Pamela Woodington, Finance Director

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chairman Dobbs called the meeting to order at 12:00 P.M.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Commissioner Croft presented the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Hearing no requests to speak, Chair Dobbs closed the floor to public comments.

INTERVIEWS FOR SOLID WASTE DIRECTOR

Chair Dobbs welcomed everyone to the interview. He addressed his relation to one of the applicants and stated that he'd abstain from the decision making process. The Board proceeded to ask the candidates the same questions and the candidates responded as they saw fit in the order that follows: Mr. Richard Kingsbury, Mr. Lamar Griffis and Mr. John Gilmore.

Commissioner Johns questioned how HR selected the three individuals presented to the Board. Michaela Clemons, Human Resources Secretary, explained the process that HR uses to vet candidates. Commissioner Johns critiqued the policy, noting that advertising and background verification measures were subpar. He closed by stating that the system was unfair to the public. Commissioner Jackson requested better communication when positions within the County open. The Board proceeded to discuss the candidates with the input of Mrs. Kim Hayes, the previous Solid Waste Director. They decided by general consent to vote by ballot, ranking the candidates 1, 2 & 3 individually. Mrs. Woodington verified the tallies and announced that everyone had ranked Mr. Griffis first, Mr. Gilmore second and Mr. Kingsbury third unanimously.

Commissioner Tallman moved to accept the bids as read by Mrs. Woodington. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Williams recommended that the Board set a salary for the hired position. Mrs. Woodington requested a copy of the job description and advertisement to enter into public records. Mr. Williams suggested increasing the set salary after one year and Commissioner Jackson agreed. The Board discussed numerous pay scales and increase options before coming to a consensus.

Commissioner Tallman moved to start the Solid Waste Director's salary at \$57,000 with an increase of \$2000 yearly after he obtains his applicators license, if done so within a year's time. Commissioner Johns seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Williams provided the Board with road updates within the County.

Special Meeting
January 29, 2024

Commissioner Jackson addressed the Andersen-Columbia contract regarding 229 North, 149th St and 121 South to the bridge. **Commissioner Jackson moved to approve contracts, notice to proceed and notice of award for project #'s; CR229 North #438212-1, CR 149th Street #438117-1, CR229 South, #445822-1, Anderson Columbia for construction and CSI Geo as CEI . Commissioner Croft seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

Commissioner Jackson then notified the Board of public issues with the sound system and requested that the Commissioners make sure they are close enough to the microphone when speaking. Mr. Williams stated that he'd reach out to Mr. Brady Clark, New River Technology, the Board technological consultant, regarding the issue. Mrs. Woodington suggested speaking to Judge Bishop about installing similar equipment to what is used in the courtroom.

Commissioner Jackson closed by sharing that the State Attorney's report had been prepared and is available at publicrecords@sao8.org. She mentioned the possibility of scheduling a meeting to discuss their finding after the Commissioners have read the report.

Chair Dobbs suggested that the Board look into a new seating arrangement in the boardroom. He proed using the cushioned chairs with hooks on the side to link them together. Mr. Williams stated that he'd get with Mr. Wilson Whiddon, Building Department Inspector, to discuss the issue.

Seeing no further business, Chair Dobbs adjourned the meeting by general consent at 1:40 P.M.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Channing Dobbs, Chairman

Kellie Hendricks Rhoades, Clerk of Courts

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA
EMERGENCY MEETING
FEBRUARY 1, 2024

NOTE: If any person decides to appeal any decision made with respect to any matter considered at this meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record for the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made.

PRESIDING: Channing Dobbs, Chair

RECORDING: Kellie Hendricks Rhoades, Clerk of Courts & Comptroller; Reagan E. Robinson, Deputy Clerk

ATTENDING: Commissioner Willie Croft; Commissioner Mac Johns; Commissioner James A. Tallman; Commissioner Donna Jackson; James Williams, County Coordinator; Diane Hannon, Board Secretary; Russell A. Wade, County Attorney; Pamela Woodington, Finance Director

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chairman Dobbs called the meeting to order at 3:30 P.M.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Commissioner Croft presented the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Dobbs opened the meeting, explaining that it was called quickly by recommendation of counsel.

Attorney Wade then read a statement regarding the limited purpose of calling the meeting and noted that the meeting scheduled for Monday, the 5th, will still take place. He shared that Commissioner Croft contacted him the previous night regarding an allegation that documents may have been destroyed by shredding in the County Office. Commissioner Johns also contacted him via email that morning and expressed his concern that immediate action may need to be taken. He noted that he discussed the issue with the Sheriff, who had no concern about it potentially affecting the integrity of the State Attorney's investigation. He explained that the discussion should be strictly limited to whether immediate action is necessary to address the issue of document preservation because of its short notice. Attorney Wade closed by recommending that Chair Dobbs call for a motion for declaration of emergency based on the issues he discussed.

Commissioner Johns moved to declare the situation an emergency. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion. Commissioners Johns, Dobbs, Croft and Jackson voted in favor of the motion, while Commissioner Tallman opposed the motion. With four in favor and one against the motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Hearing no requests to speak, Chair Dobbs closed the floor to public comments.

DISCUSSION

Attorney Wade then called for discussion on the matter. Commissioner Johns asked to hear from Ms. Vicki Barron. He asked her what her responsibilities are and she responded that she maintains the Courthouse and surrounding buildings and supervises inmates amongst other duties. He then asked her to detail what took place when she was cleaning the Board Office. She explained that, the previous day, she found a bag of shredded trash. This was unusual and in light of the State Attorney's report. Ms. Barron mentioned the shreds to the Clerk and Clerk Rhoades asked her to go get them. Commissioner Johns then clarified that he understood her to say that it is not normal to have shredded documents in the office and she agreed. Clerk Rhoades then provided the bag of shreds upon Commissioner Johns' request. Commissioner Johns then asked Ms. Barron who was in the office at the time. She responded that she saw Mrs. Hannon and Mrs. Denise Clemons, Building Department Secretary, at the time. However, she explained, the rest of the doors were closed so she didn't know for certain who else was present.

Emergency Meeting

February 1, 2024

Commission Tallman accused this of being a witch hunt, stating that Mrs. Hannon and Mrs. Clemons had been through the wringer and she was simply cleaning out her desk in fear of shortly being fired. Mrs. Hannon shared that they shredded personal documents and removed them from the machine. Commissioner Jackson requested that she go on record to note that she went to Mrs. Clemons who shared her side of the story and felt that Mrs. Clemons wasn't lying to her. Commissioner Johns noted that he asked this of Ms. Barron because he wanted to see what he had heard about. He noted that the issue had been mishandled and that the present was the time to correct it. **Commissioner Johns moved to suspend Mr. Williams, Mrs. Hannon, Mrs. Clemons and Mr. Wilson Whiddon (Building Department Inspector) with pay until Monday's meeting. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion. Commissioners Johns and Croft voted in favor of the motion and Commissioners Jackson, Tallman and Dobbs voted against it. With two in favor and three against, the motion failed.**

Commissioner Jackson agreed with Commissioner Johns in suspending Mr. Williams, but not everyone else listed in the previous motion. **Commissioner Jackson moved to suspend Mr. Williams with pay for 30 days in accordance with policy. Commissioner Johns seconded the motion. Commissioners Jackson, Johns and Croft voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Dobbs and Tallman voted against the motion. With three in favor and two against the motion passed.**

Commissioner Jackson then moved that any authorities and responsibilities of the County Coordinator be designated to the Chairman in the interim. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Mr. Williams asked if he would be "unsuspended" for Monday night's meeting. Commissioner Jackson stated that she didn't understand his question. Commissioner Tallman shared his opinion that Mr. Williams should be present at the meeting. Attorney Wade noted that Mr. Williams' counsel should also be present.

Seeing no further business, Chair Dobbs adjourned the meeting by general consent at 3:58 P.M.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Channing Dobbs, Chairman

Kellie Hendricks Rhoades, Clerk of Courts

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA
EMERGENCY MEETING
FEBRUARY 5, 2024

NOTE: If any person decides to appeal any decision made with respect to any matter considered at this meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record for the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made.

