

**MINUTES OF
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
WORKSHOP WITH CITY OF STARKE
RECREATION DEPARTMENT
6:30 P.M.
THURSDAY, JULY 7, 2011**

The Bradford County Board of County Commissioners convened in a workshop session on Thursday, July 7, 2011, at 6:30 p.m., in the County Commission Chambers at 945 North Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida.

PRESENT: (County) Chairman Lewis, Commissioner Thomas, Commissioner Riddick, Commissioner Sellars and Commissioner Chandler. **(City)** Mayor Woods, Commissioner Nugent, Commissioner Chastain, Commissioner Spooner.

ALSO PRESENT: Brad Carter, County Manager; Rachel Rhoden, Administrative Assistant; Marlene Stafford, Deputy Clerk; Terry Brown, County Attorney; Linda Johns, City Clerk; Herb Green, City Finance Director; Ricky Thompson, City Operations Manager; Mark Crawford, Press; Alica McMillian, City Recreation Department Director; Lora Douglas, City Auditor; Joe Fischer, City Project Director; and Esther Kelley.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Lewis called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Since the workshop was scheduled at the request of the City, Chairman Lewis asked Mayor Woods to open the discussion.

At the request of Mayor Woods, Ms. Alicia McMillan reviewed the [FY 2011-2012 proposed budget](#) for the Recreation Department. The bare bones proposed budget is a combination of the City's portion and the Recreation Board's portion of the Recreation Budget. The proposed expenditures are \$372,451.00; proposed revenues are \$111,000.00, leaving a deficit of \$261,451.00.

There was brief discussion.

Mayor Woods said that since both entities are at the beginning of the 2011-2012 budget cycle, now is a good time to establish whether the County will be able to help the City with some of the expenses of the Recreation Department, which will in turn help the City determine whether to move forward with RFP's for the provision of recreation services.

Commissioner Chandler said that it would be premature for the County to make a financial commitment when there is no certainty with regard to anticipated revenues.

Chairman Lewis said that the programs provided by the Recreation Department are good programs. However, the County has never budgeted for the Recreation Department and at this point; there are no resources to do so.

Mayor Woods said that the Recreation Department offers very good programs. However, it has come to the point that the City of Starke can no longer afford to pay for the entire program. What he is hearing is that the County does not have a budgeted line item for recreation, nor are there plans to create one.

(07-07-11 Workshop-Recreation)

This incited discussion which was not limited to but included, percentages of city and county participants in recreation programs, economic hard times, and alternative revenue sources (½ cent sales tax, MSTU, special assessment).

Mr. Brown addressed the statutory requirements to designate a county-wide municipal service taxing unit (MSTU), through a referendum.

Ms. Esther Kelley suggested establishing a Budget Finance Committee consisting of two representatives from the City, Jim Farrell, Brad Carter, Alica McMillian and herself, as a citizen. This committee could work on a budget, research the various revenue options, and ultimately bring something back to both commissions.

There was additional discussion.

Mayor Woods said that it is obvious that nothing can be done before the 2011-2012 budget is finalized. He would like to have a Recreation Department in the City of Starke, even if it means going to an association. Whatever it takes, the City of Starke is going to work toward having a Recreation Department.

Ms. Kelley added that the County could help reduce the Recreation budget by the providing in-kind service. (This incited brief discussion.)

DIRECTIVE:

There was a consensus that both Commissions would explore the alternative revenue source possibilities and proceed from there.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the workshop adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

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

EDDIE J. LEWIS, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST: _____
RAY NORMAN, CLERK OF COURTS

Minutes prepared by Marlene Stafford, Deputy Clerk