

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA
REGULAR MEETING
April 21, 2009**

The Board of County Commissioners of Leon County, Florida, met in regular session at 3:00 p.m. with Chairman Desloge presiding. Present were Commissioners Akinyemi, Thael, Rackleff, Dailey, and Sauls; Commissioner Proctor absent. Also present were County Administrator Parwez Alam, County Attorney Herb Thiele, Finance Director David Reid and Board Secretary Rebecca Vause

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Desloge at 3:00 p.m.

The Invocation was provided by Rabbi Jack Romberg of Temple Israel. Commissioner Rackleff then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Chairman Desloge presented a Resolution Designating the Week of May 17-23, 2009 as "National Public Works Week". Tony Park, Director of Leon County Public Works and Carsey Patrick, President, Big Bend Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA), accepted the Resolution.
- Chairman Desloge expressed his appreciation for the efforts of Public Works, noting their response to the recent storm events.
- Mr. Patrick shared that the Association had implemented an Awards and Recognition Banquet to acknowledge contractors that have made a contribution and performed extraordinary work in the community. He mentioned that the ROAD-E-O would be held on May 21 at Tom Brown Park. Chairman Desloge agreed to participate in the Mayor/Chair Challenge.
- Al Pacini, Executive Director, Tallahassee Downtown Improvement Authority (TDIA) presented a Certificate of Recognition to Commissioner Rackleff recognizing his service on the TDIA Board of Directors, 1998-2008 and noted that Commissioner Rackleff was a great advocate for the downtown area.
- Commissioner Rackleff thanked all individuals on the TDIA who devote their time to improve the downtown area. He noted that a viable downtown is key to the community's future.

Chairman Desloge announced that Commissioner Proctor was traveling and unable to attend the meeting.

CONSENT

Commissioner Sauls moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Desloge, to approve the following Consent Agenda, with the exception of Item 9, which was pulled for further discussion. The motion carried 6-0 (Commissioner Proctor absent)

- 1. Approval of Minutes: March 19, 2009 Budget Workshop; March 19, 2009 and March 26, 2009 Regular Meetings**

The Board approved Option 1: Approve the minutes from the March 19, 2009 Budget Workshop; March 19, 2009 and March 26, 2009 Regular Meetings

2. Approval of Agreement with Fringe Benefits Management Company for Leon County's Cafeteria Plan Administration

The Board approved Option 1: Approve the new Agreement with Fringe Benefits Management Company as Leon County's Cafeteria Plan Administrator, and authorize the County Administrator to execute.

3. Approval of Payment of Bills and Vouchers Submitted for April 21, 2009, and Pre-Approval of Payment of Bills and Vouchers for the Period of April 22 through May 11, 2009: \$1,392,433

The Board approved Option 1: Approve payment of bills and vouchers submitted for April 21, 2009 and pre-approval of payment of bills and vouchers for the period of April 22 through May 11, 2009: \$1,392,433

4. Approval to Issue a Request for Proposals for Research and Analysis Services for the Economic Impact, Travel Patterns, and Other Pertinent Data of Visitors to the Tallahassee-Leon County Area.

The Board approved Option 1: Approve the issuance of a Request for Proposals for research and analysis services on the economic impact, travel patterns, and other pertinent data of visitors to the Tallahassee/Leon County area.

5. Request to Schedule a Workshop/Retreat Regarding the Tourist Development Council Strategic Plan (Tourism Retreat) for Wednesday, June 3, 2009 from 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The Board approved Option 1: Schedule a Tourism Retreat/Workshop for Wednesday, June 3, 2009 from 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

6. Adoption of Revisions to Policy No. 98-9, "Records Management"

The Board approved Option 1: Adopt revisions to Policy No. 98-9, "Records Management" and direct Facilities Management to develop procedures to ensure the enforcement of this policy.

