

(09-10-07 Regular Meeting)

**MINUTES OF THE  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA  
REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2007  
9:30 A.M.**

The Bradford County Board of County Commissioners convened in regular session on Monday, September 10, 2007, at 9:30 a.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; Alex Hinely, County Planner; Ray Norman, Clerk of Courts; Marlene Stafford, Deputy Clerk; Jim Farrell, Finance Director; Nora Thompson, Zoning Director; Brad Carter, Jail Administrator; Ron Lilly, CEO Chamber of Commerce; Terry Brown, County Attorney; Angela Macey, Community Development Director; Brian Johns, Emergency Management Director; Donny Wise, Solid Waste Director; Mark Crawford, Press; Karen Jordan, Court Administration; Sgt. Joe Kiser; and Capt. Randall Zipperer.

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(See Supplemental File No. 09-10-07 for a copy of documentation presented at this meeting.)

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Lewis called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.

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**INVOCATION / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Cooper offered the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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**CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. MINUTES OF REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING OF JUNE 21, 2007**
- B. MINUTES OF REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING OF JULY 19, 2007**
- C. MINUTES OF REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING AND BUDGET WORKSHOP OF AUGUST 6, 2007**
- D. MINUTES OF REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING AND BUDGET WORKSHOP OF AUGUST 16, 2007**
- E. PURCHASE OF CONTAINERS FOR SOLID WASTE - \$53,760.00**
- F. SHIP LOANS**
- G. APPROVE APPLICATION FOR STATE AID FOR LIBRARY**
- H. DECLARE DECEMBER 31, 2007 COUNTY PAID HOLIDAY**

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

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**REQUEST BRADFORD COUNTY TO PARTICIPATE IN SINGLE FAMILY MORTGAGE REVENUE BOND PROGRAM—GORDON JERNIGAN:**

Mr. Jernigan, Director of the Escambia County Housing Finance Authority, reviewed the bond program, which is outlined in a [handout](#) previously provided to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Cooper asked if there are any out-of-pocket costs, administrative costs or any other burden placed on the County to participate, and if participation would have any affect on the County's bond rating capabilities or ability to borrow money?

Mr. Jernigan indicated in the negative. There is no cost or liability to the County. They fully administer the program. This is a stand-alone program and would have no affect on the County rating and the County's rating will have no affect on their bonds.

To keep from having a public hearing every year, nearly all counties in the program are under a three-year agreement to issue bonds. There are about 15-16 counties who have completed one year. They would ask Bradford County to enter into a two-year agreement so that at the end of the two years, all the counties will come due. The County can always write a letter declining participation.

Commissioner Thomas inquired about the income level requirements to qualify for the program.

Mr. Jernigan said that a family of one to two must earn less than about \$54,000.00 per year; a family of three or more must earn less than about \$64,000.00 per year. The maximum acquisition price is about \$234,000.00. A public hearing is required, at which time the Commission will adopt a resolution to enter into an interlocal agreement for two years, allowing them to operate in the county. They would like to have the public hearing some time in October to allow for proper advertising.

*On Motion of Commissioner Cooper, Seconded by Commissioner Chandler, the Board unanimously approved to enter into an agreement with the Escambia County Housing Finance Authority for two years; a public hearing will be held on Thursday, October 18, 2007, at 6:30 p.m., during the County Commission regular scheduled meeting.*

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**PRESENTATION OF DRUG COURT PROGRAM – JUDGE MOSELEY:**

Through a [Power-Point presentation](#), Judge Moseley explained the Drug Court Program and what it means to Bradford County. He has witnessed the positive results of the program and supports it wholeheartedly.

Judge Moseley said they hope to reach between a 75 and \$100,000.00 annual budget. It will take about 30 to \$50,000.00 to get the program off the ground. He asked the Commission to consider allocating funds in the budget to get it started, and consider adopting the \$65.00 court cost ordinance permitted in F.S. 939.185.

Chairman Lewis asked if the revenues from the \$65.00 court cost would be adequate to fund future years.

Judge Moseley said that it possibly could. It would have to be examined year-to-year, based on the County's budgetary circumstances and how much revenue is raised. He hopes to increase the program with the additional funds. He does not know that it will, but ultimately he would like for the \$65.00 court cost to completely cover the program. They have tried to predict how much money to expect based on average collections. Judges can assist with the collections.

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Commissioner Cooper said that he too is an advocate of program and is willing to support it in the budget for the first couple of years to get it off the ground. Hopefully, there will come a day when the \$65.00 court cost would fund the entire program. There is \$30,000.00 currently available in the budget. He would like the program closely monitored and would like periodic updates. The Chief Judge will sign an order establishing the program in Bradford County.

