

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 19, 2025

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 of 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 Mac Johns; Commissioner Donna Jackson; Commissioner Melissa McNeal; Commissioner Willie Croft; Kellie Hendricks Rhoades, Clerk of Courts & Comptroller; James Williams, County Coordinator

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Chair Dobbs offered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Dobbs read the list of minutes to be considered. Clerk Rhoades presented Budget Amendment 25-09 and Resolution BA 25-04. Commissioner Jackson then asked about the repair status of the grounds at O.J. Phillips Recreation Complex. Mr. Williams stated that repairs were in progress. Commissioner Jackson then noted she didn't see any additional bills. Clerk Rhoades shared that with Directors submitting weekly bills, along with the implementation of the Regular Business Meetings, they have been able to get rid of additional bills completely. **Commissioner Jackson moved to adopt the Consent Agenda, including minutes from the April 21, 2025 Regular Meeting, May 5, 2025 Regular Business Meeting, May 5, 2025 Planning & Zoning Public Hearing, and May 5, 2025 Special Meeting, as well as the Finance Report, Budget Amendment 25-04 and Resolution BA 25-09. Commissioner Johns seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

Clerk Rhoades noted that she worked with Mr. Jim DeValerio, UF/IFAS County Extension Director, to amend their budget by \$2,584 to cover the cost of hiring a summer intern, reducing 4-H Awards. Commissioner Jackson asked if a motion needed to be made on the matter. Clerk Rhoades explained that one did not because the Board had previously voted to delegate the responsibility of line item budget changes to the Department Head and the Clerk. Commissioner Jackson stated that she would like to see that decision moved back to the Board. **Commissioner Jackson moved that responsibility for all budget decisions be with the Board. Commissioner McNeal seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

Commissioner Jackson moved to approve Budget Amendment 25-08, moving funding in the budget to cover the cost of a summer intern. Commissioner McNeal seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF COUNTY/CITY PROPERTY

Mrs. Kim Hayes, City Manager, shared that she had been approached by community members wanting a skate park and pickle ball court. She stated that the City of Lake Butler is looking to sell the lot next to B-Squared and

buy the County's property next to Jackson Building Supply to put these recreational activities on. Commissioner Jackson responded, saying that she is not interested in selling the property because it is so utilized by the County. She also shared that she would like to see a farmers market return to that location one day. Mrs. Hayes noted that she would like to incorporate festivals and markets on the grounds. Commissioner McNeal stated that she would like to look more into it. Commissioner Jackson shared that she likes the idea of a place for community involvement but does not want to sell that piece of property. Chair Dobbs suggested an alternative location adjacent to OJ Phillips. Commissioner Johns stated that he would like to see plans and what the City would be offering. Discussion ensued regarding alternative locations and grants, as well as feasibility.

CONSIDERATION OF RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS, UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE RESTORATION GRANT

Mr. Williams informed the Board that the wrong documentation was originally sent and accepted by the Board, but that this corrected agreement changes the length of time before the Courthouse could possibly be sold from 10 to 15 years. **Commissioner Johns moved to approve the restrictive covenants as presented. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

CONSIDERATION OF 911 GRANT FOR ANNUAL MAINTENANCE AGREEMENTS \$91,460.43

Mr. Williams explained that this is an annual grant agreement for the maintenance of 911 equipment. **Commissioner Croft moved to accept the annual maintenance agreement. Commissioner Johns seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

CONSIDERATION OF 911 GRANT FOR NEW 911 SYSTEM \$182,160.23

Mr. Williams stated that this grant has already been awarded, and action is needed to accept the agreement. **Commissioner Johns moved to accept the grant funding. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 2025-04, JOINT RESOLUTION WITH TOWN OF WORTHINGTON SPRINGS AUTHORIZING AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR MOSQUITO SPRAYING SERVICES

Mr. Williams shared that he was contacted by Worthington Springs about Mosquito Control spraying the city. He noted that Mr. Lamar Griffis, Solid Waste Director, considered the route, labor and supplies and came to an agreed upon amount of \$3,500 to be evaluated for renewal annually. He then stated that he worked with Attorney Wade to draft an interlocal agreement and presented it to the Board. Commissioner Jackson posed questions regarding the process and the agreement. Mr. Griffis and Mr. Williams responded, stating that it is not out of their way to do and will be beneficial for the Mosquito Control program. Clerk Rhoades asked when they will be paid for the work and Mr. Williams informed her that it will be paid at the beginning of the spraying season. **Commissioner Johns moved to adopt Resolution 2025-04. Commissioner McNeal seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

REPORT FROM COUNTY COORDINATOR, JIMMY WILLIAMS AND REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS

Mr. Williams presented the addendum agenda. **Commissioner McNeal moved to advertise for the construction bid of the 238-N to 229 Resurfacing Project. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

Commissioner Croft then moved that CSI provide CEI services for the 238-N Project. Commissioner Johns seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Williams provided updates on the Historic Preservation Grant, the Employee Appreciation Luncheon and the 92nd Project, as well as interviews for the EMS Director Position.

Mr. Lamar Griffis stated that everything is good in the Solid Waste Department.

Mr. Chris Griffis, Road Superintendent, shared that everything is going great.

Mrs. Priti McNutt, Mary C. Brown Public Library Director, stated that their summer programs are going great.

Mr. DeValerio shared that the St. Jude Swine Show raised approximately \$10,000 and that Project Grad was a success, adding that both organizations cleaned up after themselves properly. He then proceeded to compliment the success of Mrs. Megan Daniel, sharing that she received four awards and presented three professional presentations at the UF/IFAS Annual Meeting, and that she obtained her master's degree. Commissioner Johns stated that they are doing a fantastic job. Commissioner Jackson offered that she is thankful to have Mrs. Daniel, Mr. DeValerio and Mrs. Toney.

REPORT FROM KELLIE HENDRICKS RHOADES, CPA, CLERK OF COURTS AND COMPTROLLER

Clerk Rhoades provided updates on the funding received from FEMA from the previous hurricanes that impacted the County. She then noted that all budget forms had been emailed and asked that all Directors have their preliminary budgets to her by June 1.

REPORT FROM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Jackson shared how much she appreciates the Directors and staff. She then stated that she would like to formally adopt the agenda. Clerk Rhoades suggested adopting the agenda immediately after the prayer and pledge upon calling the meeting to order, before Public Comments, sharing that procedure is similar to how the Clerk's Association conducts meetings. **Commissioner Jackson moved to add an item to agendas to adopt the agenda, and addendum if present, to take place before Public Comments. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

Chair Dobbs congratulated Mrs. Daniel on her accomplishments. He then thanked Sheriff Whitehead and Mr. Allen Parrish for assisting with the interviews for the EMS Director position, and Department Heads and their staffs.

Commissioner McNeal stated that she had spoken to Mr. Lamar Griffis about how the County has outgrown some of the collection sites. She believes that the County is losing money and that solutions must be found. Discussion ensued regarding solutions to the issue. Commissioner Johns requested an evaluation of a second dumpsite in between Worthington Springs and Providence. Mr. Williams stated that he was working on obtaining an analysis.

Commissioner Johns shared a letter of complaint about road damage caused by truck drivers in a residential area. He then provided updates on the Providence Fire Station and parks, as well as grants and donations that allowed for updates to the Recreation Complex.

Commissioner Croft thanked all the County's employees. Seeing no further business, Chair Dobbs adjourned the meeting by general consent at 7:07 P.M.

Adopted by vote of the Board of County Commissioners on June 16, 2025.