

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA

July 2, 2024

9:30 A.M.

**Bradford County Courthouse
945 North Temple Avenue
Starke, Florida 32091**

MEETING MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioner District 1 – Chair Carolyn Spooner
Commissioner District 4 – Vice-Chair Danny Riddick
Commissioner District 3 – Joseph C. Dougherty (excused himself from the meeting at 10:15 a.m.)
Commissioner District 5 – Diane Andrews

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Commissioner District 2 – Kenny Thompson

PRESS PRESENT: none

STAFF MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: County Manager Scott Kornegay; Executive Assistant Amanda Brown; County Attorney Rob Bradley; Clerk of Court Denny Thompson; Chief Deputy Clerk Rachel Rhoden; Finance Director Dana LaFollette; Fire Rescue Chief Ben Carter; Division Chief Dylan Rodgers; Public Works Director Jason Dodds; Tax Collector Teresa Phillips; Sheriff Gordon Smith; and Col. Brad Smith.

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Spooner called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M.

2. PUBLIC HEARING – FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE

A. AN ORDINANCE (Ordinance No. 2024-07) OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA RELATING TO THE PROVISION AND FUNDING OF FIRE RESCUE SERVICES, AND FACILITIES; AUTHORIZING THE IMPOSITION AND COLLECTION OF NON-AD VALOREM SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS AGAINST REAL PROPERTY SPECIALLY BENEFITTED BY THE PROVISION OF SUCH SERVICES AND FACILITIES ESTABLISHED BY THE COUNTY HEREUNDER; PROVIDING CERTAIN DEFINITIONS; ESTABLISHING THE PROCEDURES FOR IMPOSING, COLLECTING AND ADMINISTERING FIRE RESCUE ASSESSMENTS; PROVIDING THAT FIRE RESCUE ASSESSMENTS CONSTITUTE A LIEN ON ASSESSED PROPERTY EQUAL IN RANK AND DIGNITY WITH THE LIENS OF ALL STATE, COUNTY, DISTRICT, OR MUNICIPAL TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS AND SUPERIOR IN DIGNITY TO ALL OTHER PRIOR LIENS, MORTGAGES, TITLES, AND CLAIMS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Chair Spooner opened the public hearing for comments.

Public Comments:

- Carol Mosley
- Paul Still
- Kate Ellison

Discussion:

- The City of Lawtey approved its first reading of the fire assessment ordinance. According to County Manager Scott Kornegay, the City of Hampton is willing to participate in the fire assessment. There will be no involvement from the City of Starke in the fire assessment, and the Town of Brooker may not participate either. Chief Carter advised that because the Town of Brooker may not participate, it appears that the expense of staffing a station in Brooker might be eliminated from the budget submitted for the fire assessment.
- Excluding the City of Starke from the original fire assessment study, the new residential fee schedule is as follows. The fees will need to be recalculated if the Town of Brooker does not participate.

Fire Assessment Funding Percentage	Annual Cost
100%	\$334.00 (\$309 in original fire study – increase of \$25)
75%	\$251.00
50%	\$167.00 (\$155 in original fire study – increase of \$12)
25%	\$84.00 (\$78 in original – increase of \$6)

- The consultant for the fire assessment used parcel data from the property appraisers software to complete the fire assessment study.
- A special assessment is determined and calculated by the benefit received, not by the value of the property.
- County Attorney Rob Bradley informed the board that they could move forward with adopting the first reading of the ordinance and that they would still have choices on whether to impose a fire assessment and at what amount.
- Remarks on finding a balance between what the county can afford to support basic service needs for county departments.
- Franchise fee.

After public comments and discussion, the public hearing was closed. County Attorney Rob Bradley advised that the board make a motion to approve the ordinance by first reading and direct him to read the title of the ordinance into the record.

It was MOVED by Commissioner Dougherty and SECONDED by Vice Chair Riddick to approve the ordinance, to have further discussion, and look at different funding rates. (County Attorney Rob Bradley read the title of the ordinance into the record after the motion was made)

Motion Carries 4-0

Chair Spooner went out of order of the agenda to address agenda item 6.

6. COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE PROGRAM UPDATE.

Chair Spooner recognized Dylan Rodgers who shared a PowerPoint presentation on the Paramedicine Program, highlighting the following:

- Financial updates
- 5 Month Plan
- Program Statistics

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- Unique MIH Visits
- Opioid Abatement Measures
- Naloxone Kits

Discussion:

- 7 patients listed in the PowerPoint presentation are opioid users.
- In response to connecting with inmates at the jail, Chief Rodgers advised that staff met with Col. Smith and Major McKinley to work on establishing a program for incarcerated patients.
- Narcan kits are at all HUB's in Bradford County.
- Approximately \$150,000, not including salary dollars, has been spent on the paramedicine program.
- Example given of a patient enrolled in the paramedicine program resulting in a reduction of emergency response to the patient.
- Suggestion made to consider offering support to the families of addicted family members.
- Funds from the opioid abatement settlement are not grant funds.
- Unspent opioid settlement funds can be rolled over into the next fiscal-year.

❖ **FIRE RESCUE STATISTICS**

After discussion of the paramedicine program, Chief Carter presented a PowerPoint presentation on fire rescue statistics for the month of June highlighting the following:

- 648 fire responses and 590 EMS responses - fire and EMS numbers overlap when responding to critical calls. Fire responses are larger because there are days when there are no available ambulance units.
- 477 actual EMS 9-1-1 calls
- 113 interfacility transfers out of HCA Florida Starke Emergency
- Intubated 6 patients
- 2 cardiac arrest patients
- 3 structure fires
- 5 vehicle fires
- 15 brush fires
- Evaluated 36 patients from motor vehicle crashes

Discussion:

- Positive comments were made about fire rescue operations.
- Fire Rescue will place monthly statistics on their website.
- In response to resource management, Chief Carter shared the following:
 - Bradford County Fire Rescue (BCFR) frequently responds to emergencies with Starke Fire Rescue and that if both departments are not needed, one will cancel.
 - BCFR has two daily supervisors; one for the EMS division and one for the fire division – both divisions manage resources throughout the day.
- Chief Carter provided the following details in response to a question from the audience about BCFR staffing:
 - BCFR has 16 personnel scheduled every day throughout the county.
 - At a minimum, 6 firefighters and 1 supervisor are scheduled every day.

- BCFR has the following stations staffed: Lawtey (Station 50), Theresa (Station 20), Speedville (Station 10), Starke Headquarters (Station 60), and Sampson City (Station 90).
- The stations at Sampson City (Station 90), Starke Headquarters (Station 60), Lawtey (Station 50), and Theresa (Station 20) all have 24-hour EMS transport units.
- The stations at Lawtey (Station 50), Theresa (Station 20), and Sampson City (Station 90) are each equipped with a fire apparatus.
- The fire apparatus in Theresa (Station 20) is used by Speedville (Station 10) during the day since there are no living quarters. Once living quarters are constructed in Speedville (Station 10), the fire crew will stay at Speedville (Station 10) while the EMS crew will remain at Theresa (Station 20). The goal of this divide is to distribute resources.
- Current EMS personnel are not all dual certified. Efforts are being made to get staff dual certified.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Paul Still

4. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

A. MEETING MINUTES FROM 6-4-24

**B. REQUEST FOR PROMULGATION LETTER & RESOLUTION ADOPTING 2024 BRADFORD COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN:
A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA ADOPTING THE 2024 BRADFORD COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN.**

It was MOVED by Vice Chair Riddick and SECONDED by Commissioner Andrews to approve the consent agenda.

Motion Carries 3-0

*Chair Spooner announced that Commissioner Dougherty dismissed himself from the meeting.

5. STATE OF FLORIDA, DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (EM) 2023 STATEWIDE MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT – EM Director Lt. Brad Witt.

Chair Spooner recognized Lt. Witt who presented an agreement for board consideration to allow continued support and reimbursement from the state during emergencies. Lt. Witt informed the board that a resolution will be presented to them at a later meeting upon approval of the agreement.

It was MOVED by Commissioner Andrews and SECONDED by Vice Chair Riddick to approve.

Motion Carries 3-0

7. PROS AND CONS OF IMPLEMENTING AN EMPLOYEE EVALUATION SYSTEM – PRESENTATION BY JASON TAYLOR WITH THE KRIZNER GROUP.

In order to assist the board in making a decision regarding employee performance evaluations (EPE), Chair Spooner acknowledged Mr. Taylor for his presentation of the benefits and drawbacks of the practice.