PRESIDING: Channing Dobbs, Chair

RECORDING: Reagan E. Robinson, Deputy Clerk

ATTENDING: Commissioner Willie Croft; Commissioner Mac Johns; Commissioner James A. Tallman; Commissioner Donna Jackson; Kellie Hendricks Rhoades, Clerk of Courts & Comptroller; James Williams, County Coordinator; Russell A. Wade, County Attorney; Pamela Woodington, Finance Director

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chair Dobbs called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm. He then offered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Lindsey Reddish shared how, on September 20, 2023, she emailed the Commissioners, and her email was never responded to, aside from an excerpt in a newspaper article. She noted that the investigation regarding the subject of her email was complete and that its findings were unbiased.

Mr. Fred Sirmones Jr., founder of JUKKA (a non-profit student organization), addressed the Board, stating that he never has been, nor had he ever claimed to be, a City Commissioner. He shared that TV20 had issued an apology regarding the matter. He explained that the fine for Mr. Williams not paying what he owed to the County should be double the original amount. He questioned if an investigation of a County employee and \$95 was worth more than aiding youth in the community and thousands that could be collected through supporting JUKKA.

Ms. Melissa McNeal, who has consistently attended meetings, came before the Board as a concerned citizen. She mentioned the Providence Fire Station, RV Park and Broadband issues, highlighting missed grant opportunities and lack of support for the community. She requested a higher emphasis on updating County policies and procedures. Ms. McNeal explained that the current situation is taking attention away from the issues that concern citizens. She noted that she didn't know Mr. Williams intentions, but petitioned the Board to handle the issue expediently. She asked them not crucify Mr. Williams, rather deal with it in a matter that's best for the County. She requested that they put their personal ties and emotions aside and choose a better future for Union County.

He hearing no further requests to speak, Chairman Dobbs closed the floor to public comments.

Chair Dobbs thanked State Attorney Brian Kramer for attending the meeting. Attorney Wade suggested that the Board move to declare an emergency, as the meeting was advertised as an emergency. **Commissioner Johns moved to declare the meeting an emergency regarding the completion of the State Attorney's investigation. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.** Before calling for a vote on the motion, Chair Dobbs noted that voting will be done by a raise of hands.

State Attorney Kramer addressed the Board, explaining that he was present to answer any questions. Chair Dobbs requested that State Attorney Kramer stay for the duration of the meeting in case other questions were presented and State Attorney Kramer obliged. Commissioner Jackson noted that she had reached out to Investigator Mullins who had answered all of her questions.

BRADY CLARK

Mr. Brady Clark, IT for the Board and Clerk's Office, noted his third-party affiliation. He explained that he didn't want to be involved, before questioning why he wasn't asked if he had any evidence regarding Mr. Williams' investigation. He stated that he'd never been asked to do anything illegal. As a resident, he shared, he appreciated Mr. Williams' haggling. After looking at the State Attorney's report he noted that a lot of the information surrounds an Excel spreadsheet, which he has backups on. He closed by sharing that he wasn't picking a side and didn't want to make a decision based on an incomplete report.

State Attorney Kramer understood his concern and explained that subpoenas were served to all involved parties. It was their responsibilities to contact Mr. Clark to obtain information, not the State Attorney's Office. Chair Dobbs asked if it was customary to subpoena IT, State Attorney Kramer responded in the negative, stating the previous information. Attorney Wade noted he was asked to assist Mrs. Denise Clemons, Building Department Secretary, in obtaining records, and that he provided responsive records to the investigators.

WILLIAM MCDANIEL

Mr. William McDaniel, a Union County resident since 1966, stood to speak regarding Mr. Williams' character. He shared that he had known Mr. Williams for an extended period of time. He questioned the purpose of inspections, noting that they don't test every square foot of everything. He explained that exceptions are made and things change. Mr. McDaniel shared that he had worked with Mr. Williams in a testing lab for years, and that Mr. Williams' opinion is as good as anyone else's. He encouraged everyone to collect records from the Department of Transportation. He stated that the investigation didn't show his intent to commit a crime. He noted that Mr. Williams should pay a fine and that the Board has wasted time worrying about \$95. He petitioned the Board to make a decision now.

