

**MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA
MAY 1, 2001
(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, Chair
Marc Jacalone, District 3, Vice Chair
Nicholas Meiszer, District 1
John Reardon, District 2
James E. Bryant, District 5
Ben W. Adams, Jr., County Administrator
Daniel Bosanko, Deputy County Attorney
Lenora Newsome, Deputy Clerk

Also present was: Cheryl Strickland, Clerk of Courts

(05/01/01 - 1 - 9:03 a.m.)
CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kohnke.

(05/01/01 - 1 - 9:03 a.m.)
The Invocation was given by Reverend Donovan Tinsley, Trinity Chapel. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jacalone.

(05/01/01 - 1 - 9:06 a.m.)
ROLL CALL

The roll was called by the Deputy Clerk.

(05/01/01 - 1 - 9:06 a.m.)
PUBLIC COMMENT

DJ Morsch, 509 North Point Road, spoke on information regarding the appeal with Caps and wanted to know where they stand with their final order.

(9:10 a.m.) Cynthia Anderson, 510 First Street, stated that she would like clarification on, if the Florida room was not constructed within 150 days, what would happen and on there being no music without a Florida room. She stated that she would like to know how someone can add on a deck without having permits, then go back and get a permit and pay double for it. She also questioned how someone can build on an easement.

(9:12 a.m.) Don Combs, 510 First Street, spoke on Caps bringing their property up to building codes.

(9:14 a.m.) Joe Paffe, Jr., 545 Second Street, spoke in support of neighbors who have complaints against Caps. He requested that the enforcement agency make Caps establish their property line and asked the status of Caps as far as special use is concerned.

(9:17 a.m.) Mike Griffin, Director of Development Services, responded to the questions asked by the public on Caps. He stated that it was his understanding that if the music is continued beyond a certain date, that it would have to be within an enclosed Florida Room. Griffin read the Ordinance regarding outside music. Regarding the right-of-way easement, the existing sheds that are on the right-of-way easement will be removed when the fence is installed. Bosanko mentioned that he would look into it. Kohnke relayed the question, if the building was built without a permit, then all someone would have to do is pay a double fee for the permit after the fact. Griffin responded that in this case all that was constructed was a deck, it was determined that they needed a building permit, the property owner came in and obtained the permit and the punitive assessment was a double fee to the permit. Kohnke asked if someone renovates over 50%, if they have to bring their entire building up to code. Griffin replied, that would be a Building Department determination on the structure and he was not aware of the 50% rule insofar as the structure goes. Kohnke questioned what about code on parking and landscaping. Griffin responded. Jacalone requested the Board to look at the conditions that were applied to that special use that was granted to Caps, make sure he is complying with all the conditions and if he is not complying with all the conditions, to take swift measures to inform them that they need to be complying with that order. *It was a consensus of the Board to comply with what Jacalone requested.* Discussion followed on construction without a building permit, having any violations to date, allowing community commercial and neighborhood community commercial uses in residential Future Land Use, the fence being constructed, determining the easement with a survey, and having Bosanko bring back to the Board next week information on the easement. Morsch stated that she wanted no outdoor music clarified. Kohnke suggested getting the easement question settled immediately. Allen MacDonald, Finance Director, entered the meeting.

(05/01/01 - 2 - 9:32 a.m.)

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO WORKSHOP AGENDA

There were no additions nor deletions to the Workshop Agenda.

(05/01/01 - 2 - 9:32 a.m.)

APPROVAL OF WORKSHOP AGENDA

Motion by Jacalone, seconded by Reardon, carried 5/0, to approve the Workshop Agenda as submitted.

Kohnke reminded the Board of the Special Meeting this afternoon.

(05/01/01 - 2 - 9:33 a.m.)