Discussion:

- Comments for and against EPE's.
- It was suggested that expectations for employees be communicated and documented, especially when problems occur; problems and expectations should not be communicated and documented for the first time during an annual review.
- Training for supervisors on conducting evaluations fairly and accurately.

Mr. Kornegay stated that his office will develop a presentation on employee performance evaluations for board action to take at a future meeting.

8. CLERK REPORTS – DENNY THOMPSON

- Comments on the significance of employee evaluations in determining how well the supervisor is performing.
- Cautioned the board on lowering the millage rate by the full amount of the projected revenue from fire assessment.

9. SHERIFF REPORTS – GORDON SMITH

- Under the Obama Affordable Care Act, all non-federal inmates housed at the Bradford County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) have healthcare insurance coverage, resulting in a savings of approximately \$300,000 - \$500,000 to the county on healthcare costs.
- BCSO will develop an emergency call analysis and a live dashboard of real time CAD (computer aided dispatch) to make it available for the public.

10. COUNTY MANAGER REPORTS – SCOTT KORNEGAY

❖ **Roadway Management Technologies (RMT)**

Mr. Kornegay recognized Public Works Director Jason Dodds who presented the board with reference letters from the City of Lynn Haven, FL and Dale James, Van Buren County Judge, regarding RMT.

Discussion:

- Mr. Dodds responded to the suggestion of measuring roads using UF systems by advising that the system only measures state infrastructure when they have the time.
- Interest in exploring the vendor that FDOT utilizes for road quality data.
- Per county attorney, RMT service costs can be paid with gas tax revenue.
- RMT annual service cost is \$50,000.
- Interest expressed in exploring other programs for road quality data. Mr. Dodds shared that he has explored other vendors and found their prices to be higher than that of RMT.

- Interest expressed in placing the RMT proposal on the August agenda for board action.

❖ **Public Works Report**

In response to several questions from the board with respect to the public works division, Mr. Dodds provided the following comments

- The road department is working towards putting down limerock on select deteriorated roads in preparation for chip sealing after the Fourth of July holiday.
- The road department currently receives 3-5 inmates a day from Lawtey DOC to help with county right-of-way maintenance.
- The road department has 12 employees that actively work on 330 miles of county roads and right-of-way.
- In 2019, a quote for contract mowing across the county without liter in the right-of-way was received, and it came to \$80,000 each cycle.
- Interest expressed in hiring seasonal labors during the summer to mow county right-of-way that could be paid with general fund revenue.

Discussion:

- Remarks against four-wheelers destroying county roads.

❖ **Impact Fee Assessment**

Mr. Kornegay reported that the consultant Stantec will begin working on the impact fee methodology once the fire assessment is completed.

11. COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORTS – ROB BRADLEY - no reports

12. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

- Comments thanking the public for participation in the meeting.
- Remarks honoring the approaching Independence Day holiday.

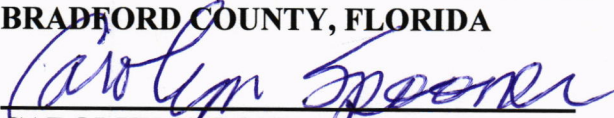
13. CHAIR'S COMMENTS

- Comments on the county manager and sheriff identifying areas for cooling stations.
- Request made to have public works address the ditches along N.E. 17th Loop in Lawtey.
- Acknowledged Commissioner Andrews on receiving her level 2 certification as a certified county commissioner during the recent FACT conference.
- Announced activities during the Fourth of July celebration.

Mr. Kornegay recognized Denise Vogelgesang, insurance manager with the Florida Association of Counties Trust (FACT), who was in the audience. He shared that Ms. Vogelgesang and her colleagues provide valuable resources and training to the county.

ADJOURN: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:34 a.m.

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



CAROLYN SPOONER, CHAIR

ATTEST:



DENNY THOMPSON, CLERK TO THE BOARD

MINUTES PREPARED BY: 

RACHEL RHODEN, CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK

Minutes approved by the BOCC during a scheduled meeting on: August 16, 2024