ATTORNEY JOSEPH WILLIAMS AND ATTORNEY PAUL HAWKES FOR JIMMY WILLIAMS

Attorney Joseph Williams, counsel for Mr. Williams, noted that his appearance was on short notice. He shared that the State Attorney's investigation report was a 28-page document prepared over a period of 90 days. However, he only had 72 hours to respond on this important matter. He shared that he didn't want Commissioners to think it was a fully prepared defense. He presented a clipping from TV20 that stated that Mr. Williams "forged" paperwork, when he did not. Due to the conflict within County government, Attorney Williams believed the issue is not about the building permit, but an excuse to run Mr. Williams out of his job. He shared his finding that Mr. Williams gave notice of commencement in October and that fees had already been assessed properly. He explained that Mr. Wilson Whiddon, Building Department Inspector, wanted government to be accessible, and has the right and responsibility to let community members begin building without proper permitting upon giving their word. He claimed that Mr. Whiddon did not treat Mr. Williams any differently.

He then referenced and displayed Florida Statute 105.12, regarding work starting before permit issuance, "Upon approval of the building official, the scope of work delineated in the building permit application and plan may be started prior to the final approval and issuance of the permit, provided any work completed is entirely at risk of the permit applicant and the work does not proceed past the first required inspection." He explained that it is normal when interacting with the Building Department that sometimes people are accommodated. Mr. J. Williams explained that the situation is solely political and that the clerk is upset with Mr. Williams because he did his job. He noted that there were 19 meetings not recorded on the Clerk's website, \$100,000 allocated to Union County for court security that was unused and returned to Tallahassee, and that vendors had not been paid in a timely manner. He explained that the Clerk and an associate went to Gainesville to discuss the situation with State Attorney Kramer, prompting the investigation. He asked what firing Mr. Williams would accomplish, stating that it

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would be unfair to him because he was unable to prepare a complete defense due to time restrictions. He requested that the gap be bridged. He also made an accusation that the Clerk lived in her house for 3 to 4 months without a CO. He pleaded that the Board move forward and reinstate Mr. Williams.

DISCUSSION OF THE STATE ATTORNEY'S SPECIAL INVESTIGATION OF COUNTY COORDINATOR, JIMMY WILLIAMS

Chair Dobbs wondered if this was a regulatory issue, and if DBPR should have been contacted instead. Attorney Wade responded, stating that they should've been involved for abuse of license. Commissioner Tallman then requested that Attorney Wade explain the difference between the County Coordinator and Manager. Attorney Wade detailed the Florida Constitution before emphasizing a manager's greater authority, whereas a coordinator is hired to delegate and has no inherent authority. Commissioner Tallman confirmed that all decisions are made by the Board. Commissioner Johns noted that Mr. Williams's actions have been more akin to a manager and that Mr. Williams had been acting out of his job description. Commissioner Johns continued by stating Mr. Williams has interfered with him doing his job of serving the citizens of District 4, sharing how he had no knowledge of a grant that was in its final stages. He explained how, the previous week, he found out that a FRDP Grant was written without consulting him or the Recreation board. Commissioner Tallman countered, highlighting the \$190,000 Mr. Williams brought the County. He noted the meeting in which Mr. Williams was hired where he stated that if Mr. Williams did not make the county three times his salary then he'd be the first person to make a motion to fire him. Commissioner Johns acknowledged his successful grant procurement, but pointed out that it's not his only duty. Commissioner Johns noted on numerous occasions that Mr. Williams had been dishonest with him and shared how every time Commissioner Johns opposed him, Mr. Williams pushed back in retaliation. Commissioner Johns then explained that when the report from the State Attorney's Office originally came out, his recommendation of suspension was to protect all employees involved, which is what would have been done immediately in a private business. Commissioner Tallman responded, urging Commissioners to vote with their guts.

