
UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION

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MINUTES REGULAR MEETING MARCH 17, 2014 6:00 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
February 17, 2014 Regular Meeting
Commissioner Cossey moved, seconded by Commissioner Dobbs, to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.
5. FINANCE REPORT
Consideration For Approval To Pay The Bills
Commissioner Dobbs moved, seconded by Commissioner Croft, to pay the bills. The motion passed unanimously.

Budget Amendments 2014-006
Commissioner Smith moved, seconded by Commissioner Cossey, to approve Budget Amendment 2014-006. The motion passed unanimously.
6. POLITICAL SIGN ORDINANCE
Chairman Tallman stated he thought the Board had passed this ordinance, but it was brought to his attention that it wasn't. Commissioner Smith stated this ordinance was something former Clerk Regina Parrish wanted passed. Commissioner Smith stated that Supervisor of Elections Debbie Osborne, called him and Board Secretary, Dianne Hannon, inquiring about this ordinance. *Commissioner Cossey moved, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to table this matter since no one felt the need for this ordinance to be in place at this time and if things change it will be addressed by the Board at a later date. The motion passed unanimously.*
7. SOLID WASTE PULL FEE AND ASSESSMENT DISCUSSION
Commissioner Smith moved, seconded by Commissioner Cossey, to establish the pull fee at \$145. per pull straight across the board, effective April 1, 2014. The motion passed unanimously.
8. ADVERTISE BIDS FOR PROVIDENCE COMMUNITY CENTER
Commissioner Smith moved, seconded by Commissioner Cossey, to table this matter due to the fact that George Prescott of Prescott Construction is currently ill. The motion passed unanimously.
9. FARMER'S MARKET
Chairman Tallman stated Tom Jenkins informed him that he is still in communication with

the owners of the property and it is currently zoned industrial. *Commissioner Cosey moved, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to table this matter until the April meeting. The motion passed unanimously.*

10. REPORT FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS

Jimmy Beasley, Solid Waste Department

Nothing to report.

Shelton Arnold, Jr., Road Department

Mr. Arnold stated there was a little confusion about getting rid of the fuel pumps and he wanted to ask the Board for more clarification. *Commissioner Smith moved, seconded by Commissioner Dobbs, to grant permission for the Road Department to dispose of Fuel Master Equipment, pumps and the fuel tanks. The motion passed unanimously.* Mr. Arnold also reported he had a riding lawn mower that he would like to be declared as surplus property. *Commissioner Smith moved, seconded by Commissioner Cossey, to declare the gravely zero turn riding deck mower, asset #2160 as surplus property. The motion passed unanimously.*

Mary Brown, Public Library

Mrs. Brown introduced an updated Code of Conduct for the Board to approve. *Commissioner Smith moved, seconded by Commissioner Croft, to approve the updated Library Code of Conduct as presented. The motion passed unanimously.*

Mrs. Brown explained she was not present at the December Board Meeting and needed clarification regarding the firing of permanent employees. She stated she understood the new practice would be to place the employee on an unpaid leave of absence and then come to the Board. Commissioner Smith stated that was correct.

Mitch Andrews, EMS Interim Director

Chief Andrews stated he needed direction from the Board concerning Rescue Truck #3. He stated that he doesn't have the personnel to keep it running and the cost of overtime is extremely high. Chief Andrews informed the Board in the past month five more employees have left EMS for better opportunities in surrounding counties. Chairman Tallman questioned whether Chief Andrews could afford to run the third truck with the money he saved by the five employees leaving. Chief Andrews explained that the part-time employees also have full-time jobs elsewhere, and they are only available as their primary schedules allow. Clerk Connell stated that giving these employees raises would likely reduce the numbers that are leaving. She acknowledged that it seemed counter-intuitive to pay more money in order to save money, but that the money saved in reduced training costs from employee turnover would more than offset the increased wages. Chief Andrews explained that the employees are so well trained in Union County and by Dr. Gianas that they can get a job making \$10,000 more a year in another county. Commissioner Smith suggested giving all of them a .50 an hour raise. Chief Andrews recommended the Board to do some research to see what other counties are paying. Commissioner Cossey suggested this matter should be handled in a workshop. Commissioner Smith stated that the County is losing \$500,000 a year due to the amount that Medicaid pays. He stated other counties have so much ad valorem tax that it doesn't hurt them like it does the smaller counties. Chief Andrews stated that the Board has to pay competitive salaries to keep employees in Union County. He informed the Board the county spent approximately \$170,000 to train the last group, which Clerk Connell agreed with. It was further stated that this did not include the overtime of certified personnel incurred during training. Chief Andrews stated he would like to put some numbers together and get back with the Board. Commissioner Smith stated if the County was looking at giving raises, he wanted all county employees to benefit, not just EMS employees. Chief Andrews also informed the Board he is still looking at making a change with the billing company.

