

**MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA
MARCH 7, 2000
(9:00 A.M.)**

Proceedings of a workshop meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, began and held in the Auditorium at the County Administration Building, #4020 Lewis Speedway (County Road 16-A) and U.S. 1 North, St. Augustine, Florida.

Present were: James E. Bryant, District 5, Chair
Mary Kohnke, District 4, Vice Chair
Pal Howell, District 1
John Reardon, District 2
Mark Jacalone, District 3
Ben W. Adams, Jr., County Administrator
Lenora Newsome, Deputy Clerk

Also present were: Cheryl Strickland, Clerk of Courts; and Michael Givens, Chief Deputy-Finance

(03/07/2000 - 1 - 9:06 a.m.)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bryant.

(03/07/2000 - 1 - 9:06 a.m.)

The Invocation was given by Howell. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bryant.

(03/07/2000 - 1 - 9:07a.m.)

ROLL CALL

The roll was called by the Deputy Clerk.

(03/07/2000 - 1 - 9:07 a.m.)

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO WORKSHOP AGENDA

Howell requested to add a discussion of signs on Race Track Road as item 4a.

(03/07/2000 - 1 - 9:11 a.m.)

APPROVAL OF WORKSHOP AGENDA

Motion by Jacalone, seconded by Reardon, carried 5/0, to approve the Workshop Agenda as amended.

(03/07/2000 - 1 - 9:12 a.m.)

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

Kohnke requested to exchange item 8 with 10 and item 10 with 8.

(03/07/2000 - 1 - 9:13 a.m.)

APPROVAL OF THE SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

Motion by Reardon , seconded by Jacalone, carried 5/0, to approve the Special Agenda as amended.

(03/07/2000 - 2 - 9:13 a.m.)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Interpreter, Melanie Clemmons, for Emanuel Goldman, 5428 Shore Drive, spoke on being a former member of the Library Advisory Board and putting in an application for appointment to another board or committee. Reardon spoke on doing a special recognition for the students of the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind. He asked Goldman to recommend some people from the deaf and blind school to work for the Census Committee as a numerator and earn part time money.

(9:20 a.m.) Jack Peter, Vice President and General Manager of the World Golf Hall of Fame at World Golf Village, gave a brief overview of all the events and activities coming up at the World Golf Village.

(9:27 a.m.) Sharon Warner, 115 South Roscoe Blvd., Architectural Review Board of the Ponte Vedra/Coastal Corridor Overlay District, spoke on violations that are issued and not enforced. She requested someone to be appointed as a Code Enforcement Officer of the Ponte Vedra/Palm Valley area.

(9:30 a.m.) Marie Seifert, 109 Buck Island Court, President of the Ponte Vedra Beaches Coalition, spoke on code enforcement lacking in Ponte Vedra and requested the appointment of a code enforcement officer.

(03/07/2000 - 2 - 9:31 a.m.)

1. PRESENTATION OF THE CHIPS FINAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN BY THE COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PARTNERSHIP (CHIPS).

Dr. Marilyn Wiles, Community Health Improvement Partnership, presented this item, reviewing the information and making recommendations. She stated that the committee recommended physically feasible new health care initiatives including the creation of the CHIPS Institute, universal health care for school age children, creation and expansion of a St. Johns County public transportation system, education and prevention in health care services and programs, establishments of more effective programs dealing with people affected by drug addiction and brain disease, and expanded health care services for under served or needy populations. She named the people serving on the Steering Committee who put together the CHIPS final Comprehensive Plan. (9:44 a.m.) Audrey Fields, Committee Contact for the Crack Control Committee, spoke on a Drug Court Steering Committee, and recommended a program for in-jail rehabilitation and treatment costing about \$45,000 and requested to award it to EPIC Community Services. (9:46) Patty Hunt, President of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, representing Katherine Brandon, Brain Disease Committee, spoke on mental illness. (9:48 a.m.) Patty Greenhous, Director of EPIC Community Services, spoke on improving health through prevention. Wiles spoke on the Indigent and Un-insurance Committee, recommending expansion on the established primary care clinic facility, and the establishment of housing for the homeless and mentally ill. (9:51 a.m.) David Hoke, the Housing Committee, spoke on housing. (9:54 a.m.) Frances Neelands, Public Relations, spoke on promoting all the other committees. (9:55 a.m.) Bryan Norse, Transportation Committee, spoke on doing surveys to find out where transportation was needed and on getting a public transportation system. Wiles would like to come back in four months to give the Board an outlined plan to establish CHIPS, the funding mechanisms to do so, and to continue working with the Board. (10:00 a.m.) Wiles spoke on being nominated for an award from the Northeast Florida Health Care Awards Recognition, just on their plans, without actually implementing anything yet. Jacalone mentioned a meeting he had with the Jacksonville Transit Authority Director, and stated that JTA suggested for the Council on Aging to coordinate with them to have a two or three a day connection from northern St. Johns County to Duval County and back.

