



# JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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October 24, 2023

## Jackson County BOCC Regular Meeting Highlights

*Jackson County, FL. – On Oct. 24, 2023, at 6:00 PM, 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.*

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### **RECOGNITION: Recognition of Citizens Academy 2023 Participants**

There are many misconceptions regarding local government which creates a gap between citizens and their governing body. Local government has a responsibility to create opportunities for education. Likewise, citizens are responsible for seizing those opportunities and investing in their community. Citizens Academy was designed to do just that. Bridge the gap.

The second year of Jackson County Citizens Academy was a resounding success. The number of participants increased over the inaugural season, from 10 participants in the first year to 27 in year two. Each participant attended sessions within various departments of the County, and in so doing, gained knowledge and insight into the role each department plays in the operations of the county. Participants also learned about their role in making the County government run smoothly.

During this meeting, some of the participants in attendance were recognized by the Board for their dedication to Jackson County and presented with shirts and certificates of completion. Those in attendance included: Gina Miller, Jason Johnson, Kim Cole Sweazy, Janice Sloan, Dennis Sloan, Kelsi Jackson, Chastity Sheffield, Edward Crutchfield, Madelyn Crutchfield, Jennifer Thomas, Phyllis Daniels, Joseph Alday, and Maggie Rooks.



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**REQUEST: Adoption of FDOT B-SCOP Resolution/Bridge 534016 Ulyss Rd**

On August 8, 2023, the Board approved the FDOT B-SCOP (*Bridge Small County Outreach Program*) Grant Agreement in the amount of \$111,626.00 for repairs to Bridge 534016, Ulyss Road over Gum Slough. Director of Road & Bridge, Jeffrey Register, requested a resolution to be submitted along with a supplemental agreement.



**REQUEST: Adoption of FDOT SCRAP Resolution/Blue Springs Rd**

Jackson County has received a SCRAP (*Small County Road Assistance Program*) Agreement from FDOT (*Florida Department of Transportation*) which now requires a resolution by the Board to accompany the approved agreement.

Director of Road & Bridge, Jeffrey Register, requested Board approval of an Agreement for a Blue Springs Rd project. This is for the design of the CR 164 (Blue Springs Road) Improvement, and will cover widening and resurfacing, as well as drainage improvements as needed. All necessary survey, design, and permitting will be performed for the preparation of the construction plans and specifications. This project will be conducted using the appropriate design standards and criteria. All work will be completed within the current right-of-way. The total length of the project is 2.210 miles from east of Butler Road to SR 69, and the estimated cost of the project is \$253,392.00.



**REQUEST: Adoption of FDOT CGIP Resolution/Pooser Rd**

Jackson County has received a CGIP (*County Incentive Grant Program*) Agreement from FDOT (*Florida Department of Transportation*) which now requires a resolution by the Board to accompany the approved agreement.

Director of Road & Bridge, Jeffrey Register, requested Board approval of an Agreement for a Pooser Rd paving project. This is for the design of Pooser Rd paving, phase 1. The original design and bid documents were done as a single phase, so this will split the project into two separate phases. The total length of the project is 1.293 miles from SR 276 (Penn Ave) to Old Airbase Road, and the estimated cost of the project is \$45,041.00.



**REQUEST: Adoption of FDOT SCOP Resolution/Kynesville Rd**

Jackson County has received a SCOP (*Small County Outreach Program*) Agreement from FDOT (*Florida Department of Transportation*) which now requires a resolution by the Board to accompany the approved agreement.

Director of Road & Bridge, Jeffrey Register, requested Board approval of an Agreement for a Kynesville Rd project. This is for the design of the CR 276 (Kynesville Road) Improvement, and will cover widening and resurfacing, as well as drainage improvements as needed. All necessary survey, design, and permitting will be performed for the preparation of the construction plans and specifications. This project will be conducted using the appropriate design standards and criteria. All work will be completed within the current right-of-way. The total length of the project is 2.550 miles from east of Butler Road to SR 69, and the estimated cost of the project is \$216,506.00.



**REQUEST: Approval of TDC Sponsorship Reimbursement/Mpact Sports**

The Jackson County Tourist Development Council is committed to supporting and promoting tourism-related events that showcase the local culture, attractions, and businesses. To achieve this goal, the department offers special sponsorships to event organizers who demonstrate a positive impact on the local economy and community. By investing in these events, the department hopes to attract more visitors to the county, increase tourism revenue, and create memorable experiences for both residents and visitors alike.

In June the Jackson County Tourist Development Council (*TDC*) and the Board of County Commissioners awarded \$2500 to “Mpact Sports” for t-shirts and flyers for their 2023 summer baseball camps. After reviewing expenses and reports, the TDC Board confirmed that \$2,434.93 of approved expenses were eligible for reimbursement. The baseball camps hosted approximately 110 campers with an estimated 20% of attendees staying overnight in Jackson County among the four camps hosted over the summer. During this meeting, TDC Director, Kelsi Jackson, requested Board approval to award the sponsorship reimbursement.



