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# UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION

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## MINUTES REGULAR MEETING NOVEMBER 18, 2013 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 delivered the invocation and led the pledge.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Commissioner Smith stated that he would like to explain something to the audience and the Board. He stated that in February 2013 he and Commissioner Dobbs sat on the New River Solid Waste Board and each of the three counties received \$300,000. He stated that at budget time that money was used to balance the budget and that was a no-no. He stated that at the October 3<sup>rd</sup> New River Solid Waste meeting each of the three counties received \$100,000. He stated that last month he brought up the \$27,500 remaining from the original \$300,000 and wanted to spend it on a fire station for Providence along with the \$100,000 from October. He stated that he told Commissioner Croft he would help him get some money later. Commissioner Smith stated that he could build a fire station for \$115,000 and he said that Chairman Tallman said that he could build one for \$59,000. Commissioner Smith stated that he doesn't want a "hay barn" and he doesn't feel that it is right for three Commissioners (Cossey, Tallman and Croft) to tell him how to spend money in his district. He stated that ten years ago he applied for a Rescue Station Grant and it was moved to Worthington Springs instead of Providence. He stated that he would like for the future fire station in Providence to also be a rescue station. He said that Union County has three rescues and it wouldn't cost the County anything to move one of the trucks to Providence. He stated that it was a shame for those three commissioners to tell us what we need in Providence. He stated that it would lower the cost of home owners insurance for the citizens of Providence by having a fire station there. He stated that he was asking the Board to let him have the \$100,000 and the \$27,500 so that he could build a fire station in District 4. He stated that he has planned on this fire station for years. He said that when he had the well put down for Sarah's Park, he had a fire station in mind so he ordered a 6" well with a 10hp motor that pumps 200 gallons a minute that would be necessary for a fire station. Commissioner Cossey stated that Commissioner Smith is not correct in stating that there are three commissioners against the fire station. She stated that the discussion never got that far because the last meeting became heated and Commissioner Smith walked out. Chairman Tallman stated that he was not planning a "hay barn", but an enclosed 40x60 structure with roll-up doors on the front and back and a removable wall that would allow the building to be expanded later when the County is more financially able. Chairman Tallman stated that this building would cost \$55,000. Chairman Tallman passed out a drawing of the building to the public in attendance. He stated that the Board has had discussions about the fire stations for over a year and this is the first that he has heard about EMS being housed at the station. Chairman Tallman asked EMS Director, Chris Drum for his professional opinion on the matter. Mr. Drum stated that he would do whatever the Board instructed him to do. He stated that the Worthington Springs Rescue Station is not located in a good place and can't reach everyone quickly. He informed the Board that he spends thousands of dollars training employees just to turn around and lose them in six months to a county that can afford to pay them more money. He has been awarded a grant for AED devices, but can't afford the 25%

match for the grant. Commissioner Smith stated that finance has nothing to do with it and you don't need money for a station. Mr. Drum stated that this is the first time he's heard anything about having a rescue in Providence. Mr. Drum stated that he spent \$285,000 in overtime last year and he can't staff a truck when he can't keep employees. Mr. Keith Ward, a District 4 citizen interrupted Chairman Tallman as he started to speak and Chairman Tallman called him out of order. Chairman Tallman stated that Daryl O'Neal, NRSWA Director, stated his concern about \$1.2 million that has been given out. Chairman Tallman stated that there is long term care for NRSWA and by taking on the same liability as the other two larger counties we are putting a burden on our children and grandchildren. Chairman Tallman stated that Alachua County is the largest customer for the tri-county landfill and has really stressed some major concerns about why you can give \$1.2 million out and then continuously increase their tipping fees, that was the big kicker. He also stated if Alachua County pulls out, they would have to shut the gate out there. Chairman Tallman admitted to using the \$260,000 to balance the budget, but if the Board didn't do that, it would have resulted in either canceling insurance for employees, some of who would not be able to receive insurance elsewhere or a massive layoff. Commissioner Smith stated that NRSWA has nearly a million dollars in operating and they only need \$400,000 a month to operate. Chairman Tallman stated that if there was one disaster out there it would be a major problem. Commissioner Croft stated that at the September meeting, Commissioner Smith said that they would split the money and now he wants to keep all of it. Chairman Tallman stated that Commissioner Smith was not acting on behalf of the County. Chairman Tallman stated that just because he serves on the Health Board doesn't mean that he gets to take credit for a \$1.2 million dollar grant they received. He stated that he would never be so arrogant as to say "I" got the money.

