

**MINUTES OF THE  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA  
REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING      9:30 A.M.  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2008**

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The Bradford County Board of County Commissioners convened in regular session on Monday, December 1, 2008, at 9:30 a.m. in the County Commission Meeting Room, 945 North Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida.

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

Also present were: Brad Carter, County Manager, Ray Norman, Clerk of Courts; Marlene Stafford Deputy Clerk; D.Z. Griffis; Facility Maintenance Director; Nora Thompson, Zoning Director; Paul Funderburk; Road Superintendent; Tim Wilson, CED; Donny Wise, Solid Waste Director; Sheriff Milner; Capt. Starling, Jail Administrator; Brian Johns, Emergency Management Director; Lieut. Ron Davis; Wilson Whidden, Building Code Administrator; Gordon Smith, Chief of Police; Janet Adkins, State Representative; Angela Macey, Community Development Director; Winifred Holland, Health Department Director; Robert Perone, Library Director; Linda Carpenter, V.A. Officer; Jim Farrell, Finance Director; Lieut. Russell; and Capt. Zipperer.

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(See Supplement File No. 12-01-08 for a copy of documentation presented at this meeting.)

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**INVOCATION / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

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**CALL TO ORDER**

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

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**CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. \$5,000.00 PUBLIC OFFICIAL BOND FOR COMMISSIONER SELLARS**
- B. REVIEW OF BILLS LIST**
- C. MEMBER OVERSIGHT LIST FOR 2009**

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

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**DISTRICT 12 STATE REPRESENTATIVE – JANET ADKINS:**

State Representative Janet Adkins addressed the Commission. She introduced Mr. Larry Williams, Budget and Policy Legislative Assistant and Marianne Marshall, who will be working out of the Starke office three to four days per week, beginning in January. They will be working towards developing an intern program for local high school and college students who wish to serve as interns in their local state legislative office. They hope to begin accepting intern applications some time after January. They will also be sponsoring an Arts and Action Program where they will challenge each school in the district to conduct art contests. Each winner will receive a letter of acknowledgement and will have their artwork displayed in the State Legislative Office for three months.

Florida is challenged with a budget crisis like never seen before. They have been told to expect a \$2 billion reduction in the current year and to anticipate another \$2.5 billion reduction for the next year. The House Speaker and the Senate President have announced that they will not allow member projects this year, which will limit the ability to help with local projects. They do expect that Congress will authorize a major federal stimulus package aimed at improving infrastructure and they would like to see those funds directed at the needs in North Florida. They would like to obtain a list of infrastructure projects that Bradford County considers priority. The list should be ranked and should include a brief description and rationale for each project. Also, please advise of any items in the budget that the Commission feels need to be protected.

Representative Adkins closed by saying that she looks forward to working with the County Commission to insure that the citizens of Bradford County receive the very best service that can be provided.

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**REQUEST TO ADVERTISE RFP—HAZARD MITIGATION RETROFIT PROJECT—BRIAN JOHNS:**

Mr. Johns advised that Bradford County was not awarded the grants originally. However, other counties declined the grants enabling Bradford County to procure the funding. Due to time constraints, there is not enough time to advertise. Therefore, he would like to piggyback off a Duval County contract.

Mr. Johns requested approval of a contract with the state for \$53,877.00. Emergency Management will manage the project. Cane, a window company out of Tampa, will be installing window covers to harden Bradford Middle School buildings six and seven, and Hampton Elementary. This will help with the County's shelter deficit and assist the schools by cutting their utility cost and protect against vandalism.

*On Motion of Commissioner Chandler, Seconded by Commissioner Hersey, the Board unanimously approved a contract for \$53,877.00 as requested.*

Mr. Johns advised that 16 firefighters begin training tomorrow night, which will take about 3-4 months to finish.

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(12-01-08 Regular Meeting)

**TDC FUNDING REQUEST – JOHN MILLER AND KATHY LEHAMAN:**

Mr. Miller introduced Ms. Kathy Lehman, Santa Fe Community College, Coordinator Cultural Programs.

Ms. Lehman explained that the Bar-B-Que Cook Off and Literacy Festival would be held at the fairgrounds February 20 and 21, 2009. They want to advertise in Jacksonville to bring tourist into the County. They are inviting professional cook teams throughout Florida and Georgia. There will be children's art displayed during the event and they will highlight the literacy services available in the County. They hope to raise funds for scholarships for Bradford County students to attend Santa Fe.

Chairman Thomas asked if the \$4,200.00 grant request is in the TDC budget.

Mr. Miller indicated in the positive.

*On Motion of Commissioner Lewis, Seconded by Commissioner Sellars, the Board unanimously approved the [\\$4,200.00 TDC funding request](#).*

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**PAYMENT OF BILLS – COMMISSIONER CHANDLER:**

*On Motion of Commissioner Chandler, Seconded by Commissioner Lewis, the Board unanimously approved payment of the bills as reviewed. (A list of the bills is located in the Finance Office.)*

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**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

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**STATUS REPORT ON SHERIFF'S OFFICE – SHERIFF BOB MILNER:**

Sheriff Milner announced that he would be retiring December 31, 2008. Sheriff Elect Smith will take office at midnight on January 1, 2009 and will be coming on Board December 15, 2008 to begin the transition.