Judge Moseley said that if the Commission approves, he would request the Chief Judge to issue the order.

*On Motion of Commissioner Cooper, Seconded by Commissioner Thomas, the Board unanimously authorized \$30,000.00 in the proposed 07-08 budget; and directed the County Attorney to draft the \$65.00 court cost ordinance for review and advertisement for adoption.*

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**LITTLE LAKE SANTA FE—APPROVE TO SUBMIT FRDAP GRANT APPLICATION – ALEX HINELY:**

Mr. Hinely said that the proposed project for the FRDAP grant application is to procure \$200,000.00 for the construction of a park across from the boat ramp at Little Lake Santa Fe. The application must be post-marked no later than this Friday, September 14. It is in the final stages of preparation. The grant is contingent upon the receipt of a deed to 11 acres of land being donated by Rayonier. It is his understanding that the deed is in the mail. FRDAP grants are awarded in the July/August timeframe. Mr. Hinely requested approval to submit the grant application.

Chairman Lewis opened the floor for public comments.

The following individuals spoke in **opposition** to the project or to delay the project: Allison Blakeslee, Paul Kindall, Craig Sellers, Chris Ivy, Nona Frohnapple, Tim Davis, Walter Cole, William Chiappini, Ginny Linder, Harold Hill, James Pennington, Louise Dyal-Miller, Bill Sheppard, James Reed, and Jill McGuire.

Some of the concerns expressed were not limited to but included the fact that the proposed site is within the Florida Forever grant proposal and has been approved for purchase by the state, the lack of notice to the residents concerning the proposed project, the increase in traffic and adverse affects in the water quality and environmental impacts, proper maintenance of the park and the cost to keep it properly maintained, security/law enforcement, trash, noise, vandalism and excess alcohol consumption, the need for environmental studies before anything else is done. (Photos depicting a trash problem at the current boat ramp were presented to the Commission.)

The Following individuals spoke in **favor** of the project or improvements to the existing boat ramp facilities: Paul Still, John Bradley and Tony Breedlove.

Some of the topics mentioned to support the project were not limited to but included the fact that Bradford County essentially has no parks. The project could provide access to nature trails and be used for environmental education. There is a need for an increase in restroom facilities and additional parking for the boats at the existing boat ramp.

Chairman Lewis thanked the citizens for their comments and suggestions. He then opened the floor for Commissioners' comments and discussion.

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Discussion ensued that was not limited to but included the timeline, deadline and award time for the FRDAP grant applications, Suwannee River Water Management permit requirements, the need for additional parking and restrooms for the boat ramp, the need for community collaboration for a project such as this, FRDAP regulations concerning alterations to the construction plans, making the construction plans more environmentally sensitive, Rayonier's stipulations for donating the property, and the Florida Forever Grant program.

Commissioner Cooper said that although he is sensitive to those who live on the lakes, they are public lakes and this Board has an obligation to help the general public access those lakes. This project started out with a parking issue, to keep trucks from parking on the side of the road. Good points have been raised about whether or not this is an appropriate area for a park. He is especially sensitive to the environmental issues. It is also an obligation of the Commission to provide parks, which is something that has not been done in the past. He is not comfortable with the design of the park, as it has been proposed. He would like to postpone action for one year to improve the design. Also, he would like Mr. Crawford to acquire an estimate of the cost to maintain the park.

Commissioner Chandler concurred with Commissioner Cooper.

Commissioner Hersey said that in no way was this project put together in an attempt to "ram rod" or "slip" anything in on any of the residents. One of his major concerns on the forefront has been safety, due to the amount of traffic and parking on the side of the road. After receiving a call from a resident concerning the number of vehicles, he made a point to go and assess the situation. As a result, he witnessed a child run out from behind a truck into the road. That is what compelled him to do something to get the vehicles off the road. He could not just sit by and do nothing and it end up costing someone their life. He feels the project is needed, but has no problem in delaying it. It is the responsibility of the County Commission to provide the citizens with a place to park, to take their families and enjoy the lake. He appreciates the comments that have been made. The issues that have been brought to light need to be examined.

*On Motion of Commissioner Cooper, Seconded by Commissioner Chandler, the Board unanimously approved to postpone the project until further study can be done.*

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At 12:03 p.m., Chairman Lewis called a recess.

Chairman Lewis called the meeting back to order at 12:17 p.m.

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#### **FLORIDA WORKS PRESENTATION ON WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACTS – ANGELA PATE:**

Ms. Pate said that before she speaks about Florida Works, she would like to add something to the Santa Fe Lake issue. She lives on Little Lake Santa Fe and she expressed her gratitude for saving their homes during the recent fires. If it were not for the fire departments and what the County did with Emergency Services, none of the lake residents would even have a home.

