

**TAYLOR COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**PERRY, FLORIDA**

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2023**

**12:00 P.M.**

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**201 E. GREEN STREET**

**TAYLOR COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLEX**

**OLD POST OFFICE**

THE CHAIR CALLED THE SPECIAL MEETING TO ORDER AT 12:00 P.M. THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD ATTENDED THE MEETING AS FOLLOWS:

<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>HOW ATTENDED</u>	<u>PORTION ATTENDED</u>
1	CHAIR	JAMIE ENGLISH	IN PERSON	ALL
2		JIM MOODY	IN PERSON	ALL
3	V-CHAIR	MICHAEL NEWMAN	IN PERSON	ALL
4		PAM FEAGLE	IN PERSON	ALL
5		THOMAS DEMPS	IN PERSON	ALL

A FULL BOARD BEING PRESENT.

COUNTY STAFF ATTENDED THE MEETING AS FOLLOWS:

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>HOW ATTENDED</u>	<u>PORTION ATTENDED</u>
CO ADMINISTRATOR	LAWANDA PEMBERTON	IN PERSON	ALL
ASST CO ADMIN	MARSHA DURDEN	IN PERSON	ALL
COUNTY ATTORNEY	CONRAD BISHOP	IN PERSON	ALL

COUNTY CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS ATTENDED THE MEETING AS FOLLOWS:

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>HOW ATTENDED</u>	<u>PORTION ATTENDED</u>
CLERK OF COURT	GARY KNOWLES	IN PERSON	ALL
DEPUTY CLERK	SALINA GRUBBS	IN PERSON	ALL

COMMISSIONER DEMPS LED THE BOARD IN PRAYER, FOLLOWED BY THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG. BUSINESS WAS TRANSACTED AS FOLLOWS:

THE CHAIRMAN READ INSTRUCTIONS FOR CONFERENCE CALL-IN LINE.

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

UPON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER FEAGLE, WITH SECOND BY COMMISSIONER DEMPS, AND BY UNANIMOUS VOTE, THE BOARD APPROVED THE AGENDA FOR THIS DATE, AS FOLLOWS:

**4. THE BOARD TO DISCUSS ANNOUNCED CLOSURE OF GEORGIA PACIFIC (GP)/FOLEY CELLULOSE MILL AND STEPS MOVING FORWARD.**

DISCUSSION:

CHAIRMAN ENGLISH THANKED THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY FOR ATTENDING TODAY'S MEETING.

COMMISSIONER FEAGLE-THIS MILL IS VITAL TO THE SUCCESS TO TAYLOR COUNTY. WE HAVE VOLUNTEERS WILLING TO SERVE ON AN ACTION COMMITTEE ON A VOLUNTEER BASIS. THIS WILL BE AN INDEPENDENT COMMITTEE TASK FORCE FORMING ON THEIR OWN.

COMMISSIONER DEMPS-I HAVE TALKED TO LEADERS IN THE COMMUNITY WITH EXPERIENCE IN MILL CLOSURES. COMMISSIONERS NEED TO HELP THE 500 PLUS EMPLOYEES MOVE FORWARD. IT'S OUR JOB TO HELP THEM.

MICHELLE CURTIS-RETIRED FROM THE BUCKEYE MILL FOR 10 YEARS. WE HAVE PUT TOGETHER A GROUP OF PEOPLE TO WORK THE POTENTIAL BUYERS. WE ARE WILLING TO WORK WITH THE COMMUNITY IN ANY WAY WE CAN. WE ARE ALSO WORKING WITH ALAN SHELBY, DIRECTOR OF THE FLORIDA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION WHO HAS EXCELLENT CONTACT IN THE TALLAHASSEE WHO CAN HELP US IN ACCESSING THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE, AND WITH THE LEGISLATIVE PEOPLE. PEOPLE WITH INTEREST IN VOLUNTEERING ON THE ACTION COMMITTEE SHOULD CONTACT ME.

DIANE HEAD, NORTH FLORIDA CAREER SOURCE-OUR 1<sup>ST</sup> GOAL IS TO HELP PEOPLE GET REEMPLOYED. MY STAFF IS AT BIG BEND TECHNICAL, TUESDAY THROUGH THURSDAY AND ALSO AT THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN THE MOBILE UNIT MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY. WE ARE IN CONTACT WITH THE STATE SEARCHING FOR EMPLOYERS NEEDING SKILLED WORKERS.

SANDRA PARKER, CHAMBER CHAIRMAN-FESTIVAL THIS WEEKEND WILL HAVE TWO STANDS WHICH WILL INCLUDE THE NORTH FLORIDA CAREER SOURCE. THERE ARE TWO PATHS THAT NEED TO BE TAKEN AS THE COUNTY. FIRST PATH IS PREPARING OUR EMPLOYEES

FOR NOVEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> AND TO HAVE JOB FAIRS TO HELP THEM WRITE RESUMES. THE COUNTY NEEDS TO ENCOURAGE JOB GROWTH WITH OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES. SECOND PATH IS HOW DO WE FIND A BUYER FOR THE MILL AND WHAT IS GP WILLING TO ACCEPT IN A BUYER?

