

**MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA
MAY 22, 2007
(9:00 A.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 Chairman
Cyndi Stevenson, District 1
Ron Sanchez, District 2
James Bryant, District 5
Waldemar Kropacek, Interim County Administrator
Patrick McCormack, County Attorney
Terry Bulla, Deputy Clerk

(05/22/07 - 1 - 9:02 a.m.)
CALL TO ORDER

Rich called the meeting to order. He congratulated Cyndi Stevenson on becoming a Certified County Commissioner, certified by the Florida Association of Counties. He said she had gone through a lot of hard work to achieve that accomplishment.

(05/22/07 - 1 - 9:02 a.m.)
ROLL CALL

Rich stated that all five commissioners were present.

(05/22/07 - 1 - 9:03 a.m.)
Bryant gave the Invocation and Manuel led the Pledge of Allegiance.

(05/22/07 - 1 - 9:05 a.m.)
ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO SPECIAL AGENDA

There were none.

(05/22/07 - 1 - 9:05 a.m.)
APPROVAL OF SPECIAL AGENDA

Motion by Manuel, seconded by Sanchez, carried 5/0, to approve the Special Agenda.

(05/22/07 - 1 - 9:06 a.m.)

1. SELECTION OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR - ON MAY 18, 2007 THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS INTERVIEWED FIVE CANDIDATES FOR THE POSITION OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR. EACH OF THESE CANDIDATES UNDERWENT A DETAILED SELECTION PROCESS, ONE-ON-ONE INTERVIEWS WITH EACH OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION MEMBERS AND AN INTERVIEW IN A PUBLIC FORUM. THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HAD PREVIOUSLY SET THE PRESENT DATE TO ADDRESS THE FINAL SELECTION PROCESS

Gene DeMarie, Sr. Vice President of Colin Baenziger & Associates, introduced the process and gave a recap of what had previously transpired. He announced that Garland "Keith" Chadwell had accepted the position of City Manager at Pompano Beach, and the Board would now be considering four candidates. He reviewed the voting process.

(9:07 a.m.) Rich opened up the meeting for discussion of the candidates by the Board.

(9:07 a.m.) Bryant said he had no comment.

(9:08 a.m.) Manuel thanked Colin Baenziger & Associates and Gene DeMarie for their assistance in the process. He said his decision came down to knowledge of the law, finance, land planning issues and of the state. He stated a sense of humor and community initiative were also important, and Michael Wright was his top choice.

(9:09 a.m.) Sanchez said the reception was an excellent idea and worked well for him. He noted that the interviews also went well. He said they needed someone that would fit into the process and the one person who consistently stood out was Michael Wanchick.

(9:10 a.m.) Stevenson said she also chose Wanchick though there were other good candidates. She noted he was familiar with Florida law, coastal issues, the issues of development and over-development and of retaining the character of the community.

(9:12 a.m.) Rich said he supported Salerno for the appointment, though he was willing to support the other commissioners in their choice. He spoke of Acting County Administrator, Wally Kropacek, and said he was well liked by the staff, his management skills were extreme and he knew how to do that kind of work. He said Salerno's personality most closely matched that of Kropacek. He stated that Salerno was the best fit for the County, but he would support the choice of the majority of the Board, and would do it on the first ballot.

(9:14 a.m.) Bryant said Chadwell was his first choice as he displayed extensive experience in the healthcare field. He stated his second choice was Wanchick and felt he would make a fine administrator.

(9:15 a.m.) The ballots were issued.

(9:16 a.m.) DeMarie read the official results.

Bryant: Wanchick
Manuel: Wright
Rich: Wanchick
Sanchez: Wanchick
Stevenson: Wanchick

(9:17 a.m.) **Motion by Manuel, seconded by Bryant, carried 5/0, to make the vote unanimous for Wanchick.**


(9:18 a.m.) McCormack said it was his understanding that he and the Chairman, with informal assistance from DeMarie, would discuss a contract proposal with Mr. Wanchick and would return to the Board within two or three weeks with the results and ask the Board to consider the contract. Rich said he would not be discussing anything with Mr. Wanchick outside the presence of, minimally, Board Counsel.

(9:20 a.m.) Motion by Manuel, seconded by Sanchez, carried 5/0, to adjourn the meeting.

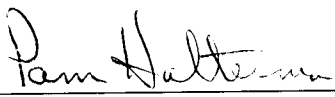
With there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

Approved June 12, 2007

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: 
Ben Rich, Chairman

ATTEST: CHERYL STRICKLAND, CLERK

By: 
Deputy Clerk