(10:05 a.m.) Helen Tobey, Flagler Estates, spoke on supporting the CHIPS Program and rural transportation.

(03/07/2000 - 3 - 10:12 a.m.)

2. DISCUSSION OF A TRANSFER FROM RESERVES FOR CONTINGENCIES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$9,341.36 TO REIMBURSE ST. AUGUSTINE LIGHTHOUSE AND MUSEUM FOR MAINTENANCE COSTS INCURRED IN 1999.

David Halstead, Assistant County Administrator, reviewed this item stating the St. Augustine Lighthouse and Museum requested a reimbursement of \$9,341.36 for maintenance costs incurred in 1999. He mentioned since an expense of this sort is not budgeted, he requested permission to charge the reimbursement to the Reserves for Contingencies and General Fund and reimburse the St. Augustine Lighthouse. Jacalone suggested to have the County contacted first when services are needed before contacting outside help. (10:15 a.m.) Cathy Flemming, Lighthouse and Museum, explained the reason for the bulk of the invoices was for rebuilding the back porch. Reardon stated that the policy is to contact the County first before having maintenance done. Discussion followed. (10:19 a.m.) Jacalone left the meeting. Bryant suggested budgeting money every year for repairs. ***It was the consensus of the Board, with Jacalone absent, to place this item on the Consent Agenda.***

(03/07/2000 - 3 - 10:22 a.m.)

3. DISCUSSION OF SCHEDULING SALES TAX WORKSHOPS THROUGHOUT ST. JOHNS COUNTY

John Schwab, Director of Solid Waste Management, reviewed this item stating one change for District 4, the date from March 23 to March 30, 2000.

The meeting recessed at 10:23 a.m. and reconvened at 10:32 a.m.

Jacalone re-entered the meeting. Strickland and Givens left the meeting.

(03/07/2000 - 3 - 10:32 a.m.)

4. DISCUSSION OF THE JULINGTON CREEK EAGLE HABITAT MANAGEMENT PLAN WITH MR. DON PALMER.

Jim Sisco, County Attorney, entered the meeting. Sisco reviewed this item stating that Mr. Don Palmer was here to speak on this item.

(10:33 a.m.) Don Palmer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, gave his credentials, spoke on his responsibilities and the Habitat Management Guidelines for bald eagles in the southeastern United States. He explained the procedure for developing in a habitat area, stated that this is not an experiment on monitoring, and it was his idea to use the decimal meter. Discussion followed on building in the area during the nesting season, if already under roof; the concern of six different biologists monitoring the nest; and the concern of the eagle chicks in the nest being fed in a timely manner. Kohnke mentioned having 34 e-mails from people about concern for the safety of the eagles. Palmer mentioned setting the primary zone for the safety of the eagles and in his opinion, the conclusion of the additional homes would not cause the eagles to leave. Kohnke disagreed because the homes aren't under roof yet. Howell questioned how long the eagle chicks would be in the nest. Palmer replied about six months. Discussion followed on the life of the eagle. Palmer requested a video tape of this meeting.

(11:12 a.m.) Matt Dinkins, 8711 Perimeter Park Blvd., Jacksonville, stated that eagles live 48 years in captivity and the reason the decimal meter wasn't working, was because the memory was full, but Palmer didn't tell the developers to stop work when they found out

the decimal meter wasn't working. He also stated that he spoke with Teresa Bishop and she suggested to them to stop work because she considered this critical data. Discussion followed on people tampering with the decimal meter; being concerned about the birds being gone for three hours; the activities of the eagle chicks and having a different biologist everyday. Dinkins spoke on the decimal meter and explained how it works. Dinkins mentioned they had a meeting for the concerned citizens of Julington Creek.

