

**CALHOUN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 23, 2017**

**PRESENT AND ACTING:**

**DANNY RAY WISE, CHAIRMAN  
DARRELL MCDUGALD  
DENNIS JONES  
JERAL HALL**

**MATT FUQUA, ATTORNEY  
CARLA A. HAND, CLERK OF COURT AND COUNTY COMPTROLLER  
SARAH WILLIAMS, CLERK ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
TAD SCOTT, DEPUTY SHERIFF**

Chairman Wise called the meeting held in the Regular Meeting room to order at 6:00 P.M.; CT. Commissioner Jones led the Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND VOUCHERS**

A motion to approve the minutes and vouchers as published on the agenda (the May 9, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes; vouchers for warrants: accounts payable warrants – 1705-G2, 1705-2G, 1705-GS, 1705-2RD, 1705-2L, 1705-2E, 1705-2S, 1705-2W and payroll warrants – PR17-B14, PR17-B14, PR050417, PR051817) was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Hall. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

**SANDY KELLY – WEATHERIZATION BIDS**

Attorney Fuqua opened and read aloud the Weatherization bids.

<b>Weatherization Jobs</b>	
Client Names	<b>Chariot Construction</b>
Josephine Brigham	\$5,675.00
Patricia George	\$10,200.00
Wanda Clark	\$6,175.00
Betty Todd	\$4,750.00
Nancy Alfaro	\$8,500.00
*\$9,905 cap for all Weatherization jobs	

- ❖ Commissioner McDougald made a motion to award the Weatherization jobs to Chariot Construction (only bidder) contingent upon all the paperwork being in order and contingent upon negotiations with the contractor to get the Patricia George job within the cap amount. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

### **CALHOUN COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO DEEM ASSET #1433**

#### **OBSOLETE**

Clerk Hand stated the Property Appraiser would like to give the asset (Panasonic tablet) to another Property Appraiser office (Gadsden County) who has the same software. Chairman Wise asked if there is a form to keep on record stating where the asset was sent. Clerk Hand stated it would only need to be recorded in the minutes for this meeting. Commissioner McDougald asked if the asset was a computer program. Clerk Hand stated the asset is an old laptop (2010) that cannot be used in our Property Appraiser's office any more.

- ❖ Commissioner McDougald made a motion to approve the Property Appraiser's request. Commissioner Hall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

### **JOHN MORGAN DAVIS – IDA BOARD CHAIRMAN**

Mr. Davis stated he met with Mr. John Collins from Avon Engineering yesterday afternoon on the closeout of the taxiway project. Mr. Davis stated everything is complete on the airport's end, and Mr. Collins would be meeting with the Clerk's office to be sure there are no further expenses that need to be included in the closeout paperwork. Mr. Davis stated the closeout should be complete in the next month.

Mr. Davis stated he talked with Mr. Collins about some changes needed on the north taxiway in regards to water drainage. Mr. Davis stated they should have a cost estimate in the next couple of weeks on the project.

Mr. Davis stated that in July of this year FDOT would have more money available for airport projects. Mr. Davis stated the IDA Board would be planning some future projects because in July of next year FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) will have more funding available for the airport.

Mr. Davis stated he met with Ms. Fran Snyder and she has agreed to allow the airport onto her property for removal of beavers, which is adjacent to the airport, and will provide an authorization letter. Mr. Davis stated an easement was discussed, but Ms. Snyder would rather provide a letter to the airport stating they were allowed to enter her property than have an easement recorded.

### **CHELSEA SNOWDEN – PROJECTS AND GRANTS COORDINATOR**

Ms. Snowden presented to the Board for approval and execution Resolution 2017-10 on the SCRAP (Small County Road Assistance Program) agreement with FDOT on the River Street project. Ms. Snowden stated there was an error in the initial agreement from FDOT for CEI services, noted by the Clerk's office. Ms. Snowden stated she reached out to FDOT for an amended agreement, and this agreement will reduce CEI services to \$54,454.00.

**RESOLUTION OF CALHOUN COUNTY, FLORIDA  
RESOLUTION NO. 2017-10**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CALHOUN COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER  
INTO THE "FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE SMALL COUNTY ROAD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AGREEMENT"**

**WHEREAS**, Calhoun County, Florida, has requested the State of Florida, Department of Transportation, for financial assistance for costs directly related to the resurfacing or reconstruction of SE River Street from Neal Boat Landing to SR 20 West.

