

**PUBLIC MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON NOVEMBER 10, 2014 AT 9:00 AM
IN THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING ROOM
ROOM 103, ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
ARCADIA, FLORIDA**

The Board of County Commissioners held a Public Meeting on November 10, 2014 with the following persons present:

Commissioner, Buddy Mansfield, Dist#1
Commissioner, James Selph, Dist#2
Commissioner, Gabriel Quave, Dist#3
Chairman, Elton Langford, Dist#4
Commissioner, Bob Miller, Dist#5
County Administrator, Mandy Hines
County Attorney, Don Conn
Facilities Director, Richard Metzger
Transcribing Secretary, Jill Thompson
County Engineer, Mike Giardullo
Social Services Director, Peggy Waters
Fire Chief, Larry Taylor

Office Manager, Lauri Terry
Compliance Director, Jorge Hernandez
Purchasing Director, Cindy Talamantez
HR Director, Don Kesterson
Building Official, Lester Hornbake
Parks Director, Tara Anderson
Turner Center Director, Jody Sullivan
Environmental Svcs. Director, Henry Grimes
Library Director, Linda Waters
Road & Bridge Director, Shawn Edwards

CALL TO ORDER 9:00 AM

PRAYER- Pastor John Stamey/Nocatee Church of God

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INTRODUCTION OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

Sheriff Will Wise

SET/AMEND- A motion was made by Commissioner Mansfield to set the agenda as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Quave. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

CONSENT AGENDA-MOTION TO APPROVE

A motion was made by Commissioner Quave to approve the Accounts and Warrants drawn according to schedule of bills payable; Minutes of October 14, 2014 BOCC Public Meeting; Declaration of Surplus Property; Agreement with South Florida State College and Agreement Amendment for FDEP LP 14022. Seconded by Commissioner Selph. Motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

6. Presentation/Distinguished Citizen Award

Mandy Hines stated this award is going to Larry Hudson. He is an active member of the Economic Development Advisory Committee and also serves on the Planning Commission. He is always willing to help within our community. Chairman Langford presented the award.

Mr. Hudson expressed his appreciation for the Board's support of the EDAC Committee. He recognized Mandy Hines and Mike Taber for their support with EDAC.

7. Presentation/DeSoto County Economic Development Analysis

Mandy Hines stated the Board budgeted funding for an Economic Development Analysis that would

be conducted by a site selector. Josh Bays with Site Selection Group, Inc. gave a brief overview and background of his firm. There are two objectives; develop an immediate marketing strategy and identify and solve critical impediments. The object is to concentrate on weaknesses so that improvements can be made, as well as strengths, opportunities and threats. Mr. Bays spent 5 day in FHREDI regions and DeSoto County is at the top end of the spectrum from an economic development perspective. The biggest weakness is lack of qualified workforce and was determined by meeting with existing employers. This is a common theme throughout the country; especially in more rural communities and not just DeSoto County. There is also the lack of a competitive real estate offering. He spent time driving around DeSoto County to see if a project was interested in DeSoto County, what its options are. It was determined that in today's economic climate, none of the sites observed seemed relatively competitive for business investment. It is very important that a site is "shovel ready" and what that means is that projects are on such a tight timeline, they need a site that does not require a lot of due diligence. In order to make a site "shovel ready" all utilities with adequate capacities should be in place and all environmental assessments. Rail is attractive but is not detrimental. Utilities at the road are important because it saves time and cost to the company.

Further discussion ensued. Ms. Hines commented this is a process.

Larry Hudson thanked Mr. Bays and commented that Economic Development and the County have already done the ground work to implement some of these plans; we have a continued funding of Economic Development. Mr. Bays commented the County should know what the most competitive sites are and why. Further discussion ensued.

REGULAR BUSINESS

8. Resolution/DeSoto County Tourist Development Council Appointment

Mike Taber presented a Resolution to appoint members to the Tourism Development Council and reappoint members. This action is based on expiring terms on the council. He requested the Board to appoint Pat Burnworth and Zach Varner; to reappoint Becky Bragg and Karen Cassel.

A motion was made by Commissioner Quave to adopt the Resolution appointing Pat Burnworth and Zach Varner and reappointing Becky Bragg and Karen Cassel to serve on the Tourist Development Council, while also clarifying to allow the Arcadia City Administrator to appoint the City's municipal elected officials to fill two seats on the TDC. Seconded by Commissioner Mansfield. Motion carried unanimously

9. Bid Award/State Housing Initiative Partnership Program

Peggy Waters presented a request for a Bid award for a SHIP rehabilitation project for an eligible homeowner. Clean Cuts, LLC was the lowest bidder. This contractor is an approved builder and has proven his ability to perform within the program guidelines. A motion was made by Commissioner Mansfield to approve the bid award as presented and authorize the Administrator to execute all related documents for rehabilitation of the unit. Seconded by Commissioner Miller. Motion carried unanimously.

