

February 21, 2017
Regular Board Meeting
Judicial Annex Building
Live Oak, Florida

6:00 p.m.

The Suwannee County Board of County Commissioners met on the above date and time for a regular session and the following were present: Chairman Ricky Gamble; Commissioner Don Hale; Commissioner Clyde Fleming; Commissioner Larry Sessions; and Commissioner Ronnie Richardson. Barry A. Baker, Clerk of Court; Ken Williams, Chief Deputy Clerk of Finance; Eric Musgrove, Deputy Clerk; Randy Harris, County Administrator; and James W. Prevatt, Jr., County Attorney, were also present.

Chairman Gamble called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and asked Deputy Clerk Musgrove to lead the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The first item on the agenda was to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2017 Regular Board Meeting.

Commissioner Hale moved to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2017 Regular Board Meeting as written. Commissioner Sessions seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT:

County Attorney Prevatt asked to pull agenda item seven from the consent agenda for brief discussion.

The second item on the agenda was to approve payment of processed invoices.

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Suwannee County Board of County Commissioners
Warrants Issued Report
 2/21/2017

	FUND	AMOUNT
001	GENERAL FUND	\$672,047.38
116	FINE AND FORFEITURE	\$44,564.34
117	911 ADDRESSING FUND	\$7,512.66
118	STATE ATTORNEYS OFFICE	\$50,286.70
119	BUILDING DEPARTMENT	\$8,655.31
122	FIRE PROTECTION FUND	\$22,997.91
126	COUNTY AWARDS GRANT	\$4,601.92
128	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	\$7,597.20
129	LAW EDUCATION	\$9,101.00
131	TOURIST PROMOTION	\$8,313.53
140	ROAD AND BRIDGE	\$451,443.29
171	LIBRARY FUND	\$95,027.42
172	RECREATION FUND	\$55,055.15
402	SOLID WASTE COLLECTION	\$73,612.43
403	SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL	\$61,035.83
404	WATER PLANT	\$1,132.00
	GRAND TOTAL	\$1,572,984.07

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**Board of County Commissioners over \$10,000.00
 Warrants Issued Analysis**

Please find below a list of payments \$10,000.00 and above that will be approved for disbursement on 02/21/17

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Check No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Description</u>
Aecom	2/21/2017	174953	\$25,300.00	Apron Expansion phase I / Grant
Security Safe	2/21/2017	174825	\$22,829.00	Security cameras at Collection Sites and reg mthly monitoring
VE Whitehurst and Sons	2/21/2017	174954	\$297,120.72	180th Street / Grant
Jim Hinton Oil	2/21/2017	174826	\$18,399.25	fuel
Waste Management	2/21/2017	174868	\$40,466.39	waste hauling
Blue Cross/Blue Shield	2/21/2017	174908	\$174,124.30	February Health Insurance
Ketchum, Wood, and Burgert	2/21/2017	174931	\$21,597.96	medical examiner
Emerald Data Partners	2/21/2017	174960	\$33,610.97	Telephone Equipment and Installation chgs New State Atty Bldg
City of Live Oak	2/9/2017	174754	\$17,799.63	utilities
Florida Power & Light	2/9/2017	174756	\$17,593.19	electric
Nakash Family Live Oak, LLC	2/9/2017	174798	\$28,500.00	February rent State Atty Lease

\$697,341.41

The third item on the agenda was to approve a renewal and extension of the Master Services Agreement with AECOM to the full five (5) year term. (**Agreement No. 2014-44-01**)

The fourth item on the agenda was to approve a Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP) Unique Abilities grant for the First Federal Sportsplex from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. (**Agreement No. 2017-31**)

The fifth item on the agenda was to approve a Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program grant for renovations at Douglass Park from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. (**Agreement No. 2017-32**)

The sixth item on the agenda was to approve a Task Order with North Florida Professional Services, Inc. for engineering services associated with resurfacing C. R. 136. Budget impact: funded by FDOT. (**Agreement No. 2017-33**)

The seventh item on the agenda was to approve a Facility Use Agreement with the Suwannee River Economic Council, Inc. for use of the Branford Health Department Building.

This item was pulled from the consent agenda for discussion.

The eighth item on the agenda was to approve waiving building permit fees for living quarters at the McAlpin Fire Station.

The ninth item on the agenda was to approve a Small County Outreach Program (SCOP) – Supplemental Agreement #1 with the Florida Department of Transportation for widening and resurfacing 29th Road from CR 252 to SR 10/US 90, and adoption of an enabling resolution. **(Agreement No. 2015-21-01 and Resolution 2017-25)**

The tenth item on the agenda was to approve a resolution requesting protection of the historic Suwannee River in North Florida. **(Resolution No. 2017-26)**

The eleventh item on the agenda was to approve the purchase of two (2) firewalls in the amount of \$19,470.00. Budget impact: funded from IT reserve.

The twelfth item on the agenda was to approve the purchase of a used 2015 Freightliner water truck in the amount of \$74,000. Budgeted item.

The thirteenth item on the agenda was to authorize the expenditure of \$1,500.00 as a contribution to the Florida Rural Water Association (FRWA) in aid of engineering assistance and authorize the Chairman to execute a Florida Rural Water Association (FRWA) Specific Assistance Agreement/Acknowledgment. **(Agreement No. 2017-34)**

The fourteenth item on the agenda was to authorize the bidding of interior painting at the Suwannee River Regional Library.

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The fifteenth item on the agenda was to award a bid and authorize execution of a contract with Music Construction for reconstruction of a portion of Central Road. (Bid Solicitation No. 2017-03). (Bids were opened on February 14, 2017). Budget impact: funded by FDOT. (Agreement No. 2017-35)

The sixteenth item on the agenda was to ratify the effective date of lease between Dowling Park and Suwannee County for the library site (see **Agreement No. 2015-05**).

Commissioner Richardson moved to approve Consent Agenda Items 2 through 6 and 8 through 16. Commissioner Fleming seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

The seventh item on the agenda was to approve a Facility Use Agreement with the Suwannee River Economic Council, Inc. (SREC) for use of the Branford Health Department Building.

County Attorney Prevatt noted that the format of standard County agreements had been changed since the previous Facility Use Agreement with SREC had been adopted, so he asked for approval under the new standard contract.

Commissioner Fleming moved to approve a Facility Use Agreement with the Suwannee River Economic Council, Inc. (SREC) for use of the Branford Health Department Building. Commissioner Sessions seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. (Agreement No. 2017-36)

It not yet being 6:10 p.m., Chairman Gamble moved to General Business items.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

The twenty-first item on the agenda was to set a date, time, and location of a workshop to discuss Solid Waste and other issues.

The Board agreed that due to a conflict, the workshop would be held on Tuesday, March 14, at 9 a.m. in the Judicial Annex.

Commissioner Sessions moved to hold a workshop to discuss solid waste and other matters on Tuesday, March 14 at 9 a.m. at the Judicial Annex. Commissioner Hale seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

The twenty-second item on the agenda was to discuss, with possible Board action, the bid results for repairs to the Courthouse. (Bid Solicitation No. 2017-02).

County Administrator Harris stated that the bids had been opened, but at approximately \$100,000, he found them all to be rather high for the job. Once the State Attorney's Office was completed, he would look at using in-house labor to reduce the costs. He asked for permission to use in-house services and come back with a reduced cost.

Chairman Gamble asked County Administrator Harris to discuss the work to be done. County Administrator Harris explained that the work was on the more than 20 outcroppings around the 1964 Courthouse Addition that were now failing and would need to be reinforced and supported.

Commissioner Richardson asked if the County was bound to accept bids if they were opened. County Administrator Harris replied that the County was not bound to accept any bids, and language was in each request for bids allowing the rejection of all bids.

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County Administrator Harris stated that the County could probably perform the work for half of the bid proposals' costs.

County Attorney Prevatt suggested the Board either table the item or reject all bids.

Discussion ensued on rejecting the bids.

County Administrator Harris stated that he may later come before the Board for a request to bid out a portion of the bid, but it would not be the entire amount.

Commissioner Sessions moved to reject all bids concerning repairs to the Courthouse (Bid Solicitation No. 2017-02). Commissioner Fleming seconded. After discussion about the ability of County staff to perform the repairs, the motion carried unanimously.

It being after 6:10 p.m., Chairman Gamble returned to Time Specific items.

TIME SPECIFIC ITEMS:

The seventeenth item on the agenda was **at 6:10 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as the matter could be heard, to **hold the first of two public hearings** to consider the enactment of an ordinance establishing a temporary moratorium of 180 days on the acceptance of and processing of new applications for the establishment of Medical Marijuana dispensing facilities and Medical Marijuana treatment centers.

