



JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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May 14, 2024

Jackson County BOCC Regular Meeting Highlights

Jackson County, FL. – On May 14, 2024, 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.

RECOGNITION: Employee of the Month



The Jackson County Board of County Commissioners provides an Employee of the Month Award to a deserving employee who has exhibited exceptional performance, dedication, and commitment to serving the community. This recognition highlights the importance of acknowledging and appreciating the hard work and contributions of employees who go above and beyond in their duties.

At this meeting, Assistant Road & Bridge Director, Tim Perry, along with District 3 Commissioner and Chairman, Paul Donofro Jr., presented the Employee of the Month for May 2024 to Matthew Kleiser of the Road and Bridge Department.

Nominated for his unwavering positive attitude and a remarkable willingness to go above and beyond, Kleiser embodies the values of commitment and excellence that are central to our organization. His dedication and exemplary work ethic as Assistant Fleet Service Manager have made a lasting impression on his colleagues and supervisors.

As Employee of the Month, Kleiser serves as a shining example of the outstanding talent and dedication that exists within our workforce. His commitment to excellence and willingness to step up to any challenge demonstrate his invaluable contributions to the county. The Board of County Commissioners extends its heartfelt congratulations to Matthew Kleiser for this well-deserved recognition.



PROCLAMATION

RECOGNITION: Employee Years of Service



The Jackson County Board of County Commissioners has recognized the dedicated service of its employees by awarding "Years of Service" awards to those who have shown commitment and loyalty to the county through their tenure. This acknowledgement of their hard work and dedication serves as a testament to their contributions towards the growth and success of Jackson County.

At this meeting, Human Resources Director, Judy Austin, along with District 3 Commissioner and Chairman, Paul Donofro Jr., presented awards to the following employees:

- **Timothy Ham**
Timothy Ham currently works for Jackson County Probation & Parole. He is recognized for 15 years of continuous service.
- **Davin Davison**
Davin Davison currently works for Jackson County Fire & Rescue. He is recognized for 15 years of continuous service.
- **James (Mike) Wiggins**
Mr. Wiggins currently works for Jackson County Fire & Rescue. He is recognized for 15 years of continuous service.
- **Terri Hardin**
Terri Hardin currently works for Jackson County Ag Extension Services. She is recognized for 5 years of continuous service.
- **William Sumner**
William Sumner currently works for the Jackson County Road & Bridge Department. He is recognized for 5 years of continuous service.
- **Peggy Gilley**
Peggy Gilley currently works for Jackson County Soil Conservation. She is recognized for 5 years of continuous service.

REQUEST: Adoption of Right of Way Resolution & Approval of Project Agreement for Peacock Bridge

Road and Bridge Director, Jeffrey Register, requested the Board's adoption of a Right of Way resolution that would allow FDOT to purchase the right of way necessary to facilitate the construction of the Peacock Bridge replacement project in the County's name.

In addition to the Right of Way resolution, an Off-System Project Agreement was also proposed, outlining a collaborative effort between the state agency and the county. This agreement empowers FDOT to manage and oversee the construction of the replacement bridge culvert, streamlining the

project's execution and ensuring adherence to high-quality standards. Once the project reaches completion, FDOT will return the newly constructed bridge to the County. The Board adopted the resolution and approved the project agreement.



REQUEST: Public Hearing for Board Adoption of Ordinance for Chapter 42 of the Jackson County Code of Ordinances

At the forefront of enhancing regulatory frameworks and promoting sustainable growth, the Jackson County Board of County Commissioners embarked on a collaborative effort to review and update Chapter 42 of the Jackson County Code of Ordinances. Over several months, meticulous deliberations and thorough reviews took place, culminating in a comprehensive set of recommendations aimed at aligning the code with Florida Statutes and the county's Comprehensive Plan.

Led by Senior Planner Amber Barnes, the Board received a detailed presentation outlining proposed updates and amendments to Chapter 42, which is the section of the County Code that regulates Planning and Land Development. These recommendations, informed by input from the Planning Commission and careful analysis of regulatory standards, seek to enhance clarity, improve definitions, and address emerging needs in areas such as Solar Farms and Home Occupations.

Following a series of meetings and discussions, including a Special Meeting convened on March 26, 2024, the Board approved the setting of a public hearing for May 14, 2024. The public hearing provided an invaluable opportunity for community input and engagement, ensuring that the updated ordinance reflects the diverse needs and perspectives of Jackson County residents. The Board adopted the proposed ordinance.



REQUEST: Approval of Grant Match for Campbellton Volunteer Fire Department

Thanks to a grant from the Florida Forest Service, our local heroes with the Campbellton Volunteer Fire Department are gearing up to enhance their firefighting capabilities. To maximize the impact of this grant, the Fire Department requested approval from the Board to match funding in the amount of \$7,118.00 to acquire essential equipment including a thermal image camera, hose, nozzle, Motorola radios, air bottles, and cones.

This investment in state-of-the-art equipment not only bolsters the safety and effectiveness of our dedicated volunteer firefighters but also underscores our community's commitment to ensuring the well-being of all residents. The addition of a thermal image camera, radios, and other critical tools will empower our firefighters to respond swiftly and efficiently to emergencies, safeguarding lives and property in the process.

