

**MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA
JULY 18, 2006
(9:00 A.M.)**

Proceedings of a special meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, held in the auditorium at the County Administration Building, 4020 Lewis Speedway (County Road 16-A) and US 1 North, St. Augustine, Florida.

Present were: James E. Bryant, District 5, Chairman
Karen R. Stern, District 2
Ben Rich, District 3
Bruce A. Maguire, District 4
Ben W. Adams, Jr., County Administrator
Dan Bosanko, County Attorney
Doug Timms, Director, Office of Management and Budget
Terry Bulla, Deputy Clerk

Absent was: Cyndi Stevenson, District 1, Vice Chair

(07/18/06 -1 - 9:10 a.m.)
Chairman Bryant called the meeting to order.

(07/18/06 - 1 - 9:10 a.m.)
ROLL CALL

Bryant announced all commissioners were present except Cyndi Stevenson.

(07/18/06 - 1 - 9:10 a.m.)
Bryant led the Pledge of Allegiance.

(07/18/06 - 1 - 9:11 a.m.)

1. MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE ST. JOHNS COUNTY CIVIC ASSOCIATION ROUNDTABLE TO USE THE COUNTY AUDITORIUM ON MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 2006 FOR THE CIVIC ROUNDTABLE FORUM.

There was discussion regarding who could use the auditorium and suggestions were made as to developing a policy for campaign events users. The Roundtable was urged to work with the League of Women Voters and the St. Augustine Record to combine their efforts.

(9:15 a.m.) Motion by Maguire, seconded by Stern, carried 4/0, with Stevenson absent to authorize the St. Johns County Civic Association Roundtable to use the County Auditorium on Monday, August 14, 2006 for the Civic Roundtable Forum.

Adams added that staff would provide whatever was needed, as far as televising was concerned, for the meeting.

(07/18/06 - 1 - 9:16 a.m.)

2. FY 2007 ST. JOHNS COUNTY FINANCIAL PLAN

Doug Timms, Director of Office of Management and Budget, opened the Workshop and stated the primary purpose was to determine if there would be an impact on the millage, which the Board would need to approve at their next regular meeting. He said

it was not a final workshop, but was meant for discussion and to determine where the Board was in terms of consensus.

(9:16 a.m.) Bryant explained there were three parts to the budget process, staff workshops in the spring, the current commission workshop and public hearings in September.

(9:17 a.m.) Sheriff, David Shoar began the presentation, and said they had worked closely with Timms and his staff to make sure that they were providing the most efficient and effective services for their citizens. He said they were seeking new position and equipment. Bryant expressed appreciation for the cooperation Shoar and his staff had given to the budget team. Additionally, he said there were some capital projects that would be beginning.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

- Law Enforcement Operations
- Corrections Division
- Bailiff Operations
- Special Programs
- E-911 Communications Fund
- Enforcement Trust Fund
- Crimes Prevention Trust Fund

(9:23 a.m.) Maguire asked about the Marine Operations. Shoar stated that the Board had approved a Marine Deputy to patrol the local waterways and had acquired a boat through a Homeland Security Grant. He said they were asking for another half position to help staff the program. Discussion ensued regarding the functions of the program and what they hoped to achieve through the program.

(9:30 a.m.) Timms reported on the prisoner intake and discharge area, which was a part of the 2005 revenue sharing bonds, and not included in the recommended budget. He stated they had anticipated \$8 million for the project, but they may need as much as \$13 million. He said he simply wanted the Board to be aware of the dimensions of the request, and it did not have to be resolved that day.

(9:32 a.m.) Kevin Wiseman, St. Johns County Construction Services Department, said he was there on behalf of Mike Rubin, and gave a presentation on alterations and additions to the St. Johns County jail during the two years of its design and development. Tom Rapp of Strollo Architects reviewed the design proposed. He commented on whether phasing could be used in the construction process, and reviewed the areas being altered and/or expanded. Discussion ensued on off-site visitation concerns, additional personnel concerns for that site and related costs, cost increases from the original proposal as compared to the current proposal request and the possibility of using modular units rather than additional construction for the site. In response to questions regarding escalating costs, Shoar commented that with the improvements, approximately 15 to 20 years would be added to the life of the existing jail, and would create a long-term tax savings to the taxpayers. He added that an off-site video visitation was critical for many reasons, including parking, security and staffing issues.

