

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES**

December 7, 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 (Via Call-In); Alyssa Winston, Administrative Assistant; Ray Norman, Clerk of Courts; Dana LaFollette, Accountant, Finance Department; Marlene Stafford, Deputy Clerk; Ben Riggs and Andrew Morris, Information Technology; Jason Dodds, Public Works Director; Dylan Rodgers, EMS Division Chief; Brad Witt, Emergency Management Director; and Major Brad Smith.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Dougherty called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Public Comment Cards):

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

Carol Mosley: ([Written Statement](#)):

- Issues related to the HPSII Proposed Mining Permit
- North Central Florida Regional Planning Council opinion regarding appeals of 14.6 of the Land Development Regulations.

2. APPROVAL AND/OR ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. PAYMENT OF BILLS--Reviewed by Commissioner Spooner** (The Distribution List is on file in the Finance Department of the Office of the Clerk of Courts.)
- B. RESOLUTION—CONFIRMING PROCLAMATIONS OF A LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY** ([Resolution No. 2020-58](#))
- C. RESOLUTION—CERTIFYING THAT THE MONIES FROM THE EMS COUNTY AWARDS GRANT WILL IMPROVE AND EXPAND THE PRE-HOSPITAL EMS SYSTEM AND WILL NOT BE UTILIZED TO SUPPLANT EXISTING EMS BUDGET ALLOCATIONS** ([Resolution No. 2020-59](#))
- D. RESOLUTION—SUPPORTING AFFORDABLE AND RELIABLE HIGH-SPEED INTERNET THROUGHOUT FLORIDA** ([Resolution No. 2020-60](#))
- E. RESOLUTION CONFIRMING A PROCLAMATION OF A LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY** ([Resolution No. 2020-61](#))
- F. CONSIDER APPROVAL TO PURCHASE OF NEW JOHN DEERE 135G EXCAVATOR IN THE AMOUNT OF \$175,000.00 FROM BEARD EQUIPMENT CO. (State Contract FSA20-EQU18.0) BoCC APPROVED CIP ITEM IN FY20-21**
- G. CONSIDER APPROVAL TO APPLY FOR THE RECURRING 2020-2021 EMS COUNTY AWARDS GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$17,459.00—NO COUNTY MATCH**
- H. APPROVE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2021**
- I. APPROVE BoCC MEETING SCHEDULE FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2021**
- J. APPROVE BOARD MEMBERSHIP AND OVERSIGHT LIST FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2021**
- K. 2020 FLORIDA LEGISLATURE APPROPRIATIONS—GRANTEE AWARD LETTER FOR HEILBRONN SPRINGS FIRE DEPARTMENT UPGRADES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$850,000.00**
- L. BoCC MEETING MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 2, 2020 REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING**

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

Chairman Dougherty and Commissioner Spooner presented comments supporting Item “D”; access to affordable and reliable high-speed Internet.

Chairman Dougherty conducted a roll-call vote:

Commissioner Spooner: Aye

Commissioner Thompson: Aye

Vice-Chairman Riddick: Aye

Commissioner Andrews: Aye

Chairman Dougherty: Aye

The **MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**

3. PRESENTATION OF CARES FUNDING REQUEST ON BEHALF OF THE CONCERNED CITIZENS OF BRADFORD COUNTY—Glenda Ruise, Vice-President, Concerned Citizens :

Chairman Dougherty recognized Ms. Ruise, who presented the funding request.

- COVID-19 caused loss of revenue and inability to conduct fund raising events.
- Requesting \$25,000.00 to help with expenses and begin programs in January and continue through the summer. ([Handout](#))

Commissioner Spooner, Vice-Chairman Riddick and Chairman Dougherty presented comments supporting Concerned Citizens of Bradford County.

*Commissioner Spooner **MOVED to approve the \$25,000.00 request for the Concerned Citizens of Bradford County.** Commissioner Andrews **SECONDED the motion.***

In response to inquiry by Vice-Chairman Riddick, Ms. Rhoden reported that the CARES Program ends this month and the report was due December 3rd; staff will need to make an adjustment to the CARES report.

Chairman Dougherty conducted a roll-call vote:

*Commissioner Spooner: Aye
Commissioner Thompson: Aye
Vice-Chairman Riddick: Aye
Commissioner Andrews: Aye
Chairman Dougherty: Aye
The **MOTION CARRIED 5-0.***

Chairman Dougherty presented additional comments supporting programs that help youth and children.

4. COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORTS—Will Sexton: None.

5. COUNTY MANAGER REPORTS—Rachel Rhoden:

A. CYPRESS RUN BOAT RAMP PROJECT UPDATE—Chad Rischar, Senior Environmental Scientist with DRMP

Ms. Rhoden advised that the project is in the design phase and nearing the permitting process. Staff thought it wise to provide the Commission with a final update before finalizing the design phase. The next phase will be the application/solicitation for construction funds through FWC.

Ms. Rhoden recognized Mr. Rischar, who presented an informational update via [PowerPoint](#). The presentation was not limited to but included:

- Project Overview
- Existing Conditions
- Proposed Conditions
- Proposed Design and Amenities

Commissioners Gaskins and Spooner presented comments supporting the project.