Commissioner Johns stated that the situation has gotten out of hand. He asked how much more legit an investigation can be than one from the State Attorney's Office, before sharing that something would've happened to anyone else found committing the same acts. Commissioner Jackson, while only being appointed in December, shared the findings of her personal investigation regarding the report. She explained how she met with all parties detailed in the report, asking them questions and for their sides of the story. She noted that Mr. Williams had lied to her after speaking to him, and fact checking the information he shared with her with reputable sources. Mr. Williams had told her that he hadn't filed the Notice of Commencement because he didn't have the building permit number. She noted that a recorded Notice of Commencement is required to obtain a building permit, so the permit number should not be available to record the NOC. She then added that after searching records on the Clerk's website, she found that none of the NOC's had building permit numbers except for the one Mr. Williams submitted. Further, when asked why he didn't immediately apply for a septic permit, Mr. Williams shared that there was a tank already on the property and that he wanted to see if it could be used instead of purchasing a new one. Commissioner Jackson spoke with people that she had a personal connection with that are familiar with the process, and found this to be false, as he would've had to apply for a septic tank permit regardless if there was a previously existing tank or not, and noting that the application fee would be much less to use an existing tank. She asked Mr. Williams to provide her evidence to support his claim and she still hadn't received any. She stated that she conflicted because she loves what Mr. Williams does for the County, but is disappointed in what he has done.

Commissioner Tallman, who also noted his limited knowledge, called Mr. Whidden to discuss the issue and Mr. Whidden shared with him that he does give grace and was okay with what Mr. Williams did. Mr. Whidden confirmed that he had all of the documentation regarding the septic tank permits from Mr. Williams, but Denise

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Clemons refuted the statement, telling Mr. Whidden that they did not. Commissioner Tallman stated that the Board should've gone of the DBPR from the beginning. **Commissioner Tallman moved to allow Mr. Williams and his attorneys 30 days from today to rebut.**

Commissioner Croft asked State Attorney Kramer if the allegations should be filed with the DBPR, and he responded that his office had already filed the case with them. Chair Dobbs asked how long it would take to receive their review, State Attorney Kramer responded in his experience in working with DBPR, that complaints generally take six to nine months, if DBPR even chooses to consider them. Chair Dobbs suggested that Attorney Wade work to expedite the process and State Attorney Kramer noted that Attorney Wade inquiring probably wouldn't help much. Commissioner Croft asked Commissioner Tallman to state his motion again, before seconding it. **Commissioner Tallman moved to allow Mr. Williams and his attorneys 30 days from today to rebut. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion and, by a show of hands, it passed unanimously.**

Commissioner Johns addressed Attorney Wade and advised him that the Board's labor attorney be present at that meeting. He shared that he sees Mr. Williams's defense is that everything is Clerk Rhoades's fault, not his. He shared that this meeting felt like a trial that the Clerk nor Board had any time nor legal assistance to prepare for. He stated that he still wanted Mr. Williams terminated, but done the right way. **Commissioner Jackson moved to have labor attorneys conduct an internal investigation into the processes involved in the case. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

Seeing no further business, Chair Dobbs moved to adjourn the meeting by general consent at 6:25 P.M.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Channing Dobbs, Chair

Kellie Hendricks Rhoades, Clerk & Comptroller



Florida Department of Revenue
Reemployment Tax
Summary of Amount Past Due

02/03/2024

RT-27
 R. 09/17
 Page 1 of 2

RT Account # : 9975961
 Business Partner # : 1554430
 Contract Object # : 14377641
 FEIN : 59-6000882

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
 15 NE 1ST ST
 LAKE BUTLER FL 32054-1701

This is a summary of outstanding liabilities for which you have been previously billed. **This summary includes \$1,718.75 that was billed over a year ago.** Failure to pay amounts billed over one year ago will increase your tax rate to the maximum allowed by law.

Amounts listed are as previously billed. Penalty and interest continue to accrue until tax is paid in full.

