

**MINUTES OF
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING 9:30 A.M.
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2011**

The Bradford County Board of County Commissioners convened in a regular meeting on Monday, November 7, 2011, at 9:30 a.m., in the County Commission Chambers at 945 North Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida.

PRESENT: Chairman Lewis, Commissioner Thomas, Commissioner Riddick, Commissioner Sellars and Commissioner Chandler.

ALSO PRESENT: Brad Carter, County Manager; Terry Brown, County Attorney; Rachel Rhoden, Administrative Assistant; Ray Norman, Clerk of Courts, Marlene Stafford, Deputy Clerk; Jim Farrell, Finance Director; Terry Vaughan, Supervisor of Elections; Kelly Canady, Community Development Director; Allen Parrish, Emergency Services Director; Mark Williams, M&R Construction; Jerome Kelley, County Engineer; Mark Crawford, Press; Donny Wise, Solid Waste Director; Robert Perone, Library Director; Terry Vaughan, Supervisor of Elections; Tim Wilson, Cooperative Extension Director; Capt. Boatwright; Capt. Smith; and Jimmy Alvarez, Property Appraiser.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Lewis called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Paul Still—Bradford Soil and Water Conservation District—Santa Fe River Water Basin

Mr. Still addressed the proposed Santa Fe River Basin Management Action Plan with regard to nutrient requirements in water. The Bradford Soil and Water Conservation District disagrees with the Action Plan, and has asked the Department of Environmental Protection to remove the Upper Santa Fe Basin from the Plan, and has also voted to challenge the Plan if it is adopted as it is currently written. Mr. Still encouraged the County Commission to do the same.

Discussion ensued.

On behalf of the Commission, Mr. Carter is to prepare an opposition letter to the Department of Environmental Protection and Bradford County's Legislative Representatives.

Linda Vogel of 4738 SE 3rd Ave., Keystone Heights—Improper Disposal of Yard Debris by County Staff

Ms. Vogel advised that County Road Department employees have thrown yard debris over a fence onto someone else's property and advised her to do the same. Not only is this wrong, it is a fire hazard.

Mr. Carter said that he would look into Ms. Vogel's allegation. If it is in fact happening, corrective action will be taken.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONER CHANDLER TO THE MERIDIAN BEHAVIORAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
- B. MINUTES OF REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING OF 09-15-11**
- C. MINUTES OF FIRST PUBLIC HEARING ON MILLAGE & BUDGET OF 09-15-11**
- D. MINUTES OF FINAL PUBLIC HEARING ON MILLAGE & BUDGET OF 09-19-11**
- E. LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE OFFICE SHOP (FOUR (4) YEAR LEASE FOR COPIER/PRINTER FOR AG EXTENSION OFFICE FOR \$3,507.48 ANNUALLY)(This request supersedes previous agreement request with Xerox on 10-03-11.)**
- F. RENEWAL OF ANNUAL AGREEMENT WITH MERIDIAN BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE, INC., FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES (\$88,807.00—same as last year)**

*Commissioner Chandler moved, seconded by Commissioner Sellars, and **carried 5-0, to approve the [Consent Agenda](#) in its entirety.***

PAYMENT OF BILLS--COMMISSIONER RIDDICK:

*Commissioner Riddick moved, seconded by Commissioner Chandler, and **carried 5-0, to approve payment of the bills as reviewed.*** (A list of the bills is on file in the Finance Department of the Office of the Clerk.)

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ROAD MEMORIAL AWARDS (Speedville)—COMM. RIDDICK:

- A. S.E. 35TH ST. – MITCHELL STREET**
- B. S.E. 38TH ST. – BRYANT STREET**
- C. S.E. 39TH ST. – DONLEY STREET**

Commissioner Riddick presented the road memorial awards for consideration.

*Commissioner Riddick moved, seconded by Commissioner Thomas, and **carried 5-0, to approve the [Road Memorial Awards](#) and placement of signs.***

RESOLUTION:

--ENDORING THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF STARKE, INC. GRANT APPLICATION TO THE BUREAU OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION—JOANN ROWE:

Chairman Lewis recognized Ms. Rowe, who presented the Resolution for consideration. Adoption of the resolution endorses a Historic Preservation grant application filed by the Woman's Club to re-roof the Club building.

*Commissioner Thomas moved, seconded by Commissioner Sellars, and **carried 5-0, to adopt the resolution as presented.*** (The [Resolution was assigned No. 2011-25.](#))

(11-07-11 Regular Meeting)

ADA VOTING EQUIPMENT—TERRY VAUGHAN:

Chairman Lewis recognized Mr. Vaughan, who provided an update regarding voting equipment mandates requiring Florida to be an all paper state by the year 2016, to include ADA compliant equipment.