7. Request to Schedule Two Public Hearings to Consider an Ordinance Amending the Land Development Code to Revise Standards of Eligibility for Subdivision Pursuant to Policy 2.1.9 of the Land Use Element of the Comprehensive Plan for Purposes of Correcting Improper Subdivisions for Tuesday, May 12 and June 9, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

The Board approved Option 1: Schedule Two Public Hearings to Consider an Ordinance Amending the Land Development Code to Revise Standards of Eligibility for Subdivision Pursuant to Policy 2.1.9 of the Land Use Element of the Comprehensive Plan for Purposes of Correcting Improper Subdivisions for Tuesday, May 12 and June 9, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

8. Request to Schedule a First and Only Public Hearing to Approve the Submittal of the FY 2009 Justice Assistance Grant for Tuesday, May 12, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

The Board approved Option 1: Schedule a First and Only Public Hearing to Approve the Submittal of the FY 2009 Justice Assistance Grant for Tuesday, May 12, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

9. Authorization to Proceed with Further Development and Implementation of a Joint Partnership Between Talquin Electric Cooperative and Leon County to Provide for a Weatherization Assistance Program

Commissioner Akinyemi requested that the item be pulled for further discussion.

County Administrator Alam explained that the partnership would provide energy conservation improvements to owner-occupied homes within the unincorporated portion of Leon County who are serviced by Talquin utilities. He noted that stimulus funding was also being pursued.

Commissioner Akinyemi stated that he requested the item be pulled for two reasons: 1) to commend the efforts of Commissioner Thael, Talquin Electric and staff in putting together this partnership, as this is the type of program that is truly needed in the community, and 2) to encourage Talquin to "come to the table for real participation".

Commissioner Thael offered that this is the type of concept that has the potential to put carpenters, plumbers, electricians, and energy auditors etc. to work and would allow the County's building inspectors to stay active and involved while construction is down. He added that assistance for homeowners, who wanted to make their homes more energy efficient, but were not eligible for stimulus funds, was needed.

Commissioner Thael moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Sauls, to approve Option 1, as amended: Authorize staff to proceed with further discussion and implementation of a joint partnership between Talquin Electric Cooperative and Leon County and direct staff to bring back an agenda item on potential financial assistance to homeowners to make homes more energy efficient. The motion carried 6-0 (Commissioner Proctor absent)

10. Acceptance of Perpetual Easement for Recording in the Public Records for Cloudland Drive Slope Stabilization Project and Authorization to Execute the "Assurance Relating to Real Property Acquisition" Document

The Board approved Option 1: Accept the Perpetual Easement for Recording in the Public Records and authorize the County Administrator to execute the Assurances Relating to Real Property Acquisition Document, upon confirmation that all Agreement requirements have been met.

11. Approval of Agreement to Award Bid to Office Depot for Office Supplies, Continuing Supply

The Board approved Option 1: Approve the Agreement awarding bid to Office Depot for Office supplies, Continuing Supply, and authorize the County Administrator to execute.

12. Acceptance of the FY 2008-2009 Second Quarter County Grant Program Quarterly Leveraging Status Report

The Board approved Option 1: Accept the FY 2008-2009 Second Quarter County Grant Program Quarterly Leveraging Status Report

13. Acceptance of a Status Report on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

The Board approved Option 1: Accept the status report on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDAED ITEMS (3 minute limit per speaker; no discussion by the commission)

- Anita Davis, 708 Bragg Drive, asked that the Board consider financial assistance to send 21 children to New York to compete in the Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological & Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO) Program sponsored by the NAACP, in celebration of 100 years of the NAACP. Information on ACT-SO was distributed by Ms. Davis.
- Torhanda Jarvis, 459 Brooke Haven Dr., requested that the Commission consider further review and discussion for an Unaccompanied Minor Curfew (UAMC) Ordinance in Leon County. Ms. Jarvis expressed concern about the growing number of gangs in Leon County and offered that the curfew would crackdown on loitering, violence, exploitation of children, etc. She noted that petitions were currently being circulated throughout the City and would be brought back before the Board. (documentation on the UAMC was presented for the record)
 - Chairman Desloge thanked Ms. Jarvis for sharing the information and asked that contact information be provided. He advised that he issue would be raised under Commissioner Discussion time.

GENERAL BUSINESS

14. Authorization for the Execution of An Agreement with Kurt Spitzer & Associates for Consultant Services to the Leon County Citizen Charter Review Committee

County Administrator Alam recalled that a workshop was held on the establishment of the Citizen Charter Review Committee and staff were directed to hire a consultant be hired to assist staff in providing support Committee. He advised that the proposed firm, Kurt Spitzer & Associates, (KSA) is well know throughout Florida for providing this type of service and was hired by the Board to provide professional staffing to the Citizen Charter Study Committee during the County's initial charter adoption process. He advised that a price of \$200 per hour not to exceed \$15,000 had been negotiated and a summary of services was included in the Agenda Packet. Mr. Alam stated that the funds had not been budgeted, however, were available in the General Fund Contingency.

