

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MEETING MINUTES**

June 1, 2020  
Gov. Charley E. Johns Conference Center  
1610 N. Temple Avenue  
Starke, FL 32091



Regular Scheduled Meeting  
(In-Person and Telephonic)  
9:30 a.m.

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**PRESENT:** Commissioner District 3 Chairman Chris Dougherty  
Commissioner District 2 Vice-Chairman Kenny Thompson  
Commissioner District 1 Commissioner Ross Chandler  
Commissioner District 4 Commissioner Danny Riddick  
Commissioner District 5 Commissioner Frank Durrance

**ALSO PRESENT:** Rachel Rhoden, Interim County Manager; Will Sexton, County Attorney; Ray Norman, Clerk of Courts; Jim Farrell, Finance Director; Marlene Stafford, Deputy Clerk; Dana LaFollette, Accountant, Finance Department; Ian Waters, I.T. Manager; Bennie Jackson, Solid Waste Director; Amie Johns, Health Department Director; Randy Andrews, Zoning Director; Teresa Phillips, Tax Collector; Allen Parrish, Emergency Medical Services Director; Ben Riggs, Systems Administrator; Kenny Clark, Property Appraiser, Lieut. Shuford; Emergency Management Director; and Terry Vaughan, Supervisor of Elections.

Interim County Manager Rachel Rhoden presented opening comments specific to the format of the meeting being held both in-person and telephonically, due to COVID-19.

Ms. Rhoden performed a roll-call of the public participating on the call. The following individual was present telephonically: Carol Mosley.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Dougherty called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Chairman Dougherty recognized Mr. Charles Jonas (Collection Site Attendant), who was presented with a plaque of appreciation for going above and beyond and providing outstanding service in the Bradford County Solid Waste Department.

**1. RESOLUTION – CONFIRMING PROCLAMATIONS OF A LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY IN BRADFORD COUNTY—Will Sexton, County Attorney:**

Mr. Sexton presented the resolution for consideration and read the title into the record.

There was no response to Chairman Dougherty’s call for public comments.

*Vice-Chairman Thompson **MOVED to approve the Resolution.** Commissioner Riddick **SECONDED** the motion.*

Chairman Dougherty conducted a roll-call vote:

*Commissioner Chandler: Yes.*

*Vice-Chairman Thompson: Aye*

*Commissioner Durrance: Aye*

*Commissioner Riddick: Aye*

*Chairman Dougherty: Aye*

*The **MOTION CARRIED 5-0.***

*([Resolution No. 2020-20.](#))*

**2. RESOLUTION – ADOPTING, APPROVING AND RATIFYING AN EMERGENCY ORDER ISSUED BY THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR DURING A DECLARED LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY IN BRADFORD COUNTY—Will Sexton, County Attorney:**

Mr. Sexton presented the resolution for consideration and read the title into the record.

There was no response to Chairman Dougherty’s call for public comments.

*Commissioner Riddick **MOVED to accept the resolution as read.** Vice-Chairman Thompson **SECONDED** the motion.*

*Chairman Dougherty conducted a roll-call vote:*

*Commissioner Chandler: Aye*

*Vice-Chairman Thompson: Aye*

*Commissioner Durrance: Aye*

*Commissioner Riddick: Aye*

*Chairman Dougherty: Aye*

*The **MOTION CARRIED 5-0.***

*([Resolution No. 2020-21.](#))*

### 3. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Ms. Rhoden recognized Ms. Carol Mosley as a call-in participant, who commented on the following:

**Carol Mosley:** Read from a [written statement](#) specifically addressing:

- January 16 response letter from hydrologist, SI (Schreuder, Inc) to OEC.
- Monies paid to OEC and reimbursement from HPSII.

Chairman Dougherty recognized the following individuals who presented comments on the subject matter(s) noted ([Public Comment Forms](#)):

**Valerie Dickhaus:**

- Crosby and Sampson Lake water levels.
- RIVER Grant Application for the installation of a trash trap in Alligator Creek.

**Paul Still:**

- The RIVER Grant application (Item #7). ([Photographs submitted.](#))
- Assignment of Emergency Management to the BoCC versus the Sheriff.
- Cypress Run Boat Ramp Grant.

### 4. APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS – REVIEWED BY COMMISSIONER RIDDICK:

*Vice-Chairman Thompson **MOVED to approve payment of the bills.** Commissioner Durrance **SECONDED** the motion.*

Chairman Dougherty conducted a roll-call vote:

*Commissioner Chandler: Aye*

*Vice-Chairman Thompson: Aye*

*Commissioner Durrance: Aye*

*Commissioner Riddick: Aye*

*Chairman Dougherty: Aye*

***The MOTION CARRIED 5-0.***

(The Distribution List is on file in the Finance Department of the Office of the Clerk of Courts.)

