

**MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA
SEPTEMBER 11, 2007
(10:30 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 U.S. 1 North, St. Augustine, Florida.

Present were: Ben Rich, District 3, Chairman
Thomas G. Manuel, District 4, Vice Chair
Cyndi Stevenson, District 1
Ron Sanchez, District 2
Michael D. Wanchick, County Administrator
Patrick McCormack, County Attorney
Lenora Newsome, Deputy Clerk

Also present: Cheryl Strickland, Clerk of Courts and Allen MacDonald, Finance Director

(09/11/07 - 1 - 10:36 a.m.)
CALL TO ORDER

Rich called the meeting to order.

(09/11/07 - 1 - 10:36 a.m.)
ROLL CALL

Rich stated that four commissioners were present, with Bryant absent.

(09/11/07 - 1 - 10:36 a.m.)
Stevenson gave the invocation and Rich led the Pledge of Allegiance.

(09/11/07 - 1 - 10:40 a.m.)
ADDITION/DELETIONS TO SPECIAL AGENDA

Rich requested to move the public comment item to follow the approval of the special agenda item. **Motion by Manuel, seconded by Sanchez, carried 4/0 with Bryant absent, to approve Rich's request.** McCormack requested to add the discussion of 9B transportation as Item 2. **Motion by Manuel, seconded by Sanchez, carried 4/0 with Bryant absent, to add the SR 9B transportation discussion as Item 2.**

(09/11/07 - 1 - 10:42 a.m.)
APPROVAL OF SPECIAL AGENDA

Motion by Manuel, seconded by Sanchez, carried 4/0 with Bryant absent, to approve the special agenda as amended.

(09/11/07 - 1 - 10:42 a.m.)
PUBLIC COMMENTS

City Commissioner George Gardner, Box 210, spoke on behalf of the City Commission, on the homeless shelter challenge.

(10:45 a.m.) Maureen O'Donnell, 5430 Kelly Road, Hastings, spoke on opening the Equestrian Center for the horses, not the homeless.

(10:46 a.m.) John S. Howell, 5430 Kelly Road, spoke in opposition to having the homeless center in the Equestrian Center.

(10:48 a.m.) Walter Smith, 10010 West Deep Creek Blvd., spoke on not receiving public knowledge on things going on in their area, and in opposition of the homeless center. Rich stated that the property had been opened for over a year and had not been utilized at all. (10:53 a.m.) **Motion by Rich, seconded by Sanchez, to direct the County Administrator to immediately consult with the County Attorney and formulate a Memorandum of Understanding for execution with the City of St. Augustine, allowing the City of St. Augustine to utilize, as an emergency homeless shelter, the facilities currently known as the St. Johns County Equestrian Center, the Board further directs that this agreement shall not exceed one year.** Wanchick mentioned that he spoke with Commissioner Bryant this morning and that he was not opposed to what was being proposed. Manuel stated that he would support the motion, but he felt in no way, that this was a solution to the problem. Stevenson stated that she was frustrated with the way this was being brought forward, and that she would not support it. Rich stated that this was an emergency issue for the City and that the County had an ability to respond to. McCormack recommended using the word "*urgent need*" instead of the word "*emergency*." (10:57 a.m.) **Rich amended the motion to read, to utilize as an urgent need homeless shelter, and the second agreed.** McCormack stated that homeless shelters or care, was a broad issue, and suggested for the County Administrator and staff to identify certain programs and look for alternate solutions. Wanchick asked for a clarification of the motion. Rich explained. Sanchez said it was not a suitable place for a park and the County did not have the money to fund it. He spoke on the homeless situation being severe. Stevenson asked how this place got picked for the City to use. Rich stated that he researched it and brought it to the Board to consider. Manuel stated that he agreed with the chairman that we needed to be more action orientated. He stated that as a policy, they support the City of St. Augustine in its efforts to manage its homeless crisis. Stevenson stated that the motion sounded like an action decision and not a policy decision, and that was what she had a problem with. Discussion followed. (11:16 a.m.) **The motion carried 4/0 with Bryant absent.** Strickland left the meeting.

(09/11/07 - 2 - 11:16 a.m.)