1. DISCUSSION OF ADVERTISING REQUIREMENTS FOR DEPARTMENT HEAD VACANCIES (PER ORDINANCE 90-10, SECTION K)

Kohnke reviewed this item. Meiszer mentioned that the ordinance included in the agenda packet was repealed more than 3 years ago and questioned why it was included. Karen Van Volkinburg, Director of Personnel, read the part of the ordinance in question. She stated that the advertisement is done within for department heads, and if someone qualifies, then there is no outside advertisement. Bosanko mentioned that he had done research on this and determined that there is no Federal or State law requiring to advertise, unless the organization shows discrimination against minorities. He stated that the evidence of the staffing does not indicate discrimination. Bob Peters, Personnel, spoke on doing an EEO update on their plan and they are totally in compliance. He spoke on being broken down into categories and how they rate in them. Peters named all the female department heads in the County. Kohnke stated that they needed a policy at the department head level, to advertise whether inside or out. Reardon replied that it is important to have a professional balance of advertising. Jacalone mentioned that the Board

should stay out of personnel issues. Meiszer stated that he strongly supports promotion from within. Discussion followed on choosing department heads from within when applicable. Bosanko left the meeting.

The meeting moved to item 3.

(05/01/01 - 3 - 10:31 a.m.)

2. DISCUSSION OF AN AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE LIFEGUARD SERVICES TO ANASTASIA STATE RECREATION AREA

Williams reviewed this item and recommended it. He explained how this agreement would benefit the County. *It was a consensus of the Board, with Meiszer opposing, to place this item on the May 8 Consent Agenda.*

The meeting recessed at 10:37 and reconvened at 10:42

The meeting moved to item 4.

(05/01/01 - 3 - 9:58 a.m.)

3. DISCUSSION OF REVISING THE LIFEGUARDS SALARY SCHEDULE

Dave Williams, Supervisor of Beach Management, reviewed, using visual display, the lifeguard agencies. He spoke on lifeguard training, technical rescue skills, beach emergencies, lifeguard activity yearly average, demand for service ratio, Statewide comparison, beach fund, St. Johns County Job class, and short term and long term solutions. Meiszer questioned pay grades and making an effort to reclassify them. Williams replied that they have made an effort to raise the pay grades and made an effort to reclassify them. Discussion followed on reclassifying the pay grades, where to provide lifeguard protection, steps in the pay grades, and hiring as many lifeguards as the Enterprise Fund would afford. Meiszer relayed that salaries and benefits are needed to attract people. Williams stated that a lifeguard response needed to be maintained year around. Meiszer supported pay raises, and fringe benefits. Williams addressed the issue of patrolling certain areas of the beach. Joe Vonasek, Director of Budget and Management, stated that the funds that are available to be expended in this fiscal year would be inadequate to fund the increase in salaries for the current year. He spoke on not having a turnover rate due to a salary issue at the nature they are looking at now. Jacalone stated that every Enterprise Fund has to support itself.

(10:28 a.m.) Margaret White, 3575 Coastal Highway, spoke on her family donating a lifeguard chair for Vilano Beach in memory of William H. Coleman, Jr., and on needing more qualified lifeguards. *It was a consensus of the Board to place this item on the May 8 Consent Agenda.*

The meeting returned to item 2.

(05/01/01 - 3 - 10:42 a.m.)

4. STAFF UPDATES BY COUNTY DEPARTMENTS & DIVISIONS. VARIOUS COUNTY DEPARTMENT & DIVISION HEADS WILL GIVE BRIEF UPDATES TO THE COMMISSION ON CURRENT PROJECTS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE AREAS

- A. Dan Weimer, Interim Director of Parks and Recreation
 - 1. County Land Acquisition (Vaill Point Property)
 - 2. Hastings Equestrian Center
 - 3. Hastings Recreation Center
 - 4. Riverdale Park Expansion/Boat Ramp
 - 5. Skate Park Facility

6. Vilano Boat Ramp (Shelters & Park)
7. Northeast (Davis) Park
8. Beach Renourishment
9. County Golf Course Expansion

Weimer gave an update of selected projects that the department is working on. He spoke on the 2001 Capital Projects, using visual display; the Vaill Point Acquisition, Equestrian Center at Hastings off of Smith Road, Hastings Recreation Center expansion, Riverdale expansion and boat ramp improvements, skate park at Treaty Park-June 2 dedication, and Vilano boat basin renovations. Jacalone mentioned that the biggest issue with the grant is the capacity at the ramp. Adams mentioned fixing erosion problems at all the boat ramps. Weimer spoke on Davis Park, the Beach Renourishment Project 2001-2002, and the St. Johns County golf course. Adams mentioned that June 8 is the golf course dedication date. Jacalone requested Adams to direct Weimer to present the Board with a revised rate schedule. Discussion followed on green fees being for 18 holes, controlled parking and minimal lighting so the course can be used after dark, and the golf course expansion being ready to play on now.

(05/01/01 - 4 - 11:03 a.m.)

- B. Mary Jane Little, Director of Library Systems
 1. Grant/Library Elder Services Book Van Update
 2. Internet Filtering

Little spoke on the Library Elderly Outreach Grant Award of \$161,650, and on internet filtering, making sure nothing illegal is pulled off of the internet.

(05/01/01 - 4 - 11:10 a.m.)

- C. Mike Rubin, Director of Construction Services
 1. Northwest Annex
 2. Hastings Community Center
 3. Amphitheater
 4. Hastings Fire Station
 5. Ponte Vedra Beach Library Expansion Update

Rubin spoke on the St. Johns County Northwest Annex, the Hastings Community Center being 960 square foot addition costing \$78.13 per square foot to build, Amphitheater contract with a local consultant to do all of the design and studies for \$74,840, closing on the property for the Hastings Fire Station, Ponte Vedra Beach Library Expansion update, and the Bartram Trail parking expansion.

(05/01/01 - 4 - 11:16 a.m.)

- D. Scott Clem, Director of Growth Management Services
 1. Northwest Sector Plan
 2. Vilano Beach Waterfronts Program
 3. West Augustine Community Redevelopment Agency

Teresa Bishop, Director of Planning, gave an update on the Northwest Sector Plan, working on the Comp Plan policies, and the Vilano Beach Waterfronts Community Program. Discussion followed on the landscaping completed at the gateway of Vilano, the signage leading to Vilano Beach, and the walkway through the estuaries to the wetlands. Bishop added that the Vilano Beach Community is looking into other mechanisms to find and finance projects out there. Tom Crawford, Director of Housing and Community Services, gave an update on the Planning Grant pertaining to the West Augustine area, spoke on the Sewer Extension Contract being signed this week, and the evolution of the St. Johns Housing Partnership.

(05/01/01 - 5 - 11:26 a.m.)

4. Mike Griffin, Director of Development Services
 - i. Permitting and Code Enforcement Tracking System
 - ii. Building Abatement Program
 - iii. Billboard Assessment Program
 - iv. Road Paving Non-Zoning Variance Assessment
 - v. Long-term Records Retrieval and Management Plan
 - vi. Code Enforcement Citation Training of County Employees
 - vii. Complete Database for Zoning Attributes on GIS Layers
 - viii. Sign Code

Griffin gave a brief update on the projects that are happening in Development Services; the Permitting and Code and Enforcement Tracking System, the Billing and Abatement Program, working with the Attorney's Office to develop an Inspection Warrant System, the Billboard Assessment Program, the Road Paving Non-Zoning Variance Assessment, Long Term Records Retrieval and Management Plan, Code Enforcement Training of County Employees, Data Base for Zoning Attributes on the GIS Layers Project, and Sign Code Issues. Jacalone commented on the cost of the Building Abatement Program being offset by the companies, the landfills accepting the material at a reduced or no charge to the County and when revisiting the contracts that are due to expire, looking at incorporating some of the cost into the contract and let that be a part of the agreement. Adams stated that the companies have been very pro-active in discussing this matter.

(05/01/01 - 5 - 11:32 a.m.)

- E. Joe Vonasek, Director of Management & Budget
 1. Budget Process
 2. Current Budget Issues

Vonasek spoke on the budget schedules for the Capital Improvement Program and for the Operating Budget. Discussion followed on the final ranking for the CIP Projects, deadline to get the requests in for independent agencies requesting County funding, and the Board getting a copy of the list of requests from the agencies. Vonasek relayed that they are looking at the bonding capacity on the gas tax revenues and the adjustment of the CIP effects. Kohnke questioned of the \$74 million, if the amount has been reduced by the addition of the work done on CR 210. Vonasek replied that it was just a recalculation of the estimates of the cost of the projects that have been submitted and that they are looking at the short term borrowing that the Board has authorized for the Vaill Tract and the Southeast Library. He stated that they had funding concerns with the Amphitheater's renovation of \$2.4 million, that they don't see funding available for at this time, the Convention Center shortfall obligation that runs about \$200,000, Worker's Compensation Fund needing a mid term rate increase, and a 20% to 30% increase on the rates to establish the Reserves. He spoke on a creation within the City of St. Augustine of a historic community redevelopment area and what is referred to as the new growth money, is essentially funded over to the City. Vonasek mentioned that the State has imposed a Uniform Communication Task System and this takes the County's Franchised Cable TV franchise fee money, makes it payable to the State and the State stated that they will give the County back exactly the same amount. Meiszer stated that he had requested an analysis of the historic area financing which causes the County to forfeit its mileage and didn't receive a written reply on it. Vonasek replied that they are still in the process of developing how they are going to deal with it.

(05/01/01 - 5 - 11:47 a.m.)

- F. Ray Ashton, Director of Emergency Services
 1. Rescue 17 Update
 2. Hastings Fire Department
 3. Hurricane Exercise in May

4. Update on Storm Shutters on Schools
5. Additional Fire/Rescue Topics

Ashton gave an update on the Rescue 17, Sampson Fire Station, and the Rescue 7, St. Augustine Beach Fire Station. He mentioned that they have two new tankers on order, the Summer fire season and on staying prepared. He stated that through a State Grant that helped them with their local mitigation strategy project, they were able to use \$18,000 to provide window shuttering at the Tech Center in Building C, and were looking at providing shutters for Osceola School, Mason School, Cunningham Creek School, and Mill Creek School, which involved \$86,000 per school. He mentioned that the hurricane exercise was scheduled for May 22, 2001. He spoke on their Computer Dispatch Program.

(05/01/01 - 6 - 11:51 a.m.)

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Bryant:

Bryant spoke on having to convene a Grievance Committee for the Local Coordinating Board for the Transportation for the Disadvantaged. He reported that they were able to settle the grievance.

(11:52 a.m.)

Commissioner Reardon:

No report.

(11:52 a.m.)

Commissioner Jacalone:

Jacalone spoke on a letter he received from Alachua County, regarding Senate Bill 2056 which has an amendment which takes away County's rights to regulate billboards. He suggested a resolution in support. Kohnke suggested to bring it up this afternoon first thing at 1:30 p.m.

(11:53 a.m.)

Commissioner Meiszer:

Meiszer questioned the appointment to the MPO being still outstanding. He stated that he would nominate someone this afternoon for that appointment.

(11:54 a.m.)

Commissioner Kohnke:

No report.

(05/01/01 - 6 -11:54 a.m.)

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Adams announced that the Intercoastal Hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, June 6, beginning at 6:00 p.m at Rawlings Elementary.

Adams mentioned that the topic for the Regional Cooperation Summit for the seven Counties in the region is water resources. He requested a confirmation from the Board to set a date.

Adams requested to cancel the BCC Meeting scheduled for July 3 because of July 4th being a holiday. Kohnke requested to have no meetings the last two weeks in August. *It was a consensus of the Board to do as Adams and Kohnke requested.*

(05/01/01 - 7 - 11:58 a.m.)

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

No report.

(05/01/01 - 7 - 11:58 a.m.)

CLERK OF COURT'S REPORT

No report.

The meeting recessed at 11:58 a.m. for lunch and reconvened at 1:30 p.m. with Kohnke, Jacalone, Meiszer, Reardon, Bryant, Adams, and Deputy Clerk Yvonne King present.

(05/01/01 - 7 - 1:33 p.m.)

5. PRESENTATION OF COUNTY ROAD 210 CORRIDOR STUDY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN BY JE SVERDRUP CIVIL, INC.

Nick Perpich, Project Engineer, introduced Daniel Kristoff of JE Sverdrup. (1:35 p.m.) Daniel Kristoff, JE Sverdrup, now known as the Jacobs Corporation, made a presentation of the Implementation Plan, which is the final phase of the CR 210 Corridor Study. He reviewed: the corridor limits of the projects; the purpose of the study; the project schedule; the average daily traffic projections; the lane requirements to satisfy the future traffic demand; access management classification system; and the recommendations for each study segment. Discussion followed on the study segments from CE Wilson Road to U.S. 1, U.S. 1 to the Intracoastal Waterway, and the Intracoastal Waterway to A1A. Kristoff then reviewed the implementation plan, as follows: the two segments that are currently under construction: the I-95 crossing and the 4-laning of the segment west of I-95; CR 210 from US 1 to the Intracoastal Waterway improvements; CE Wilson to US 1 improvements; 4-laning from the Intracoastal Waterway to Mickler Road; US 1 interchange area; 6-laning of I-95 from Sampson to CE Wilson Road; 6-laning of I-95 from CE Wilson to US 1; 4-laning of Mickler Road to A1A; 6-laning of the north/south roadway to I-95; and the 4-laning from Greenbriar Road Intersection to the north/south roadway. Kristoff reviewed the influence of Nocatee based on the information they were given. Discussion followed on the recommendations of Kristoff. (2:42 p.m.) Marcy Silkebaken, 1145 Neck Road, commented on the CR 210/Mickler Road Intersection. (2:44 p.m.) John Flukelder, commented on the implementation plan.

(05/01/01 - 7 - 2:45 p.m.)

6. REPORT ON TOWER HEIGHTS BY ST. JOHNS COUNTY'S CONSULTANT FOR TOWERS, MR. BARRY MAGRILL

Rosemary Yeoman, Zoning Manager, introduced Barry Magrill. (2:45 p.m.) Barry Magrill, Tower Consultant for St. Johns County, gave a report of the radio engineering analysis and investigation of the tower height limitation. Discussion followed on the location of towers, the height limit for towers, and the regulation of towers.

(05/01/01 - 7 - 2:58 p.m.)

7. CONTINUATION OF THE STAFF UPDATES:

7a. WINDSTORM DAMAGE MITIGATION TRAINING & DEMONSTRATION CENTER

Loretta Hodyss, Director of St. Johns County Cooperative Extension Service, reported on the Windstorm Damage Mitigation Training and Demonstration Center. Hodyss said the Center is in the process of being built, and the date of completion is August 27.

The meeting recessed at 3:01 p.m. and reconvened at 3:10 p.m.

(05/01/01 - 8 - 3:10 p.m.)

7b. ROSCOE BOULEVARD: STRIPING, SIGNAGE, AND TURN-LANES

Joe Stephenson, Director of Public Works, reported on the Roscoe Boulevard Traffic issue. The "no through truck" signs have been posted. The 35 mph speed limit signs are being fabricated and will be posted within a week. The double yellow stripes on the entire road will be completed in approximately 45 days along with the "no passing signs." An ongoing effort is being made for further improvements including turn lanes and other traffic calming devices. Discussion followed on truck traffic on Roscoe Blvd., yellow striping of the entire road, lowering the speed limit to 35 mph, and how speed limits are determined. (3:54 p.m.) Larry Combs, 146 N. Roscoe Blvd., commented in opposition to the reduced speed limit. (3:57 p.m.) Rob Conwell, 309 Pheasant Run, commented in favor of having a no passing zone and a reduced speed limit the length of Roscoe Blvd. (4:10 p.m.) Jan Conwell, 309 Pheasant Run, commented in favor of having a no passing zone and a reduced speed limit the length of Roscoe Blvd. (4:13 p.m.) Robert Jones, 107A Roscoe Blvd. N., commented in favor of the previous actions taken by the Board regarding Roscoe Blvd. (4:15 p.m.) Sharon Williams, 39 S. Roscoe Blvd., read a letter from Deborah Andrews, President of the Palm Valley Community Center, expressing her thanks for the safety improvements made to Roscoe Blvd. (4:16 p.m.) Maureen Van Doren, 289 N. Roscoe Blvd., commented in favor of the lowered speed limit. (4:20 p.m.) Jeff McBride, 84 S. Roscoe Blvd., commented in favor of having a no passing zone and a reduced speed limit the length of Roscoe Blvd. (4:26 p.m.) Leslie Johnson, 275 Roscoe Blvd. N., commented in favor of having a no passing zone and a reduced speed limit the length of Roscoe Blvd. (4:27 p.m.) Vicki Hellstrom, 81 S. Roscoe Blvd., commented in favor of the previous actions of the Board. (4:29 p.m.) Robin Wilson, 167 N. Roscoe Blvd., commented in favor of the previous actions of the Board. (4:33 p.m.) Garry Phillips, 161 Roscoe Blvd., commented in favor of the previous actions of the Board. (4:38 p.m.) Marijane Boyd, 53 Roscoe Blvd., suggested sidewalks be installed along Roscoe Blvd. (4:41 p.m.) Penny Allen, 233 S. Roscoe Blvd., commented in favor of the previous actions of the Board. (4:43 p.m.) Greg Leonard, 49 S. Roscoe Blvd., commented on the survey conducted by the Palm Valley Safety Commission.

(4:45 p.m.) Deputy Clerk Judith Hamilton entered the meeting; Deputy Clerk Yvonne King left the meeting. The speaker continued, providing the Board with a copy of the final tabulated results of the survey that they reported on April 17. He spoke in favor of double yellow lining. (4:48 p.m.) Don House, 183 North Roscoe, spoke about his editorial and individual responsibility, listening to the advice of Staff, and requested that the Board rescind their decision of last Tuesday. (4:56 p.m.) Penny Scott, 265 N. Roscoe Blvd., with PowerPoint presentation, addressed several issues and told the Board to stand by the great decision they made two weeks ago. (5:01 p.m.) Bryant stated he would stand by his previous decision. Reardon stated he wanted the Board to stand by the decision they had made. Jacalone stated he was not totally comfortable with the double yellow lining the entire length of Roscoe, and he had no problem with the speed limit. Meiszer said he had heard nothing that would cause him to change his vote. Kohnke said she agreed with Jacalone about double yellow lining; she hoped it would work out all right and expected people to inform the Board if there were problems in the future.

(5:12 p.m.) Kohnke asked if Staff could reschedule their updates for another Board meeting. Adams stated they would be rescheduled. Stephenson then continued with his updates.

A. Solano Road Turn Lane

This item was scheduled for next week's Board meeting; therefore, no discussion was held.

B. Dirt Road Maintenance

C. Municipal Service Benefit Units (MSBU)

D. Private Road Policy

After a brief introduction, Stephenson advised the Board that workshops would be scheduled on these issues.

E. Flagler Estates Stop Signs

Stephenson stated per the interlocal agreement with Flagler Estates, they had installed 156 stop signs in four days. When the district needs more stop signs, Public Works was standing by ready to provide them.

Discussion followed on various aspects of the updates.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the workshop adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

Approved _____ May 15 __, 2001

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: _____
Mary F. Kohnke, Chair

ATTEST: CHERYL STRICKLAND, CLERK

By: _____
Deputy Clerk