
UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION

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

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MINUTES REGULAR MEETING DECEMBER 16, 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
None.
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
November 18, 2013, Reorganization Meeting 6:30 p.m., November 18, 2013, Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m. and November 19, 2013, Special Meeting, 9:00 a.m.
Commissioner Smith moved, seconded by Commissioner Croft, to approve the minutes from the Reorganization Meeting and the Regular Meeting on November 18, 2013. The motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Smith stated that he will address the minutes of the Special Meeting from November 19, 2013 later during the meeting.
5. FINANCE REPORT
Consideration For Approval To Pay The Bills
Commissioner Cossey moved, seconded by Commissioner Croft, to pay the bills. The motion passed unanimously.

Budget Amendments 2014-003
Commissioner Cossey moved, seconded by Commissioner Dobbs, to approve Budget Amendments 2014-003. The motion passed unanimously.

A & A Transport Lease Agreement
Chief Financial Officer, Justin Stankiewicz, informed the Board that everyone had a copy of the proposed A & A Transport Agreement in their packets and the Department of Transportation is reviewing the Agreement at this time. *Commissioner Cossey moved, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to approve the A & A Transport Lease Agreement, pending approval by the Department of Transportation. The motion passed unanimously.*
6. MARVIN ARNOLD
Mr. Arnold came before the Board to discuss the situation that led to his dismissal from the Solid Waste Department. He stated that a lady came to the collection site pulling an 18-20 foot trailer loaded down with garbage. He stated that he told the lady that she was only allowed to bring one small truck load of garbage per day to the collection site. He informed the Board that he also gave her a copy of these instructions along with Mr. Beasley's phone number. Mr. Arnold stated that a week ago Friday, Mr. Beasley came out to the collection site and informed him that he was fired. Mr. Arnold stated that the last time this happened Mr. Beasley was making up complaints about him and harassing him because Mr. Beasley wants someone else in the position. Mr. Beasley questioned whether the "Last Chance Agreement" Mr. Arnold signed on March 4, 2013 was any good. Christa Myers, Secretary for the Road Department/Solid Waste stated that the complaint was received by Lacey Boatright in the Finance Department. Ms. Myers stated that

the lady said she was dumping for two households and that is why she had so much trash. Ms. Myers stated that the lady said her complaint was that Mr. Arnold wouldn't help unload her garbage. Mr. Beasley stated that he asked Janet Booth, Human Resources, to ride with him to the collection site where Mr. Arnold was working. Mr. Beasley stated that he fired Mr. Arnold since there was a "Last Chance Agreement" in place. Commissioner Smith stated that a special meeting should have been called. Commissioner Smith stated that it is the Board's responsibility to fire someone. Commissioner Smith asked Clerk of Courts, Kellie Hendricks Connell, to read different parts of the personnel policy out loud. Commissioner Smith stated that he doesn't feel that it is right for the Chairman to be the one that must make the decision to fire an employee. Chairman Smith stated that he would like the Board to reword the policy where it deals with termination. *Commissioner Smith moved, seconded by Commissioner Cossey, to change the wording of the County's Personnel Policy in regards to terminating an employee. The Board will make the decision to terminate an employee who has already passed their probation period. The Supervisor will place the employee on leave without pay until a special meeting can be called for the Board to act on the situation. If an employee has not passed their probation period the Supervisor may terminate employment without coming before the Board. The motion passed unanimously.* Mr. Beasley stated that he was going by the "Last Chance Agreement" and was under the impression that he had to terminate Mr. Arnold since he had a complaint against him. Mr. Beasley agreed that Mr. Arnold was doing his job and following the instructions in regards to residents dumping garbage. Mr. Beasley asked if the Board Secretary, Dianne Hannon could write a letter to the lady who made the complaint and see what could be done to make her happy. Commissioner Smith stated that he will contact the lady since she is from his district. Mr. Arnold will return to work and be paid administrative leave for the days he was unable to attend work.

7. BILL MCGILL

Museum

Mr. McGill was unable to attend.

8. TENTATIVE 5 YEAR WORK PROGRAM

Jordan Green and William Henderson, Florida Department of Transportation

Greg Evans, District II Secretary for the Florida Department of Transportation came before the Board to give an update on the Tentative 5 Year Work Program. Mr. Evans informed the Board that Mr. Green was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Evans informed the Board that there are eighteen counties in the District II area and they serve over two million citizens. He stated that they currently have over 80 active projects in the works.

Bill Henderson, Florida Department of Transportation stated that they will be working on pretty much all state roads in Union County over the next 5 years. He invited everyone to attend a Public Information Meeting on January 23, 2014, beginning with an open house at 4:30 p.m. and a public meeting at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Lulu Community Center. This meeting is to discuss the replacement of the CR-241 Bridge over Olustee Creek and various alternative routes.

9. UPDATE ON BOND FOR LAKE BUTLER SENIOR LIVING FACILITY

Maggi Wetzel

Ms. Wetzel was unable to attend.

