3 (6)

Public Records of St. Johns County, FL Clerk# 04-008754 O.R. 2135 PG 1960 09:40AM 02/10/2004 REC \$25.00 SUR \$3.50

## RESOLUTION NO. 2004 31

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE CLERK OF THE COURTS, UNDER SECTION 95.361, FLORIDA STATUTES TO FILE THE SURVEY MAP FOR WINIFRED MASTERS ROAD, CLAIMING A VESTED INTEREST IN THE ROAD DESCRIBED IN THE SURVEY MAP, AND/OR ESTABLISHING A PRESCRIPTIVE EASEMENT IN THE SAME RIGHTS-OF-WAY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES SET FORTH IN DOWNING V. BIRD, 100 SO.2D 57 (FLA. 1958)

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida have instructed staff to obtain documentation in order to justify continued County maintenance of road that are neither dedicated to St. Johns County, nor are owned by St. Johns County; and

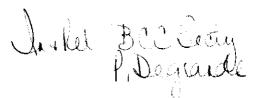
WHEREAS, Winifred Masters Road, as described in attached and incorporated Exhibit A, which is the Survey Map, and which is a road that County staff has documented as warranting continued County maintenance; and

WHEREAS, the procedure set forth in Section 95.361, Florida Statutes, is as follows:

- the road has been constructed by a non-governmental entity, or not constructed by the entity currently maintaining or repairing the road;
- 2) the road has been maintained and/or repaired for the immediate past seven (7) years by the County; and

WHEREAS, under the criteria set forth in Section 95.361, Florida Statutes, such road shall be deemed dedicated to the County, to the extent of the width of the road that actually has been maintained or repaired for the prescribed period, whether or not such road has been formally established as a public highway; and

WHEREAS, the filing of the Survey Map with the Clerk of the Courts of St. Johns County, pursuant to Section 95.361, Florida Statutes, by St. Johns County serves as prima facie evidence of ownership of Winifred Masters Road, as shown in the survey that is included as Exhibit "C", attached hereto, and incorporated herein; and



WHEREAS, in <u>Downing v. Bird</u>, 100 So.2d 57 (Fla. 1958), the Florida Supreme Court set forth separate criteria in which a public entity (such as the County), may establish, claim, and maintain a prescriptive easement on certain property; and

WHEREAS, the criteria set forth in Downing v. Bird, supra, is as follows:

- 1) actual, continuous, uninterrupted use by the public entity for the full prescriptive period of twenty (20) years;
- 2) that the use be adverse under a claim of right, and either be with the actual knowledge of the owner, or so open, notorious, and visible that knowledge of the use is imputed to the owner;
- 3) that such use be inconsistent with the owner's use and enjoyment of his land, and must not be a permissive use; and
- 4) that such use be related to a certain limited and defined area of land, or if for a right-of-way, the use be of a definite route with a reasonably certain line, width, and termini; and

WHEREAS, St. Johns County can demonstrate that Winifred Masters Road, meets each of the criteria, set forth in <u>Downing v. Bird</u>, supra; and

WHEREAS, the public entity has been continuously using Winfred Masters Road without permission of the underlying land owners for in excess of twenty (20) years; and

WHEREAS, County Road and Bridge Supervisor, Ricky S. Saffelder, has state in an affidavit (attached and incorporated as Exhibit B) that the County has been responsible for maintaining Winifred Masters Road for the last twenty (20) years; and

WHEREAS, by filing the survey map with the Clerk of the Courts of St. Johns County, the County acquires a vested interest in the 60 foot right-of-way; and

WHEREAS, St. Johns County can demonstrate that St. Johns County's actions meet the criteria set forth in both/either Section 95.361, Florida Statutes, and/or <u>Downing v. Bird</u>, 100 So.2d 57 (Fla. 1958), with respect to establishing either statutory dedication, or a prescriptive easement over the above-noted, and described Winifred Masters Road; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of St. Johns County to acquire ownership of Winifred Masters Road under either statutory dedication or prescriptive easement, and that such acquisition will benefit the citizens of St. Johns County.

## NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA, as follows:

- **Section 1.** The above recitals are incorporated by reference into the body of this Resolution, an such Recitals are adopted as Findings of Fact.
- Section 2. The Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, and Clerk of the Courts are hereby authorized to file the attached Survey Map of Winifred Masters Road in the Public Records of St. Johns County, Florida.
- Section 3. The Clerk is instructed to record this Resolution in the Public Records of St. Johns County, Florida.