In response to inquiry by Chairman Dougherty, Mr. Rischar addressed options for disposal of garbage on the site.

Other items addressed:

- Size of the proposed turn around site/holding area for next boater in line and those exiting the water.
- Shelter, picnic tables and restrooms.
 - Restrooms would not be paid for within the grant. However, there are other funding sources available. Mr. Rischar recommended evaluating the site for a couple of years to determine the need.
 - There is space for a picnic table.
 - Additional space available for grass parking.

Commissioner Gaskins expressed her desire to do additional work on the existing boat ramp. Mr. Rischar advised that that grant cycle will open in February. It is possible to receive funding for repairs/improvements to the existing boat ramp through FWC.

Mr. Rischar expressed Rayonier's desire to participate in the opening ceremony.

6. SHERIFF REPORTS—Sheriff Smith:

Major Smith reported on events at Florida State Prison yesterday afternoon where several acts of vandalism were committed by protestors. Several protestors were arrested and charged with felony criminal mischief, resisting without violence, and trespass after warning.

Commissioners Spooner and Gaskins expressed appreciation to all the law enforcement agencies involved and for the manner in which the situation was handled.

Major Smith congratulated newly-elected Commissioners Gaskins and Spooner.

7. CLERK REPORTS—Clerk Norman:

- Gave a brief report on the finance side of the CARES Program.

8. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS:

Commissioner Spooner:

- Thanked the Clerk's Office for answering her questions while reviewing the bills.

Responding to inquiry of Commissioner Spooner, Ms. Rhoden reported that there has been no confirmation, but legislators are currently exploring the possibility of additional stimulus opportunities through CARES. As far as the current CARES Program, there are some counties that are behind in their Phase I, II and III plans and efforts are being made toward the opportunity for those particular counties to receive an extension. Bradford County has met all the deadlines and will not need an extension.

Chairman Dougherty, taking into account the assistance approved for the Concerned Citizens, inquired about closing out the current program. Ms. Rhoden cited the changes needed to close out and finalize the program. Any time special exceptions are made as with the Fair Association and Concerned Citizens, it does require staff to update internal reports for auditing purposes. The sooner the program can be finalized and closed out, the better.

Clerk Norman stated that the Finance Department has been in constant contact with the auditors for guidance through this process.

Chairman Dougherty commended all the staff involved in the success of the CARES Program.

Commissioner Riddick:

- Presented heartfelt comments regarding the passing of Percy Sullivan, Jr. and recognized Mr. Sullivan for his dedication and numerous contributions to the County and to the Volunteer Fire Department.

Commissioner Gaskins:

- Reported on her first meeting with the North Florida Economic Development Partnership. Some issues discussed were:
 - Broadband.
 - Amazon warehouses and distribution centers in rural counties.

Commissioner Spooner:

- Announced Town Hall Meetings:
 - Thursday, December 10 at 5:00 p.m. at the RJE gym for the Starke side of District I.
 - Monday, December 14 at 5:00 p.m. at the Lawtey Elementary Cafeteria for the Lawtey side of District I.
- Expressed appreciation to Mr. Dodds for touring District I for the purpose of discussing roadway needs.
- Requested having a dumpster available on 171st Street to deter dumping on the road when the collection site is closed.
- Strawberry Acres new access road.
- FAC training last week; opportunities for the County:
 - Reclaimed water, retention ponds.
- Expressed her thoughts to address the amount of trash on the roadways in the community.
- Requested the Commission to consider scheduling a Strategic Planning Workshop to review goals and objectives for the County.
- Announced the Church of God by Faith, together with the religious community will be hosting a food drive and fish and grits food distribution within the next week.

Chairman Dougherty presented comments related to trash within the County.

9. CHAIRMAN COMMENTS—Chairman Dougherty:

- Announced the Legislative Delegation Meeting scheduled for December 16 at 4:30 p.m. The Board needs to develop a thorough, precise needs plan to present to the Delegation. He encouraged the Commission to meet with Ms. Rhoden.
- Lack of funding (state and local) was one of the issues discussed at the Legislative Conference held last week.
- Peaceful protests versus vandalism and violence.
- Economic Development:
 - The Keystone Airport is a prime area for an Amazon or FedEx facility.
 - The lack of infrastructure as it relates to water and sewer; extending out to the edge of the City and into the County along the bypass to open up more opportunities for Economic Development.

Incited by comments presented by Vice-Chairman Riddick and Commissioner Spooner, there was brief discussion regarding offensive, vulgar language and profanity that individuals place on their vehicles and loud music containing vulgarity and profanity.

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Chairman Dougherty continued his comments:

- Unsecured cargo ordinance to help control trash blowing out of the back of vehicles.
- Thanked the Commission for all the comments and expressed his desire for the Board to have more discussions regarding how to make Bradford County a better place.

ADJOURN: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:39 a.m.

Minutes approved by BoCC at the Regular Scheduled Meeting of January 21, 2021.