

**MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2009
6:30 P.M.**

The Bradford County Board of County Commissioners convened in regular session on Thursday, March 19, 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; Marlene Stafford, Deputy Clerk; Jim Farrell, Finance Director; Nora Thompson, Zoning Director; Paul Funderburk, Road Superintendent; Robert Perone, Library Director; D.Z. Griffis, Facility Maintenance Director; Angela Macey, Community Development Director; Capt. Boatwright; Sheriff Smith; Winifred Holland, Health Department Director; and Mark Crawford, Press.

(See Supplement File No. 03-19-09 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.

Chairman Thomas yielded the floor to Sheriff Smith.

Sheriff Smith presented a [Quarterly Report](#) for January through March 2009.

RECOGNITIONS

The following Road Department employees were given special recognition for their skills and dedication in preparation of N.W. 180th Street for chip seal: Robert Rhoden, Alex Harper, and Troy Fornshell.

Chairman Thomas said that Bradford County has some wonderful employees that he is proud of. In the coming months, he would like to recognize employees from each department.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCES

--CERTIFICATION OF MOBILE HOME INSTALLERS—NORA THOMPSON:

Ms. Thompson read the title into the record:

“AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING ARTICLE VII OF THE BRADFORD COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES BY AMENDING SECTION 14-181 AND CREATING SECTION 14-218; PROVIDING FOR THE CERTIFICATION OF MOBILE HOME INSTALLERS BY BRADFORD COUNTY; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF ALL ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT WITH THIS ARTICLE; PROVIDING DIRECTIONS TO THE CODIFIER; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.”

Ms. Thompson explained that all contractors are currently required to be licensed with the building department, except for mobile home installers. The ordinance will require the contractor to pay a one-time \$50.00 fee and to keep up their license, bonding and general liability insurance.

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

On Motion of Commissioner Chandler, Seconded by Commissioner Lewis, the Board unanimously adopted the ordinance as presented. (The [Ordinance was assigned No. 09-03.](#))

RESOLUTIONS

--FDOT FOR RESURFACING OF NW CR229 FROM SR16 TO NW 177TH AVE—BRAD CARTER:

Mr. Carter said this is an official request to FDOT to resurface CR 229 as outlined in the resolution. FDOT will be widening the road 2' on each side and improving the shoulders. This reflects Bradford County's share of the transportation side of stimulus monies.

Mr. Brown read the title into the record:

“A RESOLUTION APPROVING PROPOSAL BY THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION UNDER THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009 FOR THE RESURFACING OF NWCR 299 FROM SR 16 TO NW 177TH AVENUE.”

On Motion of Commissioner Lewis, Seconded by Commissioner Sellars, the Board unanimously adopted the resolution as presented. (The [Resolution was assigned No. 09-04.](#))

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. PROCLAMATION FOR MOTORCYCLE SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH – MAY 2009
- B. AWARD S.H.I.P. REHAB BIDS
- C. S.H.I.P. SATISFACTION OF MORTGAGE
- D. S.H.I.P. PURCHASE ASSISTANCE LOANS NOT TO EXCEED \$30,000.
- E. I.G.C.F. EXPENDITURE REQUEST – PAYABLE TO HASTY’S COMMUNICATIONS, NOT TO EXCEED \$7,500. FOR REPAIR OF VHF ANTENNA
- F. I.G.C.F. EXPENDITURE REQUEST – REIMBURSE SHERIFF’S OFFICE \$2,300. FOR CSX PERMIT RELATING TO FIBER OPTIC CABLE CROSSING RAILROAD
- G. AGREEMENT BETWEEN TDC AND THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Chairman Thomas yielded the floor to Mr. Tom Nugent, a member of the Black Creek Chapter of ABATE of Florida, the State Safety Director, Secretary and Chaplain for the Chapter.

Mr. Nugent presented the proposed Proclamation Declaring May 2009 as “Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month” (Item ‘A’ on the Consent Agenda).

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

PRESENTATION BY FLORIDA WORKS – ANGELA PATE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND LINDA TATUM, VICE-CHAIR:

Ms. Linda Tatum and Mr. Jose Gavarrette, on behalf of Angela Pate, approached the Commission.

Mr. Gavarrette briefly reviewed Florida Works statistical data outlined on a [handout](#) presented to the Commission.

Mr. Gavarrette said that the stimulus package should be arriving the middle of April. There will be a lot of strategic planning on how the funds should be spent. He is working with the local Chamber of Commerce regarding a strategic planning meeting to be held tentatively, the first week of April.

Ms. Tatum added that there is a need for input regarding what type of trades/skills Florida Works should be focusing on for training purposes.

Commissioner Lewis suggested an increase to the percentage advantage considered for local bidders in the County bidding process. He would like to see the percentage raised to 10% from the current 5%. This would help stimulate local jobs.

This spurred some discussion regarding unemployment and unemployment benefits for those employees whose hours have been reduced due to the economy.

Ms. Tatum encouraged the Commission to attend a Workforce meeting on the 30th of March at 4:30 p.m. at the Gov. Charlie E. Johns Conference Center.

Discussion returned to increasing the percentage advantage considered for local bidders in the County’s purchasing procedures.

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Mr. Brown advised that the County’s purchasing ordinance would need to be amended. Currently, it entitles a 5% preference to local vendors. The percentage can be increased to 10% and remain constitutionally correct.

There was Board consensus for Mr. Brown to prepare the ordinance for Board review at the next meeting.

TDC EXPENDITURE REQUESTS – PAM WHITTLE/JOHN MILLER:

Mr. Miller applauded the Commission for the moratorium on impact fees. This action sends a great message to Bradford County.

Mr. Miller and Ms. Whittle reported on past and future community events and the usage of the Conference Center.

