

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA

September 3, 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
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; Chief Deputy Clerk Rachel Rhoden; Finance Director Dana LaFollette; Sheriff Gordon Smith; Col. Brad Smith; Fire Rescue Chief Ben Carter; Division Chief Dylan Rodgers; Public Works Director Jason Dodds; Ag Interim Director Cindy Sanders; and Library Interim Director Kimberly Crawford.

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

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Paul Still

3. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

- A. MEETING MINUTES FROM 08-06-2024.**
- B. EMERGENCY MEETING MINUTES FROM 08-09-2024.**
- C. LAW ENFORCEMENT SALARY ASSISTANCE FOR BRADFORD COUNTY - \$703,809.**
- D. PURCHASE ORDER AGREEMENT AMENDMENT 100 (P.O. 35) BETWEEN LUTHERAN SERVICES FLORIDA, INC. (LSF) AND BRADFORD COUNTY FOR USE OF OPIOID ABATEMENT FUNDS FOR YEAR TWO OF THE COMMUNITY RESOURCE PARAMEDICINE PROGRAM.**
- E. GRANT FOR AK ELITE PREMIER MAINTENANCE FOR 911 PHONE SYSTEMS - \$30,050.**
- F. ANNUAL CERTIFIED BUDGET FOR MOSQUITO CONTROL, 24-25 FISCAL YEAR (STATE - \$65,494.12/COUNTY- \$65,494.12).**
- G. REVISED PERSONNEL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.**
- H. TOURSIT DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (TDC) ANNUAL BILLBOARD RENTAL AND VINYL INSTALLATION - \$7,550.**
- I. TDC BILLBOARD VINYL - \$650.**
- J. TDC INVOICE FOR GIVE AWAY ITEMS TO PROMOTE BRADFORD CO. AT RURAL CO. DAYS MAR. 19-20, 2024 - \$4,105.**
- K. TDC REGISTRATION FOR BRADFORD CO. 10X20 BOOTH AT RURAL CO DAYS.**
- L. CONTRACT BETWEEN BRADFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH FOR THE OPERATION OF THE BRADFORD COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT CONTRACT YEAR 2024-2025 (BRADFORD - \$82,500/STATE OF FLORIDA - \$1,500,244).**

- M. A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA CONFIRMING A PROCLAMATION OF A LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY IN BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE**
- N. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF SATISFACTION OF MORTGAGE ON SHIP PURCHASE FILE – MITOLA M&A**
- O. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF SHIP REHABILITATION LOAN APPROVAL IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$35,000 FOR SHIP FILE # 2021-1**
- P. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF SHIP REHABILITATION LOAN APPROVAL IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$35,000 FOR SHIP FILE # 2021-2**

Discussion: none

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

Motion Carries 4-0

- 4. PROPOSAL FROM MERIDIAN BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE, INC FOR USE OF OPIOID ABATEMENT FUNDS REMAINING FROM THE 23-24 STATE FISCAL YEAR (FY) TO FUND A MEDICATION ASSISTED TREATMENT PROGRAM.**

Chair Spooner recognized Ashley Tozier, Senior Vice-President, Medical Services, and Sara Mihlfeld Vice President, Medication Assisted Treatment Service with Meridian. Ms. Tozier asked the board to consider donating its remaining opioid funds from FY 2023-2024 in the amount of \$87,000 to Meridian. Additionally, Ms. Tozier presented a PowerPoint presentation on their substance abuse services and partnerships.

Discussion:

- Funds will be used to fund a peer position to provide support, resources, and referrals, and a counselor position to complete intake assessment and provide ongoing individual/group therapy.
- Ms. Rhoden advised the board that they will need to reduce the FY 2024-2025 paramedicine budget by \$87,000 if they donate said funds to Meridian.
- In response to whether Meridian would request continued funding from the county for opioid services following FY 2024–2025, Ms. Tozier stated that prior to contacting the county, Meridian would need to explore alternative funding sources such as grants and billing the client or insurance.
- County Manager Kornegay stated the funding request being made should not be considered recurring.

