

**MINUTES OF THE  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA  
REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2007  
6:30 P.M.**

The Bradford County Board of County Commissioners convened in regular session on Thursday, January 18, 2007, at 6:30 p.m. in the County Commissioners' Meeting Room, 945 North Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida.

Present were: Commissioner Hersey, Commissioner Thomas, Chairman Lewis, Commissioner Cooper and Commissioner Chandler.

Also present were: Jim Crawford, County Manager; June Neats, Administrative Assistant; Ray Norman, Clerk of Courts; Marlene Stafford, Deputy Clerk; Alex Hinely, County Planner; Cheryl Brownlee, Security; Sheriff Milner; Nora Thompson, Zoning Director; Karen Jordan, Court Administration; Jim Farrell, Finance Director; Nelson Green, Emergency Services Director; Mark Crawford, Press; Tommy Chastain, City Commissioner and Brian Johns, Emergency Management Director.

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(See Supplemental File No. 01-18-07 for a copy of documentation presented at this meeting.)

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Lewis called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

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**INVOCATION / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Sheriff Milner offered the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCES:**

**--REZONING APPLICATION NO. Z 06-9 (MASSEY):**

Ms. Thompson read the title into the record:

**“AN ORDINANCE OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING ATLAS OF THE BRADFORD COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, AS AMENDED; RELATING TO THE REZONING OF LESS THAN TEN CONTIGUOUS ACRES OF LAND, PURSUANT TO APPLICATION, Z 06-9, BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS; PROVIDING FOR REZONING FROM AGRICULTURAL-2 (A-2) TO COMMERCIAL, NEIGHBORHOOD (CN) OF CERTAIN LANDS WITHIN THE UNINCORPORATED AREA OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.”**

Chairman Lewis opened the public hearing. There being no response, the public hearing was closed.

*On Motion of Commissioner Hersey, Seconded by Commissioner Chandler, the Board unanimously adopted the Ordinance approving Rezoning Application No. Z 06-9. (The [Ordinance as assigned No. 07-02.](#))*

**--LAND USE AMENDMENT APPLICATION NO. S061120A (GRIFFIS):**

Ms. Thompson read the title into the record:

**“AN ORDINANCE OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE PLAN MAP OF THE BRADFORD COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, AS AMENDED; RELATING TO AN AMENDMENT OF TEN OR LESS ACRES OF LAND, PURSUANT TO AN APPLICATION, S 061120A, BY THE PROPERTY OWNERS OF SAID ACREAGE, UNDER THE AMENDMENT PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED IN SECTIONS 163.3161 THROUGH 163.3215, FLORIDA STATUTES, AS AMENDED; PROVIDING FOR CHANGING THE LAND USE CLASSIFICATION FROM AGRICULTURE-2 (LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO 1 DWELLING UNIT PER 5 ACRES) TO COMMERCIAL OF CERTAIN LANDS WITHIN THE UNINCORPORATED AREA OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.”**

*Commissioner Thomas MOVED to adopt the Ordinance approving Land Use Amendment Application No. S061120A. Commissioner Hersey SECONDED the motion.*

Chairman Lewis opened the public hearing. There being no response, the public hearing was closed.

*The MOTION CARRIED 5-0. (The [Ordinance was assigned No. 07-03.](#))*

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**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**Mr. Jim Buehne of 1586 NE 153<sup>rd</sup> Street, Starke – Meeting Times and Impact Fees:**

--The County Commission meetings are too early to accommodate working people.

--Expressed his opposition to impact fees.

**Mr. O.J. Stores – Reducing Government, Senior Citizen Center, County Vehicles, Paving of SE 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue:**

--Addressed consolidating departments to reduce government size and encouraged the public to start participating in the county's government.

--Expressed his opposition to a county-owned Senior Citizen Center. Senior citizens need tax relief and efficient government, not a Senior Center.

--Addressed the number of County vehicles and expressed his opposition to employees taking their automobiles home.

--Opposed to the recent paving of SE 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

For the benefit of the public, Chairman Lewis explained where the Commission stands regarding impact fees and the gas tax. The Commission has rejected an increase in the gas tax. The Board is taking extreme caution to charge the lowest impact fee possible and still ensure that the citizens receive the services they need, all while satisfying the requirements of Senate Bill 360.

**Mr. Tom Tatum of Lawtey – Violation of First Amendment Right and Board Meeting Times:**

--Stated that he feels his First Amendment Rights have been recently violated by the County Manager.

--The County Commission meetings are too early for working people.

**Mr. Tommy Tatum of 2556 NW 216<sup>th</sup> Street, Lawtey – Impact Fees, Concurrency/Comprehensive Plan:**

--Commended the Board for doing a good job regarding impact fees. The Commission needs to watch the County's Comprehensive Plan and Concurrency very closely to manage growth.

Commissioner Cooper said that the Board recently made some changes to the County's Urban Service Areas, to help with the growth issue. He addressed the increase in HWY 301 traffic and how it is causing problems relating to growth. The traffic problem must be fixed or it will strangle Bradford County development wise.

**Mr. Guy Hartsfield of 2985 NW 228<sup>th</sup> Street – Taxes:**

--Encouraged the Commission to protect the County's citizens and growth by controlling taxes.

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**SPONSORSHIP OF ZONING CHANGES – NORA THOMPSON:**

Ms. Thompson asked for guidance from the Commission regarding continuing the policy of Board sponsorship of land use amendments and zoning changes resulting from the Adoption of the Future Land Use Plan Map.

This incited discussion.

*On Motion of Commissioner Cooper, Seconded by Commissioner Thomas, the Board unanimously approved to continue the current policy to sponsor those land use/zoning amendments for the citizen who can establish that their land use/zoning was changed without their knowledge, through March 31, 2007, after which it shall revert back to the normal application process.*

Ms. Thompson said that she would run an advertisement once a month until March advising the citizens of the Board's decision.

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**NORTH FLORIDA COMMERCE CENTER – ROBERT CANADY:**

Mr. Dean Weaver addressed the Commission on behalf of Mr. Canady, representing the Keystone Airpark Authority and the North Florida Commerce Center (NFCC). They have property in Bradford County by the airport on SR100. To continue development of the NFCC, they need assistance with the road. Mr. Crawford, Jerome Kelley and the engineer for the airport have suggested several ways to reduce the cost of the road. The cost they reduced had to do with the St. Johns Water Management storm water permitting. To cut the road and prepare it for pavement is estimated at \$100,000.00. This will open the land up for development, will bring in new property taxes and will provide new jobs.

In exchange for assistance with the road, they are proposing a 50-year lease for five acres of property to Bradford County to be used by Emergency Services. They can also assist by trying to seek funding for a building for emergency services, but there is no guarantee of that.

Commissioner Chandler asked if the \$100,000.00 is in-kind services or real dollars.

Mr. Crawford said that the \$100,000.00 is the estimate to prepare 4,500 feet of road for pavement. This means pulling ditches, shaping the road and putting down limerock, the cost of limerock being the main item driving up the cost.

This spurred discussion, after which there was a consensus for Mr. Crawford and either Commissioner Cooper or Commissioner Hersey to meet with Mr. Weaver and report additional details to the Board.

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**APPROVAL OF 911 MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT & INVOICE – NELSON GREEN:**

Mr. Green said that the 911 system has been installed and accepted for one year as of January 25, 2007. As of January 26, 2007, the current warranty and maintenance agreement will expire. The installer and current provider of maintenance, AK Associates, has proposed to provide maintenance for a total of \$28,895.00. A grant will cover \$24,500.00 with the remainder budgeted in the 911 budget.

*On Motion of Commissioner Chandler, Seconded by Commissioner Cooper, the Board unanimously approved the [Maintenance Agreement](#) as presented.*

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Commissioner Thomas requested an update concerning Lawtey rescue unit. Mr. Green said they hope to open at 9:00 a.m. this Saturday.

Commissioner Thomas said that there would still be a unit on duty in Starke. Mr. Green indicated in the positive and said that the Commission also budgeted to place another part-time truck back in Starke, which he is currently working toward.

Mr. Crawford announced that Mike Brown asked him to invite the Commissioners and residents to breakfast Saturday morning at 8:30 a.m. for installation of the new unit.

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**DISCUSSION OF COUNTY OWNER PROPERTY AT SILVER LAKE (55<sup>TH</sup> TERRACE; LAKE SHORE DRIVE) – ALEX HINLEY:**

Mr. Hinley reported that prompted by a citizen request for road maintenance on SE 55<sup>th</sup> Terrace, f/k/a Lake Shore Drive, research has shown that according to the 1946 plat of Mount Pleasant, the owner dedicated all the streets in the subdivision to the County and the County accepted the roads. Therefore, the County is responsible for maintaining the road. Research also revealed that there is a parcel of property, approximately 1.2 acres in size with a 50' easement down to the lake, that is not on the tax rolls and it is not even identified as a parcel in the Property Appraiser's Office.

He is not sure what needs to be done in order for the County to recognize that it does in fact own these additional lands and to put the road on the maintenance schedule.