Commissioner Rackleff recollected the good service received from KSA in the drafting of the Charter.

Commissioner Rackleff moved, duly seconded by Chairman Desloge, to approve Options 1 & 2: 1) Authorize the County Administrator to execute an agreement, as approved to form by the County Attorney, with Kurt Spitzer & Associates for consulting services to the Leon County Citizen Charter Review Committee, and 2) Approve the Budget Amendment Request.

Commissioner Thael established with Mr. Alam that KSA was the best situated and experienced to assist local governments in the charter review process. Mr. Alam pointed out that KSA has provided this service to other counties and are very familiar with various charters.

Chairman Desloge noted that the City had completed its charter review and received some criticism that it was completely "staff driven". He commented that this direction provides an opportunity to bring in somebody from the outside.

The motion carried 6-0 (Commissioner Proctor absent)

15. Consideration of Approval of Agreement with Renewable Fuels Tallahassee, LLC for the Gasification of Solid Waste

County Administrator Alam stated that the Board, at its November 19, 2008 meeting, directed staff to negotiate an agreement with Green Power Systems, which has subsequently been renamed Renewable Fuels-Tallahassee (RFT) for disposal of the County's solid waste. He noted that RFT needed a commitment from Leon County regarding access to the County's municipal solid waste in order to proceed with acquiring financing for its project. If financing is secured they will come back to the Board with a more detailed agreement. Highlights of the Agreement were provided by Mr. Alam.

Commissioner Thael stated that although he supported the Agreement, he offered a proposed amendment to the Agreement (adding a Section 9), which stated that the selection site would be: 1) subject to the approval of the Board; 2) completely consistent with the Comp Plan; 3) consistent with all applicable land development regulations; 4) meet concurrency requirements, and 5) selected by RTF only after no less than three public hearings in advance and in cooperation with County staff. Commissioner Thael advised that the County Attorney assisted in the development of the proposed language. A copy of the proposed language was distributed.

*Commissioner Thael moved, duly seconded by *Commissioner Akinyemi, to approve Option 1, with the following additional language: Approve the proposed Agreement with Renewable Fuels of Tallahassee, LLC for the gasification of solid waste, contingent upon inclusion of the following: 9. RFT agrees that this agreement is specifically contingent upon selection of a site acceptable to the County, through the BCC. To that end, RFT agrees that whether located within the incorporated limits of the City of Tallahassee or in the unincorporated area of Leon County, the proposed project site location shall be: subject to the express approval of the Leon County BCC; shall be completely consistent with the Comprehensive Plan; shall be consistent with all applicable land development regulations; shall meet concurrency requirements; and, shall be selected by RFT only after no less than three (3) public hearings held by RFT in advance and in cooperation with Leon County staff.*

*For the record, Commissioner Akinyemi noted an error in the proposed language. The acronym RTF should be corrected to RFT.

Commissioner Akinyemi remarked that this was a creative alternative energy source and represented green renewable energy. He stated that he would like to learn more about the company's experience and capabilities.

Commissioner Dailey asked if there were any representatives from the industry that wanted to respond to the proposed amendment.

Speaker:

- Dick Basford, President Renewable Fuels-Tallahassee explained that the gasification process was a chemical process that converts carbon containing material and was not a combustible technique. Mr. Basford pointed out the proposed project would qualify as a renewable energy source and therefore enable Leon County to reach thresholds as established by legislation that was passed dealing with the process of recycling and the requirement to meet certain levels of recycling. He responded that there was no opposition to the addition of the proposed amendment and expected the process to be totally transparent.

Commissioner ThaeLL thanked Mr. Basford for his willingness to work with the County. He reiterated that every effort would be made to ensure that the community is aware of the project and understands its process.

Commissioner ThaeLL called the question.

