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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Dylan Bass / Public Communications Officer (850) 573-1327 bassd@jacksoncountyfl.gov

January 10, 2023

Jackson County BOCC Regular Meeting Highlights

Jackson County, FL. - January 10, 2023 at 9:00 am, the Jackson County Board of County Commissioners held a Regular Meeting. This is a recap of some of the reports and requests included in that meeting.

REQUEST: Adoption of Human Trafficking Awareness Month/Proclamation



Human trafficking is a terrible and very real issue that is present everywhere, and harms both children and adults of all ages and demographics. Elise Dawson, 14th Judicial Circuit Human Trafficking Task Force, requested Board adoption of a proclamation denouncing this horrific attack on human dignity, and pledging to proactively work to prevent and end this cruel manipulation of innocent victims.



Human Trafficking Proclamation.pdf

RECOGNITION: Employee of the Month/January 2023

Human Resources Director, Judy Austin requested Board recognition of John Searcy as Employee of the Month for January 2023.

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JCBOCC believes that recognizing and celebrating the hard work and dedication of our employees is important. The Employee of the Month program is an opportunity for us to recognize and reward employees who have gone above and beyond in their work, and to show our appreciation for their commitment and contribution to the County. This program is designed to boost morale and motivate employees to continue to strive for excellence. We are proud of our employees and their commitment to making our organization a success.

We are delighted to announce that Mr. John Searcy of the Utilities Department has been recognized as the Employee of the Month by the Board County Commissioners. Mr. Searcy has consistently gone above and beyond to provide outstanding service to our County and to promote a positive work environment within the department.

Mr. Searcy has been a valued member of our team since September 2019 and serves as Assistant Utilities Operator. His dedication to the County has been instrumental in helping us meet our goals and objectives. He has consistently demonstrated qualities of leadership, creativity and problem-solving skills that have been beneficial to Jackson County.

The Board recognizes Mr. Searcy's hard work and dedication and is proud to award him the title of Employee of the Month for January, 2023.





PRESENTATION: Huddle Up Sports Tourism

In 2021 the Jackson County Tourist Development Council enlisted a partnership with "Huddle Up Group", a Sports Tourism Consultant organization.

Over the following year, Huddle Up conducted several site-visits, studies, and workshops to develop an extensive inventory of existing sports facilities and venues in Jackson County. Huddle

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Up advised that Jackson County has a great opportunity to improve its position among the sports tourism destinations in our region through the development of a focused sports tourism development agenda. Huddle Up presented their final strategic plan report to the TDC in November of 2022. Huddle Up Group's, Jon Schmeider, finalized their presentation in front of the Board of County Commissioners in at this meeting. This plan comes at a perfect timing, with the Mere expansion and Jennings Park renovations taking place in 2023. This plan will help guide both projects to maximize sports tourism efforts for the county.





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PRESENTATION: Broadband Consultant

The JCBOCC and staff are working diligently to ensure that all citizens in Jackson County have access to broadband services. The Board understands that having access to reliable, high-speed internet is essential for our modern way of life. They are actively seeking out ways to expand broadband access and are exploring all options to make sure each resident has the resources they need to connect. We are grateful for their dedication and tireless efforts to make sure everyone has access to this important service.

On December 12, 2022, Jackson County received proposals from various broadband companies to act as the County's Broadband Consultant. Under the RFP consultants were asked to submit proposals to show how they could provide and execute a strategy for comprehensive data collection survey and analysis to determine the current status of broadband service throughout Jackson County, as well as their experience in pre-engineering of a broadband network and a feasibility study regarding the financial viability of such a network. The prospective consultant would work with the County to determine the best-case approach for the county to develop broadband service and infrastructure within the County.

The following four companies submitted a proposal and made brief presentations to give an overview of their company and the services they can provide:

• CTC Technology and Energy – Cheryl Johnson

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- Finley Engineering Andy Heins
- Megellan John Honker
- Televate Rick Burke

After hearing the brief presentations, the Board moved to set a Special Meeting for a future date to allow the companies more time to make their presentations. That date has not yet been determined.

REQUEST: Approval of SCRAP Supplemental Agreement/Browntown Road

Road & Bridge Director, Jeffrey Register, requested Board approval of SCRAP (Small County Road Assistance Program) supplemental agreement and resolution for Browntown Road paving improvements project. The Florida Department of Transportation has graciously added \$581,259.00 to the County's grant agreement to help cover the shortage for this project. The Supplemental Agreement amount will cover a reduced bid amount after the proposed bid reductions are implemented but will not cover the entire Base Bid Amount should the County decide not to implement the deductions. The County has several options to move forward with this project. (Detailed in next item.)





Browntown Road Resolution.pdf

REQUEST: Approval to Award Project/Browntown Road



Jackson County opened construction bids for this project on Tuesday 12/13/2022. Southeast Construction was the low bidder at \$3,149,800.35, which was approximately \$769K over the previously approved construction budget. The County did include some bid deductions in the bid documents along with a contingency amount. The County recommended implementing the deductions and deleting the contingency to FDOT to reduce the construction costs by approximately \$188k which still left a \$581k shortage.

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FDOT has agreed to pick up the shortfall of \$581k.To move forward with awarding the project, the County now has the following options to choose from:

Option 1 The County can award the project to the low bidder at the reduced bid amount of \$2,961,838.85 without providing any matching funds. This reduced bid amount includes removing four (4) items from the scope of work which are described below: 1. Delete the 5' wide shoulder pavement on the interior of the horizontal curves. The total cost for this work is \$66,277.50 2. Delete the 12" thick bedding stone under the new 30" concrete end walls. The total cost for this work is \$3,080.00 3. Delete the sod and substitute seed and mulch everywhere except for the sod strip along the edge of pavement. The total cost for this work is \$68,604.00 4. Delete the \$50,000.00 of contingency funds that were included in the bid amount for unforeseen problems during construction. Total of all deductions = \$187,961.50

Option 2 The county can award the project to the low bidder at the base bid amount of \$3,149,800.35 and keep all the items listed above in Option 1 included in the scope of work by providing \$187,961.50 of matching funds.

