

(01-07-08 Regular Meeting)

**MINUTES OF THE  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA  
REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING  
MONDAY, JANUARY 7, 2008  
9:30 A.M.**

The Bradford County Board of County Commissioners convened in regular session on Monday, January 7, 2008, at 9:30 a.m. in the County Commissioners' Meeting Room, 945 North Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida.

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

Also present were: Brad Carter, County Manager; Sandra Harrell, Administrative Assistant; Ray Norman, Clerk of Courts; Marlene Stafford, Deputy Clerk; Terry Brown, County Attorney; Terry Vaughan, Supervisor of Elections; Nelson Green, Emergency Services Director; Angela Macey, Community Development Director; Donny Wise, Solid Waste Director; Brian Johns, Emergency Management Director; Sheriff Milner; Percy Sullivan, Fire Chief; Jim Farrell, Finance Director; Timothy Wilson, Cooperative Extension Director; Nora Thompson, Zoning Director and Mark Crawford, Press.

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(See Supplemental File No. 01-07-08 for a copy of documentation presented at this meeting.)

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**INVOCATION / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Chandler called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

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**CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. MINUTES OF REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING OF NOVEMBER 5, 2007**
- B. MINUTES OF REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING OF DECEMBER 3, 2007**
- C. SATISFACTION OF MORTGAGE FOR BETTY MCDOWELL**
- D. RENEWAL OF ANNUAL SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT WITH AK ASSOCIATES FOR 9-1-1 SYSTEM -- \$29,615.00**

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

**CANVASSING BOARD ASSIGNMENT FOR PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY ELECTION TO BE HELD JANUARY 29, 2008 – TERRY VAUGHAN:**

Mr. Vaughan said that it is time to designate Canvassing Board members for the upcoming election cycle. According to Florida Statutes, the members shall consist of the Supervisor of Elections, the County Judge, and the Chair of the County Commission. However, if any of these members are up for election, then a replacement member should serve. Commissioner Hersey has agreed to serve representing the County Commission and Commissioner Thomas has agreed to serve as an alternate. Mr. Vaughan recommended the appointments.

*On Motion of Commissioner Cooper, Seconded by Commissioner Lewis, the Board unanimously appointed Commissioner Hersey to the 2008 Canvassing Board and Commissioner Thomas as an alternate.*

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**PROPOSED CONTRACT WITH DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES – NELSON GREEN:**

Mr. Green presented the contract for consideration. The County has provided emergency medical services to the Department of Corrections since there was an EMS. The Department of Corrections has requested that we formalize the arrangements by entering into a contract. He and the County Attorney have reviewed the contract and they are requesting approval.

*On Motion of Commissioner Lewis, Seconded by Commissioner Thomas, the Board unanimously approved the [contract](#) as presented.*

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**APPROVE TO [PURCHASE UPGRADE](#) FOR BRADFORD COUNTY'S 9-1-1 SYSTEM -- \$23,234.00 – NELSON GREEN:**

Mr. Green advised that the County received a grant to purchase equipment necessary to enter into a statewide 9-1-1 network. He requested approval to purchase the equipment from E9-1-1 grant funds at \$23,234.00. He will be coming back to the Board for approval of a contract to purchase the T-1 lines necessary to make the connection.

*On Motion of Commissioner Thomas, Seconded by Commissioner Cooper, the Board unanimously approved the [purchase](#) as requested.*

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**PURCHASE ASSISTANCE LOANS FOR S.H.I.P. – ANGELA MACEY:**

Ms. Macey presented the [list of S.H.I.P. Program applicants](#) for consideration. The applicants meet all qualifications.

*On Motion of Commissioner Thomas, Seconded by Commissioner Hersey, to approve the [applicants](#) as presented.*

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**APPROVAL OF BILLS – CHAIRMAN CHANDLER:**

Chairman Chandler said that he reviewed the bills and recommends them for payment.

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

(A list of the bills is located in the Finance Office of the Office of the Clerk of Courts.)

