

**MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2009**

The Bradford County Board of County Commissioners convened in regular session on Thursday, January 15, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. in the County Commission Meeting Room, 945 North Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida.

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

Also present were: Brad Carter, County Manager; Sandra Harrell, Administrative Assistant; Ray Norman, Clerk of Courts; Marlene Stafford, Deputy Clerk; Nora Thompson, Zoning Director; Allen Parrish, Emergency Medical Services Director; Paul Funderburk, Road Superintendent; Robert Perone, Library Director; Winifred Holland, Health Department Director; Mark Crawford, Press; Terry Brown, County Attorney; Sheriff Smith and Jim Farrell, Finance Director.

(See Supplement File No. 01-15-09 for a copy of documentation presented at this meeting.)

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. MINUTES OF REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING OF NOVEMBER 3, 2008**
- B. MINUTES OF REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING OF NOVEMBER 20, 2008**
- C. APPOINTMENT OF MICHAEL JULIANO TO THE BRADFORD COUNTY ZONING BOARD AND BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT – TERM TO EXPIRE SEPTEMBER 30, 2010**

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

APPROVE CONTRACT WITH D.A.B. FOR EMS BILLING – BRAD CARTER:

Mr. Carter said Counsel has reviewed the proposed contract. The presentation offered by Diversified Ambulance Billing, Inc. (D.A.B.) left the impression that collections can be significantly increased, which should offset the contract price and then some. There is a sufficient out clause that if that does not come to fruition, the contract can be canceled. The process will help free up staff for other duties and will address audit concerns relating to separation of duties within the department. Through the skilled negotiations of Mr. Parrish and through use of a piggyback on Clay County's contract, the County is getting a very good rate.

There was some discussion concerning the billing process and collection of delinquent accounts.

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

APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS – COMMISSIONER HERSEY:

Commissioner Hersey advised that he has reviewed the bills and recommends payment.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORTS – TERRY BROWN:

A. IMPACT FEE MORATORIUM—

As directed by the Board, he has prepared and provided each Commissioner with a copy of a draft ordinance for a proposed impact fee moratorium for review and consideration.

Discussion ensued which was not limited to but included the duration of the moratorium and time limits for pulling a permit and beginning construction.

Mr. Brown advised that the ordinance can be advertised as has been presented, and when it comes up for formal vote, the Commission can make the motion to approve the ordinance with 180 days instead of 365, as it relates to the time limits for pulling permits.

Commissioner Lewis MOVED to advertise the proposed ordinance as drafted.

There being no second, Chairman Thomas relinquished the gavel to Vice-Chairman Hersey and *SECONDED the motion. The MOTION CARRIED 4-1, with Commissioner Hersey dissenting.*

Vice-Chairman Hersey relinquished the gavel back to Chairman Thomas.

B. INTER-LOCAL BETWEEN BRADFORD COUNTY AND KEYSTONE HEIGHTS REGARDING KEYSTONE AIRPARK ZONING—

Mr. Brown advised that the City of Keystone has approved the agreement and it has been mailed. As soon as it has been received and reviewed, he will have it placed on the agenda for approval by the Board.

- At the last meeting, the Commission authorized the re-bid of three paving projects where a contract had been previously awarded. That a letter would be written to the existing contract holder (Florida Highway Products) to put them on notice of the County's intent and to proceed accordingly, provided the County did not end up in litigation. This placed the Board and County Manager in a difficult position. On the one hand, you have a signed contract, so the right and morale thing to do is to honor that contract. On the other hand, you have a duty to save taxpayer's dollars whenever possible. Due to the decrease in petroleum prices, it was believed that would mean a savings to the County.

The best of both worlds has occurred, to which he attributed to Mr. Carter. Florida Highway Products indicated that they did not believe there was legal basis to break the contract and if it was broken, they were prepared to litigate. At the same time, they recognized the difficult position the County was in, in terms of trying to protect taxpayer's dollars. As a result of that, Florida Highway Products negotiated with Mr. Carter a reduced contract rate to the tune of about a \$15,000.00 savings.

Mr. Brown then advised the Commission of the necessary steps to move forward.

On Motion of Commissioner Hersey, Seconded by Commissioner Sellars, the Board unanimously RESCINDED its prior decision to re-advertise.

On Motion of Commissioner Lewis, Seconded by Commissioner Sellars, the Board unanimously authorized the Chairman and the Clerk to execute the amended contract at the reduced contract rate and authorized the County Manager to give a Notice of Commencement when he deems appropriate.

Mr. Carter advised that the County is prepared to resume construction on the paving projects Tuesday morning.

COUNTY MANAGER REPORTS – BRAD CARTER:

- Mr. Parrish would like to address the Commission with regard to a grant request.

Mr. Parrish requested the Board's permission to submit two matching grant applications to the Department of Health, Bureau of EMS, for which there is a deadline of February 6.

- The first grant is a 75/25, \$50,000.00 grant, to purchase hydraulic/power-operated stretchers to assist crews with lifting. The matching funds are available in the County awards money held over from previous years.
- The second grant is a 90/10 grant to purchase an ambulance to replace one of the older Freightliner units that is in constant disrepair. They are looking at a truck for 120 to \$125,000.00 instead of 175 to \$180,000.00 as in times past.

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Clerk Norman advised that the additional revenues expected through the contract with Diversified Ambulance Billing, Inc. should cover the 25% match for the ambulance grant. Since this was not known and was not planned for, he would say the funds are not in the current budget, but it is a workable situation within the budget.

Mr. Parrish begged the Commission's pardon. He did not build the budget and is not real familiar with what dollars were put in the budget. However, it would be his recommendation to take advantage of any opportunity for the County to get .90 cents on the dollar.

On Motion of Commissioner Hersey, Seconded by Commissioner Lewis, the Board unanimously authorized Mr. Parrish to submit the grant application to purchase stretchers as requested.

On Motion of Commissioner Hersey, Seconded by Commissioner Lewis, the Board unanimously authorized Mr. Parrish to submit the grant application to purchase a new ambulance as requested.

CLERK REPORTS – RAY NORMAN: None.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS:

Commissioner Chandler:

- Expressed his appreciation to Mr. Carter and Mr. Brown for erring on the side of wisdom concerning the contract with Florida Highway Products.

CHAIRMAN COMMENTS – DOYLE THOMAS:

Chairman Thomas yielded the floor to Sheriff Smith.

Sheriff Smith thanked the Constitutional Officers and Commissioners for their assistance during the transition period and briefly reviewed some of the changes that have been made within the Sheriff's Office.

At the request of Commissioner Sellars, Mr. Carter gave an update on Three Pipes.

Mr. Carter said it is his assumption that it will take Suwannee River a while to digest what was discussed at the meeting and come up with a game plan. Anything they do from this point will take money and they did not seem to have a clear funding plan. Things will probably remain status quo for a while. Starting today, the Road Department began repair on the gates in terms of lubrication and new grease fittings to raise and lower the gates more efficiently. There are plans to attempt to remove the obstruction that is preventing the one gate from going into full closed position and derive a means to secure the gates. This should resolve the primary concerns expressed at the meeting.

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Chairman Thomas said he received a letter from the Florida Department of Transportation concerning the widening and construction of sidewalks for Weldon Street from SR16 to just past the elementary school. After conversations with DOT, this project has been moved up on the five-year work plan from 2012 to 2010.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

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

DOYLE THOMAS, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST: _____
RAY NORMAN, CLERK OF COURTS

Minutes prepared by Marlene Stafford, Deputy Clerk