### 5. PRESENTATION OF FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 FUNDING REQUESTS:

#### A. ACORN Clinic, Inc. – Joseph Benton, Executive Director

Mr. Benton was not present.

**B. Communities in Schools (CIS) – Cassey Bennett, Executive Director  
FY 19-20 Approved Funding \$3,750.00**

Chairman Dougherty recognized Ms. Bennett, who gave a brief overview of success stories resulting from the services provided by CIS, and who presented the FY 20-21 funding request.

- Since they are not requesting CISCO funds this year, they are asking to combine CISCO and CIS funding for a total budget request of \$5,000.00; a 30% cut from FY19-20 CISCO and CIS funds approved. (Ms. Bennett distributed a handout to the BoCC, but did not provide a copy to the Clerk for inclusion in the record.)

**C. Episcopal Children’s Services – Teresa Matheny, Chief of Program and Administration  
FY 19-20 Approved Funding \$3,750.00**

Chairman Dougherty recognized Ms. Matheny, who reviewed the services provided by Episcopal Children’s Services and presented the FY 20-21 funding request.

- Requesting \$5,000.00. However, they would be happy with whatever the County is able to do.

**D. Florida Department of Health, Bradford County – Amie Johns, Administrator  
FY 19-20 Approved Funding:  
Mental Health Services \$ 7,500.00  
Operation of Health Dept. \$75,000.00**

Chairman Dougherty recognized Ms. Johns, who briefly reviewed the services provided by the Health Department and presented the FY 20-21 funding request for the Health Department.

- Would like to maintain the same level of funding as last year.

In response to inquiry by Commissioner Durrance, Ms. Johns reported on the State refund process for COVID-19 overtime expenses incurred by the Health Department.

Ms. Johns provided an update on testing and stats related to COVID-19 within the community.

**E. Meridian Behavioral Healthcare – Donald Savoie, President/CEO  
FY 19-20 Approved Funding: \$83,018.25**

Chairman Dougherty recognized Mr. Savoie, who briefly reviewed the services provided to Bradford County (including Telehealth Services due to COVID-19) by Meridian and presented the FY 20-21 funding request.

- Requested restoration to the FY18/19 funding level of \$110,691

In response to inquiry by Chairman Dougherty, Mr. Savoie presented additional comments regarding telehealth services.

**F. Suwannee River Economic Council – Matt Pearson, Executive Director  
FY 19-20 Approved Funding: \$6,463.00**

Chairman Dougherty recognized Mr. Pearson, who reviewed [the services provided](#) by Suwannee River Economic Council and presented the FY 20-21 funding request.

- Requested \$8,617.00 to cover the match requirement to continue operations of the Elderly Program. However, they would appreciate any help the County Commission is able to provide.

**6. COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORTS – Will Sexton:**

**A. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A CONSULTING SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN BRADFORD COUNTY AND AECOM TECHNICAL SERVICES, INC. FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA) SERVICES AT KEYSTONE HEIGHTS AIRPORT. TOTAL - \$291,421.00 (To be paid from State of Florida, Department of Economic Opportunity Grant agreement No. D0144)**

Mr. Sexton presented the services agreement for consideration.

Responding to inquiry by Chairman Dougherty, Mr. Sexton advised that this is a Rural Infrastructure Fund (RIF) Grant for \$300,000.00 and is in addition to the \$2.3 million Florida Jobs Growth Grant.

*Commissioner Riddick **MOVED to approve the Consulting Agreement with AECOM.** Vice-Chairman Thompson **SECONDED** the motion.*

Chairman Dougherty conducted a roll-call vote:

*Commissioner Chandler: Aye*

*Vice-Chairman Thompson: Aye*

*Commissioner Durrance: Aye*

*Commissioner Riddick: Aye*

*Chairman Dougherty: Aye*

**The MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**

**7. INTERIM COUNTY MANAGER REPORTS—Rachel Rhoden:**

**A. REQUEST PERMISSION TO SUBMIT A REGIONAL INITIATIVE VALUING ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES (RIVER) GRANT APPLICATION THROUGH THE SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT (SRWMD) FOR A TRASH TRAP IN ALLIGATOR CREEK. GRANT FUNDING REQUEST - \$235,000.00 WITH NO COUNTY MATCH**

Ms. Rhoden presented the grant application for consideration. ([Summarization of the RIVER Grant Application.](#))

Responding to inquiry by Chairman Dougherty, Ms. Rhoden advised that based on a site visit of Bradford County, SRWMD has an interest in other grant opportunities and funding resources to help with flood mitigation and water restoration.

