

TAYLOR COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

PERRY, FLORIDA

TUESDAY, MAY 25, 2021

6:00 P.M.

OR AS SOON THEREAFTER AS POSSIBLE

201 E. GREEN STREET

TAYLOR COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLEX

OLD POST OFFICE

THE CHAIR CALLED THE WORKSHOP TO ORDER AT 6:15 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		JAMIE ENGLISH	IN PERSON	ALL
2	VICE-CHAIR	JIM MOODY	IN PERSON	ALL
3		MICHAEL NEWMAN	IN PERSON	ALL
4		PAM FEAGLE	IN PERSON	ALL
5	CHAIR	THOMAS DEMPS	IN PERSON	ALL

COUNTY STAFF ATTENDED THE MEETING AS FOLLOWS:

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>HOW ATTENDED</u>	<u>PORTION ATTENDED</u>
COUNTY ADMIN.	LAWANDA PEMBERTON	IN PERSON	ALL
ASST CO ADMIN	MARSHA DURDEN	IN PERSON	ALL
COUNTY ATTORNEY	CONRAD BISHOP	IN PERSON	ALL
MARINE AGENT	VICTOR BLANCO	IN PERSON	ALL
COUNTY ENGINEER	KENNETH DUDLEY	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

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

THE CHAIRPERSON READ INSTRUCTIONS FOR CONFERENCE CALL-IN LINE.

SENATOR AUSLEY WAS RUNNING LATE SO THE BOARD CONTINUED WITH ITEM NO. 4.

4. THE CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS APPEARED TO DISCUSS THE MINIMUM WAGE IMPACT.

DISCUSSION:

SHERIFF WAYNE PADGET APPEARED AND HANDED THE BOARD A LETTER WITH HIS BUDGET INTENTIONS FOR 2022, AND REQUESTED THAT THE BOARD GIVE HIS REQUEST CAREFUL CONSIDERATION.

DANA SOUTHERLAND, SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS – WE ARE HERE TO DISCUSS THE UPCOMING BUDGET AND WAYS TO IMPLEMENT UNFUNDED MANDATES. THE VOTERS HAVE SPOKEN, 60.8% OF THE VOTERS, IN SUPPORT OF THE \$15 MINIMUM WAGE MANDATE. THE BOARD AND THE CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO MOVE FORWARD. WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER. WE NEED TO GET CREATIVE WITH THE REVENUE. PLEASE CONSIDER WHAT IS GOOD FOR THE COUNTY EMPLOYEES. LET'S GET THE \$10/HOUR FUNDED THIS YEAR, EVEN THOUGH WE KNOW IT'S NOT FAIR. NOT FAIR FOR NEW EMPLOYEES TO COME IN MAKING THE SAME, OR CLOSE TO THE SAME, AS OUR SEASONED EMPLOYEES. WITH DECLINING MORALE AND WITHOUT DEDICATED STAFF, OUR OFFICES WILL NOT RUN SMOOTHLY. THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX AND LOOK FOR EVERY OPTION AVAILABLE TO GENERATE REVENUE AND MAKE THE CHANGES FAIR.

MARK WIGGINS, TAX COLLECTOR – I HAVE HAD THE PLEASURE TO SIT WHERE YOU ARE AND I'VE FELT YOUR PAIN. WE MUST PUT UP A UNITED FRONT FOR OUR EMPLOYEES AND EXPLORE EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT REGARDING THIS UNFUNDED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT. THANKS TO LAWANDA PEMBERTON, HER EFFORTS HAVE BEEN BENEFICIAL AS WE FACE THIS CHALLENGE.

GARY KNOWLES, CLERK OF COURT – THIS BOARD IS DOING A GREAT JOB. LETS GET TO THE \$10/HOUR THIS YEAR AND WORK TOWARD THE \$1.00/HOUR PER YEAR, FOR THE NEXT FIVE (5) YEARS, IN ORDER TO MEET THIS \$15.00/HOUR MINIMUM WAGE MANDATE. MY STAFF AND I ARE COMMITTED TO GET THE NUMBERS THE BOARD NEEDS FOR THEIR INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE. WE HAVE TO GET AHEAD OF THE MINIMUM WAGE MANDATE THIS YEAR BY WORKING TOGETHER.