First Notice Date	Reporting Period	Tax/Assessment Due	Penalty	Interest	Fees	Total
10/05/2020	06/30/2020	261.90	0.00	60.20	26.19	348.29
03/02/2021	09/30/2020	0.00	0.00	0.00	19.35	19.35
05/04/2021	03/31/2021	47.09	0.00	10.00	10.00	67.09
10/28/2022	09/30/2022	90.06	0.00	10.00	10.00	110.06
02/03/2023	12/31/2022	990.66	0.00	84.23	99.07	1,173.96
10/30/2023	09/30/2023	1,961.55	0.00	19.39	0.00	1,980.94
					Total Amount Due This Page	\$3,699.69
					Total Amount Due	\$3,699.69

Call 850-488-6800, Monday through Friday (excluding holidays), to speak with a Department representative about your account.

If you are a journal transfer account:

- DO NOT return payment coupon.
- Journal Transfer #: 40-50-2-767002-40200200-00-000300-00
- Object Code #: 003000
- Include Contract Object # or the RT Account #.
- Include reporting period.

This coupon is attached for your convenience in paying the previously billed amount(s). Make check or money order payable to Florida U.C. Fund.

Florida Department of Revenue
RT Bill Payment Coupon

Date of Notice : 02/03/2024
 Reporting Period : 06/30/2020
 Tax : Reemployment Tax
 RT Account # : 9975961
 Business Partner # : 1554430
 Contract Object # : 14377641

Make check or money order payable to: **FLORIDA U.C. FUND**

Pay online at floridarevenue.com (see reverse side). If paying by mail, detach and return this coupon with your payment. Include the respective payment coupon(s) for each bill being paid.

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
 15 NE 1ST ST
 LAKE BUTLER FL 32054-1701

See back for payment options and instructions for completing a machine-readable form.

Total Due : \$ 3,699.69
Additional Interest/Penalty: \$

|||||
 Florida Department of Revenue
 5050 W Tennessee St
 Tallahassee FL 32399-0110

Amount Enclosed: US Dollars Cents

0600 1 20200630 0068054055 1 4000001437 7641 9



**Florida Department of Revenue
Reemployment Tax
Reimbursement Account
Notice of Final Assessment**

**RT-17R
R. 10/17**

02/03/2024

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
15 NE 1ST ST
LAKE BUTLER FL 32054-1701

RT Account # : 9975961
Business Partner # : 1554430
Contract Object # : 14377641
FEIN : 59-6000882
Return Period Beginning : 07/01/2023
Return Period Ending : 09/30/2023

We are assessing you \$ 1,980.94 because of your failure to pay outstanding liabilities previously sent to you as a "Reimbursement Invoice" (RT-29). This assessment does not preclude future assessments if we discover additional liabilities.

If you fail to remit the required payment, the Department of Revenue may file a tax lien against you in the appropriate counties and take additional collection actions against your business, including but not limited to charging a 10% fee or \$10, whichever is greater, and/or garnishment of bank accounts and/or referral of your account to a collection agency.

Failure to file wage reports or pay all reimbursements due will result in termination of your election to be a reimbursing employer, pursuant to 443.1312(4) F.S., and/or the issuance of an injunction prohibiting your business from employment pursuant to 443.141(4)(b) F.S.

SEND YOUR PAYMENT IMMEDIATELY. Make your check payable to **Florida UC FUND**. If you have questions concerning this assessment, you should contact the Department of Revenue at 850-717-6999.

If you ARE A JOURNAL TRANSFER ACCOUNT:

- DO NOT return the payment coupon below.
- Journal Transfer #: 40-50-2-767002-40200200-00-000300-00
- Object Code #: 003000

If you ARE NOT a journal transfer account, mail your payment with the attached coupon to:

Florida Department of Revenue
5050 W Tennessee St
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0180

Make check or money order payable to FLORIDA U.C. FUND

**Florida Department of Revenue
RT Bill Payment Coupon**

Date of Notice : 02/03/2024
Reporting Period : 09/30/2023
Tax : Reemployment Tax
RT Account # : 9975961
Business Partner # : 1554430
Contract Object # : 14377641

Make check or money order payable to: **FLORIDA U.C. FUND**

Florida Department of Revenue
5050 W Tennessee St
Tallahassee FL 32399-0110

Pay online at floridarevenue.com (see reverse side). If paying by mail, detach and return this coupon with your payment. Include the respective payment coupon(s) for each bill being paid.