**WHEREAS**, the State of Florida, Department of Transportation and the County mutually agree to amend the Agreement by correcting a typographical error for the CEI participation amount for the corrected amount of Fifty-Four Thousand Four Hundred Fifty-Four dollars (\$54,454.00) referenced in Exhibit "C"

**WHEREAS**, the "First Amendment to the State of Florida, Department of Transportation, Small County Road Assistance Program" requires that a Resolution be passed by the Board of County Commissioners of Calhoun County, Florida authorizing the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners of Calhoun County, Florida, to execute and enter into the "First Amendment State of Florida, Department of Transportation, Small County Road Assistance Program Agreement attached hereto.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Calhoun County, Florida, as follows:

1. The Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners of Calhoun County, Florida, is authorized to enter into and execute the "First Amendment to State of Florida, Department of Transportation, Small County Road Assistance Program Agreement" attached hereto as EXHIBIT "A".

**DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Calhoun County, Florida, this 23rd day of May, 2017.

- ❖ Commissioner McDougald made a motion to approve Resolution 2017-10. Commissioner Hall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

Ms. Snowden presented to the Board for execution and approval the first amendment to the SCRAP River Street project.

- ❖ Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the first amendment to the SCRAP River Street project. Commissioner McDougald seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

Ms. Snowden presented to the Board for approval and execution change order one (1) for the County Road 69A Phase II project. Ms. Snowden stated there was an error of \$299.46 on the initial bid amount for construction. Roberts & Roberts, Inc. Ms. Snowden stated the contractor has agreed to the change

order reduction of \$299.46 to stay within the grant amount. (The contract total including this change order is \$378,861.)

- ❖ Commissioner McDougald made a motion to approve change order one (1) for the County Road 69A Phase II project. Commissioner Hall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

**JUSTIN FORD, DEWBERRY ENGINEERS, INC./PREBLE-RISH – COUNTY ENGINEER**

Mr. Ford stated there are five (5) road projects in the design phase, and he would be contacting the Commissioners individually in order to make sure everyone is on the same page with the projects.

Mr. Ford stated currently there is one (1) FEMA project under construction, and the others on the project list are complete. Mr. Ford stated Ocheessee Landing Road is currently under construction by North Florida Construction, Inc., and Roberts & Roberts, Inc. would be starting on Jim Godwin Road within the next couple of weeks.

Mr. Ford stated in a few weeks there will be at least three (3) more FEMA projects ready for bidding, Coy Lindsey Road, Amaziah Peacock Road, and Sam Duncan Road.

Mr. Ford stated the changes to the projects that were bid in the past months that came in over budget have been submitted to FDOT and the reductions in scope have been approved. Mr. Ford stated he has change orders for the two (2) roads, Matthew Wood/Charlie Wood Road and Roy Golden Road, removing the items necessary to get the projects within budget.

Mr. Ford presented to the Board contract change order one (1) for Roy Golden Road with Roberts & Roberts, Inc. Mr. Ford stated there were a lot of smaller items they were able to take out of the scope of work that they would have liked to be able to include, but were not necessarily needed such as additional amounts of sod, and driveways paved to the right of way line. Mr. Ford stated there is a net reduction of \$111,962.00, and the contractor and DOT have approved of the changes. (The contract total including this change order is \$466,547.10.) Commissioner McDougald asked why the job came in higher than intended. Mr. Ford stated DOT has gotten tight on their money recently, and on the projects that come in under budget DOT immediately issues a change order to take the excess funding back. Mr. Ford stated they would rather spend as much in the county as possible, so Dewberry designs the projects to include many wanted extras and if necessary, these extras can be removed. Mr. Ford stated it is easier to reduce the scope of work than ask DOT to increase the scope of work. Mr. Ford stated this would probably be Dewberry's approach on all projects moving forward.

- ❖ Commissioner McDougald made a motion to approve change order 1 with Roberts and Roberts Inc. for Roy Golden Road SCRAP. Commissioner Hall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

Mr. Ford presented to the Board change order one (1) for Matthew Wood/Charlie Wood Road with Roberts & Roberts, Inc. Mr. Ford stated the net deductive change order is for \$247,956.40. (The contract total including this change order is \$451,314.70) Mr. Ford stated this road already has lime rock on it and the design included additional lime rock that is not a necessity. Mr. Ford stated they also

included a rubble ditch lining, which is also not a necessity because there has not been erosion problems in the area.

- ❖ Commissioner McDougald made a motion to approve change order 1 with Roberts & Roberts Inc. for Matthew Wood/Charlie Wood Road. Commissioner Hall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

**CARLA A. HAND, CLERK OF COURT AND COUNTY COMPTROLLER**

Clerk Hand stated the Sheriff is requesting reimbursement of \$400 from the Crime Prevention Funds for a radio advertisement. A transcript of the advertisement was included in the Commissioner's agenda packets. Clerk Hand stated Crime Prevention Funds are generated from court costs assessed and collected pursuant to Chapter 775 Section 083 (2) FS. The county, in consultation with the sheriff, must expend such funds for crime prevention programs in the county.