Currently the only certified product on the market is a product called The Auto Mark, which allows a blind voter to cast a paper ballot. The vendor he deals with is Elections Systems and Software (ES&S). ES&S recently came out with a new product that interfaces with their latest optical scan technology, which Bradford County does not have. The Auto Mark runs about 5-\$6,000 per unit and the County needs at least 17 units. He has negotiated a deal with ES&S whereby the County will trade-in the touch screens and then lease the new equipment for the first year for \$250.00 per unit, which includes maintenance and all coding and programming fees. During the last two years of the lease, the payments will be \$500.00 per unit. This is a savings of about \$90,000. The new equipment should be in place for the Presidential Preference Primary at the end of January. Included in his budget are monies for maintenance, coding and programming for the touch screen units. When you consider that those items are included in the price of the new equipment, it is going to be close to a wash, in terms of expense.

Commissioner Chandler moved, seconded by Commissioner Thomas, and **carried 5-0**, to approve the trade-in and lease of the equipment as presented by Mr. Vaughan.

BID RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SHIP REHAB PROJECTS—KELLY CANADY:

Chairman Lewis recognized Ms. Canady, who presented the [bid recommendations](#) as follows:

A. 22382 Park Street, Lawtey

Recommendation: Award bid to M&R Construction for \$16,505.00

*Commissioner Sellars moved, seconded by Commissioner Thomas, and **carried 5-0, to award the bid as recommended.***

B. 8068 SR100, Starke

Recommendation: Award bid to M&R construction for \$13,320.00

*Commissioner Thomas moved, seconded by Commissioner Sellars, and **carried 5-0, to award the bid as recommended.***

C. 827 Florida Street, Starke

Recommendation: Award bid to M&R Construction for \$10,095.00

*Commissioner Sellars moved, seconded by Commissioner Thomas, and **carried 5-0, to award the bid as recommended.***

(11-07-11 Regular Meeting)

D. 5280 NW 177th Street, Starke

Commissioner Thomas [declared a conflict](#).

Recommendation: Award the bid to Joe Wilson Builders, Inc., for \$16,450.00.

*Commissioner Chandler moved, seconded by Commissioner Sellars, and **carried 4-0, to award the bid as recommended.*** (Commissioner Thomas abstained.)

E. 1003 Southgate Drive, Starke

Recommendation: Award the bid to M&R Construction for \$11,545.00

*Commissioner Sellars moved, seconded by Commissioner Chandler, and **carried 5-0, to award the bid as recommended.***

F. 805 SE 51st Street, Keystone Heights

Ms. Canady advised that the low bidder, M.E. Perkins Construction and Plumbing, Inc. withdrew from this project. M&R Construction chose to exercise his right under the local preference ordinance and matched the next lowest bidder, which was Joe Wilson Builders, Inc. at \$16,259.00.

Recommendation: Award the bid to M&R Construction for \$16,259.00.

*Commissioner Sellars moved, seconded by Commissioner Chandler, and **carried 5-0, to award the bid as recommended.***

DISCUSS TAX ROLLS—JIMMY ALVAREZ:

(Included in the Commission packets were [documents relating to tax levies and tax rolls](#).)

Chairman Lewis recognized Mr. Alvarez, who addressed the Commission regarding the County's tax rolls. Mr. Alvarez:

- ❖ Commended the County Commission (both past and present) for their conservative approach regarding finances. There are many counties in Florida who are in very difficult financial straights, due to the downturn in the real estate market. The reason being is that in many counties and municipalities when the tax rolls were on the rise, they found new places to spend money and committed money that they no longer have. All the while, the Bradford County Commission has consistently held a conservative approach and although it has been difficult, Bradford County has not been affected to the extent of other counties.

Based on personal income, in terms of combined property tax levies, Bradford County is 63rd out of 67 counties. The statewide average is \$35.40. Bradford County is not only below the statewide average, but it is only 58% of the statewide average, which is commendable. Based on per capita, Bradford County is 58th out of 67 counties. Meaning, the property tax burden in Bradford County has been and continues to be very low relative to the state as a whole, largely due to the Commission's conservative approach.

(11-07-11 Regular Meeting)

- ❖ Cautioned the Commission: The state is far away from coming out of the decline in the real estate market. The taxable value in Bradford County has been declining since 2007 and continued to decline in 2011. Based on the valuation process, the 2012 tax roll for purposes of levying millage will decline as well. Even if the market comes back in 2013, it will not impact the tax roll until 2014. Meaning, at least three more years of low values and low property taxes. Tax rolls in south Florida began to decline in 2005, two years before Bradford County started feeling the impact. The same will be the case in the reverse; there will be a one to two year lag before Bradford County begins to see results of an upward market.

Between 2008 and 2011, the County's market value of properties went down 14.6%. However, taxable values only went down 2.8%. One of the reasons being "Safe our Homes", which places a cap on values. In a declining market, that cap is being eaten up. Those taxpayers whose market values are declining, their taxes are going up. As long as there is a cap, it has to increase and work its way up to the market value until they meet. Once this cap is worked through, there will be no cap to eat up; meaning there will be almost a dollar for dollar reduction. Every dollar that is reduced in market value will be reduced in taxable value. This could result in an acceleration of the decline.