10. State Housing Initiative Partnership Plan/Review of the Local Housing Assistance Plan

Peggy Waters stated a request has come from the public that the Board revisits our purchase assistance strategy. In that strategy it was stated that program funds not be used on homes within ground pools. The purpose for this is because a pool creates an extraordinary reoccurring expense potentially for the homebuyer. Ms. Hines commented the particular home regarding this request is well below the maximum purchase price of \$150,000. The reason for the request is because it was brought to Ms. Hine's attention by Michelle Williamson and Melanie Brown who work with the SHIP program often. Commissioner Miller commented that owning a pool is an expensive ongoing cost and expressed his concern. Commissioner Mansfield commented that a pool does not add

monetary value to a home. He feels that the potential buyer should be aware of the costs to maintain a pool. Commissioner Quave doesn't feel it is the Board's responsibility to be involved in what someone can or cannot afford. Commissioner Selph comment the potential owner can choose not to maintain the pool; he is ok with the change. Further discussion ensued. Chairman Langford agrees with changing the policy.

A motion was made by Commissioner Selph to remove the language restricting the home from having an in ground pool under the down payment/closing cost assistance strategy in the LHAP. Seconded by Commissioner Mansfield. Motion carried 4-1 with Commissioner Miller dissenting.

11. Agreement Amendment/City of Arcadia

Lester Hornbake requested an amendment to the Interlocal Agreement between the City of Arcadia and DeSoto County for the enforcement of their Building Official Program. The purpose of this amendment is to include enforcement of expired permit violations within the incorporated City limits. A motion was made by Commissioner Quave to approve the amendment to the Interlocal Agreement between the City and the County. Seconded by Commissioner Selph. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Solicitation Award-Agreement/Southern Strategy Group of Tampa Bay, LLC

Mandy Hines commented that on August 27, 2014 an RFP for State Lobbying Services and Grants Networking. There were five responses and Southern Strategy Group was the highest ranked firm. In negotiating with this company they agreed to in the first year to cut their annual fee in half and to be negotiated for each additional year of the agreement. Commissioner Miller commented he is not in favor of leaving a good firm to go with another firm that will cost more money. Commissioner Selph commented he has seen deficiencies with Craig A. Smith. He has loyalty to this county and not a specific group. A motion was made by Commissioner Selph to approve the agreement with Southern Strategy Group of Tampa Bay, LLC for State Lobbying Services and Networking of Grants with Appropriations. Seconded by Commissioner Quave. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Quave commented that we have a perfect storm with our Legislation; with Ben Albritton being in Hardee County. Once he terms out, there will be funding deficiencies in this county. We don't know what we didn't get and that is what is pushing him in the other direction. Ms. Hines commented the contract can be negotiated every year and if we are not successful in renegotiating, we can go back out to bid. Further discussion ensued. Chairman Langford does not like the idea of using funds from Reserves for this purpose but believes Southern Strategy Group will be more aggressive.

13. License Agreement/Lift Station

Don Conn presented a License Agreement for the use of a small portion of County owned property near Kings Highway and Agnes Street for the purpose of a lift station. A motion was made by Commissioner Mansfield to approve a License Agreement for the use of County property by the Utility Department for a lift station. Seconded by Commissioner Selph. Motion carried unanimously.

14. Ordinance/Pain Clinics

Don Conn presented a request to extend the moratorium on Pain Clinics or Pill Mills for a period of one year. Chairman Langford questioned when this can be made permanent. Mr. Conn commented that until the Legislature acts on this one way or the other; it is in our best interest to do a moratorium and may lessen any legal challenge. A motion was made by Commissioner Miller to approve the Ordinance extending the moratorium on Pain Clinics (Pill Mills) for an additional one year. Seconded by Commissioner Mansfield. Motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mandy Hines would like consensus of the Board to require that spay or neuter services be performed before an animal is released at a veterinarian of their choice. There was consensus of the Board.

Ms. Hines called on Mike Giardullo and Shawn Edwards to give an update regarding a commercial culvert on 761. Mr. Giardullo commented this is concerning the convenience store on 761; they have three driveways with one being much wider. Different options have been considered for the most cost effective way to address this issue. It was determined that repairing and replacing the section of pipe that was failed would be most cost effective. The property owner has agreed to pay for supplies if the County provides the labor. The cost of material is approximately \$1500. Commissioner Mansfield does not want the County to get involved doing commercial culverts. Mr. Giardullo and Mr. Edwards both feel this is the best solution for this particular situation. There was consensus of the Board to move forward with the request.

Ms. Hines mentioned Shawn Edwards received a Certificate of Appreciation from the National Guard for the Road & Bridge Department.

