

(09-08-03)

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING
SEPTEMBER 8, 2003 9:30 A.M.**

The Bradford County Board of County Commissioners met September 8, 2003, for their regular scheduled meeting. Attending were: Commissioner Mann, Commissioner Thomas, Chairman Cooper, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Hersey, Clerk Norman, Jim Farrell, Marlene Stafford, Lisa Hall, Sheriff Milner, Don Tilley, Terry Vaughan, Terry Brown, Wilson Whidden, Nora Thompson, D.Z. Griffis, William Dampier, Ramos-Vargas, Capt. Pearson, Donald Frees, Herschel Waldron, Mark Crawford, Donny Wise, Angela Macey, Percy Sullivan, Nelson Green, Phalbe Henriksen and Ernest Triest.

(A copy of all documentation presented at this meeting is located in Supplement File No. 09-08-03.)

Chairman Cooper called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. He led the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Herschel Waldron and Donald Frees were recognized for 30 years of service to the County. Chairman Cooper presented each of them a plaque that read as follows:

“The Bradford County Board of County Commissioners presents this plaque in recognition for 30 years of continued service with Bradford County. By presenting this plaque, the Bradford County Board of County Commissioners would like to show their appreciation for your dedication and your commitment to Bradford County and its citizens. Employees such as yourself are a vital part of what makes a successful business. We thank you and look forward to your continued employment.”

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. APPROVE IGCF EXPENDITURE REQUESTS**
- B. APPROVE SATISFACTION OF MORTGAGES FOR WYVONNA THORPE**
- C. APPROVE MINUTES FROM REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 17, 2003**

Commissioner Thomas said that he has received a request from the Highway Patrol for sponsorship to purchase new radar equipment. He inquired whether such a purchase could be paid by IGCF.

Commissioner Johnson said that it is his understanding that this equipment could not be purchased with IGCF monies.

Capt. Pearson said that this question was brought to the Committee on a couple of occasions. He contacted Tallahassee and they do not recommend the purchase of this type of equipment with

(09-08-03)

IGCF monies. IGCF monies are meant for communications and automations of computers, etc., not for radar equipment.

Comm. Johnson MOVED to approve the Consent Agenda in its entirety. **Comm. Thomas SECONDED** and the **MOTION CARRIED 5-0**.

RESOLUTIONS

PRESENTATION CONCERNING THE SUWANNEE RIVER PARTNERSHIP—HUGH THOMAS: Mr. Hugh Thomas, Santa Fe Basin Program Coordinator for the Suwannee River Partnership, approached the Commission. Mr. Thomas explained what the Partnership is and what it does. The mission of the Partnership is to address nitrate and nutrient loading getting into the Santa Fe and Suwannee River basins, and primarily in protection of the estuary down at the mouth of the Suwannee.

Due to mandate by EPA, the Department of Environmental Protection has voted upon and decided impaired water bodies within the State of Florida. The Suwannee and the Santa Fe rivers have been determined to be impaired water bodies.

The Partnership develops best management practices and come up with cost share incentive programs to help implement those best management practices, both in agricultural and urban residential development areas. The program has primarily been participant in Suwannee and Lafayette counties, but has recently expanded into the Santa Fe basin.

Mr. Thomas invited the Bradford County Commission to become a signatory member. They are not looking for any financial gain, but want the support from the Commission for the programs that they have. To date, they have all but three County Commissions on as signatory members. He denoted some of the key members of the Partnership.

Mr. Thomas concluded his request with an 18-minute video presentation that gave an overview of what the Partnership has done in the middle Suwannee area.

At the conclusion of the video, Mr. Thomas announced that the Commissioners should be receiving an invitation to the Steering Committee Meeting and the Cares Recognition Dinner being held on October 2, which will focus on a general awareness of the Program and what they are trying to accomplish.

Ms. Sylvia Tatum said that as a board member of the Suwannee River Water Management District, she strongly supports partnerships and feels that this is a very worthy program. 80% of the dairy and poultry farmers are on board in the middle Suwannee, and it is time for Santa Fe to come on board and be a part of this program.

Comm. Thomas MOVED to adopt the resolution as presented. **Comm. Johnson SECONDED** the motion.

(09-08-03)

Chairman Cooper read the resolution by title:

“A RESOLUTION ENABLING THE BRADFORD COUNTY COMMISSION TO BECOME A PARTNER WITH THE SUWANNEE RIVER BASIN NUTRIENT MANAGMEENT WORKING GROUP MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE SUWANNEE RIVER PARTNERSHIP.”

Commissioner Mann said that someone would need to do some footwork with regard to the soil tests that the University wants to do along the Santa Fe River. Some of the farmers are very skeptical. Mr. Thomas said that they are sympathetic to that and have plans for one-on-one intervention.

There being no further discussion, the **MOTION CARRIED 5-0**. (The Resolution was assigned No. 03-13.)