Lieut. Shuford added that there are other funding opportunities to continue working to get the creeks, streams and rivers where they need to be. However, as part of that process there is a maintenance component that has to be considered in order to maintain the waterways. This is a very good project and is worthy of the Board's consideration; SRWMD is very supportive of this grant application.

Chairman Dougherty presented comments supporting the grant application.

Responding to inquiry by Commissioner Riddick, Lieut. Shuford advised that working with Mr. Dodds, the trash trap will probably be monitored on a weekly basis, which should help reduce the potential for flooding.

*Commissioner Durrance **MOVED to grant permission to submit the RIVER Grant Application.**  
Commissioner Riddick **SECONDED** the motion.*

*Chairman Dougherty conducted a roll-call vote:*

*Commissioner Chandler: Aye*

*Vice-Chairman Thompson: Aye*

*Commissioner Durrance: Aye*

*Commissioner Riddick: Aye*

*Chairman Dougherty: Aye*

**THE MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**

## **B. REQUEST PERMISSION TO SCHEDULE AND ADVERTISE BUDGET WORKSHOPS**

Ms. Rhoden requested permission to schedule at least three (3) FY 20-21 budget workshops, sometime between June 11 and June 29.

Following discussion, budget workshops were scheduled for:

- Tuesday, June 16 @ 6:30 p.m. (Later changed to Wednesday, June 17 @ 6:30 p.m.)
- Monday, June 22 @ 6:30 p.m.

The workshops are to be held at the Gov. Charley E. Johns Conference Center.

## **C. PRESENTATION OF BUDGET INFORMATION FROM BRADFORD COUNTY CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS**

Ms. Rhoden advised that sometime in late January, she met with each Constitutional Officer to discuss their current budget, cost savings mechanisms implemented in their budget, and how they plan to continue the cost savings mechanisms or implement additional cost savings into their

FY 20-21 budget. A [report from each Constitutional Officer](#) is included in the Commission packets. They were asked to be present at this meeting to respond to any questions or concerns the Board may have.

Chairman Dougherty opened the floor to each Constitutional Officer to address the Board if they so desired.

Clerk Ray Norman presented comments.

Responding to inquiry by Commissioner Durrance, Supervisor of Elections Terry Vaughan addressed the legislation mandating Spanish translation on ballots and related cost for the mandate.

**8. SHERIFF REPORTS—Sheriff Smith:** None.

**9. CLERK REPORTS—Clerk Norman:**

- Provided an update regarding the re-opening of the courthouse to the public and the resumption of in-person services previously suspended in the Clerk's Office.

**10. CHAIRMAN COMMENTS—Chairman Dougherty:**

**A. DISCUSS THE ROLE OF COUNTY MANAGER FOR BRADFORD COUNTY:**

Chairman Dougherty stated that Ms. Rhoden has done an exceptional job as Interim County Manager. He asked the Commissioners for their input moving forward; either appointing Ms. Rhoden as County Manager, or going through an application process for a County Manager.

Each Commissioner presented comments supporting the appointment of Ms. Rhoden as County Manager.

Chairman Dougherty stated that based on this initial discussion, there appears to be a consensus to appoint Ms. Rhoden as County Manager. However, the Board should consult with Mr. Sexton and discuss the matter again at a later date.

Chairman Dougherty commented on the following:

- Expressed appreciation to everyone for their cooperation during COVID-19.
- Thanked Mr. Allen Parrish for his time and effort moving forward with a contract with HCA for EMS transports.

**11. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS:**

**Commissioner Riddick:**

- Expressed appreciation to each department for keeping the County going strong during COVID-19.
- Presented comments regarding the effects of COVID-19 on the citizens of Bradford County and how God has provided during these difficult times. Bradford County is very blessed and

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there is no better time to make a stand than now. He would love to meet with the City of Starke and have the cross put back on the water tower and to get prayer back in Bradford County schools. He ended his comments by quoting Joshua 1:9.

**Commissioner Durrance:**

- Expressed appreciation to the Constitutional Officers for their transparency in their budget submissions to the Commission.

Chairman Dougherty closed the meeting by encouraging everyone that there is a lot more good in the world than there is evil and encouraged everyone to focus on the good.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:01 a.m.

These Minutes approved by BoCC at the Regular Scheduled Meeting of July 16, 2020.