

**MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA
MAY 18, 2007
(1:00 P.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
Waldemar Kropacek, Interim County Administrator
Patrick McCormack, County Attorney
Lenora Newsome, Deputy Clerk

(05/18/07 - 1 - 1:04 p.m.)
CALL TO ORDER

Rich called the meeting to order.

(05/18/07 - 1 - 1:05 p.m.)
ROLL CALL

Rich stated that four commissioners were present; Bryant was absent.

(05/18/07 - 1 - 1:05 p.m.)
Manuel gave the invocation and Rich led the Pledge of Allegiance.

(05/18/07 - 1 - 1:06 p.m.)
PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

(05/18/07 - 1 - 1:06 p.m.)
ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

There were no additions or deletions to the special meeting agenda.

(05/18/07 - 1 - 1:06 p.m.)
APPROVAL OF THE SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

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

(05/18/07 - 1 - 1:07 p.m.)
INTERVIEWS OF CANDIDATES FOR COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR - THE BCC HAS CHOSEN FIVE EXPERIENCED CANDIDATES TO INTERVIEW FOR THE POSITION OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR. EACH OF THESE CANDIDATES IS THE PRODUCT OF A DETAILED SELECTION PROCESS, HAS GONE THROUGH A DETAILED FAMILIARIZATION PROCESS, AND HAS PARTAKEN IN ONE-ON-ONE INTERVIEWS WITH EACH OF THE BCC MEMBERS. IT IS NOW APPROPRIATE

FOR THE BCC TO INTERVIEW EACH CANDIDATE IN THE PUBLIC FORUM OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD

Kropacek reviewed all the events that had already taken place with the candidates up to today. He stated that today each candidate would be interviewed at a public meeting and on Tuesday the final decision would be made.

(1:08 p.m.) Gene Demarie, Senior Vice President of Colin, Baenziger and Associates, mentioned that the final vote would be on Tuesday morning at a special commission meeting, and stated after that there would be contract negotiations. He stated that the public interviews would be held in alphabetical order.

(1:10 p.m.) Demarie introduced Garland "Keith" Chadwell and gave his credentials. Manuel asked if any commissioners had been in touch with him before today. Chadwell answered no. Manuel asked him what he thought was the most important spoke in the human resource wheel relating to staff development and staff support. Chadwell replied staff development, staff support and a good working environment. Manuel asked Chadwell about providing atmosphere and his belief in cultural arts. Chadwell replied that he invited input from the staff, looking for long term trust and that he was very much into the arts. Manuel asked him how he would handle the increasing need for County supported healthcare and social services in an increasingly tight budget situation. Chadwell responded that an important step was to do human service and social service planning that was fact and evident based and find out what the needs were. Manuel asked why they should hire him. Chadwell stated that he had a great appreciation for the profession, and that he was attracted to the community for its natural beauty. Rich asked Chadwell what his weakness was and what he would do to overcome it. Chadwell stated that he liked to consider everything before making a decision, but would make a decision at the last minute if needed. Rich stated that making quick decisions was dangerous. Stevenson asked how he would improve communications within the community. Chadwell responded on how he would handle it. Manuel asked about bringing cultural and art activities into the northwest area of the county. Chadwell responded. Sanchez asked if firing someone would bother him. Chadwell replied, yes, it would.

(1:35 p.m.) Demarie introduced Frank Clifton, Jr., and gave his credentials. Manuel asked if any commissioners had been in touch with him before today. Clifton responded no. Manuel asked him how he would create a culture of openness with the staff to cause them to work with him and feel comfortable with sharing their ideas. Clifton responded that most employees were citizens of the community they work in, that public service was a function that was unique to any other type of employment, and that the public interest was first in a crisis. Manuel stated that the northwest section of the county had no cultural activities and asked how he would handle it. Clifton responded that he would place priority on the issue, if the public supported it. Manuel asked how he would handle the increasing need for County healthcare and social services in an increasingly tight budget situation. Clifton responded that there would have to be a broad based approach. Manuel asked why they should hire him. Clifton responded that they needed to pick someone everyone could work with. Rich asked what his weakness was and what he would do to overcome it. Clifton responded that sometimes he was too forthright, and that he was sensitive to other people's feelings, but more sensitive to the outcome. Stevenson asked him about the role of government communication with citizens. Clifton responded that their job was to educate the public and listen to them. Stevenson asked him to tell her about his understanding and interest in this area prior to this time. Clifton responded that they started visiting St. Augustine about 15 years ago. Sanchez asked him if firing someone bothered him. Clifton replied yes, that it depended on the circumstances.