STATUS REPORT OF COURTHOUSE EXPANSION—ERNEST TRIEST:

A. APPROVE PAY REQUEST:

Mr. Triest presented Pay Request #17 in the amount of \$10,872.00.

Comm. Hersey MOVED to approve payment of the Pay Request #17. **Comm. Mann SECONDED** and the **MOTION CARRIED 5-0**.

Mr. Triest said that it has been brought to his attention that the County’s purchasing ordinance states that any purchase order or contract that exceeds 10% of the amount by change order needs to be approved by the Board. The security system has exceeded 10% of the contract and there is a change order for \$35,606.12.

This spurred discussion. Sheriff Milner explained the changes/additions being made to the security system prompting the change order.

Following additional discussion, **Comm. Mann MOVED** to approve the change order as presented. **Comm. Johnson SECONDED** and the **MOTION CARRIED 5-0**.

DISCUSSION CONCERNING PORTABLE SCHOOL BUILDINGS—

COMM. THOMAS: Commissioner Thomas said that a decision needs to be made on whether or not to move the buildings, or to forfeit them.

Chairman Cooper inquired as to the cost of moving the buildings. Commissioner Mann said that the last quote they received was about \$7,000.00 per building.

After brief discussion, Chairman Cooper said to put this item on the agenda for the next meeting. In the meantime, the Board needs to either come up with a plan to use them, move them, give

(09-08-03)

them back or giving them to someone. He asked Mr. Waldron to obtain a firm dollar amount to have the buildings moved.

DISCUSSION AND CLARIFICATION CONCERNING BOARD SPONSORED LAND-USE AND REZONING APPLICATIONS—CHAIRMAN COOPER/WILSON

WHIDDEN: Chairman Cooper said that the Board agreed to sponsor land-use and rezoning applications for three (3) applicants on SR100, just outside of Keystone. When this became public, numerous property owners in the same location have now come forward and are asking the same thing. Mr. Whidden needs some clarification as to whether the sponsorship will be limited to the three (3) applicants or if the Commission is going to open it to the others.

Commissioner Thomas said that he does not feel that it should be limited to just the three (3). He would like to see it all done at one time. Commissioner Hersey concurred.

Commissioner Thomas inquired about where the County stands in terms of the amount of acreage available for amendments. Mr. Whidden said that these amendments could be done this year by small-scale amendments.

Chairman Cooper said that the best way to deal with this issue is in the overall review process that the Commission has initiated with the Zoning Board. Not only do you have to deal with the individual requests, you also have to consider what use each applicant wants; some commercial, some industrial, etc.

Commissioner Johnson said that he would like it limited to only those parcels that were affected by the amendment to the County's LDR.

Chairman Cooper said that what he is hearing is that the Board will address these parcels as part of the overall review process with the Zoning Board. He will work on scheduling another workshop with the Zoning Board.

DISCUSS AND APPROVE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF STARKE AND BRADFORD COUNTY CONCERNING ANIMAL CONTROL—TERRY

BROWN: Mr. Brown distributed copies of the proposed interlocal agreement. He explained that this interlocal agreement is much the same format as the one where the County was providing animal control and the various municipalities were participating. The difference is that rather than paying one lump sum, the County will receive a bill from the City at the end of the year, once the costs are determined. The costs will be pro-rated between participants based on the number of calls. There has been some discussion that perhaps the proposed bill would some how be analyzed and provided to the Commission in advance of their budgetary process.

Chairman Cooper said that he has some difficulty executing an agreement that says the County will pay its pro-rata share when there is no advance notice of what that cost will be.

Mr. Lee Vincent said that the City could project the County's accumulated costs on a quarterly basis. The City has budgeted \$25,000.00 as their share. They have estimated a total cost of about \$50,000.00.

(09-08-03)

Chairman Cooper said that the County has earmarked \$25,000.00 in the 2003-2004 proposed budget.

Discussion developed regarding how calls will be handled. Mr. Don Tilley explained that the calls would come into the Starke Police Department, who will then contact the animal control officer. This will be 24-hours per day, seven days a week.

Mr. Tilley said that cages will be placed at different locations throughout the County and the municipalities, and they are asking for assistance from citizens with the cages. The City is also considering a cat ordinance.

Commissioner Thomas inquired as to large animals. Mr. Felix Ramos-Vargas said that he has been doing a lot of research concerning large animals. He has contacted someone who is interested in helping who has worked with the Game and Fish Commission and is very knowledgeable in exotic animals. There are about 20 agencies throughout the state that can be tapped to assist with larger and exotic animals.

Comm. Thomas MOVED to approve the interlocal agreement subject to the amendment to include an annual advance notice of the budget. **Comm. Mann SECONDED** and the **MOTION CARRIED 4-1**, with Commissioner Johnson dissenting.