It was MOVED by Commissioner Andrews and SECONDED by Commissioner Riddick to donate \$87,000 to Meridian Healthcare for opioid services for FY 2023-2024, not to be recurring.

Motion Carries 4-0

- 5. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE PURCHASE OF A 2024 RAM 1500 TRADESMAN 4X4 CREW CAB FROM MURRAY CHRYSLER DODGE JEEP RAM FOR \$47,095.48 FOR THE US/IFAS AG EXTENSION OFFICE.**

Chair Spooner announced that agenda item 5 is removed from the agenda.

6. UF/IFAS AG EXTENSION YEARLY PRESENTATION.

Chair Spooner recognized Interim Director Dr. Cindy Sanders to present a yearly report on operations. Dr. Sanders recognized the following agents who shared the following highlights about their programs:

Bailey Scarborough – 4-H Youth Development Agent

- 8 active 4-H clubs – 119 club members
- In-school embryology program
- County level programs/events
- Member participation at the district and state levels
- Summer day camps
- 4-H fundraisers
- 500+ volunteer hours
- Two scholarships awarded to graduating seniors.

Dr. Sanders presented on behalf of Luke Harlow – Horticulture and Small Farms Agent

- Florida-friendly landscaping
- Partnering with library programs
- Commercial landscaping certification
- Site visits and consultations
- Master Gardner volunteer program
- Outreach programs – Bradford County Fair, Strawberry Festival, Arbor Day tree giveaway.
- Crop producer diagnostic assistance
- Home and community food production site visits and consultation
- School gardens

Lizzy Whitehead – Livestock and Natural Resources Agent

- Improving livestock production
- Pasture management and natural resources
- 4-H animal services
- Contacts made 1,391
- Beef Bash Youth Exhibitors
- Workshops and Attendees
- UF/IFAS Summer Intern hours
- \$2500 UF Professional Development Grant
- Australian Beargrass EIPM Grant

Discussion:

- Possible cause of the recent fish kill in nearby lakes was likely caused by reduced oxygen levels due to the recent heavy rainfall.

7. CLERK REPORTS – DENNY THOMPSON

Chair Spooner recognized Chief Deputy Clerk Rachel Rhoden who shared the following reports:

- Reminder of budget hearing at 5:30 pm, 09/03/24, to adopt the tentative millage rate and budget.
- Acknowledged that the county manager scheduled a budget workshop on 09/10/24 at 5:00 p.m. She asked that the board use this workshop as an opportunity to review submitted budgets and refrain from making any adjustments to the budget during that time. Ms. Rhoden informed the board that the clerk's office meets with the county manager in or around February to discuss a proposed budget timeline that specifies when the board should hold budget workshops, which is typically between March and July. During these workshops, the board will be able to review and comment on budget requests, a capital improvement plan, and other matters that need to be resolved in order to finalize the budget for adoption in September.
- Advised the board that it should set up a workshop as soon as possible to talk about fire rescue operations and how it intends to handle the possible opening of a new station in Brooker or possible service reductions. She forewarned the board that while the fire study data is still current, they should address these issues promptly.

Discussion:

- Comments on the importance of scheduling budget workshops.
- Comments on the importance of a Capital Improvement Plan.

8. SHERIFF REPORTS – GORDON SMITH

A. CODE ENFORCEMENT – SHED/RV ISSUE

Sheriff Smith recognized Corp. Glen Ward, Code Enforcement Officer, to provide information on issues pertaining to non-permitted activity such as citizens residing in sheds and RV's. Sheriff Smith cautioned that in order for his office to comply with regulations, a more assertive approach to these issues will be required.

Discussion:

- Concerns expressed with citizens who have no other means for residence aside from living in a shed or RV.
- When asked if the county's code enforcement ordinance should be amended to address the concerns raised, Sheriff Smith responded that the ordinance is acceptable and that his office will need to bring people into compliance following the ordinance.
- Compliments for Corp. Glen Ward's efforts on code enforcement.

