

**MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA
OCTOBER 3, 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: Mary Kohnke, District 4, Vice Chair
John Reardon, District 2
Marc Jacalone, District 3
Ben W. Adams, Jr., County Administrator
Isabelle Lopez, Assistant County Attorney
Lenora Newsome, Deputy Clerk

Also present was: Cheryl Strickland, Clerk of Courts

Commissioner James Bryant arrived at the meeting at a later time and Commissioner Pal Howell was absent from the meeting.

(10/03/2000 - 1 - 9:00 a.m.)
CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Kohnke.

(10/03/2000 - 1 - 9:02 a.m.)
The Invocation was given by Jacalone. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Reardon.

(10/03/2000 - 1 - 9:02 a.m.)
ROLL CALL

The roll was called by the Deputy Clerk.

(10/03/2000 - 1 - 9:03
Public Comment

Russ Lee, 540 Stokes Landing Road, spoke on Character Counts in St. Augustine, and the attack of prayer in Duval County that's heading this way.

(10/03/2000 - 1 - 9:05 a.m.)
Additions/Deletions to Workshop Agenda

There were no additions nor deletions to the Workshop Agenda.

(10/03/2000 - 1 - 9:05 a.m.)
Approval of Workshop Agenda

Motion by Jacalone, seconded by Reardon, carried 3/0 with Bryant and Howell absent, to approve the Workshop Agenda as submitted.

(10/03/2000 - 1 - 9:05 a.m.)

1. DISCUSSION REGARDING ORDINANCE 85-9, THE "WRECKER ORDINANCE."

David Halstead, Assistant County Administrator, gave a brief history on Ordinance No. 85-9, and stating he was informed that the ordinance was not being enforced. Jacalone questioned what problems the individual had and why did he want the ordinance reactivated. Kohnke questioned if the ordinance is operational and if the Board is going to start enforcing it, then it should be updated. Reardon questioned why this item was brought to the Board. Halstead replied that it was brought before the Board for discussion to see what direction the Board wanted to take.

(9:09 a.m.) Ray Ashton, Emergency Services Director, also spoke on the history of this item and stated that the operators don't see a purpose for the ordinance now, that it is just an added burden and cost to them. He reviewed proposed revisions to the ordinance; page 1, Section (c); and page 12, Section 9 (a). (9:11 a.m.) Strickland left the meeting. Ashton recommended to the Board to listen to the people speak and then decide. Jacalone remarked that he remembered this ordinance, the reason why it was recommended, and would like to do away with it. Ashton stated that the law enforcement does an inspection now on the wreckers that are on their rotation list.

(9:16 a.m.) Joey Jacquin, 2205 North Ponce de Leon Blvd., Joey's Towing, mentioned that they need to set some regulations, and some of the ordinance is good. (9:17 a.m.) Bryant entered the meeting. Discussion followed on whether to require an office for the wrecker service, carrying insurance, a place to store the vehicles in, applying for an occupational license, and having some guidelines to go by. Adam commented on checking out needing a store front for the business. Reardon spoke on over regulation. Jacquin reviewed liability insurance coverage.

(9:26 a.m.) Al Brennen, 74 Almbria Street, spoke on enforcing clean up after accidents and whose responsibility it was.

(9:27 a.m.) Reardon commented on maybe having too many regulations in the ordinance and asked Lopez her opinion. Lopez stated that she would need direction from the Board on a policy determination on what they wanted. Reardon suggested for Legal Staff and Adams to review the ordinance to see if there are any unneeded regulations. Kohnke suggesting having Jacalone, Legal Staff and Adams look at the ordinance together. Lopez voiced concern on Jacalone voting as his business may be related.

(9:31 a.m.) Tammy Conkey, 4030 Lewis Speedway, representative for the St. Johns County Tax Collector's Office, spoke on the Tax Collector's Office having numerous calls from people complaining about wrecker services, and stated that the Tax Collector's Office is in favor of the ordinance. Discussion followed on what was required when getting an occupational license.

(9:34 a.m.) Ray Allen, 1875 SR 207, spoke on having proper insurance, a place to store cars, rotation calls, having regulations, needing a place with proper zoning, having the right equipment and having it inspected. Discussion followed on Class C rotation calls, explaining different classifications of wreckers and what they are capable of towing, the Law Enforcement controlling rotation calls, and addressing clean up detail after accidents. Kohnke suggested having Adams, Lopez, and the Tax Collector's Office check the information in this ordinance.

