

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MADISON COUNTY, FLORIDA

COURTHOUSE ANNEX

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 2018

9:00 A.M.

The Board of County Commissioners of Madison County, Florida met this day in regular session with the following members present: Alston Kelley (District 1), Wayne Vickers (District 2), Ronnie Moore (District 3), Alfred Martin (District 4) and Rick Davis (District 5). Also present were County Attorney George T. Reeves, County Coordinator Brian Kauffman, and Clerk Billy Washington.

The Chairman, Honorable Wayne Vickers, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and conducted roll call.

Commissioner Martin presented a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion and the board voted unanimously (5-0) to adopt the agenda.

During petitions from the public, Vivian Searcy and Bobby Thompkins requested that the board consider reducing or waiving landfill fees for Mr. Thompkins. According to Ms. Searcy, Mr. Thompkins had experienced a house fire that resulted in the demolition of his house. The landfill fees associated with this demolition were approximately \$2000. Commissioner Martin inquired as to what had been done in the past for situations like this. Solid Waste Coordinator Jerome Wyche explained that fee structure and reductions given by the county to that point. Commissioner Moore stated that he would check on this at the next landfill meeting. Attorney Reeves suggested one course of action of allowing payment over time. He advised against forgiving the amount owed.

Commissioner Moore presented a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting held May 23, 2018 and the special meeting held June 1, 2018. Commissioner Martin seconded the motion and the board voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the minutes.

Sheriff Ben Stewart addressed the board during time for constitutional officers' report. He wanted it clarified in the minutes that he had confirmation from the county attorney that he (the county attorney) would recuse himself from representing either the county school district or the board of county commissioners if negotiations failed between the two entities. Mr. Reeves stated that until he gave an opinion, there was no

need to recuse himself. At that time, Mr. Reeves stated his opinion on this matter and said that he would recuse himself if needed. Sheriff Stewart reiterated his need for this confirmation. He would be needing to hire people prior to approval of his next budget. Sheriff Stewart was asking for some affirmation from the board before he went asking for someone to resign from a job to come work for him, that the board and their attorney would be behind he if "something went south". Sheriff Stewart also stated that his office would be preparing a budget amendment to present to the board at its next meeting.

Under Public Works Item #1, Road Department Coordinator Lonnie Thigpen and County Engineer Bill Steves presented the priority list for road paving projects in Madison County. After discussion about priorities and other roads not listed, Commissioner Moore presented a motion to have this item re-agendaed for the July 11th meeting.

Under New Business Item # 1, Land Lunn from North Florida Medical Centers, Inc. spoke concerning a building in Greenville that they would like to donate to the county. Ms. Lunn stated that \$32,981.47 were owed for taxes on the building and would like to have those waived in exchange for the building. Attorney Reeves explained that the commission does not have the authority to waive taxes, but could potentially purchase the property for the amount of taxes owed. Betty Lawrence, Director of the Suwannee River Regional Library, stated that her organization would like to utilize the building as a library. She explained that there are grants available for building renovation and restoration that could be applied to this building. Commissioner Moore presented a motion to accept the building. Commissioner Kelley seconded the motion. Attorney Reeves reminded the board that the original request was to exchange the building for the taxes owed. Architect Bill Rutherford spoke about the concerns with the building and the expected amount of grants funds required to renovate the building. Bran Kauffman explained that if the county accepts the building then the library system would begin paying for the utilities and groundskeeping. Commissioner Martin inquired as to when Ms. Lawrence would know if the grant had been awarded. She replied in the summer of 2019. Commissioner Davis asked Ms. Lawrence if land purchase could be made under the grant also. She stated that if the commissioner allowed she could make a telephone call and find out. The Commissioners agreed to allow her to make the phone call and come back to this item. Commissioners Moore and Kelley withdrew their motion and second.

Commissioner Vickers then moved to New Business Item #6. Attorney Reeves explained the dispute between the City of Madison and North Florida Community College. He explained that the county had been named in the lawsuit between the two parties because the County Agricultural Extension Office and the Ag Center both tie into the lift station at the center of the dispute. Attorney Reeves stated that he represents the City of Madison in this suit and that he would recommend the county hire outside counsel. He said that he had spoken with Mr. Conrad Bishop and if the commission agreed to utilize his firm, his bill would be \$250 per hour. At this time Commissioners Vickers and Davis both recused themselves due to being employees of North Florida Community College. Commissioner Vickers passed the gavel to Commissioner Kelley.

Commissioner Moore presented a motion to hire Mr. Bishop's firm to represent the county in this suit. Commissioner Martin seconded the motion and the board voted (3-0) to approve the motion with two members recusing themselves.

Under New Business Item #2, Steve Adams from Nationwide investment Services Corporation spoke about options for Employee Deferred Compensation. He stated that currently Edward Jones is the only company providing this service to county employees. A recent new hire has used Nationwide for years and would like to continue utilizing their services. Commissioner Moore presented a motion to allow Nationwide as an option for Employee Deferred Compensation for county employees. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion and the board voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the motion.