(11:27 a.m.) Lucy Seeds, 144 Cattail Circle, Jacksonville, spoke on having some disturbing observations to report on this subject matter and relayed that the construction in the secondary protection zone has impacted the behavior of the Julington Creek nesting bald eagle.

(11:34 a.m.) Linda White, 1101 Audubon Way, Maitland, FL, Audubon Eagle Watch Coordinator, stated that she trained volunteers to monitor eagle nests and these volunteers know what they are watching.

(11:35 a.m.) Resee Collins, Vice President for Audubon of Florida, spoke on directing the Audubon Eagle Watch Program. She spoke on the age of eagles and the territory of eagles, stating there are eleven eagle territories in St. Johns County. She also spoke on harassment of the bald eagles.

(11:41 a.m.) Linda Perrone, 100 Bracken Court, Jacksonville, voiced her concern on the construction being held up stopping her from getting into her new home and not being able to afford the stop order on her new home.

(11:46 a.m.) Linda Kane, 50 North Laura Street, Jacksonville, explained the numerous violations mentioned against the developer, spoke on false promises, and she encouraged the Board to listen to and contemplate what Palmer presented today. She also encouraged the Board to stay the course and if the Audubon Society would designate a person to work on the monitoring of the eagles, they will work with them.

(11:56 a.m.) Don Beattie, 808 Mill Pond Court, commented on the word "*experiment*." He reminded the Board that the Audubon Society only asked for construction to cease until after the nesting season.

(11:59 a.m.) Peggy Williams, 420 Boneset Branch Lane, stated that she had 200 signatures on having the fiveyear moratorium honored and to protect the secondary and primary zones.

(12:04 p.m.) Cheryl Peck, 512 Caraway Court, Jacksonville, asked the Board to reserve the five year moratorium for the eagles.

(12:09 p.m.) Deborah Andrews, 11 North Roscoe, spoke on the eagles being disturbed and mentioned issues spoken by Don Palmer. She asked the Board to take steps to protect the eagles, stop construction, and schedule a deviation hearing.

(12:22 p.m.) Bill Hoffman, 536 Caraway Court, commented on some of the points made at the February 22 meeting and earlier today, and on a future outlook or vision of St. Johns County, with an audio-visual display. Jacalone entered the meeting. He requested to stop construction and keep the five year moratorium. He showed information that impacted St. Johns County.

(12:34 p.m.) Sarah Bailey, 2202 Bishop Estates Road, spoke on enforcing the protection of the eagles.

(12:35 p.m.) Kane suggested as a solution, to work with Mr. Sisco to propose writing a new

letter that they would agree that with respect to the lots which are still owned by the developer in Parcel 10 and with respect to the lots that are within Parcel 16 and 17, to contract with those people not to build, except during the non-nesting season. Discussion followed on the five year moratorium; and how many houses are actually under construction at this time in the area. Reardon suggested instructing Staff to work with the Audubon Society to see if there is a violation to Section 9, and if charges should be filed against the developer. Kohnke suggested for an agreement from the developer to have Mr. Dinkins and Ms. Seeds call the County immediately if there is a problem with the eagles, and do a stop work order. Discussion followed. Sisco commented on Kohnke's suggestion stating that the County doesn't need the developers agreement. Jacalone requested clarification from Kane's offer. Kane stated that she would work on the wording of her offer.

(12:55 p.m.) Dinkins clarified the March 2 issue on the early morning delivery of lumber to one of the houses. ***Bryant directed Adams to add this item to the agenda next week.***

(1:03 p.m.) **Motion by Kohnke, seconded by Bryant, carried 5/0, to move item 4a, the Commissioner's Reports, County Administrator's Report, County Attorney's Report and the Clerk of Courts Report to after item 11 in the afternoon.**

The meeting recessed for lunch at 1:04 p.m.

From 1:30 p.m. to 6:19 p.m., the Board conducted a special meeting.

