

**MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA
MARCH 13, 2007
(9:00 A.M.)**

Proceedings of a regular 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
Cyndi Stevenson, District 1
Ron Sanchez, District 2
James Bryant, District 5
Waldemar Kropacek, Interim County Administrator
Patrick McCormack, County Attorney
Lenora Newsome, Deputy Clerk

Also present: Cheryl Strickland, Clerk of Court

(03/13/07 - 1 - 9:05 a.m.)

CALL TO ORDER

Rich called the meeting to order.

(03/13/07 - 1 - 9:05 a.m.)

ROLL CALL

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

(03/13/07 - 1 - 9:05 a.m.)

Sanchez gave the invocation and Stevenson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

(03/13/07 - 1 - 9:07 a.m.)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Alfred Guido, 104 Dogwood Drive, Chair of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Council, spoke on the bond issue expenditures, asking the Board to keep in mind the priority list that was previously given to them. He also requested that if they were not going to fund the pools that they give consideration to the other items on that list. Stevenson suggested for Guido to talk to the state representatives and state senators, as they were considering some bills that could have a significant affect on the Board's ability to provide recreation. She mentioned that the representatives were supposed to decide on the bills on Friday. Guido responded.

(03/13/07 - 1 - 9:14 a.m.)

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

There were no additions or deletions to the Special Meeting Agenda.

(03/13/07 - 1 - 9:14 a.m.)

APPROVAL OF SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

Motion by Sanchez, seconded by Rich, carried 4/0 with Manuel absent.

(03/13/07 - 2 - 9:14 a.m.)

1. FY 2006 BOND PROJECTS WORKSHOP

Joe Stephenson, Public Works Director, reviewed the Board approved projects; Race Track Road/Julington Creek Plantation/Russell Sampson Road, and Russell Sampson CR210/St. Johns Forest. Stevenson asked about the alignment on Russell Sampson Road. Stephenson spoke on the road alignment being new and having to go through the permitting process from the beginning. Stephenson continued, reviewing the CR 2209 Corridor North Segment. He mentioned projects to be added by the proposed supplemental resolution; CR 210/I-95 Interchange improvements. Stephenson suggested making them eligible for bond funding, if needed. (9:24 a.m.) **Motion by Stevenson, seconded by Bryant, carried 4/0 with Manuel absent, to add the CR 210/I-95 interchange improvements to the official bond list.**

(9:25 a.m.) Stephenson spoke on the next project; the CR210/US1 Interchange. (9:25 a.m.) **Motion by Stevenson, seconded by Rich, carried 4/0 with Manuel absent, to add the CR 210/US 1 interchange to the official bond project list.** Bryant mentioned not putting any money in there to relieve some of the obligations of the developers in that area. Stephenson assured Bryant that they would not do that. Stephenson spoke on the SR 312/313 Bypass and purchasing right-of-way in the area. Bryant asked about having all the rights-of-way from SR 16 down to CR 207. Stephenson replied that they did not. (9:29 a.m.) **Motion by Sanchez, seconded by Bryant, carried 4/0 with Manuel absent, to add the SR 312/313 Bypass to the official bond project list.** Stephenson reviewed the last project in this category; 9B Phase 1. (9:32 a.m.) **Motion by Stevenson, seconded by Bryant, carried 4/0 with Manuel absent, to add 9B Phase 1 to the bond project list.**

(9:33 a.m.) Sanchez asked how much of the \$8.5 million on the CR 305 extension was in right-of-way purchase. Stephenson replied that all of it was designed in right-of-way purchase, discussion ensued. Stevenson asked about the CR 2209 Corridor Central Segment being a developer project. Stephenson replied that two lanes were, and if they wanted four lanes they would have to pay the balance. Stevenson asked about SR 16/Heritage Landing. Stephenson responded.

(9:38 a.m.) Doug Timms spoke on the Capital Improvement Projects for 2006 Sales Tax Bonding: the Fiddlers' property, FCT properties, and an addition to the list, as an alternative project, the Usina Boat Ramp purchase. Stevenson spoke on the Usina Boat Ramp purchase. (9:41 a.m.) **Motion by Stevenson, seconded by Sanchez, to add the Usina Boat Ramp for consideration to the bond project list.** Discussion followed on the Usina Boat Ramp. (9:45 a.m.) **The motion carried 4/0 with Manuel absent.** Timms spoke on the FCT property/Vilano property. (8:48 a.m.) **Motion by Bryant, seconded by Stevenson, carried 4/0 with Manuel absent, if it was approved as an alternate project, that it be included in the long-term bond.**

(9:48 a.m.) Jean Mangu, 50 Bay Street, stated the next steps; the supplemental resolution being needed to amend the project description, certification from the County, and the bond opinion. Discussion followed. Rich asked the Administrator to delay doing the resolution on the addition until such time as the purchase agreements were worked out with the Usinas.

(03/13/07 - 2 - 9:56 a.m.)

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Sanchez:

No report.

(9:57 a.m.)

Commissioner Bryant:

Bryant mentioned receiving a copy of a letter from McCormack to David E. Ramba, referring to the lobbying fees with a proposed cap of \$10,000. He stated that he would like to see a cap of \$5,000. McCormack spoke on sending a letter to David Ramba on having a \$10,000 cap for his services. Rich stated the intent of the Board was to have \$2,500 a month available for the rest of the year, in case it was needed. Stevenson spoke on projects the lobbyist would be working on, stating that she would like clarification on the hiring of the firm for 60 days and what they would achieve in that time frame. McCormack recommended placing it on the agenda as an item. Sanchez stated that he thought it was set up on a month-to-month basis and suggested looking at the motion they passed to decide if they needed to put a length on the agreement. Kropacek replied that the original conversation was to hire the firm for 60 days why the session was in. Rich mentioned to put it on the agenda within the next 60 days to review the contract. Discussion followed.

(10:10 a.m.)

Commissioner Stevenson:

Stevenson spoke on getting calls regarding library staffing, and general concerns about the affect of the hiring freeze.

(10:13 a.m.) Jerry Cameron, Assistant County Administrator for Community Services, stated that they had a meeting this afternoon with Mary Jane Little to determine the organizational structure so they could fill it without hiring anymore FTE's than was absolutely necessary. Stevenson asked about the pursuing of Sunday hours being practical in the current budget environment since they have Sunday hours at most of the other branches. Cameron replied that they were accepting that it was a matter of policy to go forward with Sunday hours and they think they could accomplish that within the current budget constraints, but it may require the shifting of some personal. Kropacek spoke on the hiring freeze. Discussion followed.

(10:20 a.m.)

Commissioner Rich:

Rich spoke on the Library issue.

(03/13/07 - 3 - 10:21 a.m.)

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

No report.

(03/13/07 - 3 - 9:21 a.m.)

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

No report.

(03/13/07 - 3 - 9:21 a.m.)

CLERK OF COURT'S REPORT

No report.

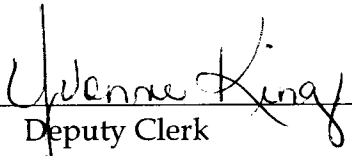
Motion by Sanchez, seconded by Bryant, carried 4/0 with Manuel absent, to adjourn the meeting. With there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:23 a.m.

Approved April 3, 2007

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: 
Ben Rich, Chairman

ATTEST: CHERYL STRICKLAND, CLERK

By: 
Deputy Clerk