Ms. Pate addressed the Commission concerning the Workforce System and its importance to the Community and thanked the Commission for its support. She explained the Workforce Development System, its funding mechanism, board memberships, programs, and services and goals for the future.

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Commissioner Chandler said that he has seen a tremendous improvement with Florida Works and the Workforce Board during his tenure on the board. They are more receptive, more involved and more concerned about Bradford County, which he greatly appreciates.

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**SITE PLAN APPROVAL FOR LAKE CITY LOGISTIC—NORA THOMPSON:**

Ms. Thompson said that the site plan meets all code requirements and has been reviewed and approved by all staff.

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

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**DISCUSS AFFORDABLE HOUSING SECTION 125.379 F.S. REGARDING DISPOSITION OF COUNTY REAL PROPERTY TO BE DESIGNATED FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING – ALEX HINELY:**

Mr. Hinely explained the [requirements in Florida Statute 125.379](#) relating to real property owned by the County appropriate for use as affordable housing. As of today, Bradford County owns 47 parcels of land. Of those 47 parcels, the County is using 45 for necessary purposes. Of the two remaining parcels, only one, located in Graham, is suitable for affordable housing. The list is to be reviewed by the Commission at a public hearing and may be revised. In the near future, the Commission will need to adopt a resolution, which shall state what will be done with the property on the list.

Chairman Lewis questioned the suitability for affordable housing of the parcel in River Bend Estates in Graham. All the roads in River Bend Estates are private roads.

Commissioner Cooper inquired about the acreage off of Bessent Road. Mr. Crawford said there is not good public access to that property. There is a sliver of land that separates it from the road.

Following brief discussion, there was a consensus that the parcel in River Bend Estates is not suitable for affordable housing and is to be removed from the list.

Commissioner Cooper requested a copy of the list of all 47 parcels.

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**ADOPTION OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN – ALEX HINELY:**

Mr. Hinely said that he presented a preliminary Capital Improvement Plan to the Commission last month, which consisted of a policy and a spreadsheet delineating capital improvement projects. A motion is needed to adopt the Policy and the Plan. The plan is not binding; it is a “plan” only. The \$200,000.00 FRDAP grant for Little Lake Santa Fe Park should be rescheduled for the following year.

Mr. Crawford further explained that this is the County’s “planning” document. Each year it can be revised. The only items included this year are those items that we know are going to happen and that we either have the money or the expectation of getting the money.

*On Motion of Commissioner Chandler, Seconded by Commissioner Thomas, the Board unanimously approved the [Capital Improvement Plan](#) as presented, less the \$200,000.00 FRDAP grant, which will be deferred to the next fiscal year.*

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**APPROVE LOCAL UPDATE OF CENSUS ADDRESSES (LUCA) AGREEMENT – ALEX HINELY:**

Mr. Hinely said that the Census Bureau is getting an early start for the 2010 census. LUCA, Local Update of County Addresses, requires counties to update all addresses and submit them to DCA by early next year. Mr. Hinely reviewed the [current activity](#), which included identifying the County's level of participation (Option 2).

There was a \$7,500.00 grant available to assist in completing the update. The grant was applied for and awarded. The Commission needs to approve the grant and authorize the Chairman to execute a contract with DCA to receive the grant. County staff will be attending training sessions in September and October. We should be deep into the project by October and completed by the spring.

*On Motion of Commissioner Cooper, Seconded by Commissioner Thomas, the Board unanimously authorized the Chairman to accept the grant on behalf of the County, and to proceed with Option 2, as presented.*

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**DEP PERMIT TO DREDGE ROADWAY DRAINAGE DITCH ON WOMACK PROPERTY – ALEX HINELY:**

Mr. Hinely informed the Commission that there is a recorded easement for a drainage ditch that runs through the Womack property on Hampton Lake to provide drainage for Highway 18. The ditch has grown up in some places and scoured in others and has deposited debris on the Womack lakefront. The County has received a permit to clean out the ditch. The Road Department will be performing the work. A letter will be sent to residents on the lakeside in the area advising them of the project. Those residents have 21 days from receipt of the letter to request an administrative hearing on the permit.

There was some discussion.

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**REQUEST APPROVAL TO PROCEED WITH ORDINANCE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF 5 CENT LOCAL OPTION GASOLINE TAX – JIM CRAWFORD:**

Mr. Crawford said that moving forward with the implementation of a .05 cent-local option gas tax is the result of discussion during recent budget workshops. At the direction of the Board, Mr. Brown would draft an ordinance, which would require four out of five votes of the Commission. The ordinance must be adopted by July and would not take affect until the following January.

