

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MADISON COUNTY, FLORIDA

COURTHOUSE ANNEX

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8, 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 9:04 a.m. and conducted roll call.

Commissioner Vickers requested to add as New Business Item #4 a discussion regarding Cherry Lake Beach. Commissioner Moore presented a motion to adopt the agenda as amended. Commissioner Kelley seconded the motion and the board voted unanimously (5-0) to adopt the agenda.

Citizens Gary Fine, Jeff Golden and Lefils Gay addressed the board with concerns about Cherry Lake. Mr. Fine expressed his concerns with management of access at the Cherry Lake Public Beach and Boat Ramp. He also felt that there was a lack of enforcement of existing county ordinances concerning the beach and boat ramp area. Mr. Golden expressed concerns about the noise pollution from boats on the lake and patrons of the beach area. He also stated that litter was a problem on the lake and at the beach area. Ms. Gay also expressed concerns about noise and litter on the lake and at the public beach area.

Commissioner Vickers then directed the attention of the board to New Business Item #4, discussion regarding Cherry Lake Beach. Commissioner Vickers and County Coordinator Brian Kauffman explained a situation that occurred the prior weekend with an event at the public beach. Mr. Kauffman stated that many events like the one the prior weekend were "pop-up" events linked with social media posts. Commissioner Davis suggested the county review how events like these are regulated. Commissioner Vickers remarked that he believed that the commission should close the beach until something can be in place to better regulate the use of the public beach area. Commissioner Kelley presented a motion to close the beach area until the matters with regulating the public beach area could be settled. Commissioner Moore seconded the motion. Commissioner Moore asked what the expected timeframe would be and

whether the park would be shut for boats as well. Commissioner Kelley said that he felt the board should move quickly to open the park as soon as possible if it were closed. Commissioner Moore asked for this item and motion to be tabled until 1:00 p.m.

Commissioner Moore presented a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting held July 25, 2018. Commissioner Kelley seconded the motion and the board voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the minutes.

Commissioner Davis presented a motion to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Kelley seconded the motion and the board voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the consent agenda. Items on the consent agenda included the following:

1. Budget Amendment Request – Sheriff’s Office Employee Payout \$1,406.46
2. Budget Amendment Request – Sheriff’s Office Employee Payout \$2,356.56
3. Budget Amendment Request – Sheriff’s Office Employee Payout \$6,528.09
4. Budget Amendment Request – Sheriff’s Office Employee Payout \$21,700.14
5. Appointment of Jeanne Bass to the Planning and Zoning Board

During the constitutional officers reports, Sheriff Ben Stewart discussed an issue that had arisen with one of his employees concerning insurance deductibles. He explained that the county’s insurance broker had been unable to obtain a satisfactory solution to the issue with United Health Care. He called and was able to have the issue solved. The board asked if this situation could be looked into further. Commissioner Davis requested a written explanation from Brown & Brown PRIA.

Under Old Business Item #1, Discussion Regarding Amendments to Covenants and Restrictions on County Owned Property on SE Dale Leslie Drive, Attorney Reeves presented the revised covenants and restrictions and explained changes made from the last draft. He stated that if the changes were acceptable, then they would advertise the proposed amendment. He also stated that the contract for Certified Towing could be advertised if the board had a price. The consensus of the board was to have the price remain at \$5675 per acre for the 10+/- acre parcel of land.

Chairman Vickers called for a recess at 10:30 a.m.

Chairman Vickers called the meeting back into order at 10:51 a.m.

Under Public Works Item #1, Road Department Coordinator Lonnie Thigpen presented bids for SE Donaldson Road Drainage and Roadway Improvements. The bids received were the following:

Anderson Columbia Co.	\$836,518.68
Scruggs Co.	\$837,005.15
Music Construction	\$888,387.75
Curt’s Construction	\$890,494.20

The recommendation of the Road Department was to utilize the services of Anderson Columbia Co. Commissioner Kelley presented a motion to accept the recommendation. Commissioner Moore seconded the motion and the board voted unanimously (5-0) to accept the recommendation.