(9:51 a.m.) Timms stated if there were no questions or concerns they would progress down the list.

- Other Constitutional Officers
- Court Service

- General Fund – General Government
- General Fund – Public Safety

GENERAL FUND – PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

(9:54 a.m.) Stern spoke on the importance of funding for the Hastings Research and Education Unit, and said she would like to see the Board commit the full \$100,000 for the project. She stated it was important because the University of Florida had provided \$500,000 in funding for the Institute of Food and Agricultural Science (IFIS) recurring revenue for the research unit, it had been set as a major legislative priority, and concerned a tri-county area with Putnam County had committed funding to the research unit. Additionally, she reported that they were the fourth largest vegetable producer in the state, and it was not just crops. She said they had partnered with the St. Johns River Water Management District to put in a slow release fertilizer project at the Hastings farm.

GENERAL FUND – HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

(9:58 a.m.) Mary Kohnke, 29 South Roscoe Blvd., represented the Roundtable, and spoke regarding Dr. Carver’s productivity numbers and said she had not received them. She also commented on the contract with Flagler Hospital and Hastings Clinic for indigent patients and the projected services and costs per patient. She said there was no record of what each patient was costing them and the process for identifying the services rendered. She stated that coding was an important element that was missing from the process to provide accountability for the services being paid for with County funds. She said it needed to be written into the contract for both Flagler and Hastings.

(10:09 a.m.) Dr. Maria Colavito stated that the terms of the contract needed to be tightened, but interpretation of the figures was important, because there were Category A and B clients according to Medicare and then there were undetermined clients, which were also included. She stated there were also ancillary services, which went along with the services provided to indigent clients. She said they knew they were not doing a good enough job in that area and accepted responsibility for it, because they did not have a check and balance in their current contract because they did not have the figures and no way of verifying it. She said the basic issue was what were they paying for in primary care, for a clinic or for the people, and needed direction from the Board. Bryant said that they were paying for the Clinic, in his opinion. He stated it was a complex matter, and the money was for the infrastructure, for the clinic. He said they were trying to create a medical “home” for their clients and they were trying to stop the indiscriminate use of the emergency room, because the cost of its use was prohibitive. He gave a history of the Hastings Clinic and the Flagler Clinic and their attempts to cost effectively treat indigent patients. Kohnke challenged the hours of operation. Dr. Allicott stated the clinic was open five days a week from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., 10 hours per day.

(10:26 a.m.) Kohnke said Flagler was a not for profit hospital and was required under the law to see anyone who walked into the emergency room. There was discussion on Medicare reimbursement rates and what type coding could be used. Dr. Colavito said it would be taken care of before the next contract was completed.

(10:41 a.m.) Colavito introduced Judy Chewitt, new Community Resource Manager. Colavito commented on the Betty Griffin House request and stated that she was meeting with Beth Hughes and would be making a recommendation to Timms after she had that conversation and re-evaluated some of the issues.

(10:43 a.m.) Beth Hughes, Betty Griffin House, asked if Dr. Colavito had the authority to review their request. She stated that some information had been missing from the previous request and the outcome measures had been skewed by using only the first six months for the reporting period. She said that resulted in a recommendation for a 40 percent cut in housing from last year. Bryant said that meeting was the first meeting for the Commissioners and a public workshop would be held as well as a final hearing in September.

(10:44 a.m.) Maguire questioned the percentage of increases by various agencies. Colavito said the Health and Human Services Committee had advised for funding for every proposal that had been submitted, however it was over the 8 percent cap for the budgeted amount, and it was up to her department to figure out a methodology to meet that projection. She stated she would be happy to meet with each commissioner to review the details.

(10:47 a.m.) Timms reviewed the remainder of the budget and stated that he had reviewed the categories with the Board members.

- General Fund – Economic Environment
- General Fund – Culture & Recreation
- General Fund – Non-Operational

Timms stated the following Special Revenue Funds in Category 4 had their own source of funding, with a few exceptions.

