



# JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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December 11, 2024

## Jackson County BOCC Regular Meeting Highlights

*Jackson County, FL. – On December 10, 2024, at 8:00 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: Paul Donofro Jr. Chairman Appreciation



The Jackson County Board of County Commissioners recognized Paul Donofro Jr. for his exceptional leadership and dedication during his two-year tenure as Chairman of the Board. In appreciation of his outstanding service to the County, Commissioner Donofro was presented with a commemorative plaque. His commitment to fostering progress and collaboration has left a lasting impact on the community and set a strong foundation for the future.

### 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, District 5 Commissioner and Chairman, Jamey Westbrook, Administrator Wilanne Daniels, along with Department Directors presented awards to the following employees:

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- **Susanna Gaston**  
Susanna Gaston currently serves as Assistant Library Director with Jackson County Public Library. She is recognized for 10 years of continuous service.
- **Quinton Young**  
Quinton Young currently serves as Firefighter/EMT with Jackson County Fire Rescue. He is recognized for 5 years of continuous service.
- **Derrick Crews**  
Derrick Crews currently serves as District Supervisor in the Road and Bridge Department. He is recognized for 5 years of continuous service.



**REQUEST: Adoption of Resolution for Lincoln Cottage Sale**

The Board has advanced its support for CHROME (New Orleans Mission) in providing addiction recovery by adopting a resolution authorizing the sale of Lincoln Cottage. This marks the third and final purchase in a series of agreements with CHROME aimed at providing essential resources for women on their recovery journey. Lincoln Cottage will be repurposed into a dedicated treatment facility, further enhancing the support available to residents. This meaningful partnership highlights the County's dedication to addressing community needs and creating a positive impact.



**REQUEST: Approval to Set Public Hearings**

The Board of County Commissioners set public hearings for January 14, 2025, at 9:00 am for the following:

- **Dryden Properties and Development:** General Development Order to develop a 7,200 square foot building for manufacturing and sales with approximately 16,559 square feet of concrete and asphalt to be used as vehicular use. This project is proposed to be located on the south side of Commercial Park Drive, approximately 1,270 feet west of the intersection of Hwy 71 South and Commercial Park Drive in unincorporated Jackson County.
- **Twin Ponds Road Mini Farms Subdivision:** General Development Order to develop a 9-lot minor residential subdivision with lots ranging from 2.20 acres to 5 acres. The proposed subdivision will be situated on the corner of Twin Ponds Road and Fairview Road in unincorporated Jackson County.
- **Love's RV Stop Modification:** Modification to a previously approved General Development Order for Love's RV Stop. The request is to add 14 additional RV spaces and modify proposed amenities and improvements. The 35.5-acre parcel is located on the north side of Dilmore Road approximately 875 feet east of the intersection of Hwy 231 and Dilmore Rd. The original

General Development Order was approved for development of a 32-unit RV park with amenities in July 2023.

At the regularly scheduled meeting on December 2, 2024, the Planning Commission recommended approval of all the above projects. These public hearings will provide an opportunity for community members to engage and offer feedback on the proposed projects, ensuring transparency and community involvement in local regulations and the development/land use process. The Board is committed to facilitating growth that benefits Jackson County and its residents.



**REQUEST: Approval of a Volunteer Fire Department Grant Match for Town of Sneads**

The Board approved a request for \$7,500 to assist the Town of Sneads Volunteer Fire Department in matching a Florida Forest Service Grant they successfully secured. The grant will fund essential tools, equipment, and radios, enhancing the department's ability to serve the community effectively. This collaboration demonstrates the County's ongoing commitment to supporting local first responders and ensuring public safety.



**REQUEST: Approval of London Rd (RB-2324-11) Change Order 1, Closeout Documents and Final Pay Request**

The Board approved Change Order 1, along with the closeout documents and final pay request, for the successful completion of the London Road (RB-2324-11) project by Anderson Columbia. The project was completed under budget, with a change order reducing the contract amount by \$7,226.74, bringing the final total to \$333,162.58. This marks the conclusion of another well-executed infrastructure improvement for the community.