9. COUNTY MANAGER REPORTS – SCOTT KORNEGAY

A. COMMUNITY PLANNING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT AWARD

Mr. Kornegay reported that the state approved a community planning technical assistance grant and that Amber Sheperd, strategic alliances business partner with Northeast Florida Economic Development Corporation (NFEDC) will be at the next board meeting to review the details of said grant. Additionally, Mr. Kornegay shared that as part of the grant, NFEDC will look at hiring a firm to deliver renderings of potential plans at S.R. 16 and bypass interchanges as well at the Douglas property recently acquired by the county.

Discussion – none

B. AQUATIC PLANT REMOVAL AT SAMPSON LAKE

Mr. Kornegay shared that a site visit was completed last Thursday with Jason Dodds, Capt. Brad Witt, and Commissioner Andrews. He recognized Capt. Witt who reported that during the site visit there were two vendors present - CLR Aquatics Inc. and Smith Property Solutions, to review the condition of vegetation in the canal in order to submit a quote for plant removal. As of today, after reaching out to several vendors, only CLR has provided a quote in the amount of \$8,000 to cut and shred vegetation blocking the canal.

Discussion:

- Process to address vegetation through shredding or dredging.
- Interest in proceeding with the quote with CLR.
- Capt. Witt responded to a question about whether the shredded vegetation will clog 3-pipes by saying that, as far as he is aware, the shredded material will be microscopic and dissolve into the water. He shared that no concerns about debris having a negative impact have been raised.
- Situation with Lake Sampson is unique to other lakes in the surrounding area.
- Comments on the need to develop a regular maintenance plan to address aquatic vegetation in Lake Sampson.

The board was in CONSENSUS to move forward with the proposal from CLR if a better proposal cannot be provided by the end of the week.

❖ MHD ROCKLAND UPDATE

Mr. Kornegay reported that he and Jason Dodds met with representatives of MHD Rockland on the Douglas building property site (parcel 04712-0-00000) to map out the section of the property they would need for development. MHD Rockland will need approximately half of the total acreage. Mr. Kornegay noted that MHD Rockland received a preliminary draft of the property lease agreement from his office for review.

Discussion - none

❖ PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Mr. Kornegay expressed gratitude to Jason Dodds for his contributions and highlighted the value he brings to the county.

Discussion:

- Comments of appreciation for Jason Dodds.

❖ CANVASSING BOARD – CHAIR SPOONER

Chair Spooner asked if Commissioner Andrews would serve on canvassing board in place of Judge Davis who will no longer be serving. Commissioner Andrews expressed her willingness to serve.

10. COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORTS – ROB BRADLEY

In response to Commissioner Dougherty’s inquiry about developing procedures that address private roads, Mr. Kornegay shared that Zoning Director Randy Andrews is currently working with the planning council (North Central Florida Regional Planning Council) to draft language in the LDR (Land Development Regulations) requiring developers to pave roads for new subdivisions.

With respect to existing subdivisions, Mr. Bradley cautioned the board on getting into the business of real estate transactions that would inform new buyers that the property they will be purchasing is private. Furthermore, he advised that all consenting property owners can impose a tax on themselves to pay for road improvements.

11. COMMISSIONER’S COMMENTS

Commissioner Andrews:

- Remarks on the lack of maintenance received in District 5 from the public works department.

Commissioner Dougherty:

- Announced that on September 11, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at the Bradford High School Stadium an event will take place to walk the number of stairs the firefighters ascended in the twin towers in remembrance of 9/11.
- Remarks acknowledging public works – road department operations with limited resources.

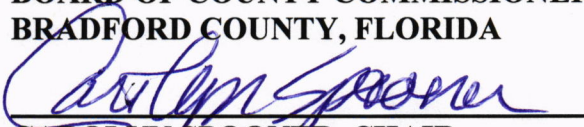
Vice Chair Riddick:

- Remarks acknowledging public works – road department operations in District 4.

12. CHAIR’S COMMENTS

- Congratulated Commissioner Andrews on her re-election.
- Congratulated Amber Sheperd on helping the county obtain a grant for economic development.
- Thanked all those involved in addressing a downed powerline in Lincoln City.
- Comments that resources are needed for county right-of-way maintenance.
- Remarks made on the need to address a private road.
- Announced that tax free week ends this week.

ADJOURN: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:40 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: October 17, 2024