Commissioner Daily stated his support for the motion. He pointed out that the process produces a product that could be used as "road material" and stated that he hoped that RFT would give Leon County and the City of Tallahassee an opportunity to purchase the material in bulk at a great discount for use in road projects.

Commissioner ThaeLL noted that on page 2 of the agreement, "RTF" should be replaced with "RFT".

The motion carried 6-0 (Commissioner Proctor absent)

16. Consideration of Implementation of a Volume Based Fee Structure for Residential Solid Waste Collection and Disposal

County Administrator Alam noted the item is also referred to as Pay as You Throw (PAYT). He explained that currently county residents may subscribe to Waste Management, Inc. (WMI) for collection of their solid waste and recyclables and are charged a flat fee regardless of the amount of waste generated. He added that residents (both subscribers of WMI and non-subscribers) are assessed a flat \$40 fee. Mr. Alam stated that residents who do not subscribe to the pick-up service can utilize any of the five Rural Waste Service Centers (RWSC) to dispose of solid waste free of charge; however, there are problems with some residents dumping their waste on the side of the street or in the woods which requires a yearly clean up operation which results in tons and tons of refuse being removed from the woods. He offered that this is a great program, but would work only if there was mandatory garbage collection

Commissioner ThaeLL noted that more than 6,000 jurisdictions in the U.S. have implemented PAYT fee structures. He suggested that the Board consider that mandatory collection begin in the urbanized portion of the unincorporated area and remarked on the importance of public discussion and dialogue before implementation. He voiced the need for a broad public education campaign to better educate the public on the challenges facing the County due to the increased waste and ways the County and public can work together to reduce waste disposal and help residents save money, i.e., strategies to better understand recycling.

Commissioner ThaeLL asked Norm Thomas, Director of Solid Waste Management, to share his thoughts on implementation and suggestions on the process to ensure community dialogue and input into the issue. Commissioner ThaeLL commented that representatives from WMI were in attendance.

Mr. Thomas provided further information on the proposed fee structure. He noted that he was a proponent of PAYT and advised that the program does not work well with a subscription system. He stated that the basic concept is for residents to pay for what is used and enforcement, along with other administrative issues, would be required. Mr. Thomas added that a positive result of this fee structure would be an increase in recycling as incentives would be available for citizens to recycle rather than disposing in garbage; however advised that Commissioners may receive some opposition from residents regarding the closing of rural waste sites. He noted that there were approximately 23,500 subscribers currently in the unincorporated area and 10,000 single family residents that do not subscribe.

Speaker:

- Larry Jones, 47 Jones Road, DeFuniak Springs FL, announced that WMI, as the County's solid waste partner, is committed to moving forward with the County in whatever direction is deemed appropriate.

Commissioner Dailey offered that the mandatory system could increase illegal dumping in the County and voiced concern that residents would pay for less waste than is produced and then dispose the remaining refuse in the forest. He commented that the action is a move in the right direction; however, this is an additional fee being placed on a significant number of residents and asked that action be postponed and included in budget discussions.

Commissioner Sauls voiced agreement with Commissioner Dailey and asserted that residents would purchase the smallest container possible and dispose of remaining garbage in forest or burn it. She remarked that roll off sites serve a very valuable purpose and opined that if the County was serious about recycling it should provide recycle containers for use at roll off sites. She declared that she is not ready to impose mandatory garbage on residents.

Commissioner Akinyemi shared that the ultimate goal is to reduce waste and encourage recycling and PAYT is one way to achieve this. He suggested that when the issue comes back as an agenda item that it include not only implementation methods, but all options available to achieve this goal.

Mr. Thomas articulated the need for an ongoing good strong education recycling campaign and incentives to encourage better recycling habits.

County Administrator Alam reiterated that the program would only work if participation was mandatory as the County would have to continue maintenance of roll off sites for those residents not included in the program.

Commissioner Rackleff stated that he supported moving forward with some type of rational solid waste collection system and inquired if it could be phased in. He noted the need for an effective strategy to improve recycling efforts and reduce the cost of solid waste disposal.

Commissioner Thael moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Rackleff, to direct staff to bring a budget discussion item on the issue of volume-based fee structure. In addition, he requested staff provide additional information on how the county would effectively communicate to residents prior to implementing the program.

Commissioner Dailey wanted it understood that although he would support the motion to bring back as part of the budget discussion that did not mean that he supported the concept at this time. He encouraged staff to work hard to show other examples of incentive based recycling programs used through the state and southeast US. He inquired the possibility of larger recycling containers for residents.

Commissioner Akinyemi expressed concern about postponing the issue until budget discussions.

*Commissioner Akinyemi made a substitute motion to approve Options #1, #2, and #3:
1) Authorize staff to prepare an agenda item to consider a volume-based fee structure for solid waste collection and disposal, contingent upon implementation of countywide mandatory collection; 2) Authorize staff to begin discussions with Waste Management, Inc. regarding amending the Franchise Agreement to implement a volume-based fee*

structure for solid waste collection and disposal, contingent upon implementation countywide mandatory collection, and 3) Authorize staff to discuss implementation of a volume-based fee structure for solid waste collection and disposal with the City of Tallahassee. In addition, include a broad public campaign on the County's solid waste and recycling programs; incorporate other options such as incentives. The motion failed for lack of a second.

County Administrator recommended that no public information campaign be done at this time and that staff be directed to collect data and deal with the issue after the budget. He indicated that there was "no rush" to get this done by October 1 and noted that status reports could be provided to the Board.

Commissioner Dailey voiced interest in ideas that could be implemented with Waste Management to encourage more recycling.

Commissioner Sauls expressed concern over the mandatory garbage fee; especially when combined with other possible increases proposed and stated that she could not support the motion on the floor.

Chairman Desloge remarked that he shared some of the concerns expressed by fellow commissioners that the program may "be a little bit ahead of its time" and commented on the importance of increased recycling and reducing waste.

The motion carried 5-1 (Commissioner Sauls in opposition and Commissioner Proctor absent).

17. Expiration, Vacancies, and Appointments to the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency, Census 2010 Complete Count Committee, Contractors Licensing and Examination Board, Fort Braden Center Focus Group, Healthcare Advisory Board, and Woodville Community Center Focus Group

Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency:

- Chairman Desloge continued his appointment

Census 2010 Complete Count Committee

- Commissioner Dailey appointed Cynthia Kelley and noted Ms. Kelley's employment with the Supervisor of Elections Office and he felt it important that a representative from that office be appointed to the Committee. *Commissioner Dailey moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Akinyemi to approve the appointment of Cynthia Kelley. The motion carried 6-0 (Commissioner Proctor absent).*
- Commissioner Dailey continued his two additional appointments pending receipt of their application.
- Chairman Desloge appointed Leonard Dietzen. *Commissioner Thaell moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Sauls to approve the appointment of Leonard Dietzen. The motion carried 6-0 (Commissioner Proctor absent)*
- Commissioner Proctor's appointments were continued.

Contractors Licensing and Examination Board

- Commissioner Dailey continued his appointment.

Fort Braden Center Focus Group

- Commissioner Akinyemi continued his appointment
- *Commissioner Dailey moved, duly seconded by Chairman Desloge, to reappoint June Tidwell. The motion carried 6-0 (Commissioner Proctor absent)*

- Commissioner Proctor's appointment was continued

Healthcare Advisory Board

- Chairman Desloge appointed Doug Cook. *Commissioner Thael moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Akinyemi to approve the appointment of Doug Cook. The motion carried 6-0 (Commissioner Proctor absent).*

Woodville Community Center Focus Group

- Commissioner Akinyemi continued his appointment
- Commissioner Proctor's appointment was continued
- Commissioner Sauls continued her appointment

Tallahassee Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

- Chairman Desloge requested that unless there was opposition from other Commissioners, he be appointed to the Committee. *Commissioner Akinyemi moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Sauls to approve the appointment of Commissioner Desloge. The motion carried 6-0 (Commissioner Proctor absent)*

Tourist Development Council (TDC)

- *Commissioner Rackleff moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Akinyemi the appointment of Marc Bauer. The motion carried 6-0 (Commissioner Proctor absent).*

Chairman Desloge remarked that there was an upcoming function entitled "Building Better Boards" and suggested that a letter be sent out, under his signature, to all Committee Chairs, asking them to share the information with committee members for possible attendance. He noted that the session was offered at no charge and commented that it would be a great way to strengthen the committees.