- ❖ Commissioner McDougald made a motion to approve the Sheriff's request. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

Clerk Hand asked permission for the Chairman to execute the agreement for the Voting Systems Assistance Grant funds. Clerk Hand stated she emailed each Commissioner a copy of the agreement. Clerk Hand stated Attachment A of the agreement includes four annual payments of \$13,165 for a total of \$52,660.

- ❖ Commissioner McDougald made a motion to approve the agreement for the Voting Systems Assistance Grant funds. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

Clerk Hand presented to the Board for approval Budget Amendment #4 providing funds for new voter equipment from the General Fund Reserve for Contingencies. Clerk Hand stated the Board approved the purchase on May 9, 2017 for \$170,000. The grant funds (four annual payments of \$13,165) will be used to help pay for the \$170,000 purchase of new voter equipment. Commissioner McDougald asked if the grant funds received could be placed back in the budget. Clerk Hand stated the money could be placed back in the budget.

Calhoun County  
Board of County Commissioners  
Budget Amendment  
Fiscal Year 2016/2017

Amendment to 2016-2017 budget, reallocating funds from General Fund's Reserve for Contingencies to General Fund's – Financial and Administrative – for Voting Equipment

## General Fund

<u>Account #</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>	<u>Revised Budget</u>
<b>Expenditures</b>					
Financial and Administration:					
01513-64000	Equipment	\$ -	170,000	-	170,000
Reserves:					
01984-95000	Reserve for Contingencies	399,471	-	(170,000)	229,471
	Expenditure total	\$399,471	\$170,000	\$(170,000)	\$399,471

This Budget Amendment duly approved and adopted by the Calhoun County Board of County Commissioners at their regular meeting this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of May 2017.

- ❖ Commissioner McDougald made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #4. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

Clerk Hand stated the Supervisor of Elections is asking for approval to use \$310.65 of her 2016-2017 budget as a 15% grant match for the 2016-2017 Federal Election Administration Activities grant and approval to increase her budget by the grant award.

- ❖ Commissioner Hall made a motion to approve the Supervisor of Elections requests. Commissioner McDougald seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

**ATTORNEY FUQUA**

Attorney Fuqua stated at the last meeting a copy of the proposed Marijuana Dispensing Ordinance was distributed for the Commissioner's review. Attorney Fuqua asked for the Board's thoughts on the Ordinance, and if they would like to move forward with the ordinance. Commissioner McDougald asked if Attorney Fuqua had seen this ordinance used in other counties. Attorney Fuqua stated most other counties are still in the moratorium period and have not adopted ordinances yet. Chairman Wise stated the major seven (7) companies in the marijuana industry in Florida want a monopoly in communities on dispensaries. Chairman Wise stated if the county decides to have only one dispensary, there would be no competition and will likely make it very expensive for patients who want to receive medical marijuana. Chairman Wise stated he does not believe a dispensary will locate in our county because it is so expensive to operate. There was further discussion about the proposed ordinance. Chairman Wise stated he wants to be sure the citizens of the county are best served. Attorney Fuqua stated the Commissioners could continue thinking about how they want to approach the ordinance.

Attorney Fuqua stated he has been working on the airport ordinance that will meet DOT approval. Commissioner McDougald asked what ordinance Attorney Fuqua was referencing. Attorney Fuqua stated the county must amend their airport-zoning ordinance. Attorney Fuqua stated there are some things that have to be changed to protect the county and help the airport grow. Chairman Wise asked if there would be anything about the tree top heights around the airport. Attorney Fuqua stated that issue is separate and would not be addressed in this ordinance. There was further discussion about the ordinance.

Attorney Fuqua stated the county received an inquiry about a solar farm, and the person inquiring wanted an advalorem tax abatement for the property of 80%. Attorney Fuqua stated there is a new statute that went through the legislature last week, but the governor has not signed yet, that gives an automatic 80% tax abatement on solar farms. Attorney Fuqua stated he has not read the full text of the statute but the summary says if you are in a fiscally constrained county and apply for a zoning map amendment for a solar farm, you are not qualified for a tax abatement. Attorney Fuqua stated the county might want to allow the tax abatement anyway and receive the taxes generated from the other 20%. Attorney Fuqua stated he and Clerk Hand are doing more research on the subject. Commissioner McDougald asked if this would be for an indefinite amount of time. Attorney Fuqua stated the abatement would last for 17 to 20 years. Chairman Wise asked how many jobs the solar farm would generate. Attorney Fuqua stated there would likely be only one job, but under the new statute no new jobs have to be generated in order to qualify for the tax abatement. Commissioner McDougald stated the information the Commissioners received stated there would be no new jobs created. Attorney Fuqua stated the solar farm could still increase the advalorem taxes. Clerk Hand stated the County's advalorem taxes would be increased by \$140,000. There was further discussion about the solar farm. Attorney Fuqua stated he would do more research on the subject.