PASSED AND ADOPTED, this 3 day of February 2004.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

Karen R. Stern, Chair

ATTEST: Cheryl Strickland, Clerk

Deputy Clerk

RENDITION DATE 2-4-04

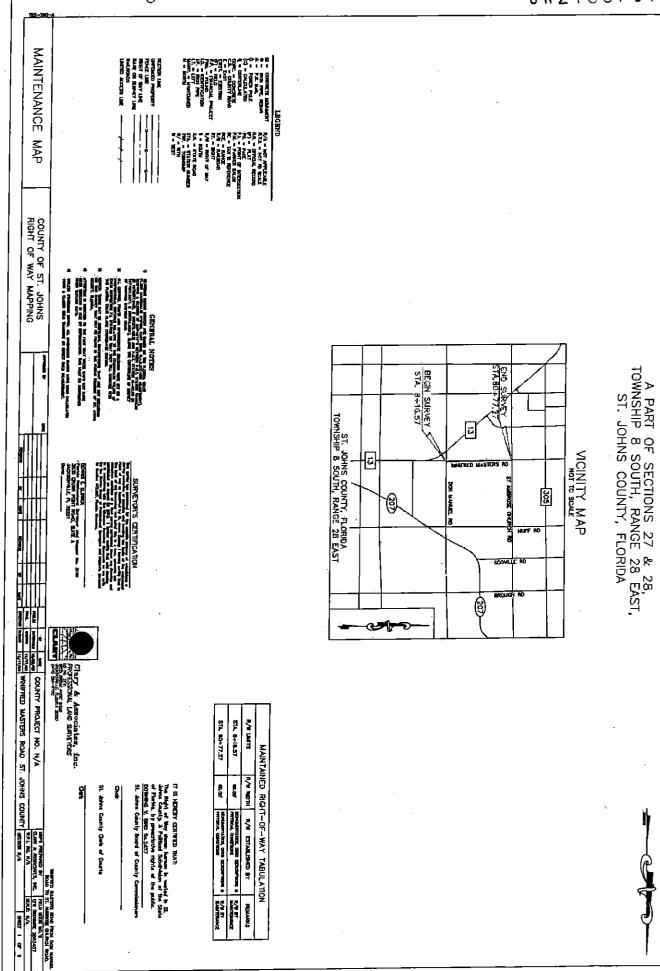
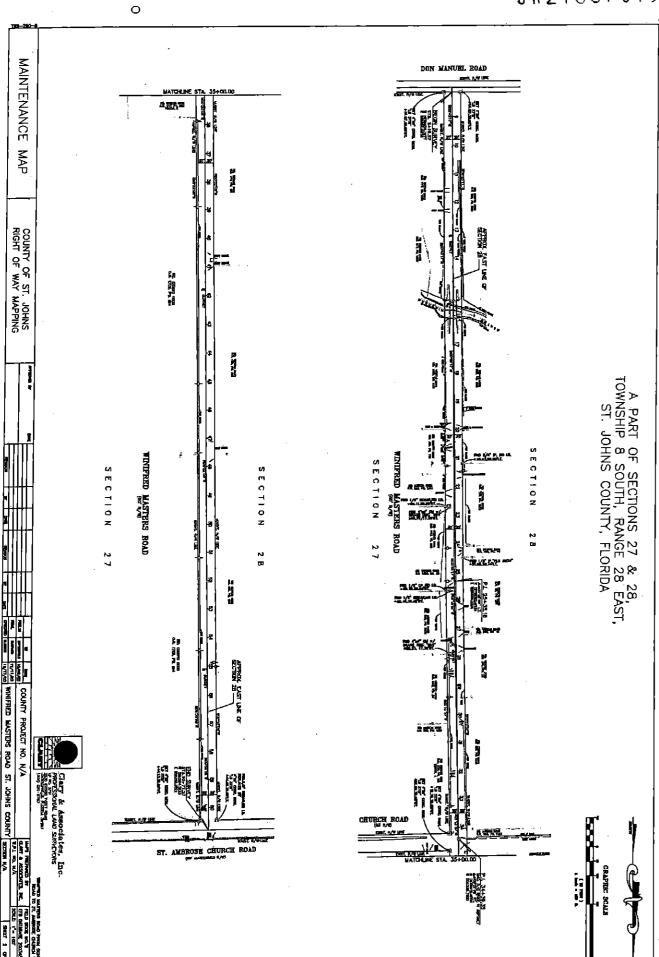


EXHIBIT "A" HO RESOLUTION



## EXHIBIT "B" TO RESOLUTION

## <u>AFFIDAVIT</u>

STATE OF FLORIDA COUNTY OF ST. JOHNS

On this day before me, the undersigned authority, personally appeared,
Ricky 6. Saffed Lin Road and Bridge Superiors on, who being first by
me duly sworn, deposes and says that the County has been maintaining Winifred Masters
Road for the last 30 years and the public has continuously used the road during this
time. This maintenance includes digging ditches, road grading and stabilization.
00 0 0

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NAUGHT.

STATE OF FLORIDA COUNTY OF ST. JOHNS

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 5th day of Torray, 2004 by Ricky G. Saffe lder, Road and Bridge Supervisor, who is personally known to me.

Notary Public