**DR-100R
R. 03/17**

**UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
15 NE 1ST ST
LAKE BUTLER FL 32054-1701**

See back for payment options and instructions for completing a machine-readable form.

Total Due : \$1,980.94
Additional Interest/Penalty: \$

Amount Enclosed: US Dollars Cents

0600 1 20230930 0068054055 9 4000001437 7641 9

**UNION COUNTY SOLID WASTE
MONTHLY REPORT**

MONTH	PRIVATE RENTALS	PRISON CONTRACTS	TONAGE FOR UNION COUNTY	CHARGE FOR COUNTY	SALE OF SURPLUS AND SCRAP METAL	MONTHLY TOTAL
10/01/23	\$4,167.20	\$2,340.00	349.04	\$11,979.88	\$2,327.15	\$21,163.27
11/01/23	\$3,229.24	\$2,635.00	280.07	\$11,238.48	\$2,365.09	\$19,747.88
12/01/23	\$3,436.36	\$1,720.00	355.87	\$13,249.28	\$1,365.90	\$20,127.41
01/01/24	\$3,202.80	\$2,465.00	306.27	\$13,418.28	\$1,386.00	\$20,778.35
02/01/24						\$0.00
03/01/24						\$0.00
04/01/24						\$0.00
05/01/24						\$0.00
06/01/24						\$0.00
07/01/24						\$0.00
08/01/24						\$0.00
09/01/24						\$0.00
YTD	\$14,035.60	\$9,160.00	1291.25	\$49,885.92	\$7,444.14	\$81,816.91

UNION COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL				
MONTHLY REPORTS				
01/01/2024 - TOTAL INTAKES FOR THE MONTH				
LIVE INTAKES	CANINE	FELINE	TOTAL	
STRAY/AT LARGE	24	0	24	
RELINQUISHED BY OWNER	3	0	3	
OWNER INTENDED EUTHANASIA	0	0	0	
TRANSFERRED IN FORM AGENCY	0	0	0	
OTHER INTAKES	0	0	0	
TOTAL LIVE INTAKES	27	0	27	
OUTCOMES				
ADOPTION	3	0	3	
RETURN TO OWNER	1	0	1	
TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER AGENCY	1	0	1	
RETURN TO FIELD	0	0	0	
OTHER LIVE OUTCOME	0	0	0	
SUBTOTAL LIVE OUTCOMES	5	0	5	
DIED IN CARE	0	0	0	
LOST IN CARE	0	0	0	
SHELTER EUTHANASIA	0	0	0	
OWNER INTENDED EUTHANASIA	0	0	0	
SUBTOTAL OUTCOMES	0	0	0	
TOTAL OUTCOMES	5	0	5	
MONTHLY MONIES COLLECTED			\$100.00	



ROAD DEPT
January 2024
MONTHLY WORK SUMMARY

DISTRICT 3

Picked up paper and trash throughout district
Mowed and weeded throughout district
Patched and repaired pot holes in roads for district
Graded roads in district

DISTRICT 4

Picked up paper and trash throughout district
Mowed and weeded throughout district
Patched and repaired pot holes in roads for district
Graded roads in district

DISTRICT 5

Picked up paper and trash throughout district
Mowed and weeded throughout district
Patched and repaired pot holes in roads for district
Graded roads in district

DISTRICT 1

Picked up paper and trash throughout district
Mowed and weeded throughout district
Patched and repaired pot holes in roads for district
Graded roads in district

DISTRICT 2

Picked up paper and trash throughout district
Mowed and weeded throughout district
Patched and repaired pot holes in roads for district
Graded roads in district



Union County
Public Library

250 SE 5th Avenue Lake Butler, FL 32054
Phone 386-496-3432

Library Director Report – January 2024

Jan 1 – The library was closed for the New Year holiday.

Jan 2 & 23 – The library hosted Senior Social Programs featuring “Days Gone By” and speakers from the new local business, “Gather.”

Jan 9 – The library closed early due to the storm.

Jan 10 – I held a staff meeting with library staff to discuss programs and library business.

Jan 13 & 15 – The library was closed for the Martin Luther King jr. weekend holiday.

Jan 16 – I attended the regular UCBCC meeting.