Under New Business Item #3, County Coordinator Brian Kauffman presented a draft agreement between the City of Greenville and Madison County for EMS/Firefighter services in the City of Greenville. He stated that this was just a draft that had been presented to the City of Greenville for approval, but wanted to allow the commission an opportunity to offer suggestions or changes prior to either board voting for final approval. Commissioner Davis asked if an study had been performed to determine if a station would be needed more on the east side of the county as opposed to the west side. Mr. Kauffman stated that this arrangement has come as a result of a request from the City of Greenville. He hopes to spread the EMS resources to the east side of the county also.

At 10:22, Commissioner Vickers called for a short recess. Commissioner Davis left the meeting.

Commissioner Vickers called the meeting back into order at 10:43, with four commissioners present.

Commissioner Vickers directed the board's attention to New Business Item #4. Mr. Jesse Cardwell representing the Georgia Boys Bass Tournament requested permission to continue utilizing Cherry Lake for fishing tournaments. He stated that he understood that parking is an issue at the county-owned boat ramp and was seeking the board's approval to host tournaments. Mr. Kauffman added that a Madison County Fishing Club was also asking for approval to hold tournaments for specific dates, but were unable to have a representative attend the meeting. After discussion concerning dates and fees, Commissioner Kelley presented a motion to approve allowing tournaments on June 21, July 5, July 14 and July 21 with a fee of \$10 per boat. Commissioner Moore seconded the motion. Commissioner Moore asked if there would be a plan to handle overflow parking. Mr. Cardwell explained that their club would utilize the seven available parking spaces and the area along the entrance road to the boat ramp to parking as many as they could. In the past, they have utilized the Cherry Lake Volunteer Fire Department for any more overflow parking. The board voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the motion.

Commissioner Vickers then moved the meeting back to New Business Item #1. Ms. Lawrence stated that the grant funds for library renovation and restoration could be utilized for acquisition of property. Attorney Reeves also mentioned that other costs could be incurred during the acquisition process. Commissioner Moore presented a motion to accept the building and authorize an expenditure of up to \$38,000 from the general fund to acquire the building. Commissioner Kelley seconded the motion and the board voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the motion.

Under New Business #5, County Economic Development Consultant Crawford Powell presented an update on the economic development activities of the county. He spoke about federal Opportunity Zones, the NFEDP strategic plan and the county's grant request to Department of Economic Opportunity for infrastructure improvements. The proposed improvements are extending water and sewer lines to the State Road 14/Interstate 10 interchange or extending natural gas lines along SE Dale Leslie Drive.

For the Good of the Order:

Mr. Kauffman announced the resignation of Solid Waste and Recycling Coordinator Jerome Wyche. Mr. Kauffman stated that the county would be placing an ad to fill the position.

Commission Moore will travel with Florida Association of Counties Executive Director Chris Doolin to Tallahassee to discuss springs protection.

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 11:26 a.m.

Board of County Commissioners
Madison County, Florida

By: _____
Wayne Vickers, Chairman

ATTEST:

William D. Washington,
Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MADISON COUNTY, FLORIDA

COURTHOUSE ANNEX

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 2018

10:00 A.M.

The Board of County Commissioners of Madison County, Florida met this day in special session with the following members present: Alston Kelley (District 1), Wayne Vickers (District 2), Ronnie Moore (District 3), Alfred Martin (District 4) and Rick Davis (District 5). Also present were County Attorney George T. Reeves, County Coordinator Brian Kauffman, and Clerk Billy Washington.

The Chairman, Honorable Wayne Vickers, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and conducted roll call.

The purpose of this meeting was to review and possibly approve a budget amendment request from the sheriff's office. Sheriff Ben Stewart and Chief Deputy Epp Richardson presented the amendment request. The request showed revenues of \$55,244.66 coming from the Madison County School District. Total expenditures shown were \$63,058.34. The total of county dollars needed to fulfill the sheriff's request was \$7,813.68. Sheriff Stewart explained that due to the actions of the state legislature, publically funded schools are now required to have School Resource Officers or Guardians at each site. The difference in the start date of the budget years (July versus October) has created the need for this request. Sheriff Stewart explained that the approximate \$7800 difference in the revenues and expenditures in the request was related to expenses in obtaining a new lease for vehicles for the School Resource Officers. He explained that these vehicles may not be ready for pickup until after the start of the next budget cycle and that he would not request the funds unless they were needed. Commissioner Davis presented a motion to approve the budget amendment with the stipulation that money would only be released after the Madison County Sheriff's Office has been invoiced. Commissioner Martin seconded the motion and the board voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the budget amendment.

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 10:14 a.m.

Board of County Commissioners
Madison County, Florida

By: _____
Wayne Vickers, Chairman

ATTEST:

William D. Washington,
Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners