

**WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
HELD ON JUNE 11, 2013  
IN THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING ROOM  
ROOM 103, ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
ARCADIA, FLORIDA**

The Board of County Commissioners held a Workshop on June 11, 2013 with the following persons present:

Commissioner, Buddy Mansfield, Dist#1  
Chairman, Jim Selph, Dist#2  
Commissioner, Gabriel Quave, Dist#3  
Commissioner, Elton Langford, Dist#4  
Commissioner Bob Miller, Dist#5  
County Administrator, Guy Maxcy  
County Attorney, Don Conn  
Administrative Services Director, Linda Nipper  
Transcribing Secretary, Jill Thompson  
Planning Manager, Tom Cookingham  
Purchasing Manager, Cindy Talamantez  
Major James Vitali, Sheriff's Office

Office Manager, Lauri Jones  
Facilities Director, Richard Metzger  
Sheriff Will Wise  
Transportation Director, Shawn Edwards  
Fire Chief, Glen Prescott  
County Coordinator, Mandy Hines  
Utilities Director, Eddie Miller  
H.R. Director, Don Kesterson  
Compliance Director, Jorge Hernandez  
Tax Collector, Kathryn Hill  
Property Appraiser, Newt Keen  
County Coordinator, Mandy Hines

**CALL TO ORDER**

**REVIEW/DISCUSSION**

**Highway 17 Utility Project**

A review and discussion of Hwy 17 Utility Project. Eddie Miller spoke regarding mandatory hookups and the 10-20 year payback including the connection fees as well as capital charges that would be assessed. Mr. Miller commented that until the plans are complete, it is difficult to approach agencies to discover what funding sources are available. The most important issue at this time is to complete the plans. This project also allows the opportunity to dispose of old septic tanks that may be leaking in that area.

Mr. Maxcy commented the loan for this project was included in the Utilities Rate Study.

Commissioner Quave commented that this project could possibly reduce well and septic costs to new home builders along that area. He also commented this would benefit Economic Development. Commissioner Quave feels this is critical and will bring revenue to the County for years to come.

Mandy Hines stated a Block Grant application has been submitted for Allied Recycling expansion of non ferrous plant for the railroad spur construction. There is a need for water service for the second expansion.

Mr. Miller stated that even with mandatory hookup, all may not be required due to setbacks. This does not include the interconnect with the City of Arcadia. There are also other potential hookups.

Commissioner Quave feels he needs to pursue more research regarding mandatory hookups.

Commissioner Langford questioned the length of time it would take a resident to payback the hookup fee.

Mr. Miller commented the Board can waive the capital charges.

Commissioner Miller was concerned with the amount of money spent to complete the project if the Board does not approve mandatory hookup.

Commissioner Langford is opposed to mandatory hookups.

Chairman Selph questioned if any surveys have been completed in the Nocatee area as to how many would consider hooking up. Mr. Miller replied there have been no surveys but are willing to do so.

Kevin Knutson with the Boyer Singleton Firm is the Design Project Manager for the US 17 project. The largest part of the project was a Cultural Resource Assessment Survey in Nocatee that identified the Nocatee historic District which led to several design changes. Mr. Knutson reviewed the project history, design, status and coordination. Mr. Knutson commented once the road is built, FDOT will allow pressure lines to be installed under the roadway. He also commented on future stand alone construction costs, cost advantages and the project schedule. There was further discussion by the Board. Gary Beagles, FDOT commented it would be to the County's advantage to place utilities before Hwy 17 is finished. The longer the County waits, the harder the task will be. He also stated there is a utility clear date of January 21, 2014 – April 30, 2014. Directional drilling will provide access to customers on the opposite side of the roadway for either water or wastewater.

Ray, Design Engineer with Boyer Singleton commented that every so often pipes will be placed going across the roadway which will bring services to the other side for both water and the force main.

Eddie Miller asked if the Board would allow; he would personally conduct a survey within the next 60-90 days and present the results to the Board. Commissioner Langford requested Mr. Miller to have available an estimate of the hookup fees when he conducts the survey.

Ed Johnson commented that due to the looks of the houses along Hwy 17 in Nocatee; how many of those homes can pick up the costs for water and sewer. He feels the County can install in segments as needed. Mr. Johnson also commented on the cost of the new fire codes to business owners.

#### **2013/2014 Budget**

Linda Nipper stated there is still budget cutting to do. The expenses and revenues presented include 3% raises but can be cut if the Board is not able to meet the amount of reserves desired. Ms. Nipper stated there will be another Workshop on June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013 once the Board has reviewed the proposed budget. The Board requested to review each department individually.

Kathryn Hill commented there is nothing to cut from her budget.

Newt Keen commented his budget has increased due to FRS and raises.

Sheriff Wise commented he had an 8% increase. He also commented there was an incident in the jail that may result in a lawsuit and the Board may be involved as well. Sheriff Wise requested the Board's consideration for a 3% cost of living increase.

Commissioner Miller commented he was asked to serve as a Chair on the Policy Committee with Florida Association of Counties. There may be costs for traveling to the meetings and would like input from other Board members. It was consensus to allow Commissioner Miller to serve on this committee.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chairman Selph adjourned the workshop at 3:52 PM.

**ATTEST:**

  
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**C. GUY MAXCY**  
**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION**  
**DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA**

  
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**JAMES F. SELPH**  
**CHAIRMAN**