Ms. Hines stated that recently the Road & Bridge Department received a request from the Outdoor Classroom for 17 loads of fill, which is more significant than previous requests. Commissioner Quave questioned who received the most benefit from the Outdoor Classroom? Ms. Hines replied the facility is used mostly for educational purposes although it is open to the public as well. Commissioner Quave then questioned the School Superintendent if she would like to split the cost with the County. Commissioner Selph agreed. Dr. Gary agreed to split the cost. There was consensus of the Board to proceed.

Ms. Hines commented regarding the Competitive Florida Program. She would like to prepare a scope to send to DEO and propose designated money is used for design of landscaping in the median on US 17 from Nocatee north. There was consensus of the Board to proceed.

Ms. Hines commented the Employee Advisory Committee met and agreed that the committee needs to be less formal. Minutes and a Chairman are not needed. Conversation and a rotation of people are needed in order to keep fresh ideas and communication. The committee also brought forward the idea of "Denim for Deeds" to raise money for needy families. It will run starting this week and through the Christmas Holiday. The staff will pay to wear denim as a way to raise the money. There was consensus of the Board. Commissioner Mansfield commented that he would like the County to sponsor some needy families.

Ms. Hines commented that she received a positive e-mail from a citizen regarding the new Fire Chief and Fire Inspector. The citizen expressed that it was the best experience they have had in dealing with the County Fire Rescue over the past 6 years.

Ms. Hines reminded the public and the Board that the end of month November Board Meeting has been moved to Monday November 24th. The AgFest Banquet is November 14th. AgFest is November 22nd. The DJJ surplus property bid opening will occur with the Division of State Lands on November 19th. The Legislative Delegation Meeting will be held on December 10th at 1:30pm.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. Conn commented regarding the Gavriloff & Watson vs. DeSoto County case; a decision was received on the matter last week. The issue involves the approval of the PUD for Thornton Creek Motor Coach Resort. The ruling does dismiss one of the two Plaintiffs; Mr. Watson has been dismissed from the lawsuit for lack of standing. In regards to the other motions to dismiss; those have been denied. The next step is to file an answer. Mr. Conn feels it is appropriate to have an Attorney/Client briefing session at 1:30 on November 24th. The Board agreed.

Mr. Conn read into record the required notice. Commissioner Selph commented he will not be available on that day.

Mr. Conn discussed the issue of quasi judicial hearings with regard to meeting with the public during the pendency of a quasi judicial matter. He suggested deferring meeting with people when there is a pending quasi judicial matter due to the fact that the Board can only make a decision based on what it hears at the hearing. Mr. Conn urged the Board if there are ex-parte communications to please complete the forms as soon and as complete as possible.

Mr. Conn commented since 2010, there has been a moratorium on impact fees every year. Recently there has been interest expressed in repealing the Impact Fee Ordinance and unless the Board gives other direction; that is what Mr. Conn will do. Further discussion ensued. There was consensus of the Board for the moratorium to remain.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Commissioner Quave is looking forward to participating in the Veteran's Day Parade. He would like the Board Room projector replaced by the next Board meeting and keep the old projector as a backup. He thanked Mike Taber for his efforts with EDAC. He questioned Mr. Conn if the Sonoma Project had to consult with the School Board before coming to the BOCC again. Mr. Conn commented there is an Interlocal Agreement that was executed in 2010 he is currently reviewing that is between the School Board, DeSoto County and City of Arcadia.

Commissioner Mansfield reminded everyone of Legislative Conference in Tampa next week

Commissioner Selph commented that the people who are going to purchase something at Sonoma are going to look just like the people sitting in the audience. He believes the houses will be bought by baby boomers. He thanked everyone who voted for him. He thanked Ronny Allen and everyone who put together the BBQ for the Vietnam Wall. He congratulated the DeSoto County Bulldogs for winning the District and for beating Hardee. He wished Jody Sullivan the best with the AgFest Banquet.

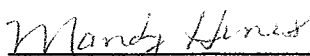
Commissioner Miller had congratulated all those who won in the recent election. He commented regarding his involvement in the Big Dog Club and how happy he is to see the High School Band in their new uniforms. He also commented regarding Paint the Town Blue and the Tailgate Party and how pleased he is with community support.

Chairman Langford congratulated Commissioner Selph as well as Tara Anderson and her husband Marshall Matt Anderson along with the new City Council members. January 31st - February 1st 2015 the Hospice Ranch Rodeo will be at the Turner Center. The BBQ will be on January 31st. The funds raised will go to our local Hospice. Please show support for the Veterans. The playoff game for the DeSoto Bulldogs will be at the home field starting at 7:00pm.


ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Langford adjourned the meeting at 11:46 AM.

ATTEST:



MANDY HINES
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION
DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA


GABRIEL QUAVE
CHAIRMAN