

(02-15-07 Regular Meeting)

**MINUTES OF THE  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA  
REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2007  
6:30 P.M.**

The Bradford County Board of County Commissioners convened in regular session on Thursday, February 15, 2007, at 6:30 p.m. in the County Commissioners' Meeting Room, 945 North Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida.

Present were: Commissioner Thomas, Commissioner Hersey, 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; Brad Carter, Jail Administrator; Brian Johns, Emergency Management Director; Winifred Holland, Health Department Director; Sheriff Milner, Jim Farrell, Finance Director; Alex Hinely, County Planner; Terry Brown, County Attorney; Jim DeValerio, Agriculture and Community Resource Development Agent; Mark Crawford, Press; Angela Macey, Community Development Director.

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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:**

**--LAND USE CLASSIFICATION AMENDMENT APPLICATION NO. S061130A (BLAKE):**

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 061130A, 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.”**

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

*On Motion of Commissioner Chandler, Seconded by Commissioner Hersey, the Board unanimously adopted the Ordinance approving Land Use Classification Amendment Application No. S061130A. (The Ordinance was assigned No. 07-04.)*

**--REZONING APPLICATION NO. Z 07-1 (KELLY, PARRISH, THOMAS):**

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 TEN OR MORE CONTIGUOUS ACRES OF LAND, PURSUANT TO AN APPLICATION, Z 07-1, BY THE PROPERTY OWNERS OF SAID ACREAGE; PROVIDING FOR REZONING FROM RURAL RESIDENTIAL (RR) TO RESIDENTIAL, SINGLE FAMILY-1 (RSF-1) 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 Thomas, Seconded by Commissioner Chandler, the Board unanimously adopted the Ordinance approving Rezoning Application No. Z 07-1. (The Ordinance was assigned No. 07-05.)*

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**CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. INVENTORY SURPLUS LIST**
- B. MINUTES OF IMPACT FEE WORKSHOP OF DECEMBER 7, 2006**
- C. MINUTES OF IMPACT FEE WORKSHOP OF DECEMBER 11, 2006**
- D. MINUTES OF SECOND PUBLIC HEARING ON IMPACT FEES OF DECEMBER 14, 2006**
- E. SATISFACTION OF MORTGAGE (KATHRYN STRUTH)**

*On Motion of Commissioner Chandler, Seconded by Commissioner Thomas, the Board unanimously approved the [Consent Agenda](#) in its entirety.*

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**CDBG CLOSEOUT OF HOUSING REHABILITATION GRANT—ANGELA MACEY:**

Ms. Macey requested authorization for the Chairman to review and execute the closeout package for the Housing Rehabilitation Grant.

Ms. Macey then gave a brief review of the accomplishments of the CDBG Program.

Commissioner Chandler asked Ms. Macey to put together a presentation for the end of the year, and possibly do an article in the paper.

*On Motion of Commissioner Thomas, Seconded by Commissioner Chandler, the Board unanimously [authorized Chairman Lewis](#) to execute the closeout package as requested.*

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**RESOLUTIONS:**

**--ESTABLISHING USER FEES UNDER THE LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS—NORA THOMPSON:**

Chairman Lewis read the title into the record:

**“A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING USER FEES UNDER THE LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS OF THE BRADFORD COUNTY CODE, PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 1, SECTION 1-7 OF THE BRADFORD COUNTY CODE; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.”**

Ms. Thompson said that the County has never had an application for a DRI (Development of Regional Impact). As the County grows, there is the probability of receiving one. The Resolution establishes a fee for the application.

*On Motion of Commissioner Thomas, Seconded by Commissioner Chandler, the Board unanimously adopted the resolution. (The [Resolution was assigned No. 07-04.](#))*

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**COOP/TERRORISM UPDATE—BRIAN JOHNS:**

Mr. Johns requested approval of a grant application to receive \$9,000.00 to rewrite the COOP and Terrorism Annex.

*On Motion of Commissioner Thomas, Seconded by Commissioner Hersey, the Board unanimously approved the grant application.*

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**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES GRANT APPROVALS—NELSON GREEN:**

(The grant applications may be reviewed in the Emergency Medical Services' Office.)