(10/03/2000 - 2 - 9:44 a.m.)

2. PRESENTATION ON ROSCOE BOULEVARD SAFETY.

Penny Scott, 265 N Roscoe Blvd., representative of the Palm Valley Safety Commission, spoke on making Roscoe Blvd. safe. She spoke on population growth, the speed limit being too fast, reviewed car crashes through the years, Roscoe Blvd being a major collector, buses travel time being the peak time on Roscoe Blvd., and Roscoe Blvd. being used as a shortcut

to and from US 1. The neighborhood survey list of top suggestions: more speed limit signs, designated areas for slow vehicles, no passing areas, and increase speed enforcement with increased amount of deputies in the area. Kohnke spoke on Staff already correcting the following issues; adding the double yellow lines in both directions in front of the Jiffy store, the wear down areas of the road, and placing speed limit signs everywhere. (9:56 a.m.) Joe Stephenson responded to placing more signs, pull offs for slower moving vehicles, no passing zones, and increasing the enforcement of the speed limit. Bryant directed Stephenson to make placing extra signs on Roscoe Blvd. a priority. (10:03 a.m.) Reardon left the meeting to go to the Supervisor of Elections Canvassing Board to open ballots for today's election. Jacalone requested Adams to direct Staff to look at designated areas on Roscoe Blvd. for slow moving vehicles to pull off the road. Kohnke spoke on slow down areas, cautioned with placing too much signage, putting signs up where people enter the road, the Post Office offering to move mail boxes, and if the road is clearer then people will move faster. Stephenson remarked that wider lanes are safer but they encourage higher speeds.

(10:12 a.m.) Greg Leonard, 49 South Roscoe Blvd., mentioned that since 1985 he has watched the community change a great deal, and voiced concern about how fast the community was developing. Bryant stated that the goals set by the community are attainable.

The meeting recessed at 10:15 a.m. and reconvened at 10:29 a.m.

(10/03/2000 - 3 - 10:29 a.m.)

3. DISCUSSION OF WELL CONSTRUCTION ORDINANCE.

Scott Clem, Director of Growth Management Services, spoke on droughts causing well problems. He reviewed the highlights on the draft ordinance: page 4, definitions of water wells; page 2, the Health Department through the agreement they have with the Water Management District regulates water wells less than 6 inches in diameter; page 4, this ordinance defines four Florida Aquifer pumping zones; page 7, actual standards-mandatory and advisory; and page 8, mandatory standard for non-Floridian aquifer wells. He talked about issues and concerns regarding pumping equipment being needed, additional cost to inspect and enforce this ordinance, and stated that they needed the Board's direction on how to proceed at this point.

(10:45 a.m.) Al Canepa, 612 Irene Court, Jacksonville, Assistant Director of the Department of Resource Management at the St. Johns River Water Management District, explained the difference between the Floridian and non-Floridian aquifer wells.

(10:47 a.m.) Pat Partridge, 4744 Collins Road, Orange Park, President of Partridge Well Drilling, mentioned that there are a number of problems with this ordinance; the definition of the Floridian aquifer is not totally correct at the top of page 3, section 4, the last sentence needs to be taken out. Canepa explained the intent of the last sentence. Partridge stated that not all Floridian aquifer wells free flow, and the ordinance requires home owners who are putting in a well to install pumping equipment that they may not need. He suggested to address the issue of wells not flowing and inadequate pumping, to change the well construction standards to advisory across the County and stated that it is not right to require someone who lives along the Intercoastal at a lower elevation to put in the more expensive pumps that require more maintenance than someone who lives at a higher elevation. Discussion followed on a way that everyone doesn't have to put a pump on their well if they don't need it, free flowing wells, developing standards for the whole County, when installing a well install a pump that would meet the needs of that particular well, public education of the homeowners, the drought and growth causing well problems, and facing the issue of telling people when their free flowing wells are drilled, they are going to need to install a pump. Bryant recommended when Environmental Health issues

a permit, have them distribute a statement at that time warning people of the conditions when drilling a well. Lopez mentioned that it would be helpful if the Board could give more direction in what they feel the Attorney's Office should be focusing their efforts on. Kohnke suggested the Attorney's Office do both advisory and mandatory standards. Jacalone voiced his opinion to strongly consider what Partridge recommended on the permit that the applicant receives, there be heavy advisory and informational type language on that application, that the applicant is aware of the possibility that the water level fluctuates and installing the pump needs to be very strongly considered. Discussion followed on well compliance, inspections, costs, advisory pamphlets and people replacing the pumps themselves if they go bad.