We commend the Town of Campbellton Volunteer Fire Department for their proactive approach to securing additional resources. Together, we stand united in our mission to protect and serve our community, ensuring a safer and more resilient future for all. The Board approved the grant match.



REQUEST: Approval to Solicit Bids for Ag Center Equipment Upgrades

At the latest Board meeting, a significant proposal was put forth to enhance the capabilities of the Ag Center, paving the way for increased opportunities for rodeo and roping events in our community. The request for board approval to proceed with bidding for equipment upgrades garnered support following discussions and approval by the Tourist Development Council (TDC) during its May meeting. The proposed equipment upgrades, not to exceed \$40,000, signify a strategic investment in expanding the Ag Center's capacity to host a wider range of events and activities. While this initiative is not a budgeted item, the TDC has identified the use of reserves as the source of funds.

By enhancing the facilities at the Ag Center, we not only create new opportunities for recreational and entertainment activities but also bolster our local economy by attracting visitors and tourists to our community. The Board recognizes the significance of this investment and looks forward to the positive impact it will have on our community's vibrancy and prosperity.



REQUEST: Approval of Application Format for Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity

At the forefront of ensuring access to critical medical services for our community, Jackson County Fire & Rescue Chief Charlie Brunner presented a significant proposal to the Board of County Commissioners. Chief Brunner requested approval for the application and formatting of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (COPCN), a vital step towards potential partnerships with medical life flight companies.

While there has been interest from medical life flight companies in serving Jackson County, no formal application has been submitted. Recognizing the importance of proactive planning and preparedness, Administration in collaboration with the legal department, took the initiative to create a comprehensive application that aligns with Jackson County Ordinances Chapter 22, Article II, Section 22-26.

This thoughtful approach ensures that all necessary information and requirements outlined in county ordinances are addressed, laying the groundwork for potential future partnerships that could significantly enhance access to life-saving medical services for our residents. The Board approved the application format.



REQUEST: Approval of Spring Chase Emergency Repair Closeout

In a testament to efficient governance and responsive action, the Board's approval of an Emergency Procurement Request for paving work in Spring Chase has resulted in successful project completion. Since the approval granted on March 12, 2024, Baxter's has diligently paved approximately 4200 square yards in Spring Chase.

The swift and decisive action taken by the Board enabled the timely execution of this critical infrastructure improvement project. Now, with the work satisfactorily completed, staff express their satisfaction with the quality and outcome of the project and request the Board's approval of the Final Pay Application. The Board approved the request.



REQUEST: Approval of MOU with CHROME Ministries

In an inspiring collaboration aimed at supporting those on the path to recovery, the New Orleans Mission (CHROME) has initiated discussions with the County regarding the purchase of three cottages on the Endeavor property in phases. The first of these cottages, Bethune Cottage, is envisioned to serve as a women's treatment facility for individuals recovering from addiction.

CHROME's commitment to providing a supportive and nurturing environment for those in need aligns perfectly with the County's mission to promote health and well-being within our community. The proposed sale of Bethune Cottage for \$85,000 signifies a significant step towards realizing this shared vision.

As negotiations progress, both parties are diligently working on finalizing a purchase and sale agreement that will outline the specific details of the transaction. This memorandum of understanding (MOU) serves as a testament to the mutual commitment of the County and CHROME to ensuring the success of this endeavor.

By establishing clear guidelines and due diligence requirements, the MOU lays the groundwork for a partnership built on trust, accountability, and a shared goal of supporting individuals in their journey towards recovery.



REQUEST: Approval of Task Work Order for Endeavor Cottages Survey

In tandem with the previous request, County staff also sought Board approval for a boundary survey and parcel split with new legal descriptions for the three cottages at Endeavor that will be sold to and utilized by CHROME Ministries. The Task Work Order is requested to be completed by Southeastern Surveying. The Board approved the request.



REQUEST: Approval of Opportunity Florida Letter of Commitment

In a reaffirmation of its commitment to economic development and job creation, Jackson County has pledged its ongoing support to Opportunity Florida. Through a formal Letter of Commitment, the Jackson County Board of County Commissioners has confirmed its intention to pay the 2024-25 annual investment dues totaling \$4,731.90.

Opportunity Florida plays a vital role in advancing the economic outlook of the Northwest Florida Rural Area of Opportunity, and the Board of County Commissioners is proud to stand in solidarity with this mission. By actively participating in Opportunity Florida's initiatives, Jackson County demonstrates its unwavering dedication to fostering growth, prosperity, and opportunity for all residents.

The Board's full support underscores its recognition of the importance of collaborative efforts in driving economic development and improving the quality of life within the community. Together with Opportunity Florida, Jackson County is committed to building a vibrant and sustainable future for generations to come.



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LEGEND:



COMMISSIONERS

DISTRICT 1
ALEX B. MCKINNIE

DISTRICT 2
EDWARD CRUTCHFIELD

DISTRICT 3
PAUL DONOFRO JR.

DISTRICT 4
DONNIE BRANCH

DISTRICT 5
JIM PEACOCK