**REQUEST: Approval to Award Holley Timber Road Project (RB-2324-16)**

The Board approved awarding the Holley Timber Road project to Southeast Construction, the lowest bidder at \$2,062,870.65, following a competitive bidding process. Funded through the FDOT SCOP program, this project represents a significant investment in improving local infrastructure. The Board's decision reflects a commitment to advancing transportation and connectivity in Jackson County.



**REQUEST: Approval of Contract 2324-36 Endeavor Convention Center Concessionaire to Chamber of Commerce**

The Board has approved and signed the contract for the Endeavor Convention Center Concessionaire with Jackson County Chamber of Commerce following a collaborative negotiation process and review by the County Attorney. This partnership marks another positive step toward solidifying successful operations at the future Convention Center.



**REQUEST: Approval of Contract RB-2425-05 Annual Pavement Striping with Guettler & Guettler, Inc.**

On November 14, 2024, Jackson County received a bid from Guettler & Guettler, Inc., whose pricing aligned with the project description. Scope of work will include providing services for the re-striping of specified County roads and parking lots. On November 26, 2024, the Board approved to award the project to Guettler & Guettler on staff's recommendation. At their December meeting, the Board approved and signed the contract for one year, with 2 one-year renewals available.



**REQUEST: Approval of Lease at Endeavor with Lord Cattle, LLC**

The Board approved and signed a lease agreement with Lord Cattle LLC for approximately 300 acres of County-owned land at the Endeavor property. Under the agreement, the lessee will clear the land and construct necessary infrastructure, including fencing, water systems, wells, and corrals, to support cattle operations. A buffer zone of 50 feet will be in place where any portions of the land adjoin residential property. Terms are:

- 30-year lease at \$15/acre (\$4,500 annually)
- If Lease is terminated before 10 years, County will reimburse at a rate of \$2,000/acre (only for land where improvements were made)
- If Lease is terminated after 10 years but before 30 years, the reimbursement rate will decrease by 100/acre per year
- After 30 years the reimbursement will be \$0



**REQUEST: Approval of Tank Inspection Proposal from US Tank**

The Board has approved the tank inspection proposal from US Tank, declaring an emergency/sole source to ensure compliance with FDEP guidelines. US Tank from Chipley will perform the County's five-year tank inspections, following the cessation of services from the previous contractor. These essential inspections will be completed within this calendar year, demonstrating the Board's commitment to maintaining safety and regulatory standards.



**REQUEST: Approval of Revision 1 and Addendum to APHIS Service Agreement**

The Board has approved a revision and addendum to the contract with Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) for Wildlife Services. This agreement will enable a wildlife specialist to manage feral swine on Jackson County properties, using tools such as cage traps, trail cameras, night vision, thermal imagers, and suppressed firearms. The aim is to remove as many feral swine as possible, with all animals being disposed of on County property under the direction of County personnel. This initiative demonstrates the Board's commitment to effective wildlife management and the protection of local ecosystems.



**REQUEST: Discussion of Appointments**

The Jackson County Board of County Commissioners has filled important committee vacancies left by outgoing members, ensuring continued leadership and representation for the County. At this meeting, Commissioner Westbrook was appointed to serve on the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee and the Small County Coalition.

These appointments reflect the Board's commitment to active engagement and advocacy for Jackson County in regional and statewide initiatives.



**REQUEST: Discussion of State and County Holidays**

Governor DeSantis has granted State workers additional days off for the Christmas and New Year's holidays. Currently, County staff receive Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day off. The Board has decided to align with the State on the additional days. As a result, the County offices will be closed on the following days:

- Monday, December 23, 2024
- Tuesday, December 24, 2024
- Wednesday, December 25, 2024
- Tuesday, December 31, 2024
- Wednesday, January 1, 2025



**LEGEND:**



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