Mr. Crawford recommended assuming ownership of the road and the parcel. He will get a legal description for the parcel and have it recorded in the public records. The County should construct the road to give the people on the lake proper access. The County also owns a 50' easement on the other side of the lake. This easement is not big enough for a boat ramp and the lake is very small. The County could sell it to adjacent property owners, or leave it as is.

Chairman Lewis asked the County Attorney for direction.

Mr. Brown said that the Board could direct the County Manager to ensure that the County commences maintaining that portion of the roadway that needs to be opened up for public use. It would be the judgment of the Commission as to whether a survey is needed for the parcel of land.

Commissioner Cooper said that if the County does not have a use for the 1.2 acres, it should be put on the market.

Mr. Crawford said that in order to sell the parcel, a survey would be needed to get a legal description. The corner of 8<sup>th</sup> Street and SE 58<sup>th</sup> is a very nice build able lot. It is low in the back and he would like to consider that for a retention pond to help relive flooding and assist with building 55<sup>th</sup> Terrace.

*On Motion of Commissioner Hersey, Seconded by Commissioner Cooper, the Board unanimously approved to proceed as recommended by Mr. Crawford.*

**EXTENSION OF CONTRACT WITH PAT WELCH FOR SURVEYING SERVICES – JIM CRAWFORD:**

Mr. Crawford said that the current agreement has an option to renew for one year. Mr. Welch is willing to exercise the renewal option at the same hourly rates as the current agreement.

*On Motion of Commissioner Cooper, Seconded by Commissioner Thomas, the Board unanimously approved to renew the Agreement for one year at the current hourly rates.*

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**SALLY PORT – COMMISSIONER COOPER:**

Commissioner Cooper said the contracts and final plans are not ready. Under the ADA guidelines mandated by the State Supreme Court, an elevator will need to be installed. Within the same project, an emergency standby generator will be installed for the courthouse. There are sufficient courthouse renovation monies available for the project.

There was brief discussion concerning the specifics of the proposed generator.

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**PAYMENT OF BILLS – COMMISSIONER COOPER:**

*On Motion of Commissioner Cooper, Seconded by Commissioner Hersey, the Board unanimously approved payment of the bills as reviewed. (A copy of the bills is located in the Finance Department of the Office of the Clerk.)*

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**COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORTS – TERRY BROWN: None.**

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**COUNTY MANAGER REPORTS – JIM CRAWFORD:**

**A. ADJUSTMENT OF ROAD DEPARTMENT CULVERT PRICES:**

Mr. Crawford said the recent RFP for culverts reflected an increase in three culverts. In order to break even, the County’s prices should be adjusted to reflect the increase. The increases are as follows:

Size	Old	New
18’ X 24’	\$459.00	\$517.32
24’ X 24’	\$512.00	\$595.00
30’ X 24’	\$622.00	\$663.00

*On Motion of Commissioner Thomas, Seconded by Commissioner Chandler, the Board unanimously approved the new culvert prices as presented.*

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Mr. Crawford reported that he and Dr. Baldwin have met and discussed the hiring process for a new County Extension Director. Dr. Baldwin will review all the applicants and submit the top three that his board and the University of Florida would accept. Not only will the applicant be required to meet all Extension Director qualifications, he/she will be required to have qualifications in 4-H and Youth. Dr. Baldwin has requested a letter from him on behalf of the Board to begin the process. He has written the letter and requested the Board's permission to submit the letter. Dr. Baldwin has provided a job description for review and approval.

In the meantime, neither of the agents currently on board has enough time and service to take over as Acting Director. Dr. Baldwin said that would ask Mike Sweat from Baker County to serve as the Acting Director for administrative purposes.

There was Board consensus to move forward on both issues.

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**CLERK REPORTS – RAY NORMAN:**

None.

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**COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS:**

**Commissioner Chandler:**

--Asked the Board to consider inviting a couple of citizens to join Mr. Crawford and Commissioner Hersey to attend meetings with the Airpark Authority. The recent public hearings held concerning the impact fees have proven how beneficial and important public input is. He welcomes and appreciates public input and involvement.

---Expressed his gratitude to the Commission for the rescue unit in Lawtey.

**Commissioner Thomas:**

--He wants every avenue researched before the Commission agrees to spend any money on the Airpark Authority road, including the possibility of grant money. The Steel Mill Road project was done with an Economic Development grant.

Mr. Brown said that the problem the Airpark Authority will face is that in order for them to qualify for economic development grant monies they must have a proposed tenant or proposed employer to quantify the jobs and the economic impact.

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**CHAIRMAN COMMENTS – EDDIE J. LEWIS:**

None.

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**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

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

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**EDDIE J. LEWIS, CHAIRMAN**

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**RAY NORMAN, CLERK TO THE BOARD**

Minutes prepared by Marlene Stafford, Deputy Clerk