DISCUSS AND APPROVE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES LIST AND BRADFORD COUNTY'S COMMUNITY BUDGET ISSUE REQUEST FOR THE COURTHOUSE RENOVATION AND EXPANSION PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$450,000.00—

CHAIRMAN COOPER: Chairman Cooper said that due to new Senate rules, any community funding requests have to be received by September 15, which is early. One of the requests is an additional community-funding request for the courthouse renovation monies in the amount of \$450,000.00. Also being presented is the same legislative priority list that was submitted last year.

Comm. Johnson MOVED to approve the Community Budget Funding Requests as presented. **Comm. Mann SECONDED** and the **MOTION CARRIED 5-0**.

DISCUSS AND APPROVE AMENDMENT TO EXISTING LEASE/PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH CATERPILLAR TO ADD VIBRATORY ROLLER AND COMPACTOR—COMM. MANN:

Commissioner Mann said that the payments would be \$11,229.30 annually, versus the \$2,000.00 per month it has been being rented for. What has already been paid will be applied to the lease/purchase price. The funds are in the proposed budget.

Mr. Brown said that the County does not have to go through the competitive bid process since an existing lease is being restructured.

(09-08-03)

Comm. Mann MOVED to approve an amendment to the existing contract with Caterpillar for the vibratory roller/compactor as presented. **Comm. Thomas SECONDED** and the **MOTION CARRIED 5-0**.

APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS: Comm. Johnson MOVED to pay the bills as reviewed. **Comm. Hersey SECONDED** and the **MOTION CARRIED 5-0**.

PERSONNEL MATTERS:

**A. RATIFICATION OF MAINTENANCE MECHANIC ASSISTANT—
COMM. JOHNSON/D.Z. GRIFFIS:**

Mr. Griffis stated that he does not have an individual to present for ratification. He hopes to have one by the next scheduled meeting.

**B. REQUEST PERMISSION TO ADVERTISE FOR TWO FULL-TIME AND
THREE OPS POSITIONS FOR THE ROAD DEPARTMENT—COMM. MANN:**
Commissioner Mann said that he is requesting permission to advertise the positions pending the approval of the 2003-2004 budget.

Comm. Thomas MOVED to grant permission to advertise for the positions as requested. **Comm. Johnson SECONDED** and the **MOTION CARRIED 5-0**.

**C. APPROVE CHANGING PART-TIME SOLID WASTE ASSISTANT AND
HOME OWNERSHIP COUNSELOR FOR SHIP PROGRAM TO FULL-TIME—
COMM. JOHNSON/ANGELA MACEY:**

Ms. Macey referred to the memo included in the Commissions' packets. The SHIP Program provides funds solely for homeownership counseling and they can only be used for that express purpose. She would like to make Ms. Carver full-time to utilize the available funding. Ms. Carver will still assist in the Solid Waste Department, however, the majority of her salary would come from the SHIP funds.

Comm. Thomas MOVED that the Solid Waste Assistant and Home Ownership Counselor be converted from part-time to full-time. **Comm. Johnson SECONDED** and the **MOTION CARRIED 5-0**.

Ms. Macey requested to speak with Mr. Brown following the meeting.

COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORTS: Mr. Brown reported on the following:

--Mr. Brown said for informational purposes he has provided a draft of the proposed agreement between DuPont, Clay County Board of County Commissioners, Bradford County Board of County Commissioners and the State Armory Board. He would like it placed on the agenda for the next meeting. This involves the relocation and construction of the new CR225. The operative paragraphs for Bradford County are paragraphs #7 and #9, wherein DuPont agrees to transfer the new portion of the road that is in Bradford County and that the County agrees to accept the conveyance.

(09-08-03)

CLERK REPORTS: None.

CHAIRMAN COMMENTS: Chairman Cooper announced that a copy of the final proposed budget for fiscal year 2003-2004 has been provided to the Commission for review. The first budget public hearing is scheduled for Thursday, September 11, at 5:30 p.m., the second hearing is Monday, September 22, at 5:30 p.m.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS:

Commissioner Johnson commented on the following:

--He would like to get Mr. Arrant back to speak to the Commission.

Chairman Cooper said that he would contact Mr. Arrant before the next Board meeting and report when a meeting can be arranged.

RANKING OF TOP FIVE APPLICANTS FOR GRANT WRITER/COORDINATOR POSITION AND SETTING OF INTERVIEW DATE AND TIME—CHAIRMAN

COOPER: Chairman Cooper said that upon his review of the applications, he did not see a single applicant with any grant writing experience. This is an item that the Commission has wrestled with, and he is requesting that the Commission hold off on the ranking process. He has conferred with Ms. Macey about ways that her office could be reconstructed to give her the time necessary to commit to a grant writing position. He would like time to work out the details and present it to the Commission as an option to consider.

There was Board consensus to postpone the ranking process until the next meeting. Chairman Cooper will present a plan.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA**

HERMAN JOHNSON, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST: _____
RAY NORMAN, CLERK TO THE BOARD

These minutes typed by:

Marlene K. Stafford, Deputy Clerk