Chairman Gamble opened the public hearing.

County Attorney Prevatt swore in all those wishing to speak and then discussed the proposed ordinance. He stated that the prior Board had asked him to review a possible moratorium, but since that time, the voters of Florida had passed a law legalizing medical marijuana. However, the State had not yet submitted procedures for handling medical marijuana, and so the moratorium

would allow the County to hold off making decisions that might be against the State's eventual policies.

Chairman Gamble opened the floor to public comments.

Mrs. Wendy Martin of McAlpin asked that the Board vote against a moratorium to allow citizens to make use of the new law. She added that it would also increase construction and employment in the area, and several neighboring counties had already begun the process of accepting medical marijuana-related facilities.

Mr. Fred Martin of McAlpin stated that he was against a moratorium on marijuana because marijuana would help wean people off harder drugs such as heroin. He stated that marijuana was a natural plant and should not be limited by the Board.

There being no more public comments, Chairman Gamble closed the floor to public comments.

Commissioner Richardson took offense at the thought that a moratorium on marijuana would jeopardize those with a heroin addiction. He added that medical marijuana was new to the State, and they had not yet submitted procedures as to how to regulate it. Commissioner Richardson asked how long the County Attorney thought it would take for the State to give directions to the counties. County Attorney Prevatt replied that the original State's estimate for a directive had been six months, but they were already at that point without any information. He added that the law as written allowed the counties to determine whether or not they wished to have medical marijuana dispensaries, and the 180 days could be extended or removed as need be.

County Administrator Harris stated that there was a State bill currently under discussion about preempting County laws, which could affect the County's ability to decide land use regulations.

Commissioner Hale stated that the Board needed to know what they were doing before making a final decision.

Chairman Gamble stated that there would be no vote tonight.

Commissioner Richardson clarified his earlier comments to mean that legalization of medical marijuana was new to the State, and it would take everyone some time to digest how to handle it.

Chairman Gamble closed the public hearing.

The eighteenth item on the agenda was at **6:15 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as possible, to hold a public hearing to consider adoption of a resolution approving Special Permit Request No. SP-17-02-02 by Rachiry of Florida, LLC to be granted a special permit under Section 14.6 of the Suwannee County Land Development Regulations for Intensive Agriculture to construct three (3) poultry houses on property zoned Agriculture-1 (A-1).

Chairman Gamble opened the public hearing.

County Attorney Prevatt swore in all those wishing to speak.

Mr. Ronald Meeks, Planning and Zoning Director, stated that the 37-acre parcel was found in Section 23, Township 4 South, Range 12 East at the intersection of 180th Street and 165th Road. He discussed the proposed application in detail and then submitted it as Composite Exhibit #1.

Chairman Gamble opened the floor to public comments.

Ms. Erie Lane, living in the vicinity of the proposed poultry houses, stated that she would hate to have the poultry operation in the area despite living in a rural area. She added that many of the residents in the area were against the poultry houses.

County Attorney Prevatt swore in Ms. Soles, who had not been sworn in earlier.

Ms. Lexie Soles, who lived on 180th Street, was concerned with the traffic that would be going in and out of the poultry operation and its impact on the local roads.

Chairman Gamble stated that the Board was prepared to work on the roads if need be.

There being no further public comments, Chairman Gamble closed the floor to public comments.

Chairman Gamble noted for the record that the parcel was located in his district, and he had received several telephone calls against the poultry houses. He stated that the telephone calls would in no way impact his decision based upon the facts, and merely wanted to report his conversations for the record.

Commissioner Richardson asked about the procedures for installing new driveways. Mr. Meeks explained the details of installing driveways.

Discussion ensued on adding a concrete driveway as a condition to approving the application, and that there was already a driveway present.

Commissioner Fleming moved to adopt a resolution approving Special Permit Request No. SP-17-02-02 by Rachiry of Florida, LLC to be granted a special permit under Section 14.6 of the Suwannee County Land Development Regulations for Intensive Agriculture to construct three (3) poultry houses on property zoned Agriculture-1 (A-1).

Commissioner Richardson seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. (Resolution No. 2017-27)

Chairman Gamble closed the public hearing.

Chairman Gamble stated that he had heard the concerns of his constituents, but the Board had a legal obligation to approve the application unless there was some legal reason against it; citizens not wanting poultry houses near them was not a sufficient legal objection.