Ms. Whittle requested approval of the following funding requests (grants): \$2,000.00 for the European Rally School, Mad March Speed Fest, \$5,000.00 for the Strawberry Festival, and \$5,000.00 for the Starke Bike Fest.

On Motion of Commissioner Hersey, Seconded by Commissioner Sellars, the Board unanimously approved the [funding requests](#)/grants as presented.

PAYMENT OF BILLS – COMMISSIONER CHANDLER:

On Motion of Commissioner Chandler, Seconded by Commissioner Lewis, the Board unanimously authorized payment of the bills. (A list of the bills is on file in the Finance Office of the Office of the Clerk.)

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORTS – TERRY BROWN:

A. DISCUSS RESCINDING BRADFORD COUNTY CODE PROVISIONS CHAPTERS 34-31 THROUGH 34-35

Mr. Brown said that it was recently discovered that the County Code includes two ordinances regulating borrow pits that are more stringent and costly to developers than those contained in the County’s LDR. In consultation with the Planning Council, they conceded that the County ordinances should have been deleted and superseded by the LDR.

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At the direction of the Commission, he will advertise an ordinance that will delete the county regulations on borrow pits, which will leave the regulations contained in the LDR. In order to provide safeguards to the public, the Commission may want to review the provisions contained in the county ordinance and incorporate them into the LDR.

Commissioner Hersey recommended a workshop for further review.

Extensive discussion ensued.

Mr. Brown expressed concern that there is an ordinance on the books that has not been used in the permit process for borrow pits. First, the ordinance needs to be rescinded. Then the LDR needs to be reviewed and changed to make them more applicable to the needs of the County and to include additional safeguards and requirements contained in the ordinance. There may be some borrow pits that are not in compliance with the existing ordinance. However, to his knowledge, there are no pending code violations or complaints that have been filed against the pits.

Discussion continued.

Ms. Thompson said that there is a borrow pit permit application pending. It goes to the Zoning Board April 6 and then to the Commission on April 16.

Mr. Brown said that he would like to move forward with advertising a public hearing to rescind the ordinance at the next meeting. In the meantime, pending applicants are to be treated as other applicants have been treated.

There was additional discussion. Mr. Carter pointed out that the LDR does contain provisions to impose specific regulations on a case-by-case basis.

On Motion of Commissioner Chandler, Seconded by Commissioner Sellars, the Board unanimously approved to advertise a public hearing to rescind the existing ordinance, that the LDR will be the guideline used for pending applications, and set a workshop to strengthen the LDR regulations.

A workshop was scheduled for April 6 immediately following the regular meeting.

COUNTY MANAGER REPORTS – BRAD CARTER:

A. DISCUSS SPEEDVILLE PARK PROPERTY

Some time ago a corporation was formed in an effort to establish a park in the Speedville area. That corporation has since dissolved. There is now a newfound interest in a park and they wish to donate property to the County for such purpose. In order to be reinstated as an active corporation and be eligible to donate the property, there is about \$1,800.00 in back dues owed to the Department of State. They are requesting assistance from the County. Mr. Brown has drafted some documents that would allow the expenditure of County funds, with the stipulation that the property be donated to the County to procure a FRDP grant for a recreational park. The budget has been reviewed and a line item located containing sufficient funds.

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Mr. Brown expounded on what was relayed by Mr. Carter. He asked the Commission to approve the expenditure of such fees as necessary to the Department of State to reinstate the corporation in good standing so the corporation in turn can give the County clear title to the property.

On Motion of Commissioner Lewis, Seconded by Commissioner Hersey, the Board unanimously approved the expenditure as presented.

B. REQUEST APPROVAL OF PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY BCI ENGINEERS & SCIENTISTS, INC. TO CONDUCT THE NECESSARY REDESIGN AND CERTIFICATION OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY SURFACE WATER SYSTEM AS REQUIRED BY SRWMD

Mr. Carter reviewed the specifics that necessitated the need for the redesign. The engineering and design [proposal](#) is for \$12,308, which is not the total cost. BCI will hire the contractor to actually do the work. He feels that the Road Department will be able to perform a substantial amount of the work. Unfortunately, there is now way to determine the amount of the contractor's cost at this time.

Discussion ensued.

On Motion of Commissioner Hersey, Seconded by Commissioner Lewis, the Board unanimously approved the proposal as presented.

CLERK REPORTS – RAY NORMAN: None.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS:

Commissioner Chandler commented on the following:

- Thanked the Commission for supporting the letter sent to CSX concerning the crossings. The County deserves better treatment from them than what was received and he would like to continue pursuit until a response is received from CSX.
- Taking into account the worsening economic situation, he would like the Commission, Department Heads and the County Manager to begin putting together plans on how to handle a reduction in funding before it gets any worse.

Commissioner Sellars commented on the following:

- Concurred with Commissioner Chandler.

Commissioner Hersey commented on the following:

- April 27, the 631st Maintenance Company is being deployed to Iraq. He would like the Commission to consider a proclamation, as has been done in the past. He does not have particulars as of yet. However, if agreeable, he will get the necessary information for a proclamation.

There was consensus for Commissioner Hersey to move forward.

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Commissioner Lewis commented on the following:

- He would like Mr. Carter to encourage the department heads to begin working on savings and cutting back on expenses.
- Thanked the Commission for supporting the proposed amendment to the purchasing ordinance increasing the percentage of advantage to local vendors.
- Had a very productive meeting in Lincoln City last night regarding the proposed recreational park.

CHAIRMAN COMMENTS – DOYLE THOMAS:

- Reminded the Board members of their trip to Tallahassee next Wednesday, the 25th.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

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

DOYLE THOMAS, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST: _____
RAY NORMAN, CLERK OF COURTS

(Minutes prepared by Marlene Stafford, Deputy Clerk)