Option 3 The county can choose one or a combination of the items listed above to keep in the scope of work which will reduce the matching funds needed. For example, if the County decided to delete all the contingency and keep the first three items listed, the matching funds needed would be \$137,961.50.

After hearing these options were presented to reduce the amount of matching funds required to be paid by the County, the Board voted to approve **Option 1**, deleting the 5' wide shoulder pavement on the interior of the horizontal curves; deleting the sod and substituting seed and mulch everywhere except for the sod strip along the edge of pavement; and deleting \$50,000.00 of contingency funds.



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REPORT: Economic Development Council/Quarterly



The hard work and dedication of Jackson County's Economic Development Council is making a positive impact on our local economy. These dedicated individuals are working tirelessly to implement initiatives that will foster more jobs, increase investment from businesses and entrepreneurs, and create more economic opportunities for our community. We are grateful for the effort they put in to make our County a great place to live, work, and play.

Director of Business Development, Zach Gilmore, presented the quarterly report for the Jackson County Economic Development Council.





REQUEST: Discussion/Waive Ambulance Fees for Rodeo

The Alabama High School Rodeo Association has reached out to request the ambulance standby fees be waived for the rodeo to be held at Circle D Ranch on February 25th and February 26, 2023. The total amount of hours for ambulance standby is 15 hours for a total cost of \$1,500.00. The rodeo will have 140 members participating in this rodeo and they will be staying in the county. The Board of County Commissioners have waived the fees the two previous years. JCFR Chief, Charlie Brunner, requested Board discussion and approval to waive the fee for this year's Rodeo.

REQUEST: Approval/Renewal of Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity

Advanced Life Support Air Medical Transport services provide essential access to life-saving medical care for citizens in times of crisis. It allows citizens to be quickly transported to the

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hospital and receive the care they need in a timely manner. This service gives citizens peace of mind that they will be able to receive the best possible medical care in any emergency situation. Making Advanced Life Support Air Medical Transport services available to citizens is an essential part of ensuring the health and safety of our communities.

JCFR Chief, Charlie Brunner, requested Board approval of a renewal of the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity with Rocky Mountain Holdings, LLC/Life Net for advanced life support Air Medical Transport. The current certificate was approved on February 13, 2020 and expires on February 14 of this year. The renewal will be good for another three-year period.



REQUEST: Approval of Work Authorization/Holly Timer Rd

Engineering design services are an integral part of any large projects involving County Roadways. Having a team of experienced and highly qualified engineers is essential for the successful completion of any road project. Engineering design services help to ensure that the project is completed on time, safely and to the highest quality standards. They provide valuable input on the design of the road, analyze the environmental, economic, and social impacts of the project, and develop a plan to achieve the best outcome for the project. Overall, engineering design services are essential for any county road project to succeed.

Road & Bridge Director, Jeffrey Register, requested Board approval of Work Authorization to Alday-Howell Engineering for the design of Holly Timber Rd. This task work order is for Alday-Howell to provide engineering design services for Holly Timber Road in Jackson County from US 231 to Kynesville Road. The work includes survey, engineering, geotechnical and biologist efforts.



REQUEST: Discussion of FY22-23 Legislative Budget Requests

Each year, the Florida Legislature allows for Legislative Budget Requests to be submitted to request state funding. The process of making a budget request begins with the county officials identifying the funding needs of the county. The county then creates a budget request document

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that outlines the various projects and their total cost. The budget request document is then presented to the state. Once the funding is approved, the county officials can use the money to fund the projects outlined in the budget request document. These requests can be for virtually any project. However, from past experience, each project should seek to solve some problem or address a need of the County.

The following were approved as legislative priorities:

- Endeavor Gym/Conference Center
- Howell's Landing Parking Lot Infrastructure
- Crosswind Runway
- Exemption of County from Broadband grant funding match requirement
- Use of Indigent Services Tax funds to offset Medicaid fees



REQUEST: Approval to Set Special Meeting

The JCBOCC's special meetings are typically held to discuss specific topics that require directed attention. These meetings often involve the consideration of time-sensitive matters and are conducted in a more formal manner than regular meetings. Regular meetings, on the other hand, occur on a regular schedule and are meant to discuss general business and policy matters. Although both types of meetings are important, special meetings are often used for a more focused and timely discussion of specific matters.

County Administrator, Wilanne Daniels requested Board approval to set a Special Meeting on February 14, 2023 at 10 am to discuss the following subjects.

- Endeavor Conference Center
- Policy Update/Review
- TDC Update

The Special Meeting was set for February 21, 2023 at 2 PM.



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REQUEST: Approval to Reschedule Feb. 28 Regular Meeting

The FPL Northwest Florida Economic Symposium is scheduled for February 28-March 1. Commissioners and staff typically attend this symposium. County Administrator, Wilanne Daniels requested Board consideration to reschedule the February 28 regular meeting for Monday, February 27 at 2 pm.



REQUEST: Approval for Northside Storage

Community Development Senior Planner, Amber Barnes requested Board approval of a request for a General Development Order for a storage facility to be known as Northside Storage. The development with improvements will be constructed in phases; Phase 1 construction consists of two buildings totaling 12,000 square feet and 31,150 square feet of impervious surface of asphalt and concrete. This project is located on the west side of Hwy 71 North approximately 570 feet south of the intersection of Hwy 71 North and Blue Springs Road in unincorporated Jackson County. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the General Development Order on December 5, 2022.





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