

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES**

November 2, 2020
County Commission Chambers
945 N. Temple Avenue
Starke, FL 32091

**IN-PERSON AND TELEPHONIC
(Due to COVID-19)**



Regular Scheduled Meeting
9:30 a.m.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Rachel Rhoden, County Manager; Will Sexton, County Attorney; Alyssa Winston, Administrative Assistant; Ray Norman, Clerk of Courts; Jim Farrell, Finance Director; Dana LaFollette, Accountant, Finance Department; Marlene Stafford, Deputy Clerk; Lisa Hall, Finance Department; Rachel Conner, Finance Department; Allen Parrish, Fire Rescue Director; Jason Dodds, Public Works Director; Randy Andrews, Zoning Director; Capt. Konkel; Kelly Canady, Community Development Director; and Brad Witt, Emergency Management Director.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Dougherty called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chairman Dougherty recognized the following individuals who presented comments on the subject matter(s) noted:

Carol Mosley (Call-In)(Read [Written Statement](#)): Sentiments regarding the outcome of the election.

2. APPROVAL AND/OR ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. PAYMENT OF BILLS—Reviewed by Chairman Dougherty** (The Distribution List is available in the Finance Department of the Office of the Clerk of Courts.)
- B. RESOLUTION – CONFIRMING PROCLAMATIONS OF A LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY** ([Resolution No. 2020-47](#))
- C. MINUTES OF REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2020**
- D. MINUTES OF REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING OF OCTOBER 5, 2020**
- E. MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING TO ADOPT FY20-21 FINAL MILLAGE RATE AND BUDGET OF SEPTEMBER 28, 2020**
- F. RENEW AGREEMENT WITH MERIDIAN BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE FOR THE PROVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES – TERM: 10-01-20 thru 09-30-21 – TOTAL = \$83,018.25 (No increase from last year.) (Approved by BoCC July 6, 2020)**
- G. DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY (DEO) – SMALL CITIES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM, MODIFICATION NO. 2 FOR A TIME EXTENSION TO SUBGRANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN DEO AND BRADFORD COUNTY**
- H. ARTHROPOD CONTROL BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 1 – STATE INCREASE OF \$2,463.36 (County portion will not change.)**
- I. AMENDED/MODIFIED DESIGNATIONS FOR FLORIDA RETIREMENT SYSTEM CLASSIFICATION(S)**
- J. FORGIVENESS OF THE PURCHASE ASSISTANCE LOAN FOR LAMIRIAM JOHNSON, DATED NOVEMBER 24, 2009, IN EXCHANGE FOR FINAL PAYMENT OF APPROXIMATELY \$2,000 TO \$3000**

Vice-Chairman Thompson ***MOVED*** to approve the [Consent Agenda](#). Commissioner Riddick ***SECONDED*** the motion.

Chairman Dougherty conducted a roll-call vote:

Commissioner Chandler: Aye

Vice-Chairman Thompson: Aye

Commissioner Riddick: Aye

Commissioner Durrance: Aye

Chairman Dougherty: Aye

THE MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

3. BRADFORD COWBOYS ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION BUDGET REQUEST—Rodney Mosley:

Chairman Dougherty recognized Mr. Mosley, who presented a [budget request for Bradford Cowboys Athletic Association](#) in the amount of \$6,000.00 for FY20-21.

Commissioner Riddick and Chairman Dougherty both presented comments supporting recreation.

Chairman Dougherty stated that the Commission allocated funds in the FY20-21 Budget for recreation, which included funding for the Bradford Cowboys Athletic Association.

(Formal approval of this item was taken care of under “County Manager Reports”.)