Commissioner Dailey inquired the timeframe for appointments to the Charter Review Committee. Staff responded that an agenda item would be brought back in October and commissioners were reminded that a workshop is scheduled for May 26.

The Board took up add-on Agenda Item #19 and then entered into Commissioner Discussion Items.

The Board reconvened at 6:00 p.m. upon conclusion of the dinner break.

Scheduled Public Hearing, 6:00 P.M. (Commissioner Akinyemi did not return from the break)

18. Conduct the Second of Two Public Hearings to Adopt a Further proposed Moratorium Ordinance for the Approval of Applications for Certain Off-Site Sign Permits

County Attorney Thiele explained that this was the second public hearing regarding an extension of the Off-Site Sign Permit Moratorium. He recalled that the moratorium was enacted by the Board in the Fall of 2008 and it was scheduled to expire this month. Mr. Thiele stated that in order to address some pending issues staff recommends that the moratorium be extended until June 15, 2009.

Chairman Desloge advised that the public hearing is being held to address the extension of the moratorium only, not the content of the sign ordinance.

Speakers:

- Ann Bidlingmaier, 1920 Harriet Dr, stated that she had been working on the billboard/sign issue for many years and wanted to ensure that the Board realized that extending the moratorium would benefit the billboard companies as it would give them a chance to finalize their "high speed technology".
- Loyd Childree, 1391 Manor House Drive, represented Lamar Advertising suggested that the moratorium be extended significantly, possibly until the end of the year, but not to exceed a year from its original date. He stated that the industry was not looking to create a product that is not conducive to good business and if given the opportunity a better plan could be developed.
- Paul Sexton, Williams Wilson & Sexton, 215 S. Monroe St., Suite 600, spoke on behalf of Lamar Advertising. He expressed support for Mr. Childree's recommendation to extend the moratorium for a period of up to 12 months from enactment. He offered that this would give the County an opportunity to evaluate its regulatory program and review the Lamar proposal for the community digital information network.

Commissioner Thael established with Mr. Sexton that, from Lamar's standpoint, extending the moratorium "will not" result in an increase in billboards. He also inquired about the collaborative efforts between Lamar and interested neighborhood associations. Mr. Sexton responded that a meeting has been held with neighborhood representatives (facilitated by the Planning Department) and an exchange of views and a discussion was held and he stated support for this type of dialogue to continue.

County Attorney Thiele confirmed that no permits could be issued during the moratorium and stated that any permit issued after the moratorium is no longer in effect, assuming that the new ordinance is in place, would be required to comply with the new language.

- Rip Caleen, 3048 Godfrey Place, asserted that the two month extension was "absolutely essential" and opined that the Lamar proposal was more of the same and an attempt to break through the cap on digital signs. He stated that the proposal should not be used to delay implementation of needed changes that began last October.

Commissioner Thael asked Mr. Caleen how does the current proposed ordinance compares to the City's ordinance. Mr. Caleen offered that the City has nothing currently scheduled on revisions to its billboard policy. He stated that staff's proposals are weaker than the City's current ordinance and indicated support for the County to adopt the more strict standards of the City.

- Bob Ippolito, 2705 Killarney Way, President of Killlearn Estates Homeowners Association, recommended that the Board not extend the moratorium and that the Ordinance, with some "tweaking" should be implemented.

Commissioner Thael moved, duly seconded by Chairman Desloge, to approve Option 1: Conduct the second of two public hearings on enactment of a further moratorium ordinance for the approval of applications for certain off-site signs. The motion carried 5-0 (Commissioners Proctor and Akinyemi absent).

(The following items were addressed by the Board prior to the 5:15 p.m. recess)

ADD ON AGENDA ITEM

19. Consideration of Funding Request for Sponsorship of the Crescent Moon Gala Benefiting the Sickle Cell Foundation in the Amount of \$5,000

County Administrator Alam explained that the issue was brought up by Commissioner Proctor at the last meeting for the Board's consideration. Mr. Alam provided that the Sickle Cell Foundation currently receives \$35,000 in funding through the Community Human Services Partnership (CHSP). He added that the County's Discretionary Funding Ordinance specifies that "non profits eligible for CHSP funding are not eligible for funding in any other category" and due to this provision, staff's recommendation is that the funding request not be approved.