Keith Ward stated that most Commissioners do very little for Union County except for Commissioner Smith and Commissioner Dobbs. He stated that he doesn't think the other three Commissioners are earning their salary. Commissioner Cossey stated that she is on the Suwannee River Economic Council Board and brings in \$350,000 a year, but doesn't brag that "she" did it. Chairman Tallman stated that he has never missed a meeting and this is only the second time that he has seen Mr. Ward at a meeting. He stated that he had been very gracious last time, but he was not going to be beat up, again. Chairman Tallman stated that they all earn their salaries. Chairman Tallman encouraged Mr. Ward to attend more meetings.

Delbert Smith stated that his father had been a Commissioner for Union County for many years. He stated that it was the Board's job to administrate and they are going to be faced with some tough decisions. He also advised the Board that eventually they must tell someone no. He stated that they should spend for the betterment of the County.

Commissioner Smith asked Fire Chief, Mitch Andrews that if the building Chairman Tallman is proposing, is built, where would people stay? Commissioner Smith stated that the building is not built for people to stay in. Mr. Andrews informed the Board and the public that they are a volunteer fire department. They would come from their homes or where ever they were at. Mr. Andrews stated that to lower ISO ratings, it only requires an enclosed building and a heater. Mr. Andrews stated that people should not think by having a fire station, that they can knock on the door and someone will be there. It is a volunteer station.

Walt Layman suggested the Board work together as one.

Chuck Clyatt stated that the Board needed to work together and it was obvious that there was a personal vendetta among Board members. He stated that Providence is ready for a Fire & Rescue Station. He stated that they have a well and the land has been donated and he felt the citizens of Providence shouldn't have to settle for a metal shed. Mr. Clyatt stated that everyone needs to work as a team. He also announced that he plans to run for the District 4 Commissioner seat when Commissioner Smith retires.

John Holt stated that they need services in Providence.

Robert Lukatz stated that the people of Providence have been waiting for a fire station for a long time.

Iris Holmes stated that she could feel the tension and the Board needs to work together.

Commissioner Smith stated that 22 years ago he stated that he would represent the County and District 4 to the best of his ability. He stated that now it would be up to the rest of the Board to get money for the County and he was only representing District 4.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

October 21, 2013, TEFRA Hearing at 6:30 p.m. & October 21, 2013, Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

*Commissioner Cossey moved, seconded by Commissioner Croft, to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.*

5. FINANCE REPORT

Consideration For Approval To Pay The Bills

*Commissioner Cossey moved, seconded by Commissioner Dobbs, to pay the bills. The motion passed unanimously.*

Budget Amendments 2013-008 and 2014-002

*Commissioner Cossey moved, seconded by Commissioner Croft, to approve Budget Amendments 2013-008 and 2014-002.*

A & A Transport Lease Agreement

Chief Financial Officer, Justin Stankiewicz informed the Board that the Department of Transportation will not allow the County to charge A & A Transport rent for the Transportation Building. Mr. Stankiewicz stated that the County is not allowed to make a profit on the facility, but is allowed to bill A & A Transport for insurance and any maintenance on the building will be paid for directly by A & A Transport. The Lease Agreement should be ready to present to the Board at the December meeting.

6. BILL MCGILL

Museum

Mr. McGill requested to be placed on the December Agenda due to the Public Comments taking up so much time.

7. MIKE RIPPLINGER, UCHS PRINCIPAL

Greenhouse Project

Mr. Ripplinger stated that County Extension Agent, Basil Bactawar asked him to give an update to the Board on this project. Mr. Ripplinger explained to the Board that last year they were able to secure a \$50,000 grant for a greenhouse, thanks in part to a support letter written by the Board. He stated that at this time they are trying to secure bids, but are having a little difficulty receiving them. He hopes to have all bids in during the month of December. He stated that they are looking at a 30x60 structure, but could go smaller. He informed the Board that the grant will only cover the cost of permanent items. He stated that he believes the structure will cost approximately \$25,000-\$35,000, and they hope to have it ready for next school year.