Sheriff Elect Smith said that he is looking forward to working with the Commission toward the betterment of the County and its citizens.

Via a Power-Point presentation, Sheriff Milner gave a status report of the Sheriff's Office. The presentation included crime statistics, courthouse services, the Drug Task Force, VOCA Grant (victim advocate), evidence room and weapons seizures, SWAT, patrol division, courthouse renovations, courthouse generator, jail, animal control, personnel (organizational chart) and budget.

They are currently fully staffed. However, they do keep vacancies at the jail on purpose in order to utilize part-time staff instead of full-time employees. Through the work of this Board, Clerk Norman and Jim Farrell, they are fully funded for the first time 16 years. There is enough money to pay everyone and all of the comp. time has been paid off at the tune of about \$50,000.00, which happens every year. Closing out the fiscal year 2007-2008 budget, he has three checks to turn over to the Commission: \$1,450.00 in Marshall monies, \$10,463.00 in unclaimed inmate bank accounts and revenue over expenditures for \$27,199.00.

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This Board has done a marvelous job working with him, Clerk Norman and Mr. Farrell over the years to get things where they needed to be to provide the kinds of services the citizens deserve. He has thoroughly enjoyed working with all the Commissioners. In his opinion, the current Commission is working more cooperatively, collectively and non-selfishly than any Board there has been. As a result, Bradford County is in as good a shape as it can ever be.

The Commissioners expressed their appreciation to Sheriff Milner for his service to Bradford County.

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**COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORTS – TERRY BROWN:**

**A. INTERLOCAL WITH KEYSTONE AIR PARK--**

Mr. Brown said that the Attorney for the City of Keystone has approved the proposed changes to the interlocal agreement. As soon as the interlocal is approved and signed by the City of Keystone, he will bring it back to this Board for final approval.

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**COUNTY MANAGER REPORTS – BRAD CARTER:**

**A. SHERIFF DONATION TO VFD**

He advised that the Sheriff has donated a 2003 Ford Explorer to the VFD to be used by the person who is responsible for repairing radios and radio equipment. It will remain parked at a fire station.

**B. BID AWARD FOR FABRICATION AND INSTALLATION OF GUTTERS AND DOWNSPOUTS ON LIBRARY:**

Requested that this item be table to the next meeting pending clarification.

**C. APPOINTMENT OF LIBRARY DIRECTOR:**

Mr. Robert Perone was the sole applicant from the internal advertisement for Library Director. Mr. Carter asked the Commission to appoint Mr. Perone as the Library Director with the raise retroactive to July 17, 2008, which is the time he was appointed as "Acting Library Director".

*On Motion of Commissioner Lewis, Seconded by Commissioner Sellars, the Board unanimously approved the appointment as requested.*

- The library will be closed on December 25 and 26, which are County holidays. However, they would also like to be closed on December 24, with the employees taking personal leave.

Solid Waste Department would like to swap a day and be closed December 24 and December 25 and be open December 26.

Both closings will be advertised.

(There were no objections to the closings.)

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Incited by inquiry of Commissioner Lewis, there was discussion regarding the outside lighting at the library and the prospect of solar power.

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**CLERK REPORTS – RAY NORMAN:** None.

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**COMMISSIONER’S COMMENTS:**

**Commissioner Chandler commented on the following:**

--At the Starke drop off site the driver is having a problem with having enough turn radius to navigate during a pick-up. He will get with Mr. Wise after the meeting.

--Reminded the Commission about the Visioning Meeting on December 3.

**Commissioner Lewis commented on the following:**

--During a recent fire in Brooker, the water tank on the truck kept clogging up. He asked Mr. Johns to get the tank repaired.

--January 13 at 7:00 p.m., Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) is having meeting concerning Sampson Lake floodgates (Three Pipes). It is his understanding that SRWMD is proposing to remove the gates. He, along with numerous residents on the lake, feels that would be a mistake. SRWMD needs to be advised of the concerns.

Extensive discussion ensued.

Ms. Christa Pusateri, of 9856 SW 139<sup>th</sup> Way, addressed the Commission. In her conversations with David Still, he has advised that the structure in place is inadequate and that is why they are proposing to remove it. At the January 13 public hearing, SRWMD needs to be advised of a water level that would be acceptable to the residents. The water level affects property values as well as the natural water habitat. It may also be possible to procure grant funds to replace the existing structure.

Commissioner Lewis suggested that Mr. Carter contact SRWMD to determine their exact intentions.

Chairman Thomas asked Mr. Carter to draft a letter to SRWMD expressing the Commission’s concerns.

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**CHAIRMAN COMMENTS – DOYLE THOMAS:**

--Encouraged the Commission to attend the Visioning Meeting on December 3, beginning at 3:30 at the Conference Center.

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**Commissioner Hersey commented on the following:**

--Asked the Commission to consider the possibility of declaring Friday, January 2, 2009 a County paid holiday since New Year's Day is on Thursday, January 1, and is a County paid holiday. This will give the employees Thursday and Friday off. The Commission can think about it and make a decision at the next meeting, which will give the Clerk time to see what is going on with the courts.

Clerk Norman advised that the courts are open. If the Commission elects to declare the holiday, he will try to work on a skeleton crew.

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**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

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

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**DOYLE THOMAS, CHAIRMAN**

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

Minutes prepared by Marlene Stafford, Deputy Clerk