SHAWNA BEACH, PROPERTY APPRAISER – I CONCUR WITH MY FELLOW CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS, AND I ASK WHAT CAN WE DO TO GET SUSTAINABLE RESIDENTIAL REVENUE. WE MUST INCREASE THE EMPLOYEE WAGE \$1.00/HOUR AND \$2.00/HOUR FOR SWORN OFFICERS. WE HAVE TO INCREASE THE COUNTY'S VALUE TO INCREASE ITS ATTRACTION. THERE WILL BE AN INCREASE IN THE TAX ROLL NEXT YEAR TO HELP ELIVIAE THESE BUDGET INCREASES. THE COUNTY IS GROWING DESPITE ITSELF BECAUSE FLORIDA IS DOING SOMETHING RIGHT. AND WE MUST DO WHAT'S RIGHT AND SPEED OUR VISION 2060 PLAN THROUGH.

COMMISSIONER NEWMAN – THAT YOU ALL, WE WILL ALL WORK TOGETHER TO GET THERE.

COMMISSIONER FEAGLE – I FEEL Y'ALL ARE PUTTING US INTO AN IMPOSSIBLE SITUATION. WE CAN RAISE FEES AND TAXES, WE CAN CUT SERVICES AND EMPLOYEES. THIS BOARD HAS ALWAYS LOOKED OUT FOR THE COUNTY EMPLOYEES, DESPITE PUBLIC CRITICISM. TAX FREE CHRISTMAS BONUSES, WE PAY THE EMPLOYEE PORTION OF THEIR HEALTH INSURANCE. I WANT TO HEAR FROM THE PUBLIC. IF THE PUBLIC SAYS RAISE TAXES AND FEES AND CUT SERVICES AND EMPLOYEES, I'M ALL FOR IT.

COMMISSIONER ENGLISH – THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE AND BUDGET TALKS WILL BE CHALLENGING THIS YEAR, BUT I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH EACH OF YOU.

COMMISSIONER MOODY – I WILL SIT DOWN WITH EACH OF YOU AND WE WILL WORK TOGETHER ON THIS CHALLENGE.

CHAIRMAN DEMPS – WE HAVE A BUDGET COMING AND WE WILL WORK TOGETHER.

3. SENATOR LORANNE AUSLEY TO PRESENT LEGISLATIVE UPATE.

SENATOR AUSLEY – I’M GLAD TO HAVE BEEN HERE FOR THIS UNPRECEDENTED UNITED FRONT AS YOU WORK THROUGH YOUR BUDGET PROCESS. WE HAVE SEEN SOME NON-RECURRING REVENUE THAT HAS ALLOWED US TO FILL SOME HOLES IN THE STATE BUDGET. FOREST CAPITAL HALL (FCH) IMPROVEMENT PROJECT HAS BEEN ALLOCATED \$81,675. LET’S MAKE SURE TO CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER TO IDENTIFY WHAT YOUR NON-RECURRING NEEDS ARE AND FINDING FUNDING. THERE IS \$7B IN FUNDS WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE STATE BUDGET TO SORT THRU. WE WERE ABLE TO SAVE THE PRISONS AND KEEP THEM OPEN. PIECES OF MY BROADBAND BILL HAVE PASSED, INCLUDING \$1.5M FOR STATEWIDE MAPPING. THIS WILL ENSURE ACCURATE DATA WHICH WILL ALLOW US TO BRING INTERNET TO PLACES THAT DON’T HAVE IT. I WILL CONTINUE TO WORK WITH THE COUNTY ON THE CHALLENGES YOU ARE FACING. SCRAP AND SCOP HAVE BEEN REDUCED AND WE ARE WORKING WITH DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION(DOT) FOR SOME FUNDING.

DISCUSSION:

COMMISSIONER FEAGLE – THANK YOU FOR COMING AND GIVING AN UPDATE. WE ARE FACING A DELIMA AND WE NEED SOME HELP. WE ARE BEING BACKED INTO A CORNER WITH THE \$15 PER HOUR MINIMUM WAGE MANDATE.

COMMISSIONER NEWMAN – THANK YOUR FOR YOUR TIME AND EFFORT IN ASSISTING TAYLOR COUNTY.

COMMISSIONER ENGLISH – THANK YOU FOR COMING.

COMMISSIONER MOODY – THANK YOU FOR HELPING US WITH THE PRISON SITUATION.

CHAIRMAN DEMPS – I ECHO THE SAME, BUT WE DO NEED MONEY TO HELP US OUT.

COUNTY ATTORNEY – IF THEY CLOSE OUR PRISON, WE WANT OUR LAND BACK.

5. HEATHER ENCINOSA, NABORS GIBLIN & NICKERSON (NGN), AND JEFF RACKLEY GOVERNMENT SERVICES GROUP (GSG) TO DISCUSS SOLID WASTE STUDY.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – WE NEED TO TABLE THIS ITEM AND SET UP A SPECIAL WORKSHOP FOR DISCUSSION.

IT WAS A CONSENSUS OF THE BOARD TO TABLE ITEM NO. 5.

6. THE BOARD TO DISCUSS PARENT RUN BASEBALL.

DISCUSSION:

COMMISSIONER ENGLISH – I HAVE BEEN TALKING WITH THE TAYLOR COUNTY RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD (TCRAB) REGARDING TRANSITIONING BASEBALL FROM COUNTY-RUN TO PARENT-RUN, LIKE SOCCER AND SOFTBALL ARE NOW. SOFTBALL TRANSITIONED TO COMPLETELY SELF-FUNDED IN FIVE (5) YEARS, AND THIS IS THEIR FIRST YEAR AS A STAND-ALONE GROUP. WE WOULD LOOK AT MOVING BASEBALL TO BE SELF-FUNDED IN THREE (3) YEARS. TCRAB IS A FIVE (5) MEMBER BOARD, WITH A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) AND BY-LAWS AND WE WOULD LIKE TO TRANSITION BASEBALL TO PARENT-RUN AND SELF FUNDED STATUS. I AM ASKING FOR THE BLESSING OF THE BOARD FOR TCRAB TO PRESENT THIS TO THE BOARD AT THE SECOND MEETING IN JUNE FOR THE BOARD’S APPROVAL. WE WOULD HAVE TO TALK ABOUT CONCESSIONS.

COMMISSIONER FEAGLE – SOCCER AND SOFTBALL HAVE BEEN VERY SUCCESSFULLY RUN BY PARENTS, AND IF THIS IS THE SAME WAY, I AM FOR IT, BUT WOULD LIKE MORE OF THE DETAILS.

COMMISSIONER NEWMAN – I WOULD SUPPORT IT AND THANK YOU TO THIS ORGANIZATION FOR THEIR EFFORTS.

COMMISSIONER MOODY – I HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH IT, IT’S FOR THE KIDS AND HELPS KEEP THEM OFF THE STREETS.

A MEMBER OF TCRAB, PRESENT IN THE AUDIENCE, STATED THAT THE RECREATION DIRECTOR (GREG MULLINS) DOES A GREAT JOB, AND EVEN WITH THESE SPORTS TRANSITIONING TO PARENT-RUN, THERE IS PLENTY OF WORK FOR HIM TO DO. HE IS AN ASSET TO OUR YOUTH AND OUR COMMUNITY.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – THIS WOULD ALLOW THE RECREATION DIRECTOR AND SUPPORT STAFF TO FOCUS MORE ON THE FACILITY UP-KEEP AND SEEKING FUTURE EVENTS.

COMMISSIONER FEAGLE STATED THAT SHE WILL VOLUNTEER HER TIME IN THE CONSESSION STANDS WHEN NEEDED.

7. THE BOARD TO DISCUSS DISC GOLF AT THE SPORTS COMPLEX.

DISCUSSION:

COMMISSIONER ENGLISH – THIS IS AN ASSOCIATION (TAYLOR COUNTY DISC GOLF CLUB) LOOKING TO PUT A DISC GOLF COURSE THAT WOULD HAVE A PROFESSIONAL LAYOUT AND LOOK. THE ASSOCIATION HAS ALREADY DONATED THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS AND MANY HOURS INTO THE START-UP OF THIS SPORT IN TAYLOR COUNTY. THEY ARE LOOKING FOR ABOUT \$10,000 TO COMPLETE THE COURSE AT THE SPORTS COMPLEX, BY FUNDING THE PURCHASE OF A-TIER TOURNAMENT RATED BASKETS, BASKET SLEEVES, TEE PADS AND SIGNAGE.

COMMISSIONER MOODY – SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING WE NEED.

COMMISSIONER FEAGLE – WE NEED STAFF INPUT AND RECURRING COST FIGURES.

- 8. CHRIS LANGSTON, PRESIDENT, COASTLINE ENVIRONMENTAL MATERIALS (CEM), TO DISCUSS LIBERTY COUNTY'S REQUEST FOR SUPPORT IN THEIR EFFORTS TO OBTAIN STATE OWNED LANDS FOR THE PURPOSES OF MINING FOSSILIZED SHELL; WITH THE PRIMARY GOAL TO AUGMENT THE RESTORATION OF APALACHICOLA BAY'S OYSTER HABITAT.**

DISCUSSION:

MR. LANGSTON APPEARED AND GAVE A PRESENTATION ON A PROPOSAL TO BENEFIT FLORIDA LAND AND WATERS. MR. LANGSTON ALSO READ A LETTER FROM LIBERTY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, REQUESTING OUR BOARD SUPPORT TO OBTAIN THESE LANDS LOCATED IN TATE'S HELL STATE FOREST.

COMMISSIONER FEAGLE – FRANKLIN COUNTY DOES NOT WANT THIS MINE AND I AM NOT FOR THIS AND COMPETING WITH MINES FROM TAYLOR COUNTY.

COMMISSIONER MOODY – PEOPLE FROM FRANKLIN COUNTY ARE AGAINST THIS AND WE NEED TO STAY OUT OF IT.

COMMISSIONER ENGLISH – I DO NOT KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT THIS TO MAKE A DECISION.

COMMISSIONER NEWMAN – I DON'T THINK THERE IS COMPETITION WITH LOCAL MINES, I WOULD LIKE TO SEE OYSTER FARMING RESTORED. I DON'T KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT THIS PROJECT.

9. VICTOR BLANCO, MARINE AGENT, TO DISCUSS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) WITH ANDERSON-COLUMBIA FOR A NEW OFFSHORE ARTIFICIAL REEF IN TAYLOR COUNTY.

DISCUSSION:

MR. BLANCO – I HAVE DISCUSSED WITH ANDERSON-COLUMBIA ABOUT A NEW OFFSHORE ARTIFICIAL REEF. THE ONLY AGENCIES THAT GET PERMITS FOR REEFS ARE STATE, COUNTIES, CITIES AND UNIVERSITIES.

COMMISSIONER MOODY – WHERE ARE THEY LOOKING TO PUT THE REEF?

MR. BLANCO – 90 FEET DEEP, 60 MILES OUT. WE HAVE IDENTIFIED THREE (3) POTENTIAL SHALLOW WATER REEF SITES, BUT SHALLOW WATER IS DIFFICULT BECAUSE OF SEA GRASSES.

COMMISSIONER MOODY – WHAT HAPPENED WITH “NO-WAKE” SIGN AT SPRING WARRIOR?

MR. BLANCO – THE CONTRACTOR COULD NOT GET A BARGE IN TO INSTALL THE SIGN. I ASKED THE CONTRACTOR AND I AM WAITING ON THEIR ANSWER. FLORIDA WILDLIFE COMMISSION (FWC) SAYS WE HAVE TO DO THE SIGN ACCORDING TO PERMIT OR NOT AT ALL.

COMMISSIONER NEWMAN – THE ANDERSON-COLUMBIA IS THE NEW PROPOSED REEF?

MR. BLANCO – YES.

MR. BLANCO – THE STEINHATCHEE REEF PERMIT HOLDER IS UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA.

COMMISSIONER ENGLISH – WHEN CAN WE GET A SURVEY OF THE BOTTOM FOR INSHORE REEF?

MR. BLANCO – WE CAN GO NEXT WEEK IF WE HAVE A SKIFF TO INSTALL THE EQUIPMENT ON.

10. THE BOARD TO DISCUSS THE USACE FLOOD MITIGATION STUDY.

DISCUSSION:

KENNETH DUDLEY, COUNTY ENGINEER – THIS PROGRAM IS TO HELP WITH FLOOD PLANE AREAS. THEY PROVIDE ASSISTANCE WITH FLOOD PLANE ISSUES. WE FOCUS ON FLOOD RISK REDUCTION AND FLOOD WATER MANAGEMENT. WE REUSED DRAFT SCOPE OF WORK. STUDY COST IS \$150,000 BUT THE ARMY CORP OF ENGINEERS WILL FUND THAT COST. STORM WATER DRAINAGE IS PART OF WHAT IS ALLOWED IN AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN. LET’S CONSIDER USING THE \$4.1M FOR THIS PROJECT.

COMMISSIONER FEAGLE – THIS PROJECT IS A NECESSITY AND IT IS WISE TO USE THIS MONEY. CAN THIS BE DONE BY 2024?

COUNTY ENGINEER – SHOULD BE ABLE TO COMPLETE IN TWENTY-FOUR (24) MONTHS.

COMMISSIONER NEWMAN – THIS WOULD HELP A LOT OF PEOPLE AND THIS IS GOOD TIMING.

11. THE BOARD TO DISCUSS AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDING.

DISCUSSION:

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – TO REVIEW UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY ISSUED FRAMEWORK BUT HAS NOT RELEASED FINAL DIRECTIONS. IN JULY OR AUGUST, WE SHOULD RECEIVE FINAL GUIDANCE. WE HAVE TO BE CAUTIOUS OF DUPLICATING BENEFITS. THERE MAY BE STATE ASSISTANCE FOR RENTAL AND UTILITIES. WE WOULD ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH CONSULTANTS TO HELP WITH GRANT REPORTING AND SUBMITTING REIMBURSEMENTS.

12. THE BOARD TO DISCUSS THE COUNTY MILLING POLICY.

DISCUSSION:

COMMISSIONER NEWMAN – I HAVE HAD SEVERAL CONVERSATIONS ABOUT THE MILLING POLICY. SOME RESIDENTS HAVE ASKED FOR MILLING AND THE POLICY DOES NOT ADDRESS SOME SMALL SPOT MILLINGS. IS IT POSSIBLE TO USE A MOTOR GRADER INSTEAD OF A PAVING MACHINE?

COMMISSIONER FEAGLE – I HAVE BEEN AGAINST MILLING BECAUSE OF TRAFFIC AND DECIDING WHO GETS IT. IT WILL PUT A STRAIN ON STAFF.

COMMISSIONER MOODY – I DON'T THINK WE WOULD EVER HAVE ENOUGH MONEY BY DISTRICT TO PAVE A ROAD. I WOULD BE FOR RESIDENTS PAYING FOR THE MILLING AND THE COUNTY MOTOR GRADER SPREADING IT.

COUNTY ENGINEER – WE ARE DISCUSSING THE MILLING POLICY FROM 2013. WE ARE SEEING THE WE HAVE TRIED DIFFERENT THINGS. IT IS DONE THIS WAY BECAUSE IT PRODUCES THE BEST RESULTS. WE STRONGLY DISCOURAGE PRIVATE WORK ON PUBLIC ROADS, THEN THE COUNTY IS LIABLE FOR THE ROAD.

COMMISSIONER FEAGLE – I AGREE WITH YOU. WHEN PUBLIC FUNDS ARE USED FOR ONE PERSON, IS THAT OKAY?

COMMISSIONER NEWMAN – IT SEEMS IT WOULD BE OKAY FOR A RESIDENT TO PURCHASE MATERIAL AND THE COUNTY TO SPREAD IT.

13. THE BOARD TO DISCUSS THE RENAMING OF HIGHWAY 14 IN HONOR OF LEROY TEDDER.

DISCUSSION:

COMMISSIONER ENGLISH – HIGHWAY 98 TO ECONFINA RIVER. MR. TEDDER WAS IN THE BATTLE OF NORMANDY. HE WAS A PART OF HELPING DEVELOP HICKORY MOUND. I REQUEST THAT DESIGNATING THE ROAD AS LEROY TEDDER ROAD BE PLACED ON THE JUNE 7 MEETING TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION.

14. THE BOARD TO DISCUSS THE JUNE WORKSHOP.

IT WAS A CONSENSUS OF THE BOARD TO MOVE TO JUNE 22 FOLLOWING THE 9:00 A.M. REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD.

15. THE BOARD TO DISCUSS ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES SUPERINTENDENT JOB DESCRIPTION CHANGES.

DISCUSSION:

WITH THE RETIREMENT OF THE MOSQUITO CONTROL COORDINATOR, WE PLAN TO FILL ANIMAL CONTROL TO REPORT TO ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES.

16. THE BOARD TO DISCUSS THE MASTER PROJECT LIST.

DISCUSSION:

SOME PROJECTS ARE ON HOLD DUE TO HIGH MATERIAL COSTS AND LOSS OF INMATE SQUADS.

FOREST CAPITAL HALL (FCH) PAVING PROJECT – WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT COSTS. WE NEED MORE DIRECTION OR VISION FOR THIS AREA. ARE WE REDESIGNING OR JUST RESURFACING WHAT IS THERE?

COMMISSIONER NEWMAN – WE NEED TO EXPLORE REMOVING TREES AND RESURFACE WHAT IS THERE, DEPENDING ON COSTS. IT'S PUBLIC SAFETY.

COMMISSIONER FEAGLE – HANDICAP PARKING NEEDS TO BE IMPROVED.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – I WILL TALK TO STAFF ABOUT COSTS OF OFFERED DESIGN.

THE HOUR BEING APPROXIMATELY 9:40 P.M., AND THERE BEING NO FURTHER DISCUSSION,
THE WORKSHOP CLOSED.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY: _____
THOMAS DEMPS, Chair

ATTEST:

BY: _____
GARY KNOWLES, Clerk