

Thursday, March 9, 2023 – 1:30 P.M.  
Grace Knight Conference Room  
County Administration Building  
Southeast First Street  
Gainesville, Florida

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

**PRESENT:** Chair Anna Prizzia; Vice Chair Mary Alford, Commissioner Charles S. Chestnut IV, Commissioner Ken Cornell, and Commissioner Marihelen Wheeler

**ALSO PRESENT:** County Manager Michelle Lieberman, Deputy County Manager Carl Smart, County Attorney Sylvia Torres, and Deputy Clerk Steve Donahey

Approval of Agenda

**Commissioner Alford moved** adoption of the agenda as printed. The motion carried 5-0.

2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Chestnut

Items for Discussion

1. Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) Budget Development - Deep Dive - Community Support Services 23-0515  
**Recommended Action:** Hear Presentation  
**Fiscal Consideration:** None  
**Strategic Guide:** All Other Mandatory and Discretionary Services

Assistant County Manager Crosby presented the budget calendar for the Fiscal Year. He further encouraged that at the Regular Meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> that if the Commission has any items that they wish to discuss regarding the budget to please mention them at that meeting.

Deputy County Manager Smart and Community Support Services Director Claudia Tuck presented the above item.

Community Agency Partnership Program (CAPP)

CAPP Program Manager Jaye Athy stated that there was one agency who declined the award of \$37,191.89 and some other funding that was returned because agencies

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were unable to spend the full amount awarded. There were 42 programs funded for a total of \$1,300,000.00. She advised that staff is looking to use the funding to provide some smaller grants to allow program enhancements and emergency needs that would include capital purchases. The maximum award would be \$25,000.

Commissioner Cornell, Commissioner Alford, Chair Prizzia, and Commissioner Wheeler presented comments.

#### Community Stabilization Program

Program Manager Satori Day presented the above item.

Ms. Day advised that the Program hosted its first Burial Memorial Service for those who have passed and are not claimed by loved ones.

Commissioner Alford and County Manager Lieberman presented comments.

Ms. Day also stated that the Program has the Strike Out Hunger initiative and the Stop the Violence Rally every year. Her office works closely with community partners to implement these programs.

#### Crisis Center

Crisis Center Director Ali Martinez stated that the Center has received \$1,278,765 in funding from the State of Florida that has allowed the department to fund 10 FTE call center interventionists that are supported by volunteers.

She further advised that the mobile response teams have received \$339,605 in State Funding which have allowed the unit to assist in the School system when needed.

Commissioner Alford, Commissioner Cornell, and Chair Prizzia presented comments.

#### Foster Grandparent Program

Program Manager Ms. Pennington presented the above item.

She advised that the staff is planning a celebration for the 50 years of service that this program has provided. The program receives \$108,563 from the General fund which is a match for the \$429,101 it receives in grant funding. There are currently 60 volunteers participating in the program.

Commissioner Alford presented comments.

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## Housing/SHIP Programs

Housing Programs Manager Stephen Weeks presented the above item.

Mr. Weeks informed the Board that this year the SHIP Program should have about \$1,300,000 for the program. He expects that funding to increase as it is tied to doc stamps and home sales in Florida are up. The Program is looking to provide replacement housing for many older mobile homes that are not economically feasible to repair. There is also funding for foreclosure assistance. This program can provide up to \$7,000 to assist people who have fallen behind in payments to avoid foreclosure.

Commissioner Cornell, Assistant County Manager Crosby, and Chair Prizzia presented comments.

## Affordable Housing Trust

Mrs. Tuck informed the Board that there is \$100,000 annually to help fund short term housing vouchers for the housing authority waitlist. This will serve approximately 10 households. There is \$500,000 dollars to address community blight. The program can be used for debris removal water and sewer connections and the like.

Mr. Weeks informed the Board that there are 31 escheated properties that have been made available to the public for affordable housing. There is currently work being conducted with the County Attorney's office regarding some properties that families were on aware that they had lost ownership. The County is trying to work out a method to return those properties.

## Housing Program – Advisory Board

Mrs. Tuck informed the Board that the Board representative to the Board is Commissioner Wheeler.