Attorney Fuqua stated there was an attorney general's opinion out of Palm Beach County that said a county could have a sales surtax that would not affect the advalorem tax rate, such as the fire surtax Liberty County enacted. Attorney Fuqua stated this is an unofficial opinion, and he has talked to other attorneys in Palm Beach County who said they do not trust the opinion, but the statute does not make sense. Attorney Fuqua stated it might make sense for Calhoun County to take the risk and put it on the ballot for the citizens to vote on. Attorney Fuqua stated by the time this would be passed, Liberty County would have went through several audits and the county could change things before the surtax would be implemented. Attorney Fuqua stated with the Board's permission, he would suggest moving forward with placing the fire surtax on the next voting ballot. Commissioner McDougald asked about Liberty County's fire surtax amount. Attorney Fuqua stated it is a half-cent surtax. Commissioner McDougald asked how much money they estimated to generate with the surtax. Clerk Hand stated Liberty County estimates they will generate approximately \$150,000, but Calhoun County should be approximately \$350,000. There was further discussion about the surtax. Commissioner McDougald stated he is not in favor of an additional sales tax unless advalorem taxes are reduced. Commissioner McDougald stated the volunteer fire departments would receive all the surtax funds, which would give them a significant increase in funding from what they receive from advalorem taxes. Clerk Hand stated the volunteer fire departments receive about \$120,000 (this includes county provided insurance and utilities) currently. Attorney Fuqua stated they would get about \$200,000 more if they only receive

funding from the fire surtax. Commissioner McDougald asked if fire departments normally are under Emergency Management in other counties, with Emergency Management having an inventory of the equipment at each fire department. Attorney Fuqua stated Calhoun County is the only county he represents, but in the cities he represents the fire departments are separate from Emergency Management. The Clerk stated Emergency Management and the Fire Departments are separate. Chairman Wise stated Liberty County is paying someone \$12,000 per year to oversee the fire departments. There was further discussion about the volunteer fire departments. There was a consensus from the Board to add the fire surtax to the next ballot.

#### **COMMISSIONER TIME**

#### **COMMISSIONER MCDOUGALD**

Commissioner McDougald asked why Joe Wood was not in attendance to tonight's meeting. Clerk Hand stated she was told he does not have to attend the second Board meeting of the month because he is a department head and they report to the Board at the first meeting of every month.

#### **COMMISSIONER JONES**

Nothing to report.

#### **COMMISSIONER HALL**

Nothing to report.

#### **CHAIRMAN WISE**


Chairman Wise asked Mr. John Morgan Davis if the airport cuts the grass to the north of the airport, noting the site is starting to look a little grown up with weeds. Mr. Davis stated they do. Mr. Bob Fleck stated one of the problems is there is erosion resulting from work at the Catalyst Site. Mr. Fleck stated in those areas of erosion it is not possible to mow. Chairman Wise asked if the Road Department was needed to fix the erosion. Mr. Fleck stated some fill for the eroded spots would greatly help with being able to mow the area. Chairman Wise stated he would speak with the Road Department about fixing the issue.

Chairman Wise stated West Side Volunteer Fire Department would like to address the Board. Mr. Micah Martin introduced Mr. Rob McAtee from Ten-8, the fire apparatus dealer who offers the lease program that has been presented to the Board, to answer any questions the Board may have about the lease program. Mr. McAtee stated there are two (2) lease options with their company, a lease to purchase and a ten-year rental lease. Mr. McAtee stated the trucks are built to the specifications of the fire departments entering the lease options. Commissioner Wise asked how long the company has been offering the lease program. Mr. McAtee stated they have been offering the lease program for about 25 years. Chairman Wise asked if many entities turn the trucks in at the end of the lease or if they keep them. Mr. McAtee stated most of the smaller departments end up keeping their trucks. Chairman Wise asked if there were any used trucks on hand, the fire departments could purchase. Mr. McAtee stated the fire trucks they receive back from entities are usually from larger cities such as Kansas City, and generally the trucks are not ones you would want to buy and are sent to a third party to surplus out. There was further discussion about the different lease programs offered and how the half-cent sales tax



could benefit or be detrimental to the lease options. Chairman Wise stated the Board is looking at all different avenues of options for the volunteer fire departments, and what will best suit the County. Chairman Wise asked if prices would be cheaper in a couple years. Mr. McAtee stated they generally have a 3% increase annually in pricing.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m., CT.

  
DANNY RAY WISE, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

  
CARLA A. HAND, CLERK