TAYLOR BROWN-TCDA MET THIS MORNING AND APPOINTED ME TO BE THE INTERIM DIRECTOR. I AM HERE TO BE AVAILABLE TO HELP IN ANY WAY.

STEVE RUFF, FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH PASTOR-OTHER PASTORS IN TOWN HAVE BEGAN PREPARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY AND THIS CLOSURE. OUR CONGREGATORS ARE READY TO HELP WITH THESE AFFECTED WITH THIS DISPLACEMENT.

SHIRLEY HAMPTON, CITY COUNSEL MAYOR- IT WILL TAKE ALL OF US.

JOHN HART, CITY MANAGER-WE WILL HAVE A PRAYER MEETING AT ROSEHEAD PARK THIS WEDNESDAY AT 12:00 P.M.

ZACK COMSTOCK, LOCAL CITIZEN-WE HAVE HAD A LOT OF OPPORTUNITIES COME IN THE PAST THAT WAS TURNED DOWN. WE NEED GROWTH IN OUR COUNTY. ONCE THE MILL COMES BACK, WE CANNOT SETTLE FOR ONE EMPLOYER TO RUN THIS COUNTY.

RICHARD FEAGLE-WE HAVE A BAD SITUATION AND MICHELLE CURTIS IS TAKING ACTION TO START A COMMITTEE. THIS MILL CLOSURE NOT ONLY AFFECTS TAYLOR BUT ALSO IMPACTS THE SURROUNDING COUNTIES AND WE NEED TO INCLUDE THEM AS WELL. SOME OF THE ACTION THAT NEEDS TO BE TAKEN ARE

- REACH OUT TO CHARLES KOCH AND ASK FOR 6 MONTHS.
- REACH OUT TO THE CUSTOMERS.
- ASSESSMENT OF THE MILLS CONDITION.
- IDENTIFY BUYERS FOR THE MILL.
- WHAT IS GP EXPECTING IN A BUYER?
- REQUEST EXTENSION ON PERMITS.
- HIRE A BUSINESS CONSULTING FIRM FOR AN INDEPENDENT APPRAISAL OF THE MILL.
- COMMUNITY FINANCING TO PURCHASE THE MILL.

MIDWAY BAPTIST CHURCH PASTOR-I AM RETIRED FROM THE CLYATTVILLE MILL AND I WILL HELP ANY WAY I CAN.

ALLY JONES, FLORIDA COMMERCE- WE ARE HERE TO HELP WITH JOBS, LOANS AND RESOURCES.

NICOLE SMITH, DEPUTY DISTRICT DIRECTOR-CONGRESSMAN DR. DUNN HAS A CALLED SCHEDULE WITH GP PRESIDENT AND I WILL BRING ALL THESE CONCERNS BACK TO DR. DUNN.

MICHELLE CURTIS- WE NEED A STRONG NETWORK OF CHURCHES TO PROVIDE COUNSELING AND FOOD BANKS.

SARA SUE GRAMBLING, DOCTORS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL- WE WILL WORK ON TELEHEALTH FOR COUNSELING.

NELDA PARKER PACE-I WILL TAKE ON THE FOOD BANK COORDINATION.

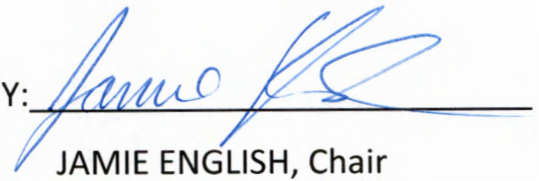
CHRIS ARNOLD, LAKE CITY BAPTIST PASTOR-MY SON WORKS FOR GP. WE NEED TO WORK TOWARDS NEW BUSINESSES AND JOBS.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC, CHAIRMAN ENGLISH CLOSED PUBLIC HEARING.

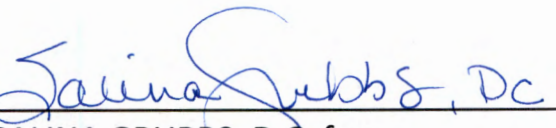
CHAIRMAN ENGLISH ANNOUNCED THAT THE NEXT MEETING ON THE MILL CLOSURE WILL BE THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 21, 2023 AT 6:00 P.M.

THE HOUR BEING APPROXIMATELY 1:43 P.M., AND THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, COMMISSIONER NEWMAN MADE A MOTION, WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER DEMPS, TO ADJOURN. THE MOTION TO ADJOURN PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD, SUBJECT TO CALL.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY:   
JAMIE ENGLISH, Chair

ATTEST:

BY:   
SALINA GRUBBS, D.C. for  
GARY KNOWLES, Clerk