

**MINUTES OF
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
WORKSHOP WITH CITY OF STARKE COMMISSION
5:00 P.M.
TUESDAY, MAY 11, 2010**

The Bradford County Board of County Commissioners convened in a workshop session with the Starke City Commission on Tuesday, May 11, 2010, at 5:00 p.m. in the County Commissioners' Meeting Room, 945 North Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida.

PRESENT: Chairman Hersey, Commissioner Lewis, Commissioner Thomas, Commissioner Sellars and Commissioner Chandler, (City of Starke) Mayor Chastain, City Commissioner Woods, City Commissioner Spooner and City Commissioner Melissa Nugent.

ALSO PRESENT: Brad Carter, County Manager; Sandra Harrell, Administrative Assistant; Ray Norman, Clerk of Courts; Marlene Stafford, Deputy Clerk; Jim Farrell, Finance Director; Allen Parrish, Emergency Services Director; Joe Fisher, City Project Director, Sheriff Smith, Capt. Boatwright, Brian Johns, Emergency Management Director; Tom Rowe, City Fire Chief; Ricky Thompson, City Manager; Chief Johnson, Terry Brown, County Attorney; Capt. Barry Warren, City of Starke Police Department, Alicia McClellan, Recreation Department Director, and Mark Crawford, Press.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Hersey called the workshop to order at 5:06 p.m.

INTER-LOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN BRADFORD COUNTY AND CITY OF STARKE:

Items discussed:

- Automatic renewal, unless canceled by either party.
- Increasing the "Written Notice to Cancel" period to 90-days instead of 60-days.
- Removing paragraph #4 on page #2: "The County agrees to provide health department, EMS, and library services for City residents." Mr. Brown recommended changing the verbiage to read: "County will provide the same services to City residents as it provides to other County residents."

Directives:

- Include an automatic renewal clause with a 90-day period to provide written "Notice to Cancel" (Recommendation of County Attorney)
(Will be a one-year agreement that renews each year unless one party gives 90-day written notice that they do not want to renew the agreement.)
- Change verbiage of paragraph #4 on page #2 as recommended by Mr. Brown above.

Chairman Hersey advised that the Mr. Brown is to make the changes and each Commission will review and approve in their individual meetings.

INTER-LOCAL AGREEMENT FOR THE PROVISION OF ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES:

Items discussed:

- The pro rata share based on population outlined on page 2, paragraph #3
- The City paying half the utilities
- Total Animal Control budget
- Increase the 30-days in paragraph #8 on page 2, which would not apply if the pro rata share concept is used

Directives:

Each Commission is to continue to review the agreement for further discussion.

RECREATION

Items discussed:

- On behalf of the City Commission, Mayor Chastain proposed either a 50/50 split or consolidation of recreation services.
- The Recreation Department budget
- Stats of other recreation departments for surrounding counties
- Percentages of use by both County and City residents
- Fees charged by Recreation Department
- Inability of the City to continue funding the Recreation Department and the inability of the County to help with funding.
- Municipalities other than the City of Starke

Commissioner Chandler said that a more thorough review of the Recreation Department should be done before any final decision is made.

Directives:

Chairman Hersey said that each Commission should continue to research and plan.

Mayor Chastain asked the County Commission to provide Mr. Carter with a list questions and/or concerns and he in turn, can pass those on to Ms. McClellan for response.

Both Commissions will meet in another workshop on Tuesday, July 13 at 6:00 p.m.

CITY/COUNTY CONSOLIDATION (TO INCLUDE FIRE):

Consolidating Law Enforcement

Sheriff Smith reported that by his estimation, law enforcement could be provided for the City at the same level of service for about \$1.1 million for the first year, compared to the current \$1.4 million. This takes into account increases in retirement and insurance. The first year would be the most costly, with an anticipated decrease over the next few years.

(05-11-10 Workshop with City of Starke)

Chief Johnson cautioned everyone not to get the cart before the horse. There is a Charter that requires a Chief of Police and City Police Department. There is no reason to take the time researching, planning, and budgeting if the people do not want to consolidate. Government does not need to get in front of the people; government needs to speak for the people. If the people want to consolidate, let's do it and do a good job of it.

Items discussed:

- Educating the people for a ballot
- How the projected budget was estimated
- How the level of service would be affected
- Benefits of consolidation
- Job security for current employees

Directives:

Mr. Brown said that if consolidation is ever going to be done, now is the time. The relationship between the Chief and the Sheriff make this is a unique opportunity. We are not looking at turf battles between politicians; we are looking at people who want to do what is best for the County and the City.

Sheriff Smith and Chief Johnson are to continue to collect facts and figures for later discussion.

Consolidating Fire and Rescue Services

Chief Rowe said that of course it would cost the County to consolidate the services. He would need to confer with Mr. Parrish for an accurate estimation.

Items discussed:

- Full-time County fire department

Directives:

Chief Rowe and Mr. Parrish are to examine the possibilities for later discussion.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the workshop adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

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

JOHN WAYNE HERSEY, CHAIRMAN

**ATTEST: _____
RAY NORMAN, CLERK TO THE BOARD**

Minutes prepared by Marlene Stafford, Deputy Clerk