

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA
FEBRUARY 15, 2007
(8:00 A.M.)**

Proceedings of a special meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, held in the Conference Room 1a at the St. Johns County Permit Center Building, 4040 Lewis Speedway (County Road 16-A) and U.S. 1 North, St. Augustine, Florida.

Present were: Ben Rich, District 3, Chairman
Thomas Manuel, District 4, Vice Chair
Cyndi Stevenson, District 1
Ron Sanchez, District 2
James E. Bryant, District 5
Waldemar Kropacek, Interim County Administrator
Patrick McCormack, County Attorney
Pam Halterman, Deputy Clerk

(02/15/07 - 1 - 8:07 a.m.)

CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIR

Rich called the special meeting to order.

(02/15/07 - 1 - 8:07 a.m.)

1. THIS IS A PRIVATE ATTORNEY/CLIENT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, HELD IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 286.011(8), FLORIDA STATUTES. THE SPECIAL MEETING WILL BE CONFINED TO SETTLEMENT NEGOTIATIONS AND LITIGATION EXPENSE STRATEGY PERTAINING TO THE LAWSUIT VIRGINIA WHETSTONE VS. ST. JOHNS COUNTY, CASE NO. CA98-1501. THE SPECIAL MEETING HAS BEEN ADVERTISED FOR 8:00 A.M. CONFERENCE ROOM 1A HAS BEEN RESERVED FOR THIS MEETING

Proof of publication of a special private attorney/client meeting was received, having been published in *The St. Augustine Record* on February 8, 2007.

Patrick McCormack, County Attorney, informed the Board that he needed advice concerning the Whetstone vs. St. Johns County lawsuit, Case No. CA 98-1501, in the Circuit Court in and for St. Johns County. Florida Statute 286.011 allows the Board to hold a private meeting in order to provide that advice. He affirmed that Steve Gallagher, Special Counsel for the board, would attend the meeting.

(8:07 a.m.) Rich announced that the meeting would be held in Conference Room 2a/2b, and would last approximately one hour. He also announced the names of the attendees: Commissioner Rich, Commissioner Manuel, Commissioner Bryant, Commissioner Sanchez, Interim County Administrator Wally Kropacek, County Attorney Patrick McCormack, Special Counsel Steve Gallagher and Court Reporter Cathy Upchurch.

(8:08 a.m.) Commissioner Cyndi Stevenson entered the meeting.

The meeting recessed to Conference Room 2a/2b and it reconvened in Conference Room 1a at 8:33 a.m.

(8:33 a.m.) Rich announced that the shade meeting had ended. He stated that the direction to the attorney was to accept the Camp, Dresser, McKee, Inc. offer. McCormack asked Gallagher to explain the details to the Board. Gallagher advised that Camp, Dresser, McKee, Inc. offered \$5,000.00 in full settlement of the case.

(8:34 a.m.) **Motion by Rich, seconded by Manuel, carried 5/0, to accept the Camp, Dresser, McKee, Inc. offer.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:34 a.m.

Approved March 6, 2007

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: Ben Rich
Ben Rich, Chairman

ATTEST: CHERYL STRICKLAND, CLERK

By: Cheryl Strickland
Deputy Clerk