Commissioner Akinyemi voiced his support for the Sickle Cell Foundation and noted the challenges that individuals who are battling the disease face. He asked for clarification on the ordinance. Mr. Alam explained that the ordinance states that organizations eligible for CHSP funding cannot receive funding from any other funding category and explained the reason the ordinance was in place.

Commissioner Akinyemi requested a copy of the Ordinance and stated that he would like to revisit the provisions of the ordinance at some point. He confirmed that pending changes to the ordinance, the action requested could not be approved.

The Board expressed support for the Sickle Cell Foundation, stating that it "was a wonderful organization"; however there are procedures in place that do not allow individual organizational requests to be considered.

Chairman Desloge expressed a need for the community to have a better understanding the funding process.

Commissioner Dailey moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Sauls, to approve Option 1: Do not approve the funding request for the Crescent Moon Gala to benefit the Sickle Cell Foundation sponsorship based on the provisions of Leon County's Discretionary Funding Ordinance. The motion carried 5-1 (Commissioner Akinyemi in opposition and Commissioner Proctor absent).

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDAED ITEMS

No speakers to be heard

COMMENTS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

County Administrator:

County Administrator Alam asked David McDevitt, Growth & Environmental Management Director, to provide a status report on the meetings with stakeholders (neighborhood association representatives and Lamar) regarding the proposed Off-site Sign Ordinance. He also noted that board direction was needed on bringing back the Ordinance and scheduling of the public hearing.

Mr. McDevitt explained that Lamar Advertising had presented a new proposal concerning the use of electronic billboards for public messaging purposes. They propose that the signs could be utilized to provide public information, such as announcing severe weather, amber alerts and other types of public service information and when not being used for that purpose, the billboard would be used as a "regular digital billboard". He advised that the process for staff

review and consultant evaluation could require an additional nine months to a year to complete.

Mr. McDevitt offered that staff recommend and request authorization to proceed forward with the Ordinance prepared by staff (that is a compromise of the two sides), advertise and conduct the first public hearing in May and schedule an adoption hearing for June. He stated that this would allow staff and neighborhood associations time to thoroughly vet Lamar's proposal and then bring back to the Board.

Chairman Desloge provided a history on the off-sign issue and expressed that the ordinance as proposed by staff was ready for "prime time". He conveyed support of staff's proposal.

County Attorney Thiele asserted that he would not recommend the Board continue the moratorium. He opined that the review that staff was initially instructed by the Board to conduct has been completed and is presented in the proposed ordinance and should be implemented.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Thaeil:

- Requested a Resolution honoring the Kalfas Family and the Silver Slipper Restaurant
- *Commissioner Thaeil moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Sauls, to bring back an agenda item concerning options for preservation of a predominately African American Historic Cemetery located on County owned property on the corner of Mahan Drive and Edenfield Road. The motion carried 6-0 (Commissioner Proctor absent)*
- Commended Commissioner Dailey for conducting a Town Hall meeting in District 3 to address the issue of crime and asked that he convey his regards as he would be moderating a health care forum at City Hall.

Commissioner Akinyemi:

- Announced the scheduling of Community Meetings to be held in various venues in the community.
 - The meetings are scheduled to promote equal participation by all citizens and intended to further his commitment to change the citizen engagement process.
 - Thanked the Board for authorizing staff support to assist in the meetings.
 - A schedule of the Community Meetings can be found on the County's Web Site under Commissioner Akinyemi's page.

Commissioner Dailey:

- *Commissioner Dailey moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Desloge, to approve the expenditure of \$350 from his travel budget for the registration fee only to the Florida Chamber of Commerce Leadership Florida Annual Meeting. The motion carried 6-0 (Commissioner Proctor absent).*
- Clarified that the meeting tonight was being sponsored by two neighborhoods in his district: Edinburgh Estates and Lakewood Village. He added that all commissioners are invited. Commissioner Akinyemi noted that he planned to attend.

Chairman Rackleff

- Expressed his concern over the increased unemployment. He referenced information released by the Agency for workforce Innovation on labor market statistics and summarized that:
 - Unemployed residents in Leon County increased by 75-80%;

- Number of employed people fell by 3,676;
- Unemployed in the Metropolitan area (Leon, Jefferson, Wakulla and Gadsden Counties) doubled to 13,000;
- Only three Counties in the state had a lower unemployment rate and he attributed this to our local universities and state government.