8. BENNY SNYDER

This item was rescheduled for a special meeting on November 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

9. PROCLAMATION FOR PANCREATIC CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

*Commissioner Cossey moved, seconded by Commissioner Croft, to approve the Proclamation declaring November as Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month.*

10. REPORT FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS

**Jimmy Beasley, Solid Waste Department**

Nothing to report.

**Shelton Arnold, Jr., Road Department**

Nothing to report.

**Mary Brown, Public Library**

Nothing to report.

**Chris Drum, EMS**

Nothing to report.

**John Walker, Emergency Management**

Absent, but asked Clerk of Courts, Kellie Hendricks Connell to address the Board for him during his absence. Mrs. Connell reported that Emergency Management had received a 911 grant for \$44,052.75 and \$10,025.25 for their audio upgrades and a new backup battery. She informed the Board that the Providence Community Center has been approved by FEMA to be retrofitted under the Tropical Storm Debby Disaster.

**Mitch Andrews, Volunteer Fire Department**

Mr. Andrews stated that they are in a time crunch. He informed the Board that they have several engines that have been refurbished. He stated that the 1989 truck they use actually belongs to the Division of Forestry and is in need of extensive repair. He stated that he doesn't advise putting any more money into it. He informed the Board that Hillsborough County has a surplus Truck, a 2000 model for \$45,000 and if you were to go online this truck would cost \$75,000-\$100,000. He stated that he hopes to act quickly on it or the truck will be sold and they will be down a truck. Commissioner Smith questioned how he planned on paying for the truck because it would take nearly half of his budget. Mr. Andrews stated that was the problem, he couldn't use his money and he had spoken with Mr. Stankiewicz. Mr. Andrews said that he thought they could borrow the money or look for it elsewhere in the budget. Mr. Stankiewicz stated that it is the Board's decision. Mr. Stankiewicz stated that Mr. Andrews and he had discussed using a portion of next year's budget for this and he also has a lease for one of his vehicles ending. He stated that Mr. Andrews would forego the brush truck that he has for next year's budget. Commissioner Smith asked how much Mr. Andrews was willing to give up of next year's budget and Mr. Stankiewicz responded that they hadn't look into the matter that far because they wanted to get direction from the Board before proceeding. Commissioner Smith stated that the County only has \$16,000 in contingency and you can't use GFSA. He stated that you can't rob Peter to pay Paul, but if Mr. Stankiewicz and Mr. Andrews can find the money and not use next year's money, he will be in favor. Mr. Andrews stated that it was up to the Board and he would try to make the truck he has run, but wanted to make sure the Board is aware that the truck doesn't belong to the County and the Division of Forestry could take it at any time. Mr. Andrews stated that he thinks it would cost approximately \$15,000-\$20,000 to repair the truck. Mr. Andrews stated that the truck is a 1989 and the manufacturer is out of business, which gives him great concern about finding parts for it. Commissioner Smith suggested that Mr. Andrews check with Parts Go in Gainesville.

**Basil Bactawar, Extension Office**

Absent.

11. REPORT FROM KELLIE HENDRICKS CONNELL, CLERK OF COURTS

Nothing to report.

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

Mr. Wade asked if he would be needed at the 9:00 a.m. meeting tomorrow because he had a scheduling conflict. Chairman Tallman stated that he would rather him attend because the Board may need counsel.

15. REPORT FROM THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

**Karen Cossey, District 1**

Nothing to report.

**Morris Dobbs, District 2**

Nothing to report.

**Jimmy Tallman, District 3**

Nothing to report.

**M. Wayne Smith, District 4**

Commissioner Smith asked Mr. Stankiewicz to call Lee Hardenbrook to cancel the appraisal on the Providence property that was to be donated by Scott Rivers for the Providence Fire Station. Commissioner Smith stated that Mr. Rivers said if there was no decision reached tonight, he would not donate the property to the County.

**Willie Croft, District 5**

Nothing to report.

MINUTES PREPARED BY: Dianne Hannon

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

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Jimmy Tallman, Chairman

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Kellie Hendricks Connell, Clerk