**A. WIRELESS 911 MAINTENANCE COST**

Mr. Green presented a Rural County Grant Program application. The \$31,653.00 will assist with maintenance expenses for the wireless board. This is a 100% grant with no County match.

*On Motion of Commissioner Thomas, Seconded by Commissioner Cooper, the Board unanimously approved the grant application as presented.*

**B. PURCHASE BACK-UP SYSTEM AT STARKE POLICE DEPT.**

Mr. Green requested approval of a grant application for \$67,514.00 to make the Starke Police Department a dedicated back-up public safety answering point (PSAP) system for the 911-dispatch center. This too is a 100% grant with no County match.

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There was brief discussion.

*On Motion of Commissioner Thomas, Seconded by Commissioner Chandler, the Board unanimously approved the grant application as presented.*

### **C. WIRELESS 911**

Mr. Green requested approval of a grant application for the implementation of a regional routing system for wireless 911 calls. This is a regional project and Bradford County's portion is \$38,892.80. It is a 100% grant with no match.

*On Motion of Commissioner Chandler, Seconded by Commissioner Cooper, the Board unanimously approved the grant application as presented.*

### **D. PURCHASE NEW ALS TRANSPORT UNIT—(EMS GRANT PROGRAM)**

Mr. Green requested approval of an EMS Grant Program Rural County Grant for the purchase of a new ALS transport unit. This is a 90/10 grant. The total cost of the project is \$165,000.00, with the County's portion being \$16,500.00. He will be notified of an award in June. Therefore, it will roll into the next budget year before any funds are expended.

*On Motion of Commissioner Thomas, Seconded by Commissioner Chandler, the Board unanimously approved the grant application as presented.*

### **E. PURCHASE NEW ALS TRANSPORT UNIT**

Mr. Green said that this is the same grant as "D" above. However, he is applying under a different program. It is a 75/25 matching Grant. The same total cost of \$165,000.00, with the County's portion being \$41,250.00. This too, would roll into next years' budget. The grant would assist in purchasing a new ALS transport unit. It is very doubtful that both grants will be awarded. The rural grants are reviewed first. If the County is awarded that grant, then the matching grant application will be pulled.

There was some discussion concerning the availability of the matching funds.

*On Motion of Commissioner Thomas, Seconded by Commissioner, the Board unanimously approved the grant application as presented.*

### **F. PURCHASE I-STAT TESTERS FOR ON-BOARD DIAGNOSTIC TESTING**

Mr. Green said that the last grant is a pilot project. The total cost is \$54,355.00. It is a rural grant with a County match amount of 5,435.50, which can be handled within the regular operating budget. It will be used to purchase an I-stat diagnostic testing machine.

*On Motion of Commissioner Chandler, Seconded by Commissioner Thomas, the Board unanimously approved the grant application as presented.*

**PROCLAMATIONS:**

**--WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH—COMMISSIONER LEWIS:**

Mr. Crawford presented the proclamation for consideration.

*On Motion of Commissioner Hersey, Seconded by Commissioner Thomas, the Board unanimously Declared March 2007 as Women's History Month in Bradford County.*

Commissioner Cooper announced that Cheryl Canova and Nancy Roberts are this year's recipients of the Women of Distinction award from Bradford County.

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**RENEWAL OF INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN BRADFORD COUNTY TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AND NORTH FLORIDA REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE—RON LILY:**

Mr. Crawford recommended the renewal of the agreement, effective February 1, 2007. The agreement is for one year and is for the same amount as previous years.

*On Motion of Commissioner Cooper, Seconded by Commissioner Thomas, the Board unanimously approved the Interlocal Agreement.*

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**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT AND SUPPORT LETTER FOR FLORIDA'S RURAL AREAS OF CRITICAL ECONOMIC CONCERN—JIM CRAWFORD:**

Commissioner Cooper introduced Ms. Linda Myers and Mr. Wes Larson.

Ms. Myers said there are two separate items she would like to address: First, is the Memorandum of Agreement between Bradford County and Enterprise Florida to be a participant in the Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC) opportunity. Secondly, the opportunity to share some of the cost associated with the North Florida Economic Development Partnership.

Ms. Myers explained the Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern to the Commission. (See letter attached.)

Mr. Crawford said that the .05 per capita equals \$1,387.00. It is his understanding that the contributions of the 14 counties, together with the dollar-for-dollar match will be enough to hire an Executive Director to represent all 14 counties.

*On Motion of Commissioner Cooper, Seconded by Commissioner Hersey, the Board unanimously approved to enter into the Memorandum of Agreement.*

Commissioner Cooper said that he had spoken to Ron Lily and asked Ms. Myers to make sure that the Bradford County Economic Development Authority is kept in the loop of activities.

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Ms. Myers said that Wes Larson has spoken with Ron Lily and Mr. Lily has asked how to get involved. Every county that becomes a member has two positions on the Board of Directors; one for the Chamber Executive and one is an appointee from the County Commission. They prefer to have a commissioner. However, they realize that sometimes commissioner's busy schedules do not make that feasible.

*On Motion of Commissioner Cooper, Seconded by Commissioner Hersey, the Board unanimously agreed to contribute .05 per capita, to seek development for the 14-county area.*

Ms. Myers advised the Commission that there is a website available. Mr. Crawford has that information. Mr. Lily will be invited to represent the Economic Development side, and they look forward to the other commission appointee.

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**PUBLIC HEARING – ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCE:**

**--EXEMPTION FROM THE SOLID WASTE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT—JIM CRAWFORD:**

Mr. Crawford explained that the Commission adopted this ordinance over a year ago. However, it was never filed with the Secretary of State, which made it non-effective.

Mr. Crawford read the title into the record:

**“AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BRADFORD COUNTY FLORIDA, PROVIDING AN EXEMPTION FROM THE SOLID WASTE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT FOR RESIDENTS WITH MILITARY SERVICE CONNECTED TOTAL AND PERMANENT DISABILITY AND/OR DEATH; PROVIDING PROCEDURES FOR RENEWAL; PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERANCE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.”**

*On Motion of Commissioner Chandler, Seconded by Commissioner Cooper, the Board unanimously adopted the Ordinance. (The [Ordinance was assigned No. 2007-06.](#))*

Mr. Crawford reported that the exemption program is working well.

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**REAPPOINTMENT OF E.W. HODGES TO THE SUWANNEE RIVER ECONOMIC COUNCIL—JIM CRAWFORD:**

*On Motion of Commissioner Thomas, Seconded by Commissioner Cooper, the Board unanimously approved the reappointment of E.W. Hodges to the Suwannee River Economic Council.*

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**ANIMAL CONTROL UPDATE—SHERIFF MILNER:**

For informational purposes only, Sheriff Milner distributed copies of [year-end reports](#) regarding the activities of courthouse security for 2006.

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As previously requested by Commissioner Cooper, Sheriff Milner gave a detailed update on [Animal Control Services](#). Via a slide show, Sheriff Milner shared photos of the improvements made to the facility.

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**APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS—CHAIRMAN LEWIS:**

Chairman Lewis said that he reviewed the bills and recommends approval.

*On Motion of Commissioner Thomas, Seconded by Commissioner Cooper, the Board unanimously approved payment of the bills. (A copy of the bills is on file in the Finance Department of the Office of the Clerk.)*

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**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

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

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**COUNTY MANAGER REPORTS—JIM CRAWFORD:**

Mr. Crawford reported on the following:

--There was one bill the Chairman did not get to review because it came in late, but will be due before the next Commission meeting. It is an insurance policy on some road equipment, 9-1-1 and communications equipment. Part of the premium will be paid by IGCF and part by 9-1-1. The premium amount is \$18,569.12. After some research is done, there is a possibility it may be less.

*On Motion of Commissioner Hersey, Seconded by Commissioner Thomas, the Board unanimously approved payment of the bill as presented.*

--His office is in the process of planning for a county picnic for June 23 at pavilion #2 at Camp Blanding. Some constitutional officers have expressed an interest in participating. He needs to reserve the pavilion and put down a deposit. He requested the Board's approval to proceed.

There was a consensus to proceed.

--Mr. Crawford asked Jim DeValerio and Winifred Holland to address the Commission. He also introduced Mr. Mike Sweat from Baker County. Mr. Sweat is filling in at the Extension Office until a new director comes on board.

Mr. Sweat invited the Commission to call him with any questions or concerns during his interim.

Mr. DeValerio said that he attended a meeting of the Soil and Water Conservation Board. At the meeting, there was an interest expressed in working with the County on the Comprehensive Land Use Plan. The University of Florida has a new department called the [Program for Resource Efficient Communities](#). They have a tremendous wealth of knowledge base, resources and experience to offer.

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The Director, Dr. Pierce Jones has agreed to attend a meeting at the Bradford County Extension Office on March 6, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Mr. DeValerio encouraged the Commissioners to attend. Mr. Sweat has a lot of experience bringing the Program for Resource Efficient Communities to Baker County.

Mr. Sweat expounded on the program and its benefits. There is no cost and it is very beneficial.

Mr. Crawford said that Ms. Holland has been working on a grant application that will be submitted under the banner of the Bradford-Union County Health Departments.

Ms. Holland said that the grant is being offered by the Federal Government Department of Justice Office on Violence. It is a two-year grant with no match requirement. The total amount they have requested is \$497,000.00 for the two-year period. The decision was made that the project name would be called the "Bradford/Union Assistance Center for Violence Intervention". It will be a one-stop center for those who are victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking or child abuse. This will be a collaborative effort, as the grant funds will not pay for all of the services.

Peaceful Paths has partnered with the City of Starke Police Department and other law enforcement agencies and they have submitted a grant that they are confident will provide funds to construct a center next to the school board offices. The grant also includes a training and community education component.

Ms. Holland said that she was very pleased to have the partnership of all of the different organizations. Everyone got on board early on and gave input. This has been a wonderful experience and she is proud to live in Bradford County. Whether they receive the funds this year or not, it has been a great coming together of the various organizations.

Ms. Holland distributed copies of a [summary of the grant](#).

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**CLERK REPORTS—RAY NORMAN:** None.

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**COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS:**

**Commissioner Chandler:**

--At today's Alachua/Bradford Workforce Board meeting, there was discussion concerning improving economic development for Bradford County. Mr. Lily has expressed that two of the reasons Bradford County has difficulty getting industry to move in, is the situation with HWY 301 and workforce. The Workforce Board is looking at providing training for people to prepare them for the workforce. The Workforce Board would like to form a committee to work with Mr. Lily and those that handle economic development for Bradford County.

The area that Bradford County has excelled in is our vocational training. The Workforce Board would like to continue to enhance that program and encourage student attendance.

He is confident that this Commission will do whatever necessary to work with the Workforce board to improve Bradford County's economic development.

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**Commissioner Cooper:**

--The Board needs to consider conducting a workshop to discuss the property tax proposals. Should Governor Crist's proposals be adopted in whole, the 2006-2007 ad valorem budget for Bradford County would have taken a 28% hit. Bradford County collected \$7.5 million of ad valorem tax last year, \$2.1 million dollars of that would have had to be cut. The proposals are severe and significant.

There are other proposals that will be presented. One is to eliminate all property tax on homestead properties in exchange for either a two or three cents of additional statewide sales tax.

County Commissions need to be vocal during the legislative session. This Commission needs to analyze what the proposals mean to Bradford County. That message needs to be taken to Tallahassee, and the public needs to be educated.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Crawford said that data is already being compiled by the Finance Department. He would try to have something together by Wednesday for a possible workshop.

**Commissioner Thomas:**

--The School Board has advised that the FFA farm is going out for bids to cut their timber. There are a few trees on the County right-of-way that are leaning on their property line. They would like permission to cut those trees. He would like Mr. Crawford to write the School Board a letter giving them our blessing to remove the trees.

There was a consensus for Mr. Crawford to write the letter.

**Commissioner Hersey:**

--The recent changes to the solid waste collection site in Keystone are working well. The stickers are identifying Bradford County residents.

--The Commission needs to come up with a solution concerning trash on the highways.

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**CHAIRMAN COMMENTS—EDDIE J. LEWIS:** None.

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**ADJOURN:** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

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

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**EDDIE J. LEWIS, CHAIRMAN**

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**RAY NORMAN, CLERK OF COURTS**

Minutes prepared by Marlene K. Stafford, Deputy Clerk