**4. TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL FUNDING REQUESTS—Pam Whittle, President/CEO
North Florida Regional Chamber of Commerce:**

Chairman Dougherty recognized Ms. Whittle, who presented the following TDC Funding Requests for consideration:

**A. PERMISSION TO PAY AN INVOICE FROM LAZENBY REAL ESTATE HOLDINGS, LLC., IN
THE AMOUNT OF \$4,800 FOR RENTAL OF A BILLBOARD FOR ONE YEAR (TDC
Approved 10-15-2020)**

*Commissioner Durrance **MOVED** to approve \$4,800.00 payable to Lazenby for the rental of the billboard for one year. Vice-Chairman Thompson **SECONDED** the motion.*

Chairman Dougherty conducted a roll-call vote:

Commissioner Chandler: Aye

Vice-Chairman Thompson: Aye

Commissioner Riddick: Aye

Commissioner Durrance: Aye

Chairman Dougherty: Aye

THE MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

**B. PERMISSION TO PAY AN INVOICE FOR RURAL COUNTIES DAY IN THE AMOUNT OF
\$750.00 FOR REGISTRATION FOR RURAL COUNTIES DAY – MARCH 10-11, 2021 (TDC
Approved 10-15-2020)**

*Vice-Chairman Thompson **MOVED** to pay the invoice for Rural Counties Day in the amount of \$750.00. Commissioner Durrance **SECONDED** the motion.*

Chairman Dougherty conducted a roll-call vote:

Commissioner Chandler: Aye

Vice-Chairman Thompson: Aye

Commissioner Riddick: Aye

Commissioner Durrance: Aye

Chairman Dougherty: Aye

THE MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

C. PERMISSION TO PAY AN INVOICE FOR DOWNTOWN MERCHANTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,000 FOR CHRISTMAS ON CALL STREET FESTIVAL – DECEMBER 11-13, 2020 (TDC Approved 08-20-2020)

*Commissioner Riddick **MOVED to approve payment of an invoice payable to the Downtown Merchants in the amount of \$4,000. Vice-Chairman Thompson **SECONDED the motion.*****

Chairman Dougherty conducted a roll-call vote:

Commissioner Chandler: Aye

Vice-Chairman Thompson: Aye

Commissioner Riddick: Aye

Commissioner Durrance: Aye

Chairman Dougherty: Aye

THE MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Commissioner Durrance presented comments commending the TDC, the Downtown Merchants and the Chamber of Commerce for their efforts to attract people to the community and help boost the economy.

5. COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORTS—Will Sexton: None.

6. COUNTY MANAGER REPORTS—Rachel Rhoden:

If it is the Board's desire to do so, Ms. Rhoden asked for official approval of the FY20-21 Budget Request of \$6,000.00 presented earlier in the meeting by the Bradford Cowboys Athletic Association.

*Commissioner Riddick **MOVED to approve the budget request in the amount of \$6,000.00 for the Bradford Cowboys Athletic Association.** Commissioner Durrance **SECONDED the motion.***

Chairman Dougherty conducted a roll-call vote:

Commissioner Chandler: Aye

Vice-Chairman Thompson: Aye

Commissioner Riddick: Aye

Commissioner Durrance: Aye

Chairman Dougherty: Aye

THE MOTION CARRIED 5-0,

A. APPROVAL AND ACCEPTANCE OF DEDICATION FOR “KINGSLEY OAKS II”, A MINOR SUBDIVISION LOCATED IN THE NE1/4 OF SECTION 24, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 22 EAST, BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA—Randy Andrews, Zoning Director:

Ms. Rhoden recognized Mr. Andrews, who presented the minor subdivision (6 lots) for consideration.

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

*Vice-Chairman Thompson **MOVED to approve the [dedication for Kingsley Oaks II, a Minor Subdivision](#) located in Bradford County. Commissioner Durrance **SECONDED** the motion.***

Chairman Dougherty conducted a roll-call vote:

Commissioner Chandler: Aye

Vice-Chairman Thompson: Aye

Commissioner Riddick: Aye

Commissioner Durrance: Aye

Chairman Dougherty: Aye

THE MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Ms. Rhoden continued with County Manager Reports:

- Provided an update on the progress of the **CARES Program**, which included new requirements and deadlines. Because of the new deadlines, expenditures may need to be made prior to delivery of goods. Ms. Rhoden requested support from the Board to deviate from normal purchasing practice in cases where a vendor cannot deliver the goods at the time of payment under CARES. Clerk Norman is amenable to working with the County.