## Housing Finance Authority (HFA)

Mr. Weeks stated that the HFA has recently completed the renovations for the Village Green Apartments. Harbor Cove and Pine Grove are two projects under consideration for a renovation project. The Housing Authority currently has \$31,374,345 in State Bonds at its disposal for projects. This funding is a reoccurring fund.

Chair Prizzia and Commissioner Alford presented comments.

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#### Sugar Oaks/Cedar Ridge Preservation and Enhancement District

Mrs. Tuck advised that each dwelling in the area is taxed \$5.00 per month and the District determines the enhancement that will be funded with the revenue. It raises \$49,620 a year. The district board consists of 5 residents of the area. Staff simply provides support to the Board.

Chair Prizzia presented comments.

#### Social Services

Mrs. Tuck stated that \$1,412,426 from the General Fund is used to assist with Health Care, Vision Care, Urgent Special Needs, Waiver Assessments, Transportation, and Housing Stabilization.

Commissioner Alford, County Manager Lieberman, Commissioner Cornell, Chair Prizzia, and Commissioner Wheeler presented comments.

#### Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)

Mrs. Tuck informed the Board that the County was allotted \$10,877,027 for Rental Assistance. As of December 31, 2022 \$10,745,043 was dispersed.

Chair Prizzia and Commissioner Alford presented comments.

#### Veteran Services

Veteran Services Director Kim Davis presented the above item.

Ms. Davis stated that the department has served 3,000 veterans this last year. Monthly benefits awarded totaled \$493,382 and veterans received \$2,097,574 in retroactive benefits.

Commissioner Cornell, Commissioner Wheeler, and Commissioner Alford presented comments.

#### Victim Services

Project Manager Laura Kalt presented the above item.

Mrs. Kalt stated that the General Fund provides \$563,518 and the Department received about another \$500,000 in grant funding. There is a staff of 7.5 FTE for the operation. They do provide bi-lingual services to serve the Spanish speaking community.

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They are looking to expand outreach to residents with limited English proficiency. Victims are not required to report the crime in order to receive services.

Commissioner Alford, Chair Prizzia, and Commissioner Cornell presented comments.

Assistant Director Candie Nixon stated that staff will follow up on the following items from the Board discussion:

- Children's Mental Health
- CAPP RFA process for funding additional services
- Indigent Burial Ceremony reaching out to GRACE Marketplace, St. Francis House, etc.
- Review of best practices for the Surtax Funding
- Collaboration with EPD regarding the Advance Septic Tank Grant
- Provide the Board with a copy of the Copeland Survey and the list of Escheated Properties
- Research the Lien and magistrate process to find ways to assist residents.
- Community Engagement Process
- Position upgrades for Veteran Services

Closing Comments

Public Comment

There was no one present who wished to address the Board.

Commission Comment

Commissioner Alford inquired if staff is looking into covering hearing aids for low income residents.

Chair Prizzia thanked the staff for their hard work.

House Bill 293 and Senate Bill 680

Commissioner Cornell stated he had a conversation with Representative Hinson Rawls for support of her Energy Transition Bill. He stated it would be very helpful for her to have a letter of support.

**Commissioner Cornell moved** to direct staff to draft a Chair Letter in support of House Bill 293 and Senate Bill 680 and send the letter to the Committee Chairs and Members. Also engage the County Lobbyist to support the bills. The motion carried 5-0.

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#### Smoking in County Parks

Commissioner Cornell stated that there is a group trying to organize a ban on smoking in County Parks. He stated that the City of Gainesville has an Ordinance to model. He would like to provide this matter to staff to work on.

#### Animal Services Mural

Commissioner Wheeler stated that an artist is volunteering her time and talents to paint a mural on the Animal Services Building. She will begin work on the project this evening.

#### City of Archer Town Hall Meeting

Commissioner Alford stated that the City of Archer Community Center has been found to have termites. They are inquiring if the Surtax would be an allowable source to pay for repairs to the Center.

#### Senior Center

Chair Prizzia stated that she has attended two events at the Senior Center and that the Air Conditioning is clearly not functioning. She inquired if the Surtax can be used to repair the AC System.

#### Adjourn

There being no further business before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 P.m.