

**MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA
JANUARY 29, 2014
9:00 A.M.**

Proceedings of a special meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, and the City of St. Augustine Beach Commissioners, held in Conference Room A of the Northeast Florida Regional Airport Conference Center, 4730 Casa Cola Way, St. Augustine, Florida, 32095.

Proof of publication of the notice of a joint special meeting to conduct a similar interest meeting was received, having been published in *The St. Augustine Record* on January 20, 2014.

Present: John H. Morris, District 4, Chair
Rachael Bennett, District 5, Vice Chair
Cyndi Stevenson, District 1
Ron Sanchez, District 2
William A. McClure, District 3
Michael Wanchick, County Administrator
Jerry Cameron, Assistant County Administrator
Darrell Locklear, Assistant County Administrator
Patrick McCormack, County Attorney
Paolo Soria, Assistant County Attorney
Andrea Samuels, Mayor
Rich O'Brien, Vice Mayor
Brud Helhoski, Commissioner
Undine Pawlowski, Commissioner
Harry Snodgrass, Commissioner
Sindy Wiseman, Deputy Clerk

Also present were: Max Royle, Beach Manager; Joe Howell, Public Works Director; Rob Hardwick, Police Chief; Doug Burnett, Beach Attorney

(01/29/14 - 1 - 9:06 a.m.)
CALL TO ORDER

Morris called the meeting to order.

(01/29/14 - 1 - 9:07 a.m.)
INVOCATION

Cameron gave the invocation.

(01/29/14 - 1 - 9:07 a.m.)
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Morris led the pledge of allegiance.

(01/29/14 - 1 - 9:07 a.m.)
ROLL CALL

The clerk called the roll and all members from the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners, and the City of St. Augustine Beach Commissioners, were present.

(01/29/14 - 2 - 9:08 a.m.)

WELCOME

Morris welcomed everyone to the meeting.

(01/29/14 - 2 - 9:09 a.m.)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ed Slavin, P.O. Box 3084, spoke about contaminant land and overcharges on trash fees. He requested an interlocal agreement that would address law enforcement, to include standards on conflicts of interest, ethics and recusals when an officer was involved in a crime. He spoke on extending the pier and proposed having a Statute for the Anastasia Island beach mouse. He talked about having a museum and a sign for the civil rights history of the area.

(9:13 a.m.) Patricia Gill, 218 B Street, asked the commission to include the St. Augustine Beach City Commissioners with the activities for the 450th celebrations, as they had been left out of the opening at the Visitor's Information Center.

(9:14 a.m.) Ann Palmquist, 213 10th Street, concurred with Gill and said she was embarrassed that not one of the St. Augustine Beach City Commissioners had attended the function.

(9:15 a.m.) Bennett clarified to the public that the function in question was a City function and no one from West Augustine had been invited and the County had no control over the guest list.

(9:16 a.m.) Stevenson said the facility was small and that she only received a verbal notification and thought it was a communication issue.

(01/29/14 - 2 - 9:16 a.m.)

DISCUSSION OF BEACH SERVICES, BEACH RESTORATION AND PARKING

Samuels spoke about the issues with parking and asked Billy Zeits, Beach Manager, to speak on the services offered at the beach. Zeits said the beach was comprised of four divisions: beach services division, environmental division, law enforcement, and marine rescue. He said the 2013 total operating fund for St. Johns County beaches, which included the City, was \$2.8 million, and explained what funds were used, with over \$1 million coming directly from Tourist Development Tax.

(9:20 a.m.) McClure inquired if the TDC funds were for a specific project or several projects. Zeits said funds provided for dune walkovers, transfer to the re-nourishment fund, to handle the contracts for restrooms, trash on the beach, and a general transfer to support the overall services at the end of the year. Zeits said there were over 85 beach access points, which included walk overs, foot paths, or areas provided for public parking. Discussion ensued on the need and cost for upkeep, restoration, funds, and revenue.

(9:30 a.m.) McClure talked about the changes over the years with available parking areas. Discussion ensued on the cost needed over the next 2-4 years.

(9:34 a.m.) Samuels suggested informing the citizens of the plans regarding off beach parking. O'Brien spoke about establishing designated parking areas, charging for parking, and a one-half percent increase in bed tax. McCormack spoke on using TDC funding for parking and the increase in the tax.

(9:39 a.m.) Bennett reminded that safety would be included in the cost as well. Wanchick clarified that the commission had not made the decision to charge for parking and said that the information from the meeting was valuable; however there were many costly needs throughout the county.

