

**MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA
OCTOBER 22, 2013
9:00 A.M.**

Proceedings of a workshop meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, held in the auditorium at the County Administration Building, 500 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine, Florida.

Proof of publication of a special meeting/workshop of the Board of County Commissioners was received, having been published in *The St. Augustine Record* on October 15, 2013.

Present: John H. Morris, District 4, Chair
William A. McClure, District 3, Vice Chair
Cyndi Stevenson, District 1
Ron Sanchez, District 2
Rachael Bennett, District 5
Michael Wanchick, County Administrator
Patrick McCormack, County Attorney
Sindy Wiseman, Deputy Clerk

(10/22/13 - 1 - 9:00 a.m.)
CALL TO ORDER

Morris called the meeting to order.

(10/22/13 - 1 - 9:00 a.m.)
ROLL CALL

The clerk called the roll. All Board members were present.

(10/22/13 - 1 - 9:00 a.m.)
PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

(10/22/13 - 1 - 9:00 a.m.)
ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO WORKSHOP AGENDA

None.

(10/22/13 - 1 - 9:00 a.m.)
APPROVAL OF WORKSHOP AGENDA

Motion by Sanchez, seconded by Bennett, carried 5/0, to approve the agenda as submitted.

(10/22/13 - 1 - 9:00 a.m.)

1. BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WORKSHOP TO DISCUSS BALANCING PROJECTED REVENUES WITH COMMUNITY NEEDS AND EXPECTATIONS

Wanchick opened the meeting with an overview of the workshop agenda, *Exhibit A*. He explained that today's meeting, and the meeting on October 29, 2013, would be for

recommendations from departments of their needs, and would be summarized and prioritized by the commissioners at a later date. He mentioned a question previously posed to the public, which was, what services were they willing to pay for. He gave the four models of revenues vs. services, and said the County was not currently in a sustainable position. He explained where our tax dollars and property taxes were spent, and said the County was running as leanly as possible. He stated that St. Johns County was one of the faster growing counties in the nation, with expenses exceeding revenue; and that ad valorem taxes would not help the predicament. Wanchick talked about the process of creating a long-range plan.

a. Public Works Presentation

(9:18 a.m.) Neil Shinkre, Public Works Director, made the presentation, *Exhibit A*, and spoke about the timelines on operations and funding, and identifying a sustainable source of revenue. He said their current funding sources, for operational and maintenance functions only, were the Transportation Trust Fund and impact fees. He said their current budget was \$32 million, which left 70% availability for funding and 30% to be funded from reserves. He summarized the current operations and added that they needed to increase revenue sources and reduce expenses. Shinkre reviewed capital needs, pavement management, program goals, the deteriorating condition of the roadways, and being proactive as opposed to reactive with maintenance. Discussion ensued on road maintenance.

(9:34 a.m.) Shinkre spoke about water quality, and establishing the Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP), which was required by law. He spoke about the impaired waterbodies in the county and said that the quality of the waterbodies were below acceptable levels. Press Tompkins, County Engineer, mentioned that the Federal Court had determined that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was not enforcing the Clean Water Act, including the Total Mass Daily Load (TMDL) requirement, regarding water. Discussion ensued on the BMAP improvements. Shinkre said that St. Johns County was the leader in taking a proactive approach, and that they had taken care of as many of the smaller projects as possible before conquering the more expensive ones. He said the State mandated pollutant reductions of nitrogen from water bodies, and explained the expense to remove nitrogen from the water. Discussion ensued about where the nitrogen was coming from, and the cost of removal to meet the BMAP requirements, and monitoring the waterbodies.

(9:59 a.m.) Shinkre spoke about road capacity and impact fees. Tompkins talked about the five, ten, and fifteen year projects that needed attention. Shinkre mentioned that all of the revenue was going toward maintenance, with no extra to go toward capital projects. He spoke about unfunded road capacity project costs, drainage infrastructure, capital outlay, and building infrastructure; and gave the capital funding needs totals: for 1-5 years \$220 million; 6-10 years \$205 million; and 11-15 years \$187 million.

The meeting recessed at 10:22 a.m. and reconvened at 10:34 a.m.

b. Fire/Rescue Presentation

(10:34 a.m.) Carl Shank, Fire Rescue Chief, gave an overview of Fire Rescue's capital needs, *Exhibit B*. He stated that the FY 2013 fire response costs were \$30,200. He gave the history of Fire Rescue's project accomplishments, and spoke about funding, fire stations in need of repair or replacement, and applying for Safer Grants as needed for any new stations. He said that Stations 5, 11, and 7 needed replacing due to age and deterioration; and that there was a need for new stations in the north part of the county that would fill in uncovered areas and help with overlap coverage. He said it was

possible to negotiate with the City to build a shared station, which would reduce the total of four existing stations to two.

(11:03 a.m.) Shank spoke about the need for updated and new apparatus that they planned to replace in the future. He spoke about animal control, and the need for holding areas for incoming and sick animals.


c. Library Services Presentation

(11:18 a.m.) Debra Rhodes Gibson, Director of Library Services, gave the presentation, *Exhibit C*, and handed out an additional packet, *Exhibit D*, which included a memorandum on a five-year budget comparison and some library quick facts and statistics. She gave the history of the library buildings as they opened, and when they acquired the two bookmobiles. Discussion ensued on the changing needs of the library. She talked about the two bookmobiles, one from St. Lucie County that was free. She said they cover the areas that do not have a facility within a 10 mile radius. Gibson gave the master plan recommendations for updates and new facilities, and the costs for both. Discussion ensued on tracking the patronage of each facility, transfers from one facility to another, and whether there were local and/or out-of-county visitors to the libraries.

With there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 11:54 a.m.

Approved February 18, 2014

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: 
John H. Morris, Chair

ATTEST: CHERYL STRICKLAND, CLERK

By: 
Deputy Clerk