Commissioner Rackleff asserted that he was very engaged in economic development. He wants to preserve what we have and concentrate on preserving jobs especially in the public sector.

Chairman Desloge

- Noted the positive happenings in the County and voiced the importance that Commissioners, as community leaders, portray an optimistic outlook and present a positive viewpoint, concentrating on issues such as the low unemployment.
- Requested a Resolution for Leon County Public Works Week, May 17-23, 2009.
- Requested a Resolution recognizing May 16 as Eagle Makers Troop 109 Day.
- Requested a Resolution acknowledging May 17-23, 2009 as EMS Week.
- Requested a Resolution recognizing the Warrick Dunn Foundation's support of the housing programs.
- Shared that the City's Charter Review recommended a review of functionally consolidating the City and County's Growth Management Department. He requested staff to begin educating the Board on what would need to be done, how this would work, types of things that would need to be processed, etc. in preparation for the County's charter review.
 - Commissioner Rackleff inquired why a charter amendment was needed to accomplish this.
 - *Commissioner Rackleff moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Dailey to request an agenda item to provide information on the possible consolidation of the City and County Growth Management Departments.*
 - Commissioner Akinyemi expressed support for the initiative and noted that consolidation in this sector "clearly makes sense". He offered that storm water management criteria and standards were a potential obstacle and recommended that discussions begin on resolving this potential problem.
 - *The motion carried 6-0 (Commissioner Proctor absent)*
- Expressed concern over recent gang shooting and the increase in crime in the area. He referenced the earlier presentation by Ms. Jarvis on mandatory curfews and recommended that the Board ask staff to discuss the issue with schools, Sheriff, Tallahassee Police, actions that other communities have taken and determine if this was an action the Board might want to consider.
 - *Commissioner Akinyemi moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Dailey, to direct staff to prepare an agenda item which provides information on the issue of a mandatory curfew.*
 - Commissioner Thael suggested that the scope of discussion be widened to include not only a curfew, but gang violence in the area. He inquired if a workshop was more appropriate.
 - Commissioner Rackleff asked if the County Administrator or County Attorney could contact the Police Chief and Sheriff and ask their opinion on how to proceed with this issue.
 - Chairman Desloge stated that, in the interest of time, the issue be agendaed and a workshop scheduled for a later date.
 - *The motion carried 6-0 (Commissioner Proctor absent)*
- Reported that he and the Mayor discussed the split of the gas tax and the proposal is that (out of a total of five cents): ½ penny designated solely for Star Metro; 2 cents for City and 2½ cents to County. Chairman Desloge asked that

Commissioners provide input on their stance on the issue prior to asking the County Attorney to proceed.

- Commissioner Thaeff stated that this was "perfect storm" that had been created by the economic calamity and the property tax referendum. He opined that local governments have been pushed to address basic needs such as road maintenance by the implementation of a "user fee". He indicated that he would support the "user fee" and stated that he would advocate for the County to use up to ½ penny to promote transit options in the unincorporated areas.
- Chairman Desloge acknowledged other funds had been raided and it would be problematic to hold the millage line where it is today if an additional revenue source is not identified.
- Commissioner Rackleff offered that he favored moving forward with a clear idea on what the money would be used for.
- Commissioner Sauls indicated that at this point she would not favor the additional tax as additional fees for stormwater, solid waste and possibly mandatory garbage was already being considered. This would place too much of a burden on residents.
- Commissioner Akinyemi expressed his opposition until a budget is presented that includes creative revenue sources.
- Commissioner Thaeff asserted that he would not advocate for the gas tax if there were other opportunities to raise the needed \$5.5 million revenue. He added that he was strongly opposed to an increase in property taxes.
- Chairman Desloge affirmed that it was the consensus of the Board to continue to move forward on the gas tax issue.

The Board recessed at 5:15 p.m. and will reconvene at 6:00 for the scheduled Public Hearing.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m. upon conclusion of the Public Hearing.

LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

ATTEST:

BY: _____
Bryan Desloge, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

BY: _____
Bob Inzer, Clerk of the Court
Leon County, Florida