Due to the number of people present for particular items, Chairman Gamble skipped to the twenty-fifth item on the agenda.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

The twenty-fifth item on the agenda was to discuss, with possible Board action, an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Live Oak regarding construction of a portion of 72nd Trace.

County Administrator Harris stated that the original scope of Perimeter Road did not include all of 72nd Trace. He stated that now that Perimeter Road was nearing completion, he had approached the City of Live Oak regarding the reconstruction of a portion of 72nd Trace that fell with the city limits, which would cost an additional \$43,000 beyond what the grant provided. A decision needed to be made, and several proposed agreements had been drafted over the last few months. County Administrator Harris stated that the City had not yet made a decision, but may do so at their next meeting the following week. He then discussed the latest proposed supplemental agreement for consideration by the Board. County Administrator Harris stated that if an agreement could not be reached in the very near future, the construction company would complete their

previously-authorized work and demobilize, and any remaining grant funds for Perimeter Road would be returned to the State.

After questioning by Commissioner Richardson, County Administrator Harris stated that \$43,000 would be what it would cost the City of Live Oak to complete the reconstruction if an agreement was reached; otherwise, any grant funds remaining would be returned to the State.

After questioning by Commissioner Fleming, County Administrator Harris stated that the agreement needed to be signed by next week as the contractor was done waiting to demobilize. County Administrator Harris added that the delay to the project was costing the contractor time and money.

Commissioner Sessions asked if the bad condition of 72nd Trace would be a liability to the City in the future with the large vehicle traffic expected. County Attorney Prevatt replied that the condition of the road would be a liability to the City.

Commissioner Sessions believed that it would be in the City's best interest to reconstruct their portion of 72nd Trace.

Chairman Gamble asked Live Oak City Council President Keith Mixon about the special-called meeting by the City. President Mixon replied that the special meeting had been called to decide upon the agreement.

President Mixon stated that the City's intent was to make the agreement work, and he was willing to work with the County. A decision by the City Council would be made on February 28.

Live Oak City Manager Ron Williams stated that the City was proceeding with a determination on the agreement, although there were a few small issues that could easily be resolved and would not affect the substance of the proposed agreement.

Chairman Gamble stated that a City Council meeting held the week before had gone well.

Commissioner Sessions moved to adopt a Supplemental Interlocal Agreement with the City of Live Oak regarding construction of a portion of 72nd Trace. Commissioner Richardson seconded. County Attorney Prevatt asked that the motion have a two-week deadline. **Commissioner Richardson withdrew his second, and Commissioner Sessions withdrew his motion.**

President Mixon stated that two weeks would not be required for a decision, as the City would be making a decision the following week.

Commissioner Sessions moved to adopt a Supplemental Interlocal Agreement with the City of Live Oak regarding construction of a portion of 72nd Trace with a one-week deadline for a response from the City of Live Oak. Commissioner Richardson seconded. County Administrator Harris suggested that the motion be amended to allow for minor adjustments to the language of the agreement. Discussion ensued on the possibility of making minor changes to the wording of the document. County Administrator Harris discussed some of the possible changes to the document. City Manager Williams stated that the issues the City had did not change the purpose of the agreement, only some minor wording issues. Discussion ensued on the minor issues. **Commissioner Richardson withdrew his second, and Commissioner Sessions withdrew his motion.**

County Attorney Prevatt clarified the suggested wording of the motion.

Commissioner Sessions moved to adopt a Supplemental Interlocal Agreement with the City of Live Oak regarding construction of a portion of 72nd Trace with a one-week

deadline for a response from the City of Live Oak. Commissioner Richardson seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. (Agreement No. 2017-37)

Chairman Gamble moved to agenda item twenty-three due to the number of citizens present to discuss the item.

The twenty-third item on the agenda was to discuss, with possible Board action, an Aid Agreement between Suwannee County and the City of Live Oak for fire services.

County Attorney Prevatt discussed the County's Fire-Rescue protocols that would be negatively impacted by the City's lack of EMS services, opening up the County to additional responsibility and liability. He recommended that the County not even consider an EMS aid agreement with the City of Live Oak, as it would increase the County's liability. However, regarding fire service, the County could address due to the services rendered. County Attorney Prevatt discussed the specifics of the proposed aid agreement, including the number of vehicles and employees that would be required to respond.

County Administrator Harris stated that the drafted agreement allowed the officer in charge at the time of a call to make a decision on what was required. It would reduce the number of vehicles and personnel that showed up for every fire.