10. COUNTY HEALTH INSURANCE

Debbie Thomas

Mrs. Thomas stated that she was present to give an update to the Board. She stated that the dental insurance packet should be ready soon. Mrs. Thomas informed the Board that 27 employees have signed up for the dental insurance and 80 employees have signed up for the voluntary life insurance. She also stated that she would like to thank Lacey Boatright for all of her help. Mrs. Thomas informed the Board that 40 employees attended the Health Fair on November 14th and they gave out 34 door prizes. Mrs. Thomas stated that she will begin

shopping for new insurance rates the first part of April.

11. CELL PHONES

Clerk of Courts, Kellie Hendricks Connell informed the Board that the County is spending just under \$16,000 a year on cell phones and she is asking the Board's direction on how they would like to handle this matter. Commissioner Smith suggested that the phones be set up so that they can only call county employees. He stated that the phones are not for personal use. Christa Myers, Road Department/Solid Waste Department Secretary informed the Board that Sprint would like to send three test phones for them to try out for free for 30 days. Clerk Connell is to shop for rates with other carriers and to present a list to the Board showing which employees have County cell phones and their monthly cost.

12. HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Mrs. Connell stated there seems to have been some disappointment through the years over the difference in holiday leave time between County employees and Courthouse employees and she would like the Board's direction on this matter. Commissioner Smith suggested that they have the same days off for the holidays, but make sure that EMS has enough in their budget to cover the cost. Clerk Connell informed the Board that the courthouse would be closed a half day on Christmas Eve, the entire day on Christmas day and the day after Christmas. *Commissioner Cossey moved, seconded by Commissioner Croft, for County employees and Courthouse employees to follow the holiday schedule of the Courthouse. The motion passed unanimously.*

13. FUEL CARD POLICY

Mr. Stankiewicz stated that the Board was written up during previous audits for improper fuel accountability and are now using Wright Express. Mr. Stankiewicz stated that he hopes to meet with the department heads tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. Attorney Wade informed the Board that they needed to look at the areas of the policy that discusses termination and amend those areas based on the results of the earlier conversation. *Commissioner Cossey moved, seconded by Commissioner Croft, to approve the Fuel Card Policy along with the amendments regarding terminations. The motion passed unanimously.*

14. REPORT FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS

Jimmy Beasley, Solid Waste Department

Mr. Beasley stated that in the past, he has been allowed to hire part-time call-time employees without coming before the Board and he questioned if that had changed. Mr. Beasley was informed that he is still allowed to do that.

Shelton Arnold, Jr., Road Department

Nothing to report.

Mary Brown, Public Library

Absent.

Chris Drum, EMS

Mr. Drum informed the Board that there had been another structure fire and he would like to thank John Walker and Tim Allen for their assistance. He stated that he would also like to thank Skip's Deli for supplying food to the staff.

Mr. Drum informed the Board that they had received a 75/25 Grant that requires a \$6,250 County match, to help purchase automated external defibrillators. He stated that he plans to make it a big public relations event and have the units placed all over Union County.

John Walker, Emergency Management

Absent.

Mitch Andrews, Volunteer Fire Department

Absent.

Basil Bactawar, Extension Office

Mr. Bactawar reported to the Board that they are once again searching for a new Family Agent for the IFAS Office.

15. REPORT FROM KELLIE HENDRICKS CONNELL, CLERK OF COURTS

Mrs. Connell asked the Board for direction regarding tipping fees. Commissioner Smith suggested that the Board redo the ordinance and the fee schedule.

Mrs. Connell informed the Board that the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council has requested a waiver for the DEO regarding a CDBG applicant that is related to Commissioner Cossey and ask that she abstain from any motion involving him. *Commissioner Smith moved, seconded by Commissioner Croft, to approve a waiver for the DEO regarding CDBG applicant, Henton Dale Smith who is the brother of Commissioner Cossey and she will abstain from voting on any matter involving him. The motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Cossey abstained from voting.*

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

Mr. Wade informed the Board that he had received a letter from an attorney regarding an inmate that was supposedly injured while in Union County. Mr. Stankiewicz stated that it was his understanding that the inmate was a resident of Newberry and not Union County. Mr. Wade will research this matter further and get back to the Board at the January meeting.

17. REPORT FROM THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Karen Cossey, District 1

Nothing to report.

Morris Dobbs, District 2

Nothing to report.

Jimmy Tallman, District 3

Chairman Tallman informed the Board that 240-E and 240-W are basically complete. He stated that after the holidays they will resurface the final layer of asphalt. He also wished everyone happy holidays.

M. Wayne Smith, District 4

Commissioner Smith asked Chairman Tallman if the County paid Jones Edmunds the additional \$5,000 they billed on the CR-240 project? Chairman Tallman stated that he hasn't spoken with Mr. Inkell as much as he would have liked. Commissioner Smith stated that the County signed a contract for \$66,000 or \$68,000 and he disagrees with paying any more than that. Commissioner Smith stated that he thought Jones Edmunds was "trying" Chairman Tallman since he was a new chairman.

Commissioner Smith stated that there has been two fires in Providence during the past few days. He stated that he would like to hold a special meeting and have it be peaceful where he and Commissioner Croft can both get what they want in a fire station.

Willie Croft, District 5

Nothing to report

MINUTES PREPARED BY: Dianne Hannon

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Jimmy Tallman, Chairman

Kellie Hendricks Connell, Clerk