1. DISCUSSION ON THE EFFECTS OF GASB 45 CONCERNING "OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS" (OPEB) ON ST. JOHNS COUNTY AND POTENTIAL STRATEGIES FOR ADDRESSING THESE EFFECTS

Doug Timms, Director, Office of Management & Budget, reviewed this item.

(11:18 a.m.) Jim Link, PFM, 369 Rose Glen Drive, Pennsylvania, gave a Power Point Presentation; speaking on the liability and asset side of the issue, goal for the County Commission, GASB 43 and GASB 45. He spoke on the GASB45 reporting requirement, accounting for other post-employment benefits, OPEB Key Terms, Florida Public Employers, and gave a summary of activities. He stated that the goal was to reduce the cost and liability to the County. He also spoke on the OPEB Obligation Management Process, and the activities to date. Stevenson spoke on the insurance committee and rates. Link spoke on taking a proactive approach, the things still to come, account structures, OPEB Trust-best alternative, VEBA or Section 115, reviewing the funding scenarios, and scenario comparisons. Manuel asked what the benefits were. Link replied that they were medical, dental and regular benefits. Manuel said he would like to see an analysis done on different levels. Stevenson stated that everyone should be

involved when considering benefits. Discussion followed. Link stated that he included the best two scenarios within the staff discussions. He continued with the asset allocation process, steps to creating an asset allocation, and implementation.

(09/11/07 - 3 - 11:59 p.m.)

2. OTHER BUSINESS AS NECESSARY

RESOLUTION REGARDING SR 9-B CONSTRUCTION

Motion by Manuel, seconded by Stevenson, carried 4/0 with Bryant absent, to adopt Resolution No. 2007-251, a resolution of the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, recognizing the critical need for the expedient construction of the State Road 9-B Extension into St. Johns County, and requesting that the State Road 9-B construction funding be retained in the 2012 FDOT 5-Year Work Program.

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-251

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING THE CRITICAL NEED FOR THE EXPEDIENT CONSTRUCTION OF THE STATE ROAD 9-B EXTENSION INTO ST. JOHNS COUNTY, AND REQUESTING THAT THE STATE ROAD 9-B CONSTRUCTION FUNDING BE RETAINED IN THE 2012 FDOT 5-YEAR WORK PROGRAM

(09/11/07 - 3 - 12:00 p.m.)

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Stevenson:

No report.

(12:00 p.m.)

Commissioner Sanchez:

No report.

(12:00 p.m.)

Commissioner Rich:

No report.

(12:00 p.m.)

Commissioner Manuel:

Manuel spoke on the Sheriff's budget being down to 56.8 million dollars. He stated that he would like to take another look at the independent agencies and move them from 1.2 million dollars back to \$1,350,000. He suggested fully funding the food bank and not funding any new agencies. He stated that the Council on Aging should receive all dollars necessary to maximize matching funds.

Manuel stated that there would be a presentation at the next Board meeting regarding the LAA, a local arts agency.

Manuel spoke on CRA's supreme court ruling.

Manuel spoke on two utilities issues; ceasing all negotiations on Intercoastal and the St. Johns County Utilities act as an independent authority. Stevenson spoke on the Sheriff agreeing with a lower budget and the utility acquisition process. Manuel stated that he

would like to have public discussion on the acquisition. Rich stated that he had recommended backing out of the deal and paying off all parties. McCormack stated that they were at litigation on this, and the Board really should not discuss it. Stevenson stated that based on everything that she had heard and understood about the process, most of the comments Manuel made sounded really good, but didn't have a lot of basis, and that she hoped that he would get down to the bottom of it and deal with the equity of it and not politics.

(09/11/07 - 4 - 12:11 p.m.)
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

No report.

(09/11/07 - 4 - 12:11 p.m.)
COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

No report.

(09/11/07 - 4 - 12:11 p.m.)
CLERK OF COURT'S REPORT

No report.

Motion by Manuel, seconded by Rich, carried 4/0 with Bryant absent, to adjourn the meeting. With there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 12:11 p.m.

Approved _____ October 2 _____, 2007

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: _____
Ben Rich, Chairman

ATTEST: CHERYL STRICKLAND, CLERK

By: _____
Deputy Clerk