

**MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA
OCTOBER 29, 2013
9:00 A.M.**

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

Proof of publication of the notice of a special meeting/workshop to discuss the County's Capital Improvement Plan, was received, having been published in *The St. Augustine Record* on November 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
Jerry Cameron, Assistant County Administrator
Darrel Locklear, Assistant County Administrator
Patrick McCormack, County Attorney
Lenora Newsome, Deputy Clerk

(10/29/13 - 1 - 9:00 a.m.)
CALL TO ORDER

Morris called the meeting to order.

(10/29/13 - 1 - 9:00 a.m.)
ROLL CALL

The clerk called the roll and all board members were present.

(9:00 a.m.) Morris mentioned presenting a proclamation to the Veterans Council this weekend. He asked the Board to approve the proclamation by motion. (9:00 a.m.)
Motion by Sanchez, seconded by Bennett, carried 5/0, to approve the proclamation.

(10/29/13 - 1 - 9:01 a.m.)
PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

(10/29/13 - 1 - 9:01 a.m.)
ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO WORKSHOP AGENDA

Stevenson requested to add a discussion of the Department of Environmental Protection surplus lands to the agenda.

(10/29/13 - 1 - 9:01 a.m.)
APPROVAL OF WORKSHOP AGENDA

Motion by Stevenson, seconded by McClure, carried 5/0, to approve the Workshop Agenda as amended.

(10/29/13 – 2 – 9:02 a.m.)

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

Wanchick presented an overview of balancing projected revenues with community needs and expectations, *Exhibit A*. He reviewed revenues versus services, the primary roles in the public budgeting process, where tax dollars were spent, the 2013 county property taxes, a budget and population history, and cumulative lost purchasing power. He continued by reviewing the projected General Fund budget, falling capital plan investments, slow growth projections, St. Johns County being at a crossroads, balancing community needs and expectations with future revenues, the \$20 million annual capital program example, potential new revenue sources, and the future beyond 2014.

(9:11 a.m.) a. Sheriff's Office Presentation

David Shoar, St. Johns County Sheriff, reviewed his PowerPoint, *Exhibit B*. He said the Sheriff's Office had a great relationship with everyone. He reviewed the Sheriff's constitutional responsibility, organizational structure, funding structure, county-wide district and zone maps, calls for service statistics, 20-year capital improvement projects, training facility (existing site), needing to relocate the training facility, and the training facility's new site. He continued by reviewing the Neil J. Perry Criminal Justice Facility improvements, the north and south regional command centers, the communications center, St. Johns County video visitation, the Crescent Beach field office, and the jail expansion. Discussion ensued on service calls, public health and working together.

(9:46 a.m.) b. Beach Operations Presentation

Billy Zeits, Beach Manager, gave the presentation, *Exhibit C*. He reviewed the Services and Agencies; Beach Operations, Marine Rescue, the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office Beach Patrol, and the City of St. Augustine Beach Police. He reviewed the division's responsibilities, law enforcement, and gave a department overview.

(9:51 a.m.) Erick Hellstrom, Captain, Marine Rescue, spoke on marine rescue; providing emergency response to 42 miles of beach, and current staffing, which provided only 20 lifeguard towers, distributed over 42 miles.

(9:52 a.m.) Wil Smith, Director, Recreation and Parks, reviewed the Ocean Pier and Park, the challenges with beach access, beach parking, and off-beach parking.

(9:59 a.m.) Zeits reviewed the challenges of Marine Rescue. Discussion ensued on the number of people on the beach each day, a financial overview, the total beach operations funding, total beach operations expenses, and curbing spending.

(10:11 a.m.) Hellstrom reviewed the Marine Rescue operating expenditures, the Pier Services Fund, capital and operating needs, Marine Rescue vehicles, Beach Operation needs, existing off beach parking and facilities, park infrastructure improvements, and proposed facilities and equipment. Discussion ensued on State grants, the Fiddler's Green tract, the State understanding how local governments operate, getting extensions 10 years out, and parking expansion. Discussion continued on Marine Rescue's needs, equipment, personnel and facilities, the life of vehicles, ocean pier and park needs, making a return on investment, and pier improvements and costs.

The meeting recessed at 10:33 a.m. and reconvened at 10:46 a.m.

c. (10:46) Recreation & Parks Presentation

Wil Smith, Recreation & Parks Director, gave a PowerPoint presentation, *Exhibit D*. He presented a department overview of recreation programs, parks maintenance, historic structures, and the St. Johns Golf Club. He reviewed the regional parks: Villages Regional Park, a 39 acre parcel; and Davis Park Expansion, 7 acres. He reviewed the new and retrofitted sports lighting project, and passive parks; Nocatee Preserve and Nocatee Preserve Landing, a 1,600 acre parcel; and Canopy Shores, a 34 acre parcel. Wanchick spoke on FCT grants and applying for grants. Smith spoke on writing grants, boat ramps, the Intracoastal Waterway/Atlantic Ocean access, six facilities that offered access to the Intracoastal Waterway/Atlantic Ocean, and continually addressing dredging. He reviewed the new Palm Valley boat ramp, located under the Palm Valley Bridge, limited Intracoastal access in the area, and the developer of Nocatee building a new kayak launch. Smith spoke about the St. Johns Golf Club's course improvements, facility improvement, clubhouse renovations, and the renovation of the cart staging area. Discussion ensued on the stabilizing economy, public or private golf courses losing money, exploring different options, capital improvements, and having competition. Discussion continued on historic structures; Beluthahatchee Park, a 3.4 acre parcel; Alpine Groves qualifying for 50 percent funding through DHR; Windswept Acres; Mussallem Trailhead, a 24 acre parcel; Usina Intracoastal Waterway Park; the Flagler Estates Community Center; athletic fields/seasonal parking; multi-purpose fields (55 acres); and the Old Hastings Elementary School. Smith reviewed the summary of all the departments for 1-5 years and 6-10 years. Discussion ensued on Flagler Estates losing five acres, maintaining the quality of life by addressing needs in the first 10 years, the regional park, St. Johns County only building two parks in the Julington Creek area, updating the Comprehensive Plan, and needing a hotel in the northwest area of the county.

(11:36 a.m.) Wanchick mentioned that this completed the demand side of the equation. He said staff would summarize the information and send it out to everyone. He said Doug Timms would complete the debt analysis and the revenue sources.

(11:38 a.m.) Denver Cook, 266 Top Sail Drive, said the County should not put in tennis courts at Davis Park, as Nocatee was putting in tennis courts, so that would cover the area.

(10/29/13 - 3 - 11:41 a.m.)

2. DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION SURPLUS LANDS

Morris mentioned the Department of Environmental Protection surplus lands, *Exhibit A*. Stevenson asked the Board for its support to send a comment letter to the Department of Environmental Protection regarding supporting the position of the City of St. Augustine with regards to the Anastasia parcel, and various community groups and the GTMNERR with respect to the Matanzas parcel. Discussion ensued regarding the Matanzas and Anastasia parcels.

(11:52 a.m.) BJ Kalaidi, 8 Newcomb Street, asked where the discussions regarding the parcels took place. Stevenson replied that there was not a public meeting considered for northeast Florida. She said the BCC requested a meeting and it was held in Jacksonville for northeast Florida, in which a number of people from St. Johns County spoke on the issue. Morris mentioned that Growth Management would write the letter of support, supporting the GTM and requesting that the NERR parcel remain in public ownership.

(11:55 a.m.) Motion by Stevenson, seconded by Sanchez, carried 5/0, to support the NERR's position on the Department of Environmental Protection surplus lands parcel, and to recommend that the Anastasia parcel remain under public ownership.

With there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Approved November 19, 2013

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: _____
John H. Morris, Chair

ATTEST: CHERYL STRICKLAND, CLERK

By: _____
Deputy Clerk