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**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

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**COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORTS – TERRY BROWN:**

Mr. Brown reported on the following:

- He has prepared a proposed order, which reflects what occurred at the January 3, 2008, public hearing on the Code Enforcement Appeal. Absent any strong objection, he will have the order executed and mailed out this afternoon. Please advise of any concerns immediately.
- The Commission has received for review, a proposed ordinance imposing an additional \$65.00 court cost for criminal offenses. Mr. Brown recommended that the Board approve to advertise the ordinance.

*On Motion of Commissioner Hersey, Seconded by Commissioner Cooper, the Board unanimously approved the advertisement of the Ordinance as requested.*

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**COUNTY MANAGER REPORTS – BRAD CARTER:**

Mr. Carter reported on the following:

- Introduced Mr. Timothy Wilson, the new County Extension Director.  
Mr. Wilson said that he looks forward to the opportunities in Bradford County.
- At the request of the Commission, the Fire Counsel met and set priorities. Chief Sullivan is present to report on those priorities.

Chief Sullivan presented the priorities as follows:

1. Construction of a station for Sampson City. (Chief Sullivan distributed copies of an [estimate for a metal building](#).) A four-bay building is \$68,500.00, a five-bay building is \$87,848.00. This includes the floor, no plumbing, and no electricity. Chief Sullivan said that he is positive he can get the building for less.
2. Tanker for New River. Estimates ranging from 40 to \$60,000.00

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3. Brush truck for Heilbronn Springs for \$26,500.00. Heilbronn donating \$8,000.00 towards the purchase. They will also take care of painting and other incidentals. Requesting \$18,500.00 from the County.

Chief Sullivan said that other items were discussed, such as a tanker for Sampson City, but were not included on the priority list.

There was brief discussion concerning the Volunteer Fire Department budget.

Commissioner Cooper said that after deducting the \$40,000.00 committed to purchase breathing apparatuses; there will be approximately \$101,000.00 remaining of the anticipated FEMA reimbursement funds that this Board has the discretion to spend. If the Board were to agree to give the volunteer fire departments the entire \$101,000.00, there would not be enough money to do all three priorities, which appear to have been set in the order of importance.

Mr. Sullivan said that the Fire Council's priority list is in the order of importance, except for the fact that the brush truck is available and the tanker is not available.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Cooper directed a question to Clerk Norman: "If the Board authorizes these expenditures prior to receiving the FEMA reimbursement funds, where will it be paid from?"

Clerk Norman said that the only available line item in the budget is the special projects line item, which is fiscally constrained funds for roads. The \$40,000.00 for the breathing apparatuses is coming from that line item, also. The County should receive the FEMA reimbursement funds in February or March. However, should these funds or a portion thereof, not come in that will affect what is being discussed.

There was some discussion regarding the estimated FEMA reimbursement funds.

Chairman Chandler said that if the Board agrees to fund the \$18,500.00 for the brush truck, it must be understood that when the FEMA reimbursement funds are received, the \$40,000.00 for the breathing apparatuses and the \$18,500.00 will come directly off the top to be placed back in the fiscally constrained line item. Whatever the Board deems to give to the VFD of the remaining FEMA funds is at the discretion of the Board.

Commissioner Thomas said that he supports all three priorities and Chairman Chandler's recommendation. However, he would like to see the brush truck purchased because of its availability. If the Board delays action, it may not be available.

Commissioner Cooper said that this Board went through a gut wrenching budget process. Items were cut out of the budget because there was no money. Now the Board is discussing spending money it does not have and discussing spending money it may not get. If these monies were in the bank, he may think a little differently. However, even if the monies were in the bank, he is hearing that the Fire Council's number one priority is a station in Sampson City. January 29th is right around the corner and if the proposed amendment passes, then the County is facing an \$800,000.00 cut. The FEMA funds will have to be used for the next year to get the County through the cut. He would love to fund every one of the priorities, but he cannot support it under the current circumstances.

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Chairman Chandler said that as a Board member, he is not going to make decisions for the Fire Council. The Fire Council established a priority list and he will support that list. Realistically, there is an uncertainty of how much, or if any FEMA funds will be reimbursed to the County.