Commissioner Fleming asked if the County would be liable if the City responded to a fire call and then helped with injuries. County Attorney Prevatt replied that City staff would fall under County control, but the City would still retain liability for negligent actions. The County would be liable if it responded within the City limits and were negligent.

Commissioner Richardson asked if Board or City action would be required to terminate a mutual agreement once it was signed by both entities. County Attorney Prevatt replied that the

Board or City would need to terminate the agreement, and such language would be provided in the proposed agreement.

Commissioner Richardson stated that he had received signed and unsigned agreements regarding mutual aid with the City of Live Oak from previous years, and wondered why the County needed to sign a new agreement if there was still an agreement from 1995 (Agreement No. 1995-01) on the books. He stated that it appeared later proposals had never been adopted by the City or County.

County Attorney Prevatt stated that there had been numerous changes over the years and there needed to be some clarification as to what services would be provided on fire calls. He discussed the issue in some detail.

Commissioner Richardson stated that he would further research the issue, but his main concern was a quick response time for both EMS and fire emergencies to save lives.

Commissioner Sessions stated that there was a concern with EMS access north of the railroad tracks when a train was blocking all access. He suggested parking an ambulance on the north side of the railroad tracks for such cases.

Public Safety Director James Sommers stated that the 1995 agreement was outdated due to the merger of Fire and EMS services in the County, plus the increase in both population and service since that time. Chief Sommers stated that he wanted Suwannee County Fire Rescue to provide the best service to its citizens. He was in favor of discussing the placement of an ambulance on the north side of the railroad tracks if the Board so desired. Chief Sommers stated that Suwannee County Fire Rescue was the only service amongst the surrounding counties that served both Fire and EMS needs of its citizens.

Chairman Gamble understood Chief Sommers' comments about other counties, but the City of Live Oak was within Suwannee County and they were citizens of Suwannee County as well. He stated that he was not interested in providing service calls to gas leaks and other minor issues within the City of Live Oak, nor was he opposed to having the City respond to fire calls within five miles of the city limits.

Discussion ensued on the specifics of the proposed agreement and the required responses, and that the 1995 agreement only required responses to nursing homes and large structure fires.

Commissioner Fleming stated that there were several issues in the proposed agreement that would not be beneficial to Suwannee County, and could actually be a liability.

County Attorney Prevatt stated that the City's level of EMS service provided some basic needs, but not those that could be provided by Suwannee County.

Chairman Gamble suggested that the Board consider the fire portion of the issue and address the EMS portion later.

Commissioner Richardson was concerned with the lack of communication between the City and County over the last several years regarding protocols, as well as with the seven-minute response time to a location a mere three blocks away from the City Fire Department that could cause the loss of lives. Commissioner Richardson did not want to hear accusations and innuendoes suggesting that Chief Sommers and the Suwannee County Fire Rescue were not taking care of the citizens.

After some discussion, Chairman Gamble stated that he did not wish to delve into an issue of past response times for EMS-related calls. He asked if the Board was in favor of a mutual aid agreement for fire services with the City of Live Oak. If the Board wished to discuss basic life

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support functions or EMS functions, that they make a decision on whether to proceed or not after receiving information from the State and other entities.

Commissioner Fleming stated that the issue was about saving lives, but he was not prepared to make a decision at the present meeting. He suggested a workshop to address the issues.

Chairman Gamble stated that there were already enough topics to discuss at the March 14 workshop, and suggested that the County Attorney and County Administrator work on an agreement that would then be brought back before the Board.

The Board agreed by consensus to have the County Attorney and County Administrator work on agreements with the City of Live Oak for fire and EMS services that would then be brought back to the Board for discussion and possible adoption.

Chairman Gamble called a brief recess at 7:36 p.m.

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7:46 p.m.

Chairman Gamble called the meeting back to order and continued with a discussion of agenda item twenty-three.

Live Oak Fire Department Chief Chad Croft stated that he had attempted to enter into agreements with the County regarding fire and EMS services for several years, but to no avail. He discussed a short history of the City's attempts to have fire and EMS service agreements with the County as well his repeated attempts to contact Chief Sommers. Chief Croft stated that the City wanted to help its citizens, as well as the citizens of Suwannee County. He was alarmed that the County had agreements with surrounding counties but did not have one with the City of Live Oak.