(9:43 a.m.) Morris echoed Wanchick on the parking, and said it boiled down to available funding. Stevenson talked about investing in the community's infrastructure. Discussion ensued on possible ways to generate revenues. Chief Hardwick spoke about safety on the beach that would benefit the City and the County. Bennett suggested that Samuels host a meeting with the City, County and the developer, Key International, to discuss safety and any other issue that would involve the multiple entities. Burnett affirmed for Samuels that hosting a joint meeting could be done.

(10:01 a.m.) Wanchick said that staff contacted Jose and Diego Ardid, Key International, to suggest various opportunities that could encompass both the hotel property and the pier property. He noted that the County Commission had yet to review anything to date.

(10:03 a.m.) Pawlowski agreed that the City should reach out to the developer to encourage discussion. Burnett spoke about the conversation the City had with the developers of the property. McCormack spoke about making sure that all elements went through the proper process. Samuels noted that all conversations had been done within the boundary they are confined to.

(10:07 a.m.) Snodgrass welcomed the thought of a fresh look. Discussion ensued about meeting with the developer to have preempted discussions if it could be done legally. Bennett stated for the public that there would be no beach property sold and no loss of public facility. She said there could possibly be some rearranging to make one cohesive site, however both the City and County would be vigilant of the public facilities.

(10:11 a.m.) Consensus was given to have Wanchick be the county's contact person for future multi-jurisdictional meetings with the developer. Discussion ensued on the discussion with the developer.

The meeting recessed at 10:17 a.m. and reconvened at 10:25 a.m.

(10:25 a.m.) Neil Shrinke, Public Works Director, spoke on monitoring the turtle and bird nesting, and beach re-nourishment. Discussion ensued on lobbying for beach re-nourishment funding. Press Thompkins, County Engineer, spoke about beach re-nourishment and the funds received from the Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Environmental Protection, and the Tourist Development Council. Helhoski asked about replacing the pier, and discussion ensued on funding for replacement.

(01/29/14 - 3 - 9:16 a.m.)

DISCUSSION OF THE PIER AND PIER PARK IMPROVEMENTS

This item was discussed with Item 1.

(01/29/14 - 3 - 10:42 a.m.)

DISCUSSION OF COUNTY FIRE STATION FACILITY AND CITY BEACH PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY

Wanchick spoke about the discussion he had with Snodgrass about reversing a prior property swap, and building a joint fire station with the City of St Augustine. Locklear gave a summary of the public works property swap with the City on Mizel Road.

(01/29/14 - 4 - 10:50 a.m.)

DISCUSSION OF LIGHTING ON A1A BEACH BOULEVARD FROM SANTANDER ROAD EAST TO POPE ROAD

O'Brien spoke about the lighting issues on the stretch of road from Santander Road and A1A Beach Blvd., and asked for options to help make it safer without disturbing the bird sanctuary. Shrinke spoke about the efforts toward safety, and said based on their analysis there had only been two accidents in the last three years, with one being a fall. He said lighting the area would cost approximately \$150,000, and would run \$8,000 to \$10,000 a month for operating expenses. Hardwick said he had requested a speed control device on the corner, and had also sent a request to FDOT for some possible grant money, and was waiting on their response. Bennett clarified that lighting was not required, however, the County would support the Beach. Discussion ensued about lighting the area.

(11:02 a.m.) Pawlowski asked about the status of the parking area north of the beach front resort. Zeits said a contractor had been identified and the next step was the pre-construction meeting. Discussion ensued on having facilities in the parking area.

(11:07 a.m.) Ed Slaven, P.O. Box 3084, thanked the commissions for hosting the meeting. He said he appreciated that the County was considering the transfer of contaminated land, and would like to see the trash overcharges addressed. He agreed with Stevenson on the lighting at the beach, and noted a discussion between Wanchick and the developer.

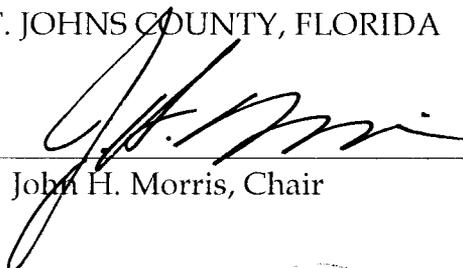
(11:09 a.m.) Dr. Siegfried Herrman, 316 Twenty-Second Street, congratulated the commissions on doing a good job, and said the private industry work should possibly be more developed.

(11:10 a.m.) Wanchick addressed the solid waste issue and said the item was on Tuesday's agenda.

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

Approved March 18, 2014

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: 
John H. Morris, Chair

ATTEST: CHERYL STRICKLAND, CLERK

By: 
Deputy Clerk