There was discussion regarding which line item, within the Transportation Trust Fund, to allocate these revenues.

Commissioner Cooper said that he would like to use the gas tax revenues for road construction and paving, and he would like the ordinance drafted in that manner. However, that would need to be re-evaluated depending on the outcome of the vote on the constitutional amendment in January.

Mr. Brown said that he recently prepared one for Baker County that specifically limited the tax revenues to transportation expenditures such as purchasing property, constructing roads, paving roads, things of that nature.

Commissioner Thomas said that is the only way he would support the gas tax.

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*On Motion of Commissioner Cooper, Seconded by Commissioner Hersey, the Board unanimously agreed to move forward with the ordinance and that it be properly advertised and brought to the Commission for adoption at the appropriate time.*

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**REQUEST APPROVAL TO PROCEED WITH ORDINANCE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF NINTH CENT LOCAL OPTION GASOLINE TAX – JIM CRAWFORD:**

*On Motion of Commissioner Cooper, Seconded by Commissioner Hersey, the Board unanimously agreed to prepare the ordinance, that it be limited to road construction/transportation, that it be properly advertised and brought to the Commission for adoption at the appropriate time.*

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**DISCUSS BRADFORD COUNTY CLOSED LANDFILL – FRANK DARABI:**

Mr. Darabi expressed his disapproval in the method in which Bradford County recently advertised and selected an engineering firm for the closed landfill.

Extensive discussion ensued.

During the discussion, Commissioner Cooper articulated his disappointment in New River for the decision not to advertise for engineering services. He does not know if the same margins of savings he has seen in Bradford County would be applicable to New River. If they are, there is a whole lot more money that the County could be getting back from New River that we are not getting back now. The County is a one-third shareholder in that corporation and receives dividends. If New River addresses that issue again, he would strongly urge them to go out for RFQ's.

Chairman Lewis concurred with Commissioner Cooper. As a member on the New River Board, he was strongly in favor of going out for RFQ's. If this Board wants to send a message to New River that that is what you want done, he or Commissioner Thomas can relay the message.

Commissioner Thomas said that the idea of going out for RFQ's is not "out the door" at this time. The New River Board can discuss it.

Commissioner Chandler said that the bottom line is that it is this Board's responsibility as public servants to make certain that every dollar possible is being saved.

Discussion continued. Donny Wise, Bradford County Solid Waste Director and Mr. Steve Lutz, with Jones Edmonds, addressed the Commission.

Commissioner Thomas said that at the time the New River Board voted on this issue, the question was asked of the attorney if any laws had been violated, and the attorney's answer was no. As Chairman of the New River Board, he will not comment any further and will not vote.

*On Motion of Commissioner Cooper, Seconded by Commissioner Hersey, the Board voted 4-1 (Commissioner Thomas dissenting) to draft a letter, through the County Attorney and the County Manager, to the New River Board asking the New River Board to request RFQ's for engineering services, not only now, but to establish and include in their Board policies a procedure for RFQ's and bidding for competitive contracts every three to five years, or whatever time period they deem appropriate.*

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To avoid any type of crossover or conflict, Commissioner Cooper suggested that Vice-Chairman Chandler sign the letter since Chairman Lewis serves on the New River Board.

For clarification purposes, Deputy Clerk Stafford asked Commissioner Thomas if he abstained from the vote or if he dissented. Commissioner Thomas said that he dissented.

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**PAYMENT OF THE BILLS – COMM. THOMAS:**

*On Motion of Commissioner Thomas, Seconded by Commissioner Cooper, the Board unanimously approved payment of the bills.*

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**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**Mr. Malcolm Hill – County Government:**

--Complained about the operations of County Government and the lack of communication with and to the citizens.

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

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**COUNTY MANAGER REPORTS – JIM CRAWFORD:**

- A. HEALTH DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSE SEPT. 24**
- B. PURCHASE OF NEW SPRAY UNIT FOR MOSQUITO CONTROL - \$8,300**
- C. CAREMARK PRESCRIPTION PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION**

Mr. Crawford deferred items A, B and C to the next regular scheduled meeting.

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**CLERK REPORTS – RAY NORMAN: None.**

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**COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS:**

**Commissioner Hersey:**

--Received a request from Hope Christian Academy for school traffic lights. Through Mr. Crawford, he would like to work with the Community Safety Committee and the State of Florida to see what can be done.

Chairman Lewis said that it would be beneficial and suggested that Commissioner Hersey get with Mr. Crawford.

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

Chairman Lewis reminded the Commission of the final hearing to adopt the millage and budget on Monday, September 17 at 5:30 p.m.

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**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:51 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