County Administrator Harris asked if there was anything precluding the City of Live Oak from responding to Basic Life Support (BLS) calls within the City. County Attorney Prevatt replied that the City could not respond to BLS calls because the County had the certificate for BLS services and met the legal criteria for response. He added that the City could respond to fire calls.

After questioning by Chief Croft, County Attorney Prevatt replied that the City could not provide initial BLS services, although they could provide lifting and other related services. He disagreed with Chief Croft's assessment of the situation.

After further discussion, County Attorney Prevatt stated that he could not answer to what had happened with fire and EMS responses in the past, but going forward, the City could not legally provide initial BLS services.

Chief Sommers stated that Florida required a medical director and a standing set of medical protocols for an agency to operate BLS services, and the City of Live Oak did not currently provide those services and would therefore be liable if they responded to EMS calls.

Chairman Gamble asked what would happen if the City adopted the County's protocols and hired the County's medical director. County Attorney Prevatt replied that he would have to research the issue, but he believed that Chairman Gamble's suggestion was working toward the correct solution and would allow the City to respond to EMS calls like the County.

President Mixon stated that the City could not provide EMS services legally at this time, although fire services could be provided. If both the City and County were willing to move forward with drafting some sort of agreement to work out the issues, it would be good for the citizens.

Discussion ensued on the ongoing issue of emergency services to Suwannee County and City of Live Oak citizens.

Commissioner Sessions asked how many City fireman were EMT qualified. Chief Croft replied that all his staff was EMT certified.

Commissioner Sessions stated that legal issues were killing people, and the City and County should quickly move forward with a solution before more people died.

COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS:

The nineteenth item on the agenda was to discuss the potential for requiring permits for demolition.

This item had been pulled from the agenda for consideration at a later date.

Commissioner Fleming discussed the growth in the northern part of the City of Live Oak toward Interstate-10, and it might be necessary in the future for the County to place another Fire Rescue station north of Live Oak. He suggested the possibility of buying property near the interstate for future needs.

COUNTY ATTORNEY ITEMS:

There were none.

STAFF REPORTS:

The twentieth item on the agenda was Staff Reports.

Ms. Betty Lawrence, Director of Libraries, delivered a report on library services and programs, noting for the new commissioners that she directed not only the libraries of Suwannee County, but also those in Madison and Hamilton Counties. She also updated the County on the

progress with the Dowling Park Library, which was now anticipated to open in late May or early June.

Chairman Gamble asked the average number of monthly users for the Live Oak Library. Mrs. Lawrence did not have the numbers at present, but could research them.

Chairman Gamble remembered about 11,000 visitors per month last year. Mrs. Lawrence added that the average number of visitors was up from last year.

County Attorney Prevatt discussed a library presentation to be held in March regarding the book, *A Land Remembered*, with the son of the author.

Ms. Katherine Allen, Extension Office Director, introduced Jane Griffen, the new agriculture agent specializing in livestock and forages. She also discussed the impending loss of several employees due to retirement or transfer to other locales.

Mrs. Griffen thanked the Board for hiring her and offered her professional agricultural expertise.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

The twenty-first item on the agenda was to set a date, time, and location of a workshop to discuss Solid Waste and other issues.

This item was discussed prior to Time Specific items.

The twenty-second item on the agenda was to discuss, with possible Board action, the bid results for repairs to the Courthouse. (Bid Solicitation No. 2017-02).

This item was discussed prior to Time Specific items.

The twenty-third item on the agenda was to discuss, with possible Board action, an Aid Agreement between Suwannee County and the City of Live Oak for fire services.

This item was discussed after Time Specific items.

The twenty-fourth item on the agenda was to discuss, with possible Board action, vehicle tent sales in Suwannee County.

Commissioner Hale stated that he was not looking for Board action tonight, but wanted the Board to consider the issue at the next meeting. He submitted information regarding how other counties handled vehicle tent sales.

Chairman Gamble stated that he had no problem with tent sales, but wished that they be required to abide by the same rules as local businesses.

Commissioner Richardson asked if tent sales were a big problem in the county. Commissioner Hale replied that he had received numerous complaints because the tent sales come in at any time, sell as many vehicles as possible, and then pack up and move. This created a disadvantage to local dealerships who had to invest in local buildings, land, and taxes.

Chairman Gamble stated that he did not want to place a burden on local dealerships that was not also placed on tent sale vendors.

The Board would address the issue at a later date.