Chief Sullivan said that the Council set the priority as he presented and he does not have the authority to change the list.

There was additional discussion concerning the anticipated amount of the FEMA reimbursement monies.

Chairman Chandler said that he concurs with Commissioner Cooper. However, the Commission cannot be hypocritical. The Board approved to spend \$40,000.00 that it did not have and paid salaries out of money not yet received. A principal needs to be established and consistently followed through.

Commissioner Thomas said that if you started tomorrow, you could not be in a fire station for probably six months. If you started looking for a tanker today, you may not find one for three months. He believes a tanker can be purchased for less than what has been presented.

**Commissioner Thomas MOVED** to support all the priorities, if the brush truck for Heilbronn is purchased.

The **MOTION FAILED** for lack of a second.

Commissioner Thomas said that a couple of months ago, the Board was contemplating purchasing property with fiscally constrained funds and there was no mention of the outcome of the vote in January during that discussion. The purchase of property will not benefit a life or increase safety; the brush truck will. He expressed his displeasure with the Board's action; it is an injustice to Heilbronn Springs Fire Department.

Commissioner Lewis said that he is not trying to do an injustice to anyone. He did not support the purchase of the property. He has no problem supporting the brush truck, but he has a problem going against the Fire Council's recommendations.

Commissioner Thomas asked Chief Sullivan if the full Fire Council voted on the purchase of the breathing apparatuses.

Chief Sullivan said that the Council discussed it as a safety issue, but they did not actually vote on it, which he brought to the Board's attention at the last meeting.

*On Motion of Commissioner Hersey, Seconded by Commissioner Lewis, the Board voted 3-2 to support the recommendation of the Fire Council, contingent on the receipt of the monies to fund the items. Commissioner Thomas and Chairman Chandler dissented.*

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**CLERK REPORTS – RAY NORMAN:** None.

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**COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS:**

**Commissioner Lewis commented on the following:**

- Requested an update on the sidewalk at Hampton Lake.

Mr. Carter advised that the sidewalk has been engineered. However, no funds have been set aside or earmarked and were not included in the priorities discussed in the recent workshop.

Commissioner Lewis asked that to be notified should any funds become available so he could communicate to the people.

**Commissioner Hersey commented on the following:**

- He has received the same request concerning the sidewalk. Mr. Crawford has advised that he will try to locate the estimates for the sidewalk resulting from the engineering process.
- Asked Mr. Carter to confirm the March 18 Florida League of Cities of meeting.
- Has always supported the volunteer fire departments. They do a fantastic job for the County and you cannot put a price tag on that. The Board has a fiscal responsibility and must rely on the various boards and councils for recommendations.

**Commissioner Cooper commented on the following:**

- Vote "No" on January 29<sup>th</sup>.
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**CHAIRMAN COMMENTS – ROSS CHANDLER:**

**Chairman Chandler commented on the following:**

- The Fire Council should collaborate and make decisions for the fire departments. In earlier discussion with Mr. Carter, he thought the Fire Council's decision was different than was presented today. All boards and councils need to be more decisive and clear about their decisions and who is going to make them. He understands that the breathing apparatuses were something that needed to be done. However, the Fire Council should have been involved in that decision. In the future, he would like that to be the case.
- At the Board's direction, Mr. Carter contacted the City of Starke and they have requested a meeting with the County Commission Chair, the Mayor, the City Manager and Mr. Carter to discuss the solid waste collection sites. With the consent of the Board, they will meet with the City.

There was a consensus to meet with the City. Mr. Carter will set up the meeting.

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Commissioner Lewis asked for clarification regarding the Final Order resulting from the public hearing on the proposed mud bog.

Mr. Brown said that the order has been prepared for the Chairman's signature. Should any Board member believe that the order does not accurately reflect what took place at the hearing, or if there are any concerns, please let him know.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

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

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**ROSS CHANDLER, CHAIRMAN**

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

Minutes prepared by Marlene Stafford, Deputy Clerk