(03/07/2000 - 5 - 6:19 p.m.)

4a. DISCUSSION OF SIGN ORDINANCE FOR RACE TRACK ROAD (BETWEEN SR 13 AND US 1)

Howell presented this item stating it was requesting not to allow signage over 10 feet in height and no off sight signs between SR 13 and US 1. Jacalone stated that he agreed with Howell on this item. Kohnke questioned adding Howell's request to the glitch ordinance. Bishop stated that the glitch ordinance will be presented at the end of this month. Bryant questioned issuing sign permits before the glitch ordinance is finished. Bishop stated if the sign permits come in before the glitch ordinance is finished, she may have to refer it to Bosanko. Bosanko stated that if any sign application comes in before this date, they have to be processed. (6:23 p.m.) **Motion by Kohnke, seconded by Jacalone, carried 5/0, to direct Staff to put the change: "Amendment to Article 7 of the Land Development Code to not allow signage over 10 feet in height as consistent with the scenic highway criteria as provided in Article 7 and no off sight signs, between SR 13 and US 1 on Race Track Road," into the glitch ordinance.**

(03/07/2000 - 5 - 6:25 p.m.)

COMMISSIONERS REPORT

Commissioner Howell:

Howell spoke on dedicating the canoe trail on Race Track Road at Durbin Creek Bridge. He mentioned going to Trout Creek Park Saturday morning and Beverly Flemming did her first presentation on the nature trails.

(6:26 p.m.)

Commissioner Kohnke:

Kohnke mentioned that the past president of the Round Table died last week.

Kohnke spoke on a group in Ponte Vedra passing out a flyer to homes on underground

routing of electricity and County funded curbing. Discussion followed.

(6:31 p.m.)

Commissioner Jacalone:

Jacalone gave a brief report on the lobbying trip he went on with Ted Zebrowsky to Washington on issues of the Septic Tank Retrofitting Project, Palm Valley Bridge replacement, and the beach re-nourishment. He spoke on listening to talks by Congresswoman Fowler, Congresswoman Brown and House Majority Leader Dick Army.

(6:37 p.m.)

Commissioner Reardon:

Reardon congratulated the Planning Department on receiving an award from the Thousand Friends of Florida, for the citizen lead visioning process and the new Land Development Regulations.

Reardon announced that a Census 2000 van will be parked at the Intersection of SR 312 and US 1 from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. at the Red Lobster for viewing.

Reardon suggested having the Chair assist him in drafting a letter to Sheriff Perry in concern for the safety of the citizens in the area on the drug activity and prostitution at the old gas station on the corner of Volusia Ave. and King Street.

(6:41 p.m.)

Commissioner Bryant:

Bryant spoke on the canoe trip mentioned by Howell.

Bryant mentioned there are meetings in Tallahassee on March 14 for the purchase of Twelve Mile Swamp and March 21 for Library Day. He stated that he would like to go on March 14 and suggested for Reardon to go on March 21.

(03/07/2000 - 6 - 6:46 p.m.)

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Adams mentioned being very excited about the new video system in the auditorium.

Adams mentioned that next Tuesday was the Presidential Preference Primary.

Adams announced that the agenda for next week had a short morning and long afternoon.

Adams reminded the Board of the Town Meetings on the sales tax initiative.

Adams stated there were no plans for the March 28 meeting as to date.

Adams mentioned appointing someone to attend the American Heritage River Meetings. Reardon stated that he would attend.

Adams announced St. Johns County Day.

Bryant mentioned trying to agenda all items for the first three Tuesdays of the month and leave the last one open to accomplish having only three meetings a month.

Adams stated that they already had a position in the budget for code enforcement.

(03/07/2000 - 7 - 6:51 p.m.)
COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

No report.

(03/07/2000 - 7 - 6:51 p.m.)
CLERK OF THE COURT'S REPORT

No report.

(6:51 p.m.) **Motion by Kohnke, seconded by Jacalone, carried 5/0, to adjourn the meeting.**
The meeting thereupon adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

Approved _____ March 21_____, 2000

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: _____
James E. Bryant, Chair

ATTEST: CHERYL STRICKLAND, CLERK

By: _____
Deputy Clerk