- Transportation Trust Fund
- Fire District Fund
- Health Department Fund
- Building Services Fund
- State Housing Initiatives Partnership Fund
- Mental Health Fund
- Community Based Care Fund
- Utility Authority Fund
- Beach Services Fund
- County Pier Fund
- Tourist Development Tax Fund
- Tree Bank Fund
- Galimore Memorial Center Fund
- Impact Fee Funds
- Court Innovation Fund
- Legal Aid Fund
- Law Library Fund
- Court Technology Trust Fund
- Communications Surcharge Fund
- Alcohol & Drug Abuse Trust Fund
- Florida Arts License Plate Fund
- Florida Boating Improvement Fund
- Northwest Tower Fund
- Court Facilities Trust Fund
- Choose Life License Plate Fund
- Driver's Safety Education Fund
- Davis Park Fund
- Sidewalk Mitigation Fund
- World Commerce Center DRI Fund

- CRA Funds
- Housing Abatement Fund
- Special Districts Funds

The meeting recessed at 10:52 and reconvened at 11:00 a.m.

(11:00 a.m.) Timms said the Enterprise Funds had their own support in general.

- Solid Waste Fund
- Utility Services Fund
- PV Utility Services Fund
- Golf Course Fund
- Convention Center Fund
- Amphitheater Fund
- Worker Compensation Insurance Fund
- Health Insurance Fund
- Debt Service Funds
- Detention Facilities Lighting Fund
- Sewer Construction Fund
- Library Expansion Fund
- Northwest Road Project Fund
- Park Projects Fund
- Beach Re-Nourishment Fund
- 04 Sales Tax Bonds Projects Fund
- North Holmes Boulevard Fund
- Southeast Annex Construction Fund
- 03 Bond Transportation Improvement Fund
- Transit System Capital Project Fund
- 05 Revenue Sharing Projects Fund
- 06 Bond Transportation Improvements Fund
- 06 Sales Tax Bonds Projects Fund

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP) FY 2006-2010

(11:01 a.m.) Timms commented on the proposed 2006 Sales Tax Bonds Projects Funds.

(11:02 a.m.) Rich questioned the inclusion of a swimming pool for Ponte Vedra in the Recreation budget and recommended that it be placed in the Capital Improvement Fund Budget. Bryant and Stern agreed. Timms said it would necessitate increasing the amount borrowed to \$49 million and was within the capacity allowed by the Board. He said the commercial paper would be on the Vilano property itself and if there was Board consensus, they would propose retiring the commercial paper with the FCT grant. He stated it would give the Board a stronger financial position. Maguire said he was against the Vilano Beach project and it was a separate issue. Timms said it would free up Cornerstone so it was not dependent upon the FCT grant.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

(11:05 a.m.) Ashley Burke, 151 Santa Monica Ave., stated she was present along with Gail Logan on the issue of the soccer complex, on behalf of the Ancient City Soccer Club. She gave a background on the Women's International Soccer Team, and said they were interested in expanding the group for women. She asked the BCC for their support for the proposed soccer complex at the old landfill.

(11:11 a.m.) Todd McVay, 161 Shelby's Cove Court, stated he was representing the Ponte Vedra Soccer Club, applauded the Board for what they were doing with the Cornerstone property, and spoke on the need for additional pools in the community. There was discussion on the needs of the community for recreational infrastructural facilities and possible funding sources for the entire county, and the fact that the current facilities were stressed and strained.

(11:16 a.m.) Rich left the meeting.

(11:23 a.m.) Pam Kessler, 1136 Salt Creek Dr., President of the Ponte Vedra Athletic Association, said the need for indoor space was critical; it could not wait, and needed to happen now at the Cornerstone site. She asked the Commission to consider putting that money in the bond.

(11:26 a.m.) Timms said the Capital Budget was the last part of the workshop and there was no discussion. Adams stated they could not raise the millage at next week's meeting.

(11:27 a.m.) Maguire announced that Rich had received an emergency call and had to leave the meeting.

3. OTHER BUSINESS AS NECESSARY

With there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

Approved August 8, 2006

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: James E. Bryant
James E. Bryant, Chairman

ATTEST: CHERYL STRICKLAND, CLERK

By: Cheryl Strickland
Deputy Clerk