(11:20 a.m.) Greg Gatchell, 2821 Daveston Avenue, mentioned that the original ordinance was passed because of the droughts, stated that they do everything possible to supply the customer with water, and he doesn't see any need for this ordinance now. (11:21 a.m.) Reardon returned to the meeting. Gatchell stated that policing of the wells and pumps should be done by someone who knows what they are doing.

(11:25 a.m.) Roger Van Ghent, 4005 Moultrie Foreside Blvd., spoke on the drought, and losing pressure in the aquifer. Bryant recommended for Partridge to work with Mike Towle on the form and language, then for Towle to bring it back before the Board for a workshop on the revised form. There will be no ordinance drafted.

(10/03/2000 - 4 - 11:32 a.m.)
COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Kohnke thanked everyone for participating in her Town Meeting.

Kohnke requested Adams, with the Board's permission, to start costing out all DRIs.

Kohnke mentioned that the School Boards in the State of Florida are exempt from County ordinances and rules. She spoke on towers at schools and if the schools are aware of the drop zones. She wanted to make sure that the School Board is informed of the safety factors involved in towers and ask the authorities at the School Board to be sensitive to the line of sight of these towers. She stated that she would like to see this subject on the agenda at the next Joint School Board Meeting. Lopez spoke on the issue.

(11:40 a.m.)
Commissioner Jacalone:

No report.

(11:40 a.m.)
Commissioner Reardon:

Reardon mentioned receiving phone calls from residents on South A1A on water coming up on A1A after the last Northeaster.

Reardon announced that today is a primary runoff election and reminded everyone to vote.

(11:42 a.m.)
Commissioner Bryant:

Bryant brought up the Primary Care Clinic. Adams spoke on a \$400,000 Grant for 4 years; that St. Johns County was in pretty good shape to get. (11:42 a.m.) Jacalone left the meeting. Dr. Walker spoke on going to Philadelphia to a workshop paid by the State, and requested the funding for Dr. Plant to assist him. Dr. Walker elaborated on what he would

be doing at the workshop. He stated that they would like to run the clinic like a doctor's office, not like a health department or hospital, and that way they can have the clinic open when the Health Department and doctor's offices are closed. Bryant relayed to Adams that the funding for Dr. Plant to assist Dr. Walker can come out of his expense account. Adams stated that going to the workshop can help with getting the grant. Bryant gave Adams permission for the funding for Dr. Plant to travel to the workshop in Philadelphia with Dr. Walker. Dr. Walker mentioned that they had gotten permission from the Governor's Office to close the Health Department on October 20 and the next week after to move to its new location. They will have a mobile clinic available until the move is complete.

(10/03/2000 - 5 - 11:48 a.m.)

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

No report.

(10/03/2000 - 5 - 11:48 a.m.)

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

No report.

(10/03/2000 - 5 - 11:48 a.m.)

CLERK OF COURT'S REPORT

No report.

(11:48 a.m.) D.W. Parker, 13870 CR 13 North, spoke on the Riverdale Boat Ramp needing dredging. Reardon told him that he will speak with him after today's meeting. Parker also complained about having a traffic light in front of the World Golf Village and stated, in his opinion, that it was not needed.

The meeting recessed at 11:50 a.m. and reconvened at 1:34 p.m. with Bryant, Kohnke, Reardon, Adams, Assistant County Attorney Isabelle Lopez, Assistant County Attorney Douglas Burnett, and Deputy Clerk Yvonne King present. Howell was absent. Jacalone arrived later in the meeting.

(10/03/2000 - 5 - 1:34 p.m.)

4. STAFF UPDATES

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Joe Stephenson, Public Works Director, gave a general overview of the Public Works Department.

(1:36 p.m.)