Under Public Works Item #2, Road Department Coordinator Lonnie Thigpen presented bids for County Road 150 South Roadway Improvements. The bids received were the following:

Anderson Columbia Co.	\$1,687,466.35
Capital Asphalt	\$2,167,298.00

The recommendation of the Road Department was to utilize the services of Anderson Columbia Co. Commissioner Moore presented a motion to accept the recommendation. Commissioner Kelley seconded the motion and the board voted unanimously (5-0) to accept the recommendation.

Under New Business Item #1, Matt Pearson, Executive Director of the Suwannee River Economic Council, Inc., presented the State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Program Annual Report. Commissioner Moore presented a motion to accept the annual report. Commissioner Martin seconded the motion and the board voted unanimously (5-0) to accept the report.

Chairman Vickers passed the gavel to Vice-Chairman Kelley.

Under New Business Item #2, Fire Coordinator Chris Williams explained the need to replace expired bunker gear at the volunteer fire departments. According to his request letter, the Madison County Fire Board met on July 5, 2018 and voted to purchase the new bunker gear using money from the fire board reserve fund. Then on August 2, 2018 the Fire Board voted to order the new bunker gear from Municipal Emergency Services (MES). They also voted to seek a Forestry Service 50/50 grant to offset the cost for the equipment. Mr. Williams stated that the total cost for the 24 sets of bunker gear for the certified Fire-1 fire fighters would be \$50,316.00 after application of the grant funds the request would be for \$25,158.00. He also requested that if the grant funds were not awarded then the total amount to be paid from the fire board reserve fund. Commissioner Vickers presented a motion to allow the fire board to seek the forestry service grant and allow for the purchase of the new bunker gear as requested. Commissioner Moore seconded the motion and the board voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the motion.

Vice-chairman Kelley passed the gavel to Chairman Vickers.

Under New Business Item #3, Supervisor of Elections Tommy Hardee presented a budget amendment request. He explained that his office had been awarded an elections security grant for \$61,588.00. This amendment would reflect the revenue from the grant and the expenditures against this money. Commissioner Moore presented a motion to approve the request. Commissioner Kelley seconded the motion and the board voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the request.

Clerk Washington presented a revised proposed budget recap for discussion. He explained that the proposed transportation fund budget still had a deficit of \$98,926 and the proposed general fund budget still had a deficit of \$94,339. Clerk Washington explained that the general fund deficit had been brought down to this point by revisions

to requests from county departments and constitutional offices, raising the anticipated revenue derived from interest on interest bearing accounts and raising the maximum percentage utilized of anticipated revenues. Undersheriff Epp Richardson explained the steps taken by the Sheriff's Department to reduce their budget request. Clerk Washington requested direction from the board as to how they would like to close the remaining deficit. He said that they could lower aid given to requesting agencies or transfer money from reserve accounts in the general fund or some other method. He also stated that prior to next budget cycle he would like for the board to set a policy setting a level of the maximum percentage of anticipated revenues that could be utilized for budgeting purposes as well as minimum reserve levels for reserve funds. The board requested Clerk Washington to review aid requests for increases and utilize the fiscally constrained reserve fund to balance the general fund. The board also instructed Clerk Washington to utilize the transportation reserve fund to balance the transportation fund.

Chairman Vickers called for a recess at 11:40 a.m.

Chairman Vickers called the meeting back into order at 1:03 p.m.

In the continuation of New Business Item #4, Attorney Reeves presented County Ordinance 2003-126 and County Ordinance 2012-203. He explained that Ordinance 2003-126 applied to all parks in Madison County. Paragraph J on page 13 of the ordinance contained special requirement for the Cherry Lake Boat Ramp and page 12 addressed hours of operation and fees. He explained that Ordinance 2012-203 added provisions concerning stickers for boat ramp usage for residents of Cherry Lake. He stated that the commission could vote to limit access, open access by changing the hours of operation or the fee schedule. After discussion, the board decided by consensus to update the signage at the Cherry Lake Beach and Boat Ramp to make it more enforceable, meet with ARC concerning management of the beach and boat ramp facilities and place "No Parking" signs around the lake. Commissioner Kelley then withdrew his motion to close the beach area until the matters with regulating the public beach area could be settled.

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

Board of County Commissioners
Madison County, Florida

By: _____
Wayne Vickers, Chairman

ATTEST:

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