
UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION

15 NORTHEAST 1ST STREET • LAKE BUTLER, FL • 32054

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MINUTES REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 21, 2014 7:00 PM

NOTE: If any person decides to appeal any decision made with respect to any matter considered at this meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record for the proceedings and may need to insure that a verbatim record is made.

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chairman Tallman called the meeting to order.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Chairman Tallman invited State Representative Charles Van Zant to deliver the invocation and Chairman Tallman led the pledge.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Melissa Shoup stated that she lives in District 5 on Black Creek Road and had to call the Sheriff's Office on Sunday because of problems with Palestine Hunting Club. She stated that she was out with two small children and three vehicles went flying by and "shooting birds" at her. She stated that she feels threatened because the hunters are blocking the road with their vehicles and drinking on the side of the bridge. She informed the Board that her seven year old had to beat hunting dogs off of their goats. Chairman Tallman asked if she had checked with the Game Commission. Commissioner Smith stated that a 30 mph speed limit sign could be placed out there and asked Mr. Arnold to install one.. Commissioner Smith also suggested that she contact either Officer Brett Gill or Officer Johnston with the Game Commission, but that the Board had no further ability beyond installing the speed limit sign.

State Representative Charles Van Zant was present to suggest that the Board discuss designating roads to be named after Sheriff Jerry Whitehead and Marvin Pritchett. Commissioner Smith agreed and stated that the County should also communicate with the City of Lake Butler regarding this matter.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 19, 2013, Special Meeting and December 16, 2013, Regular Meeting
Commissioner Smith moved, seconded by Commissioner Cossey, to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

5. FINANCE REPORT

Consideration For Approval To Pay The Bills
Commissioner Cossey moved, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to pay the bills. The motion passed unanimously.

Budget Amendments 2014-004

Commissioner Smith moved, seconded by Commissioner Cossey, to approve Budget Amendments 2014-004. The motion passed unanimously.

6. REQUEST FOR "NON-CONFORMING" USE OF LAND

Howard Lidsky, Potential Buyer – Amber Roberts-Crawford, Broker
Commissioner Smith stated that back in 1995 he helped put the Land Development Regulations (LDR) in place. He informed the Board that he had spoken with Scott Koons, North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, about Mr. Lidsky's desire to purchase this property to run cattle on. He stated that Mr. Koons advised him that Mr. Lidsky needs a letter signed by the Chairman stating that the Board has approved this property as a "lawful, non-conforming use". *Commissioner Smith moved, seconded by Commissioner Cossey, to*

instruct Board Secretary, Dianne Hannon to prepare a letter stating that if Mr. Lidsky does purchase the property he will be allowed to run cattle on the property for grazing purposes only, and no feed lots or slaughter houses will be allowed. The motion passed unanimously.

7. UPDATE ON BOND FOR LAKE BUTLER SENIOR LIVING FACILITY

Maggi. Wetzel did not attend the meeting.

8. FARMER'S MARKET APPRAISAL & FURTHER ACTION

Mr. Stankiewicz, CFO, informed the Board that the Farmer's Market property appraised at \$155,000. He stated that the appraiser had to go to Bradford County to obtain comps since Union County didn't have comparable commercial property that has been recently sold. *Commissioner Smith moved, seconded by Commissioner Cossey, to declare the Farmer's Market as surplus property. Commissioner Smith moved, seconded by Commissioner Cossey, to put the Farmer's Market out for bids with no minimum bid listed, but reserving the right to reject any and all bids if necessary.*

9. BUILDING INSPECTOR CONTRACT

Chairman Tallman stated that Mr. Whidden has done a great job filling in as our Building Administrator and he would like to see the Board make it official. *Commissioner Smith moved, seconded by Commissioner Cossey, voted to sign a contract between Mr. Whidden and the County that will pay him \$20,000 a year. County Attorney Wade was asked to have the contract prepared by February 1, 2014. The motion passed unanimously.*

Commissioner Smith stated that he thought it would be better if Mr. Whidden drove a county vehicle so that citizens would know that he was from the Building Department when he arrived at their home. It was agreed to by the Board that Mr. Whidden should drive a county vehicle from the Building Department to the inspection site.

Commissioner Smith stated Trish Benefield, Building Department Secretary, has taken on extra work since the Building Administrator only works two days a week. Commissioner Smith suggested giving Mrs. Benefield a raise. *Commissioner Smith moved, seconded by Commissioner Cossey, to give Trish Benefield a raise of .50 cent a hour, effective next pay period.*

10. RESOLUTION 2014-001

Commissioner Cossey moved, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to approve Resolution 2014-001. The motion passed unanimously.

11. 2014 ETHICS WORKSHOP INFORMATION

Clerk of Courts, Kellie Hendricks Connell informed the Board that during the 2013 Legislative Session, the Florida Legislature passed new ethics legislation requiring that Commissioners and Constitutional Officers take four hours of ethics programming each calendar year. Board Secretary, Dianne Hannon will keep the Commissioners aware of all upcoming training sessions.

12. REPORT FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS

Jimmy Beasley, Solid Waste Department
Absent.

