

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Workshop
2009/2010 Federal and State
Legislative Priorities
October 27, 2009

ATTENDING: Chairman Desloge and Commissioners Rackleff, Thaele, Sauls, Dailey, Proctor and Akinyemi. Also present were County Administrator Parwez Alam; County Attorney Herb Thiele, and Board Secretary Rebecca Vause

Chairman Desloge called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Facilitator: Vince Long, Deputy County Administrator
Ken Morris, Legislative Affairs and Economic Development Director

Mr. Long introduced staff from the County's state contract lobbyist, Mr. Jeff Sharkey and his associates from Capitol Alliance.

Mr. Long explained that the Workshop was conducted for staff to obtain Board direction and approval of priority legislative issues for both the state and federal levels. He noted that last year the State realized a \$6 billion shortfall which was responded to mostly with fee increases, reserve funds and the economic stimulus monies. Mr. Long noted that the State is expecting another \$2.6 billion shortfall this upcoming year and has advised the County that it would not accept County Budget Issue Requests (CBIRs). He noted that it was more important than ever for the County to refine its appropriations requests at the State and Federal levels.

Mr. Morris reviewed the 2010 appropriation request. He noted that in order to maximize the changes for federal funds, the County will seek to partner with the City on several projects including the Public Safety Complex, Capital Circle NW/SW, and the Lafayette Street Pedestrian Tunnel.

• Joint Dispatch Public Safety Complex:	\$5 million
• Woodville Highway	\$15 million
• Capital Circle NW/SW S.R. 20 Intersection Improvement	\$15 million
• Woodville Sewer	\$500,000
• Lafayette Street Pedestrian Tunnel (submitted SAFETEA-LU request)	\$2.2 million
• Chaires Park	\$112,500
• Eastside Branch Library	\$500,000

Mr. Morris provided information on initiatives involving the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act

- Sidewalk and pedestrian plan
- Creation of Economic Recovery Zones
- Energy Efficiency Block Grants
- Joint Website to inform citizens on area projects that have received stimulus funding
- Quarterly reports have been provided to the Board

Commissioner Rackleff commented that staff should aggressively pursue the funds through the Energy Efficiency Block Grants.

State Policy/Substantive Issues:

- Property Tax Reform
- Cost Shifts
- Growth Management
- Energy

Commissioner Akinyemi proposed the following alternative statement for the Board's consideration "Lobby for dollar allocation and prohibitions that encourage large scale production of renewable energy."

Commissioner Proctor recommended that the Board consider the establishment of a Petroleum Institute led by Leon County and to include scholars from West Florida to Gainesville.

Commissioner Dailey asserted that there were too many priorities presented and opined that the lobbying team's priority should be appropriations and as a secondary role the team should work to support the policies of the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) and their legislative team. Commissioner Dailey asserted that he was very hesitant to pursue the constitutional amendment pertaining to the Sunshine Law. Mr. Long clarified that the lobbying team is dedicated almost exclusively to appropriations.

Commissioner Proctor expressed his disappointment with the role and support of the FAC and opined that the lobbying team should be more independent and empowered to act on behalf of the County.

Commissioner Rackleff indicated that he felt it important that staff bring forward their assessment of issues that will be discussed during the session to receive Board guidance. He expressed opposition to any proposal to support off shore oil drilling.

Commissioner Rackleff moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Proctor, to approve Option 1: Approve the 2010 State legislative issues and 111th Congress (2nd Session) federal legislative issues as presented.

Commissioner Thaeil voiced support for achievable appropriations issues. He stated that he too was not in support of pursuing the Sunshine Law amendment. He noted the efforts by the FAC on the County's behalf and recommended that the County should look at ways to work closer with other local government associations, i.e., Florida League of Cities, Florida School Board Association, etc. and that these organizations should pull together in a collaborative effort.

Commissioner Akinyemi offered a friendly amendment to include his revised energy statement "Lobby for dollar allocation and prohibitions that encourage large scale production of renewable energy" and to direct staff to prioritize and possibly cut down on the issues. Commissioner Proctor accepted the friendly amendment.

Commissioner Sauls will support the motion and voiced her belief that staff has a sense of what is important and will represent the Board well.

Commissioner Dailey reiterated his opposition to the constitutional amendment. He also inquired from Mr. Sharkey his opinion on the County voicing opposition to known priorities of Senate and House leaders. Mr. Sharkey indicated that he did not believe that it would have an adversely affect on the appropriations request.

Commissioner Thael offered an amendment that the Sunshine Review issue be deleted from the package. The amendment was accepted by Commissioner Rackleff.

Chairman Desloge indicated an interest in working with other local governmental lobbying groups and suggested that the County take the lead in this initiative.

The motion to approve Option 2, as amended carried 6-0 (Commissioner Proctor out of Chambers)

LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

ATTEST:

BY: _____
Bob Rackleff, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

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

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