There was a consensus to deviate from the normal purchasing procedures as requested.

At the request of Ms. Rhoden, Mr. Parrish provided an update on Fire/Rescue operations. The department is getting prepared for an ISO evaluation in the month of January after which he will report to the Board. With the framework that was put in place, the transition has been very smooth. Mr. Parrish thanked the Commission for its support.

At the behest of Chairman Dougherty, Mr. Parrish briefly reviewed the structure of the Mutual Aid Agreement with the City of Starke. The City’s Fire Department will be “first-called” for every emergency call within three miles of the City Starke and up to five miles out for every fire-related call. The County will reciprocate by supporting and backing up the City when needed.

7. SHERIFF REPORTS—Sheriff Smith: None.

8. CLERK REPORTS—Clerk Norman:

Clerk Norman presented comments regarding the CARES program. With the Board's approval provided earlier in the meeting, he will deviate from the normal purchasing procedures and will sign checks for goods and services not yet received.

Clerk Norman recognized Mr. Farrell, who addressed the Commission and announced his retirement, effective December 31, 2020, and expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to serve the Commission and the citizens of Bradford County. He stated that the Finance Department currently has an excellent staff. For the last two years he has trained and mentored Ms. Dana LaFollette to assume the responsibilities of Finance Director, should the new Clerk desire her to do so. Mr. Farrell said that the Finance Department is eager and willing to assist the Board during the transition period.

Each Commissioner expressed their appreciation to Mr. Farrell for his service, hard work and dedication.

9. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS:

Commissioner Riddick:

- Expressed best wishes and gratitude to Commissioners Durrance and Chandler.

Vice-Chairman Thompson:

- Expressed best wishes and gratitude to Commissioners Durrance and Chandler.

Commissioner Chandler:

- Expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve with his fellow commissioners; it has been a pleasure.

Chairman Dougherty:

- Expressed best wishes and gratitude to Commissioners Durrance and Chandler.

Commissioner Durrance:

- 1. CONSIDER DECLARATION OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY AS SURPLUS AND TRANSFER OF SAID REAL PROPERTY TO ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS IN EXCHANGE FOR AGREEMENT TO SECURE AND MAINTAIN SAID PROPERTY AND PROHIBITION AGAINST FUTURE DEVELOPMENT**

Commissioner Durrance presented a request to declare real property as surplus and to transfer said real property to the adjacent property owners. The real property is a portion of the Sampson Lake boat ramp; the adjacent property owners are David and Cindy Benton.

Mr. Sexton advised that if the Board approves the request, staff would:

- Order a survey to ascertain the exact meets and bounds of the real property.
- Have a title search performed.
- Execute a deed in favor of the Bentons to include language to prevent future development of the property.

Commissioner Riddick expressed concerns relating to land-locking the boat ramp and the inability to expand the parking area should the real property be transferred to the Bentons.

Commissioner Durrance stated that the property appears to be wetlands, cannot be developed and there is not enough room to add any parking for the boat ramp; he does not see how Suwannee River Water Management would grant a permit for development of the property.

Ms. Benton presented comments from the audience.

*Commissioner Durrance **MOVED to approve the declaration.** Vice-Chairman Thompson **SECONDED** the motion.*

Commissioner Riddick asked who would be fiscally responsible for the survey, title search, etc. Ms. Benton raised her hand indicating they would be responsible for the costs.

Chairman Dougherty conducted a roll-call vote:

Commissioner Chandler: Aye

Vice-Chairman Thompson: Aye

Commissioner Riddick: Aye

Commissioner Durrance: Aye

Chairman Dougherty: Aye

THE MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

2. CONSIDER ACCEPTANCE OF DEDICATION FOR UNIQUELY OWNED ROADWAY AND DIRECT STAFF TO FORMALIZE ACCEPTANCE OF SAID DEDICATION

At the request of Commissioner Durrance, Mr. Sexton presented this item.

