

Tuesday, August 4, 2020 – 1:30 P.M.
John R. "Jack" Durrance Auditorium
County Administration Building
12 Southeast First Street
Gainesville, Florida

The Alachua County Board of County Commissioners met for the Special Meeting.

PRESENT: Chair Robert "Hutch" Hutchinson; Vice Chair Mike Byerly, Commissioner Charles S. Chestnut IV, Commissioner Ken Cornell, and Commissioner Marihelen Wheeler

ALSO PRESENT: County Manager Michele Lieberman, County Attorney Sylvia Torres, Deputy County Manager James Harriot, and Deputy Clerk Steve Donahey

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Cornell moved adoption of the agenda. The motion carried 5-0.

Items for Discussion

1. FY21 Budget Development Meeting - Environmental Protection, Public Works, Solid Waste, Facilities, Growth Management 20-0628
Fiscal Consideration: Accept or modify the proposed budget for the Environmental Protection, Public Works, Solid Waste, Facilities, and Growth Management.
Recommended Action: Provide direction to the staff for any adjustment to the tentative budget or proposed millage rates.

Assistant County Manager Crosby and Deputy County Manager Jim Harriot presented the above item.

Environmental Protection Department

County Manager Lieberman stated that the department is requesting a .2 FTE increase to a position that is currently .8 FTE. The increase will make the position a full FTE which is part of a succession plan as several long term employees approaching retirement. The increased cost will be \$9,971 which is a small cost.

By consensus, the Board agreed to move forward with the addition of .02 FTE to create a full FTE.

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Chair Hutchinson requested a full review of the Wild Spaces Public Places funding and regarding how much has been expended the projects and so forth.

Mr. Crosby requested to present that information to the Board at a future meeting as that fund is under Chief of Staff Gina Peebles.

Sheriff's Dive Team Facility

Deputy County Manager Harriot stated that the request from the Sheriff's Office is due to the current facility is too small and is not a climate controlled space. This has led to issues with mold forming on the equipment. The additional cost to the general fund is \$168,500.

Chair Hutchinson, Commissioner Byerly, Commissioner Cornell, Public Works Director Ramon Gavarrete, Commissioner Wheeler, and Commissioner Byerly presented comments.

By consensus, the Board agreed to consider the Camp McConnell site as possible location for the facility.

Public Works Emergency Operations Center

Deputy County Manager Harriot stated that this room in recent events was originally designed as a storage room. The power goes out during hurricanes and the AC is not sufficient so \$37,400.00 is being budgeted to upgrade the room to make it usable space for Emergency Planning.

Public Works – Senior CADD Designer

Deputy County Manager Harriot stated that Public Works is requesting that a vacant Civil Engineer Position be converted to a CADD Designer so that road projects can be designed in house.

Solid Waste Projects

Deputy County Manager Harriot stated there are two proposed projects for Hazardous Waste this year. One is a Hazardous Waste Collection Center at a cost of \$405,000. The second is a new High Springs collection center at a cost of \$600,000. Mr. Harriot advised that the land purchase for the High Springs Center was approved last year but a site has not been located yet. It is one of the busiest facilities and the current site is not large enough so traffic backs out into the street.

Commissioner Byerly and Commissioner Wheeler presented comments.

Relocation of Engine 80

Deputy County Manager Harriot stated that a parcel has been purchased for the new fire station and the projected cost is \$2,900,000. Critical Facilities is working on the project and it is in the design phase at this time.

Solar Power Installation

The Public Defenders Building will be fitted with a Solar Power facility at a cost of \$129,000. This is part of the County's continuing efforts to lower utility expenses.

Commissioner Byerly inquired why the County is not putting a solar installation at the new fairgrounds site.

Public Works Director Gavarrete stated that the Board discussed the site and the Board chose not to move forward with Solar at the Fairgrounds.

Commissioner Byerly requested that the backup from the meeting the decision to not place solar panels at the fairgrounds be emailed to him.

County Administration Building

Mr. Harriot stated that project is in the middle of an exploratory effort to explore the different opportunities that might exist on this parcel which would include a public private partnership. The next phase would be design followed by construction. Each phase would require Board approval.

Commissioner Wheeler and Commissioner Byerly presented comments.

Assistant County Manager Crosby stated that should the Board not pursue the project at this time cost of about \$1,000,000 will have to be converted to operating cost since they were planned to roll into the debt issuance.

Commissioner Cornell, Commissioner Chestnut, County Manager Lieberman, Commissioner Byerly, Deputy County Manager Harriot, Commissioner Cornell, and Commissioner Wheeler presented comments.

Mr. Crosby suggested making the decision at the end of August and staff will work with the consultants to provide as much information as available for the Board to consider.

Medical Examiner Facility

Assistant County Manager Crosby stated that the Board has a contract with the option to purchase the facility but the decision must be made by October 1, 2020. Staff is working toward the purchase as it will save the County money over the long run.

Court Services Building

Mr. Crosby stated that staff is pursuing acquiring space for the Court Services Department and inquired if the Board wishes to continue the efforts.

By consensus, the Board agreed to continue with the Court Services Facilities initiative.

Deputy County Manager Harriot advised that the estimated cost of the project is \$7,000,000. The scope of the project and the request for proposals (RFP) is being developed.

Road Projects

Deputy County Manager Harriot stated that the following projects are on the list for funding next fiscal year:

- SW 170th is schedule for pavement design \$138,063.
- NE 53rd Avenue reconstruction \$1,700,000
- Fort Clarke Blvd. \$690,000
- NW 98th \$1,200,000

Chair Hutchinson, Public Workers Director Ramon Gavarrete, Commissioner Cornell, Commissioner Wheeler, Commissioner Chestnut, Deputy County Manager Harriot, Chair Hutchinson, Commissioner Cornell, Commissioner Wheeler presented comments.

Commissioner Cornell requested a list of the preservation projects that have not been completed.

Closing Comments

Public Comment

There were no public comments offered.

Commission Comment

Resolution on MCORE

Commissioner Cornell requested an update on the requested resolution and when the Board will be able to consider it.

Deputy County Manager Harriot advised that the matter is scheduled for August 11, 2020.

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Genie Springs

Commissioner Wheeler stated that residents have been expressing concerns regarding music festivals at Genie Springs without regard to social distancing. Mrs. Wheeler inquired if there is anything the County can do.

County Manager Lieberman advised that the Health Department Administrator advised her that the DJ has been warned and removed from the park. She has been advised that if he returns he will be arrested. So proactive steps have been taken to try and curtail the behavior.

Chair Hutchinson presented comments.

There being no further business before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 3:11 P.M.