Jan 31 – Preschool Storytime resumed with a fun winter program.



www.UnionCountyPublicLibrary.org

UNION CO. PUBLIC LIBRARY Jan-24	FY24
ATTENDANCE	1682
REGISTRATION	7947
E-BOOKS CIRCULATION	412 2137
COMPUTER USE	271
REFERENCE	593
NUMBER OF MATERIALS	40,475
DAYS OPEN	24
PROGRAMS CHILDREN ON SITE CHILDREN OFF SITE YA YA OFF SITE ADULT	1/30 0 0 1/18 3/31
VOLUNTEER HOURS	9
AVE. ATTENDANCE PER DAY	70
AVE. CIRCULATION PER DAY	107



NTY

P. O. BOX 266
LAKE BUTLER, FL 32054

DEPARTMENT OF
EMERGENCY SERVICES

PHONE (386) 496-3839
FAX (386) 496-2158



TOBY WITT
DIRECTOR

Total Call Report for January 2024

Total 911 Calls: 211
Total Transports: 148
Total Non-Transports: 63
Total DOC Calls: 22
Total LBH Calls: 23
Average Calls Per Day: 7

Total Times UCEMS Requested Mutual Aid: 5

Total Times UCEMS was Requested for Mutual Aid: 0

Total Call Report for February 2024

Total 911 Calls: 108
Total Transports: 77
Total Non-Transports: 31
Total DOC Calls: 18
Total LBH Calls: 12
Average Calls Per Day: 7

Total Times UCEMS Requested Mutual Aid: 3

Total Times UCEMS was Requested for Mutual Aid: 0

UF/IFAS EXTENSION & UNION COUNTY WORKING

FEBRUARY 2024 COMMISSIONERS REPORT



Featured Action: 4-H County Events and Annual Beef Bash

86 4-H members improved their public speaking and self-esteem by participating in County Events.

About 250 people attended the event.

Powered by FPL, 4-H agent taught public speaking skills to 218 sixth graders.

Preparing for the 4-H Day at the Capitol, Sheriff Whitehead shared about the new EOC to create a connection to what legislators accomplish.

The 4-H agent taught on the purpose and procedure of completing a 4-H Record Book.

The 4-H agent attended Youth Development Institute in Ocala, where she increased her knowledge in curriculum and best management practices.

Two farmers were assisted with strawberry water and fertilizer management to help them comply with regulatory benchmarks.

Hosted in Union County, the UF/IFAS Beef Bash cattle show entertained about 350 entries.

166 youth attended 14 club meetings in January.

Event Calendar

- Land Owner Assistance Program, Starke 2/15
- 4-H Goat Show 2/17
- Union County Beekeepers 2/20
- Pesticide CEU Class, Starke 2/22
- Outdoor Expo, Cuscowilla, Alachua Co. 2/24
- Exhibitor Meeting, UCE, 6:30 PM, 2/26
- Pie & Table Setting Contest 3/11
- Exhibit Room Awards 3/11
- FJBA Show 3/11
- Cattle & Swine Weigh In, 4 to 7 PM 3/12
- Rabbit & Poultry Check In, 4 to 7 PM 3/12
- Swine Show, 6PM 3/13
- Skill-A-Thon, 10AM 3/14
- Rabbit & Poultry Awards, 5PM, 3/14
- Cattle Breed Show, 6PM 3/14
- Steer Show, 6PM 3/15
- Goat Show, Check In 8AM, Show 9AM 3/16
- Buyer's Luncheon, 12 Noon 3/16
- Swine & Cattle Sale, 1PM, 3/16
- Pond workshop, Lake Butler 3 or 4/? TBD

JAN24 CONTACT TYPE	4-H	AG/HORT	ADMIN	TOTALS
Office Visits	63	51	19	133
Phone/Texts	122	30	5	157
Emails	1,061	42	15	1,118
Field & Farm Visits		9	8	17
Educational Program	335	90	48	473
Social Media Post Reach	2,788	601		3,389
TOTAL	4,369	823	95	5,287
Educational Works Created	15			15
Education Programs Held	20			20
Meetings Attended	2	4	4	10