**REQUEST: Approval of TDC Special Event Grants**

The Jackson County Tourist Development Council (*TDC*) has a policy allowing it to provide initial funding to non-profit organizations with the intent to promote special events and projects. Visitor Enhancement Grants are offered specifically to advertise and promote events and projects to out-of-county markets to attract visitors to the county.

During its October meeting, the TDC voted to award two grants. During this meeting, TDC Director, Kelsi Williams requested Board approval of TDC funding for the following two events.

- \$2500 in grant funding for the “Florida Caverns Cultural Celebration” to be utilized for banners, fliers, and handouts. The event will take place on December 2, 2023.
- \$2000 for the “Merry Porkmas” event to be utilized for banners, signage, radio, and social media ads. The event will take place December 1-2, 2023.



**REQUEST: Acceptance of Firefighter Cancer Decontamination Equipment Grant Program**

The Florida Firefighter Cancer Decontamination Equipment Grant Program (*FFCDEGP*) was established by the State to help protect the health and safety of firefighters and provide financial assistance to aid fire departments, including volunteer fire departments, to procure equipment, supplies, and educational training designed to mitigate exposure to hazardous, cancer-causing chemicals.

Jackson County Fire Rescue has been awarded an (*FFCDEGP*) from the State. During this meeting, JCFR Chief, Charlie Brunner, requested Board acceptance of the grant for a fire gear extractor. This extractor will be installed at Fire Rescue Station #2 Graceville. The total cost is \$7,968.75 and the County is responsible for 25% or \$1,992.20.



**REQUEST: Approval of Interlocal Agreement for Communications Towers**

The County has been approached by the City of Marianna regarding the placement of communications equipment on County-owned structures/towers. Administrative Services Director, Sarah Sun, requested Board approval of an Interlocal Agreement between Jackson County and the City of Marianna which allows the City to utilize County-owned facilities to mount equipment to enhance its emergency communications.



**REQUEST: Board Update on Utility Fee Schedule**

The current utility fee schedule was approved by the Board on April 11, 2023. That fee Schedule contained a provision to increase our fees based on the rates charged by the City of Marianna. As of October 1, 2023, the City increased its rate from \$5.26 per thousand gallons to \$5.52 per thousand. This will subsequently increase the County’s residential sewer rate from \$6.57 per thousand to \$6.90. Additionally, the commercial sewer rate will increase from \$10.50 per thousand to \$11.04 per thousand. The County will distribute a notice of the increase on the next bill with updated fees.



**REQUEST: Discussion of Mandatory Service Connection to County Water/Sewer System**

During this meeting, Deputy County Administrator, Rett Daniels requested Board discussion regarding mandatory connections to the Jackson County-owned water and sewer systems. Pursuant to Florida Statute 381.00655, there is a state requirement for sewer connections. Additionally, the current County Ordinance governs water connections. It has been observed that some of the landowners in the upcoming phase of the Indian Springs water/sewer project are opting out of the County water system, despite currently utilizing the sewer system. To ensure accurate billing for sewer services, the recommendation is for all customers to connect to both the water and sewer services.

A unified connection to both the water and sewer services ensures consistent service quality, streamlined maintenance, and efficient cost management. When everyone is interconnected, it enables the County to provide continuous improvements, monitor system health, and respond rapidly to any issues. Additionally, a harmonized system simplifies the billing process, benefiting both the County and its residents. The Board encourages residents to see this as an opportunity to fortify the infrastructure of our community, ensuring it remains robust and resilient for generations to come.



**REQUEST: Approval of Conveyance Agreement/Museum of African American History**

At the February 14, 2023, meeting, Mr. Byron Dickens presented a request to the Board for the conveyance of property at Endeavor suitable to house a Museum of African American History and Cultural Arts Center.

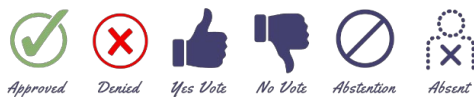
In the intervening months, Mr. Dickens and staff have worked to determine the most appropriate location for the museum. This agreement conveys property on the Endeavor property to the Emancipation Day Foundation of NWFL for the development of a Museum of African American History and Cultural Arts center.

The approval of this Conveyance Agreement is the first step toward establishing a Museum of African American History and Cultural Arts Center on the Endeavor property. It not only celebrates and honors the rich tapestry of African American contributions to our community but also serves as an educational hub for visitors and locals alike. The Board approved this request via a 4 to 1 vote with D5 Commissioner, Peacock, voting no.



**###**

**LEGEND:**



COMMISSIONERS

DISTRICT 1  
ALEX B. MCKINNIE

DISTRICT 2  
EDWARD CRUTCHFIELD

DISTRICT 3  
PAUL DONOFRO JR.

DISTRICT 4  
DONNIE BRANCH

DISTRICT 5  
JIM PEACOCK