The meeting recessed at 1:59 p.m. and reconvened at 2:04 p.m.

(2:04 p.m.) Demarie introduced Patrick Salerno and gave his credentials. Manuel asked if any commissioners had been in touch with him before today. Salerno replied no. Manuel asked him how he would go about creating an atmosphere within the County government here that was conducive for the people who would work for, and with, him to do their best. Salerno replied that the key element for a manager was to provide administrative leadership and to motivate staff, making them realize that their job was important. Manuel stated that the northwest section of the county did not have any cultural activities and asked Salerno what he would do to rectify this. Salerno replied that he would do a market feasibility study first. Manuel asked him how he would handle the increasing need for County supported healthcare and social services in an increasingly tight budget situation. Salerno responded to explore every option. Manuel asked why they should hire him. Salerno responded that he had a strong track record of accomplishments, and was a dedicated professional. Rich ask him what his weakness was. Salerno replied speaking and addressing large groups. Stevenson asked him how he viewed the importance of constituent communications and for any suggestions on how to enhance it. Salerno stated that he considered it a critical function of local government. Stevenson asked him how familiar he was with this area. Salerno responded. Sanchez asked him if firing someone bothered him. Salerno replied yes, and stated that it was one of the least favorite things he had to do as an administrator.

(2:34 p.m.) Demarie introduced Michael Wanchick and gave his credentials. Manuel asked if any commissioners had been in touch with him before today. Wanchick replied no. Manuel asked Wanchick how he would nurture an open environment with the employees, create back and forth dialog without them being worried about their jobs. Wanchick responded that management was what you did with people, not to people. Manuel asked Wanchick how he would bring art shows, movies theaters, and concerts to the northwest section that did not have any cultural activities, and how he would approach the funding of it. Wanchick responded that if the community wanted certain quality of life activities that were provided by St. Johns County, then the County should step in and try to fill those needs. Manuel asked him how he would handle the increasing need for County supported healthcare and social services in an increasingly tight budget situation. Wanchick responded that a hallmark of a great county was the way it treated its disadvantaged and poor and the County needed to take on the responsibility. Manuel asked why they should hire him. Wanchick replied that he was not sure they should, that was a decision the Board needed to make. He stated that he had the credentials for the job. Rich asked him what his weakness was. Wanchick responded that nothing dramatic came to mind. Stevenson stated that they needed to enhance their constitute communication in St. Johns County, asking Wanchick to talk about the importance of it. Wanchick replied that he thought that communication was the foundation of this business, and that he was a working administrator out in the community with residents and employees getting public opinion. Sanchez asked him if firing someone bothered him. Wanchick replied yes.

(2:52 p.m.) Demarie introduced Michael Wright and gave his credentials. Manuel asked him if any commissioners had been in touch with him before today. Wright responded no. Manuel asked him about creating an atmosphere with the employees. Wright replied that he believed in cross-training. Manuel stated that the northwest section had no cultural activities and asked how he would bring art shows, musical theater, concerts, etc., to the area and financially support it. Wright replied that he thought it should be market driven, and grass roots developed. Manuel asked him how he would handle the increasing need for County supported healthcare and social services in an increasingly tight budget situation. Wright replied that he would do as much

preventative healthcare before it would become a trip to the emergency room. Manuel asked why they should hire him. Wright responded because he was really good. He stated that he spent most of his career in Florida, had a lot of successes in his past, and because he wanted to live here. Rich asked him what his weakness was. Wright replied impatience. Manuel asked Wright with his experience with airport operations, what suggestions he could make to get our airport off the tax rolls. Wright responded. Stevenson asked him if he would make a comment about the importance in the roll of constitute communication for local government. Wright responded that it was critical, and in Tallahassee they do a lot of original programming on TV. Sanchez asked him if firing someone bothered him. Wright replied yes.

(3:16 p.m.) Demarie briefly recapped the voting process that would take place at the special meeting on May 22, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. Rich asked if the Board would approve him working with legal staff and the selected candidate on the contract negotiations that would begin immediately upon selection. (3:25 p.m.) *It was the consensus of the Board to do so.*

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 3:26 p.m.

Approved _____ June 26 _____, 2007

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: Ben Rich
Ben Rich, Chairman

ATTEST: CHERYL STRICKLAND, CLERK

By: Yvonne Kinay
Deputy Clerk