John Walker, Emergency Management

Mr. Walker advised the Board he needs 8.4 employees to cover 911 Shifts and they have 7. Mr. Walker informed the Board that he chose employee, Matt Horler, to take the National Public Telecommunication Test and he made a perfect score. Mr. Horler is now taking a course so he may soon be an Instructor and will be able to instruct his co-workers to ensure they are qualified.

Mr. Walker informed the Board there would be an Emergency Management Training Meeting on Wednesday, March 19th at 10:00 a.m.

Mitch Andrews, Volunteer Fire Department

Nothing to report.

Basil Bactawar, Extension Office

Chairman Tallman reported Mr. Bactawar was attending a meeting in Suwannee County. He informed the Board 4-H Director, Colan Coody, will be retiring in October. Chairman Tallman stated he spoke with Dr. Simone to find out if the University of Florida will help supplement the salary for this position.

11. REPORT FROM KELLIE HENKRICKS CONNELL, CLERK OF COURTS

Clerk Connell informed the Board she has spoken with Jordan Green, Department of Transportation, regarding complaints about CR-18. Clerk Connell offered various solutions to the problem such as asking the State to take over maintenance of that road and imposing weight limits. Commissioner Smith suggested writing Walmart and offering them other routes. Chairman Tallman stated he will speak with John Goodnight regarding this matter.

Clerk Connell informed the Board a proposed bill to increase the retirement contribution less than 1% for employees and mandating another 10% for Elected Officials, which will make the County's contribution 40% of these salaries. She further stated that this was not allocated directly to Elected Officials' retirement, but only imposed based on the class and salary, which is very misleading. Clerk Connell stated she intends to contact legislators explaining what a hardship it is for small counties to bear the burden of this increase, as she estimates it to cost the County approximately \$50,000 additional retirement contribution.

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

Nothing to report.

13. 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 stated he wanted to thank local businesses for coming out and supporting the children at the fair.

M. Wayne Smith, District 4.

Commissioner Smith inquired about the status of CR-239. Mr. Stankiewicz responded he is waiting to hear from the Department of Transportation. Commissioner Smith stated when he originally saw the 5 Year Plan it showed \$973,000 and now when he met with Mr. Stankiewicz the figure is \$779,000. He stated he doesn't know if they have the numbers turned around or not. He said that it needs to be bid with alternates and 660 pounds of limerock. He also recommended the County get a new engineer to replace Jones Edmonds. *Commissioner Smith moved, seconded by Commissioner Croft, to advertise RFQ's for new engineer pending obtaining information from County Attorney about breaking the contract. The motion*

passed unanimously.

Willie Croft, District 5


Commissioner Croft informed the Board the contract for the Palestine Fire Department property was ready to be signed. *Commissioner Smith moved, seconded by Commissioner Cossey, to approve the contract for the Palestine Fire Department property containing 2.8 acres and a purchase price of \$8,000. The motion passed unanimously.*

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Cossey moved, seconded by Commissioner Dobbs, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES PREPARED BY: Dianne Hannon

APPROVED:



Jimmy Tallman, Chairman

ATTEST:



Kellie Hendricks Connell, Clerk