Mr. Sexton stated that the ownership on SW 137th appears to be unique. When the property was developed by Sampson Lake Properties, Inc., the area was platted but excluded the roadway from the legal descriptions for the properties sold. 1997 was the last record for the Sampson Lake Properties, Inc. when the corporation was administratively dissolved for failing to file annual reports. It is also his understanding that the woman who was the primary developer and the principal for the corporation is now deceased. There are two other individuals listed, who are her children; one resides in South Florida and the other in Virginia. It appears that no one has any knowledge or understanding that anyone involved with the corporation would still own the road. Meaning, the residents do not own the road, cannot maintain the road, and could not maintain it if they were independently wealthy and wanted to improve it or maintain it. The county cannot maintain the road because it is still a privately owned road.

The more time passes the more difficult it will be to determine ownership and all the while, the road is not being maintained. It is his understanding that the properties on the lake side of the road are fairly low-lying and prone to washouts during storm events, which makes it difficult for emergency vehicles to navigate; a public health concern.

If it is the pleasure of the Board to move forward, the following action would be needed:

- Contact the two individuals connected to the corporation and ask them to re-activate the corporation.
- Dedication and acceptance of the road to the County.

Commissioner Durrance presented additional comments supporting the road dedication.

Mr. Sexton added that the roadway is excluded from ownership by the Property Appraiser and appears like a public road and it has not been taxed to the corporation as far back as he can see on the Property Appraiser's website.

Responding to inquiry by Chairman Dougherty, Mr. Dodds stated that the Road Department has had to perform minimal maintenance (under a recent local state of emergency), just to make it passable for EMS and Fire. The road needs bedding and lime rock, the ditches need to be pulled, which should handle most of the drainage and roadway surface issues. Commissioner Durrance stated that the county would not be responsible for the culverts.

Incited by inquiry made by Commissioner Riddick, it was confirmed that the county would be accepting the entire road.

*Commissioner Durrance **MOVED to accept the dedication of SW 137th**. Vice-Chairman Thompson **SECONDED** the motion.*

Chairman Dougherty conducted a roll-call vote:

Commissioner Chandler: Aye

Vice-Chairman Thompson: Aye

Commissioner Riddick: Aye

Commissioner Durrance: Aye

Chairman Dougherty: Aye

THE MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Commissioner Durrance re-visited the vacant Livestock Agent position at the Cooperative Extension Office. He provided the following statistics for Bradford County:

- 277 cattle and calf operations
- 108 poultry and miscellaneous poultry operations.
- 26 goat and sheep operations.
- 15 swine operations.
- 168 new producing farms with a total of 13,409 acres of farming.

Commissioner Durrance expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve with his fellow commissioners; it has been a pleasure. There are some projects scheduled for District V that he hopes his successor will follow through to completion.

10. CHAIRMAN COMMENTS—Chairman Dougherty:

- With Veterans' Day approaching, Chairman Dougherty read the obituary of a local Veteran, David Lee Hall, who passed away October 12, 2020.

Chairman Dougherty stated that he would like to see the Board improve its efforts to recognize veterans and the sacrifices they make for our freedom.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

On behalf of the Board of County Commissioner, Chairman Dougherty presented plaques of appreciation to:

- Honorable Ross Chandler, County Commissioner for outstanding leadership, tireless dedication and years of service to Bradford County and its citizens from 1988 through 1996 and 2004 through 2020.
- Honorable Ray Norman, Clerk of Courts and Clerk to the Board for outstanding leadership, tireless dedication and years of service to Bradford County and its citizens from 1989 to 2021.
- Honorable Forest Franklin Durrance, County Commissioner for outstanding leadership, tireless dedication and years of service to Bradford County and its citizens from 2016 through 2020.

Ms. Rhoden announced that the mid-month November meeting will be held at the Charley E. Johns Conference Center.

ADJOURN: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:54 a.m.

These minutes approved by BoCC at the Regular Scheduled Meeting of December 7, 2020.