The twenty-fifth item on the agenda was to discuss, with possible Board action, an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Live Oak regarding construction of a portion of 72nd Trace.

This item was discussed after Time Specific items.

The twenty-sixth item on the agenda was to discuss, with possible Board action, any items related to the State Attorney's Office (if necessary).

County Administrator Harris stated that State Attorney staff would be moving into the new building at the end of the week, although there were some minor issues that would still need to be addressed. Issues with the nearby Mizell's building would be handled at a later date.

The twenty-seventh item on the agenda was Additional Agenda Items.

There was one additional agenda item:

The first additional agenda item was a request for authorization to repair or replace the Genset at the Suwannee County Jail.

County Administrator Harris stated that he was awaiting a quote from Ring Power to either repair or replace the emergency generator part at a price of between \$8,000 and \$30,000.

Marcus Durham, County Facilities Manager, stated that he had received a response from Ring Power late in the afternoon and that the part had been ordered to replace what was broken. A quote for the repairs would be submitted the following day.

County Administrator Harris suggested that the Board authorize the repair or replacement of the Genset to bring the Jail's emergency generator back online.

The Board agreed by consensus to allow the County Administrator to proceed with whatever was necessary to bring the Jail emergency generator back online.

The twenty-eighth item on the agenda was public concerns and comments. (Filling out of Comment Card requested, and forwarded to the Chairman or County Administrator. Individual speakers from the audience would be allowed three (3) minutes and a single representative or spokesperson would be allowed seven (7) minutes to speak following recognition by the Chairman and must speak from the podium – one (1) trip to podium).

There was one public comment.

Mr. William Starling of 3679 129th Road, Live Oak, discussed fill stations for Fire Rescue services that had been mentioned in 2015. He asked about any progress on the issue.

Chief Sommers stated that there were several phases to the process, and his staff was working on a solution.

County Administrator Harris added that the County would be having a solid waste workshop in March that would address the setup of the collection sites and would include wells and other related items to allow for fill stations.

Mr. Starling clarified that he was asking about funding for the fill station that had been set aside in 2015. Chairman Gamble replied that the fill stations had been funded.

Mr. Starling discussed the fill stations in more detail and again asked if the County had made any real progress since 2015. County Administrator Harris replied that there had not been much real progress since 2015, but the upcoming workshop would address the issue.

Commissioner Richardson asked why more work had not been performed on the fill stations since 2015. County Administrator Harris replied that there were several issues, some of which were related, that could not be decided at the present meeting.

After questioning, it was determined that funding was still set aside for the fill stations once all other issues had been worked out.

The twenty-ninth item on the agenda was Administrator's comments and information.

There were none.

The thirtieth item on the agenda was Board Members' inquiries, requests, and comments.

Commissioner Hale had nothing to discuss.

Commissioner Sessions thanked the staff who showed up at the town hall meeting in Wellborn earlier in the week to discuss County projects.

Commissioner Richardson stated that he would be having a town hall meeting in Branford on Thursday at 6 p.m. He invited staff to attend.

Commissioner Fleming discussed a Columbia County Traffic Safety Team meeting held earlier in the day. He stated that he had learned from the meeting and thanked Sheriff Sam St. John for attending. Commissioner Fleming also thanked the other commissioners for looking to help the citizens of Suwannee County.

Sheriff St. John stated that Mr. Ken Weaver had provided statistics on the issues around the US 129 and Interstate-10 interchange for the Traffic Safety Team meeting. Sheriff St. John also discussed traffic safety issues within Suwannee County that he was working on rectifying since he had entered office in January.

Commissioner Fleming introduced Mr. Les White, vice-president of the NAACP, and thanked him for attending the meeting.

Chairman Gamble stated that the fair was fast approaching and asked if the rest of the Board was willing to contribute \$100 to the purchase of a hog. The Board, County Administrator Harris, and County Attorney Prevatt agreed to put \$100 each into the purchase of a show hog.

Chairman Gamble thanked the public for attending the meeting tonight and that several difficult issues had been addressed.

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February 21, 2017
Regular Board Meeting
Judicial Annex Building
Live Oak, Florida

The thirty-first item on the agenda was informational items.

There were none.

Commissioner Fleming moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Sessions seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

ATTEST:

_____, DC
BARRY A. BAKER
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

RICKY GAMBLE, CHAIRMAN
SUWANNEE COUNTY BOARD OF
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS