

**MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA
NOVEMBER 16, 2004
(9:00 A.M.)**

Proceedings of a special 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: Karen Stern, District 2, Chair
Bruce Maguire, District 4, Vice Chair
Nicholas Meiszer, District 1
James E. Bryant, District 5
Ben W. Adams, Jr., County Administrator
Daniel Bosanko, County Attorney
Lenora Newsome, Deputy Clerk

Also present: Cheryl Strickland, Clerk of Court; Allen MacDonald, Finance Director; and Michael Hunt, Assistant County Attorney

(11/16/04 - 1 - 9:11 a.m.)
Chair Stern called the Special Meeting to order.

(11/16/04 - 1 - 9:11 a.m.)
The Invocation was given by Jacalone and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Meiszer.

(11/16/04 - 1 - 9:12 a.m.)
ROLL CALL

Stern announced that all five Commissioners were present.

(11/16/04 - 1 - 9:12 a.m.)
1. MOTION TO APPROVE THE PUBLIC OFFICIAL BONDS FOR COMMISSIONER CYNDI STEVENSON, COMMISSIONER BEN RICH AND COMMISSIONER JAMES E. BRYANT

Motion by Maguire, seconded by Jacalone, carried 5/0, to approve the Public Official Bonds.

(11/16/04 - 1 - 9:12 a.m.)
2. PRESENTATION OF PLAQUES RECOGNIZING THE OUTGOING COMMISSIONERS BY CHAIR KAREN R. STERN:

Stern presented a plaque to the outgoing Commissioners Nicholas M. Meiszer, District 1 and Marc A. Jacalone, District 3. Bryant presented Jacalone a framed picture of all his doodling from the Board meetings.

(11/16/04 - 1 - 9:16 a.m.)
3. OATHS OF OFFICE FOR THE NEW COMMISSIONERS BY JUDGE ROBERT K. MATHIS, ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY:

Judge Robert Mathis gave the oath of office to the two new Commissioners, Cyndi Stevenson and Ben Rich and one returning Commissioner, James Bryant.

The meeting recessed at 9:19 a.m. and reconvened at 9:40 a.m.

(11/16/04 - 2 - 9:41 a.m.)

REVIEW OF NOMINATING PROCEDURES FOR ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR BY THE COUNTY ATTORNEY

Bosanko reviewed the rules and policies.

Stern thanked her fellow commissioners for the opportunity to serve as Chair for the past year.

(11/16/04 - 2 - 9:44 a.m.)

ELECTION OF THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Motion by Stern, seconded by Rich, carried 5/0, to elect Maguire as chairman.

(11/16/04 - 2 - 9:45 p.m.)

ELECTION OF THE VICE-CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Motion by Maguire, seconded by Stevenson, carried 5/0, to elect Bryant as vice chair.

(11/16/04 - 2 - 9:45 a.m.)

PRESENTATION OF RECOGNITION AWARDS TO THE PAST CHAIR KAREN R. STERN AND PAST VICE-CHAIR BRUCE A. MAGUIRE

Maguire presented a plaque to past Chair Karen Stern. Stern presented a plaque to past Vice Chair Bruce Maguire.

(11/16/04 - 2 - 9:50 a.m.)

EDUCATION SESSION

Bosanko reviewed several key areas of the law that the Commissioners would be applying on a daily basis to their work as Commissioners. Strickland and MacDonald left the meeting.

(9:52 a.m.) Michael Hunt, Deputy County Attorney, reviewed the Code of Ethics regarding the legal requirements of State Law for ethics approved for the position of County Commission. (Exhibit A)

(10:00 a.m.) Isabelle Lopez, Senior Assistant County Attorney, reviewed Quasi-Judicial Proceedings. She explained the sunshine law and spoke on ex-parte communication. (Exhibit B)

(10:21) Laura Barrows, Assistant County Attorney, spoke on the Sunshine Law and Public Records. Bosanko gave background history on retreats and workshops. Adams suggested letting Administration know, if a Commissioner wanted to add something to the agenda. (Exhibit C)

(10:48 a.m.) Bosanko reviewed the procedures for voting conflicts and requirements. (Exhibit D) He read into the record the definition of a conflict and covered special cases. Bosanko reminded the Board that there was a Special Meeting at 8:00 a.m. tomorrow morning. He mentioned that they would be scheduling another closed-door meeting on another litigation, the Whitlock case, for Wednesday December 1st at 8:00 a.m.

(11/16/04 - 3 - 11:01 a.m.)
OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

(11/16/04 - 3 - 11:02 a.m.)
PUBLIC COMMENTS

Roger Van Ghent, 4005 Moultrie Foreside Blvd., commented on the Attorney Session just presented regarding legal and factual issues. He stated that there was too much influence on County Staff from everyone. The Board needed to rethink workshop organization.

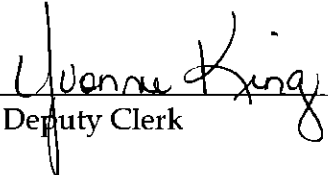
Motion by Bryant, seconded by Stern, carried 5/0 to adjourn the meeting. With there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

Approved _____ December 15 _____, 2004

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: 
Bruce A Maguire, Chair

ATTEST: CHERYL STRICKLAND, CLERK

By: 
Deputy Clerk