- ❖ Made a commitment to the Commission: He will continue his practice to follow the Commission's conservative lead. Over the last three years, he has returned nearly \$150,000.00 of unexpended funds. His 2011-2012 budget is down almost 7% from last year.

COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORTS—TERRY BROWN: None.

SHERIFF REPORTS—GORDON SMITH:

- A. LIFE SAVING AWARD ISSUED TO LEE GARNTO:** This item was continued to the next regular meeting.

CLERK REPORTS—RAY NORMAN: None.

COUNTY MANAGER REPORTS—BRAD CARTER:

- A. COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE YOUTUBE VIDEO**

Mr. Carter asked Mr. Wilson to address the Commission.

Mr. Wilson shared a You Tube video that was developed by a Northeast District Agent. The video spotlights various programs and services provided by University of Florida IFAS Extension Offices in Northeast Florida.

B. DISCUSS LOCAL PREFERENCE ORDINANCE

Mr. Carter asked for clarification of how the Board intended the local preference ordinance to apply to partnerships. Currently, all partners must reside in the County. It has been suggested that if one partner is located in the County then the preference should apply. This could be accomplished through a minor revision of the ordinance.

After some discussion, there was a consensus to draft a revision of the ordinance requiring one of the partners to have a viable residence in Bradford County; said partner to be a working partner, not a silent partner.

C. BRIDGE STATUS UPDATE WITH MR. KELLEY, DRMP

Mr. Carter advised that DOT has been very helpful combining new found issues with some existing projects. However, in the event they cannot provide all the funds through grants, there may be a need to request fiscally constrained funds to make necessary repairs.

Mr. Kelley gave an update on the following projects:

- ❖ CR229—Sometime ago, the County received DOT funding to widen and resurface from where DOT left off to the County line. Problems were discovered at the Gum Creek Bridge and the County requested an additional \$300,000.00 to help replace the bridge.
- ❖ CR200A—After CR200A was resurfaced, DOT reported that the structure just north of Tatum Lumber (two 12-foot diameter culverts crossing the road) was in need of repairs/replacement, which will result in a substantial cost. DOT advised that since the \$300,000.00 allocated for the CR229 Gum Creek Bridge was allocated in this year's budget, the County could use up to \$300,000.00 towards the structure on CR200A.

The CR229 project will go out for bid as soon as possible. This will help determine if there will be any leftover funds available for the structure on CR200A and hopefully, by that time there will be a better understanding of what it will cost to repair or replace the structure on CR200A.

(There was brief discussion regarding repairing or replacing the CR200A structure.)

APAC has agreed to keep the contract open and adding the CR200A structure to the contract. If later down the road it is determined that it would be better to put it out for bid, it would be his recommendation to do so.

- ❖ 106th Avenue in Graham--There is a bad piling underneath the bridge that needs to be repaired or replaced at an estimated cost of \$10,000.00. They will attempt to procure DOT funding for this project.
- ❖ CR225 Bridge (DuPont)—The wing wall collapsed. DuPont has hired a consultant to design and make a recommendation for the repair of this structure. (DuPont is paying for the repair.)
- ❖ Crawford Road Bridge—Road Department will be making repairs to a bulkhead under the bridge.
- ❖ SE 144th (Mullins Grade)—The portion constructed by DOT should be opening soon. Final inspection is being done today.

(11-07-11 Regular Meeting)

- ❖ CR230A—A bid date for the widening and resurfacing under SCRAP has been set for December 8.

COMMISSIONER’S COMMENTS

Commissioner Riddick commented on the following:

A. DISCUSS LITTLE LAKE SANTA FE BOAT RAMP

Commissioner Riddick gave an update of the work being done at the boat ramp. There is a possibility of adding on to the end of the existing dock. He will continue to examine that possibility and come back to the Board with a recommendation.

Commissioner Chandler said that it is his understanding that a private individual paid for the construction of the boat ramp and they may be willing to invest with repairs as well. Unfortunately, he does not know the individual’s name. There is a company called Tedder Boat Ramp System, Inc., who constructs more boat ramps than any contractor in the State of Florida, and they build floating ramps

Commissioner Riddick said that several individuals who have asked why County employees cannot bid on surplus County vehicles have approached him.

Mr. Brown advised that there is too much of a potential conflict of interest.

Commissioner Chandler commented on the following:

- Based on the earlier vote of the Commission, he will begin serving on the Meridian Healthcare Board next month.
- Governor Scott would like to take the authority of adding and removing board members serving on the Regional Workforce Boards from the local governments. He does not want to see this happen. Commissioner Chandler shared a few recent accomplishments of the Alachua/Bradford Workforce Board.

CHAIRMAN COMMENTS—EDDIE J. LEWIS: None.

ADJOURN: There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

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

ROSS CHANDLER, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST: _____
RAY NORMAN, CLERK OF COURTS

Minutes prepared by Marlene Stafford, Deputy Clerk