Shelton Arnold, Jr., Road Department

Mr. Arnold informed the Board that the diesel tank at the Road Department is now empty and he would like to declare it as surplus property. Commissioner Smith stated that he thought the County should keep it another six months. Mr. Stankiewicz stated that by keeping it, it remains a liability for the County. Commissioner Smith stated that he has been in talks with the people from GW Hunter, a fuel company that will be closing on six acres in Lake Butler in the near future. Commissioner Smith informed the Board that GW Hunter would be willing to give the

County a discount on fuel. Mr. Arnold stated that the County would be able to use their current fuel cards if such fuel station was built. *Commissioner Smith moved, seconded by Commissioner Cossey, to allow Mr. Arnold to declare the tank as surplus property. The motion passed unanimously.*

Mary Brown, Public Library

Mrs. Brown informed the Board that everything was going well with the library.

Chris Drum, EMS

Mr. Drum thanked the Board for approving Resolution 2014-001. He informed the Board that EMS put on a water rescue training class. He also stated that 10 AEDs have been purchased and should be arriving shortly. He plans on the EMS Department conducting a training class themselves to county employees and other citizens.

Mr. Drum informed the Board that revenue is decreasing right now for EMS. He stated that the Health Care Act and the change at the prisons have not helped the situation. He stated that he doesn't know how much more efficient they can get and just wanted the Board to be aware of this matter.

John Walker, Emergency Management

Absent.

Mitch Andrews, Volunteer Fire Department

Nothing to report.

Basil Bactawar, Extension Office

Mr. Bactawar informed the Board that the University of Florida has hired a new Family & Consumer Agent and she will begin work on February 5th.

13. REPORT FROM KELLIE HENDRICKS CONNELL, CLERK OF COURTS

Clerk Connell reported that there had been some issues with the Whitehead's family insurance. She stated that AvMed incorrectly canceled the insurance for Sheriff Whitehead's family after he passed away. Mr. Stankiewicz informed the Board that he has been working with Deandra from AvMed and her manager to resolve this issue. He stated that as of today, AvMed approved the County's request that they cover 100% of the family's portion cost until June 30, 2014. Mr. Stankiewicz asked the Board if they would be willing to cover the Sheriff's portion since it was already in the budget and to show appreciation for the service he provided for so many years. This would result in the Whitehead family paying zero dollars for health insurance until July. *Commissioner Smith moved, seconded by Commissioner Dobbs, to have the County cover the cost of the Sheriff's portion \$720.94 for medical insurance until June 30, 2014. The motion passed unanimously.*

14. REPORT FROM RUSSELL A. WADE III, COUNTY ATTORNEY

Nothing to report.

15. REPORT FROM THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Karen Cossey, District 1

Commissioner Cossey stated that she would like for the Board Meetings to begin earlier than the current time of 7:00 p.m. *Commissioner Cossey moved, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to change the time of the Regular Board Meeting from 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. effective February 17, 2014. The motion passed unanimously.*

Morris Dobbs, District 2

Nothing to report.

Jimmy Tallman, District 3.

Chairman Tallman stated that he has spoken with County Forester, Jay Tucker about the County's timber land and thinks it would be a good idea to plow timber lines around the property and the Board agreed.

Chairman Tallman informed the Board that Recreation Ball will be starting soon.

Chairman Tallman informed the Board that there has been some communication problems with the CDBG. He stated that they are now requiring that the County advertise for contractors in the Gainesville Sun. The ad is to run for twelve days.

Chairman Tallman asked everyone to pray for Willie Croft and his family.

M. Wayne Smith, District 4.

Commissioner Smith asked what account has \$154,825? Mr. Stankiewicz stated that would be the General Fund with money set aside for the two fire stations. Commissioner Smith stated that he would like to ask the Board's permission to use District 4's portion of the money (\$76,825) to spend \$31,667 paving NW 45th Street. He stated that he had spoken with Jack Whitehurst and he would allow the County to piggy-back off the CR-240 project. Mr. Stankiewicz stated that would be legal as long as it is the same scope of work. Commissioner Smith stated that he would like to take the remainder of the money after the paving, approximately \$45,000 and use it with the FEMA Grant money to repair the Providence Club House. *Commissioner Smith moved, seconded by Commissioner Dobbs, to use \$31,667 of the money designated for the Providence Fire station to pave NW 45th Street in Providence and to use the remaining \$45,000 along with the remaining FEMA Grant money to repair the Providence Club House. The motion passed unanimously.*

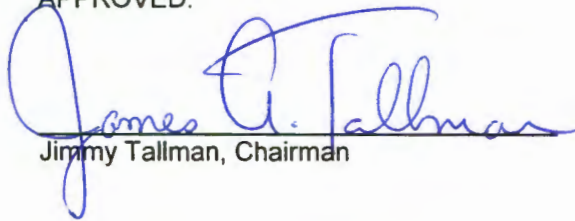
Willie Croft, District 5

Absent.

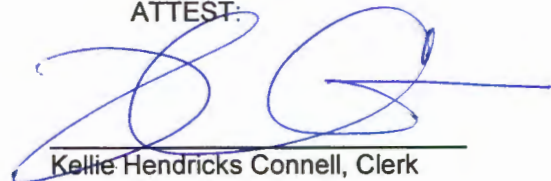
ADJOURNMENT

MINUTES PREPARED BY: Dianne Hannon

APPROVED:


Jimmy Tallman, Chairman

ATTEST:


Kellie Hendricks Connell, Clerk