FLEET MAINTENANCE DIVISION

Gary Emerson, Fleet Maintenance Manager, explained how the County Garage performs; reviewed the mechanic productivity; the number of miles driven between roadside breakdowns; the average maintenance and report cost per mile; the average miles traveled by a fleet vehicle for every mechanic hour spent repairing; and vehicle to mechanic ratio. Discussion followed regarding the Fleet Maintenance services.

(1:47 p.m.)

SURVEYING AND MAPPING/GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Gail Oliver, County Surveyor, reviewed the services provided by the Surveying and

Mapping Divisions; reviewed the accomplishments of the Department; then, reviewed the key objectives.

Oliver explained a GIS; said it is an organized collection of computer hardware, software, spatial data and personnel. Oliver explained the purpose of GIS; the services provided by GIS; the accomplishments of the GIS Division; then, reviewed the key objectives for the upcoming year. Oliver announced GIS Day to be held on Wednesday, November 15, 2000. It is an annual global event sponsored by the National Geographic Society and other organizations to educate individuals on GIS technology. In celebrating this day, the St. Johns County GIS Division will be holding an open house at the County Administration Complex for those who wish to learn more about GIS.

(1:57 p.m.)

REAL ESTATE DIVISION

Oliver gave an overview of the services provided by the Real Estate Division; reviewed the accomplishments for this year; then, reviewed the ongoing projects.

(2:02 p.m.)

ENGINEERING DIVISION

Ken Scher, County Engineer, gave an update of some recently completed projects, some active projects, and some upcoming projects as follows: Holmes Blvd. Extension, County Complex Study, Greenbriar Road Paving, Greenbriar Road/State Road 13 Intersection Improvements, Roberts Road Paving, Vilano Town Center, Porpoise Point Drainage, Deerpark Blvd., Mickler Road Super Elevation and Guardrail, and Palm Valley Bridge Replacement. Discussion followed of the Engineering Division services.

(2:12 p.m.)

ROAD AND BRIDGE DIVISION

Ivan Burrell, Road and Bridge Department, provided an overview of the services provided by the Road and Bridge Division. Burrell reviewed some projects the Road and Bridge Division are currently involved in: Cypress Lakes Golf Course Expansion, Davis Park Construction Project, Roberts Road Paving, Sims Pit Stock Pile, and the Roscoe Blvd. Shoulder Drop Off. Burrell reviewed the Dirt Road Improvement Program; hot mix and cold mix paving.

The meeting recessed at 2:28 p.m. and reconvened at 2:36 p.m. Jacalone arrived at the meeting.

(2:36 p.m.)

DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

Leon Shimer, Director of Recreation and Parks, reviewed the services provided by the Recreation and Parks Department. Shimer said that over 70 park sites and preserves are located in St. Johns County, and 10 boat ramps. Shimer reviewed some of the recreation programs in the County, and improvements of several parks and boat ramps.

(2:55 p.m.)

CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT

Mike Rubin, Director of Construction, gave a general overview of the services provided by the Construction Services Department. Rubin then reviewed the construction projects that have been completed and those that are currently underway.

(3:05 p.m.)
COUNTY UTILITY DEPARTMENT

William Young, Utility Director, reviewed the services of the Utility Department. Young gave an update on the rate study; requested the Board set a public date to consider the utility ordinance; reviewed the sewer projects that are underway; gave an update on line expansions; then, reviewed other projects that are underway.

(3:15 p.m.) Jacalone left the meeting.

(3:18 p.m.)
GROWTH MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Scott Clem, Director of Growth Management Services, reviewed the departments within the Growth Management Services Department. Clem said staff is continuing to evaluate the permitting systems, particularly in development review. Clem said Tom Crawford has been hired to head up the Housing Division.

(3:21 p.m.)
Teresa Bishop, Planning Director, explained the Waterfronts Florida Program at Vilano Beach. Bishop then said another meeting is being scheduled for the Northwest Sector Plan in December or January.

Motion by Kohnke, seconded by Bryant, carried 3/0 with Jacalone and Howell absent, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting thereupon adjourned at 3:32 p.m.

Approved _____ October 17 _____, 2000

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: _____
James E. Bryant, Chair

ATTEST: CHERYL STRICKLAND, CLERK

By: _____
Deputy Clerk